



**MILITARY OFFICERS CALL**  
**Sun City Center Chapter**  
**Military Officers Association of America**  
P. O. Box 5693, Sun City Center, FL. 33571  
Website: [www.sccmoaa.org](http://www.sccmoaa.org)



**Volume 40 Number 10**

**October 2024**

## **President's Message**

### **CDR Bill "Bullet" Kirkpatrick, USN (Ret)**

Hello Chapter members,

Welcome back from our summer hiatus. We had a great luncheon on September 4th with 59 members in attendance. Almost every seat at every table was occupied. Banquet Masters provided another outstanding lunch with a choice of three different entrees. Our 1st VP, Col Danny Melton USMC (ret) gave a talk about the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA). I was told by Danny to introduce him as a D.L.O. Marine. After he gave us an excellent and extremely informative presentation, I had a clear idea of what D.L.O. stands for, Dynamic, Laudable, and Overachieving.

I have a couple of admin items. First, please pay your 2025 dues. Our goal is to have everyone paid up by January. Next, we have several possible openings on our board of directors. The position of Secretary will be open in January 2025. Other positions are, at this time, to be determined. Please email me, if you are interested.

Many military departments or squadrons will have a "Hail and Farewell" ceremony to say a heartfelt goodbye to departing members and a hearty hail to the newest members of the group. We have long-time members Colin and Pam Howgill, who have been extremely active members. They have plans to move to Northern Florida in November. Colin and Pam, you will be missed. As we say in the Navy "Fair

*Continued on Page 3*

## **October Program**

### **Col Keith Lawless , USMC (Ret)**

Keith Lawless is a retired U.S. Marine Corps Colonel and a retired Defense Intelligence Agency's Senior Executive



Service cadre member, totaling more than 43 years of government service. During his three-decade Marine Corps career, Keith served in various senior intelligence positions at the battalion, regimental, group, wing, task force, expeditionary force, and

service component levels. His command tours included the Marine Corps Intelligence Activity (MCIA) and the Marine Corps Intelligence Schools. He was also the first G2 assigned to the newly established Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command (MARSOC), tasked with building a formidable and sustainable intelligence organization for the command. After military service, he spent ten years as the Deputy Director of Intelligence for the U.S. Special Operations Command in Tampa, Florida, and another two years as the Deputy Director of Intelligence for NORAD and the U.S. Northern Command in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Keith has received numerous military and government civilian awards and citations and holds advanced degrees in strategic intelligence and military history. Keith will discuss his role and experience supporting the missions of SOCOM and NORAD/Northern Command and address integrated deterrence and strategic competition

## 2023/2024 Chapter Officers

### PRESIDENT

CDR Bill Kirkpatrick, USN (Ret).....(805) 506-3269  
[president@sccmoaa.org](mailto:president@sccmoaa.org)

### 1st VP

Col Danny Melton, USMC (Ret).....(808) 589-6553  
[danny.melton@gmail.com](mailto:danny.melton@gmail.com)

Program Chair

### 2nd VP

Maj Kirk Faryniasz, USAF (Ret).....(813) 677-2606  
[membership@sccmoaa.org](mailto:membership@sccmoaa.org)

Membership Chair

### TREASURER

Lt Col Bill Patterson, USAF (Ret).....(603) 305-1062  
[bill@wwpat.us](mailto:bill@wwpat.us)

### SECRETARY

Ms. Harriet Jordan, .....(813) 773-7676  
[secretary@sccmoaa.org](mailto:secretary@sccmoaa.org)

### IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

COL Eunice Patxot, USA (Ret).....(301) 529-4301  
[eunice@sccmoaa.org](mailto:eunice@sccmoaa.org)

### DIRECTOR

LTC Jeff Camp, USA (Ret).....  
[colcamp@icloud.com](mailto:colcamp@icloud.com)

Legislative Liaison

### DIRECTOR

CDR Cliff Korn, USNR (Ret).....(813) 532-0913  
[newsletter@sccmoaa.org](mailto:newsletter@sccmoaa.org)

Newsletter Editor

### DIRECTOR

Lt Col Ferris Garrett, USAF (Ret).....(813) 841-0532  
[garrett4@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:garrett4@tampabay.rr.com)

### DIRECTOR

Jean Bennett Stratis.....(813) 758-7330  
[jeanbennett.stratis@gmail.com](mailto:jeanbennett.stratis@gmail.com)

Surviving Spouse Liaison

### DIRECTOR

LTC Benny Blackshire, USA (Ret).....(813) 260-3105  
[bwblacks@aol.com](mailto:bwblacks@aol.com)

Chaplain

## **\$19.00 - 2 October LUNCHEON - \$19.00**

**To Register: 813-924-1983**

*Reservations no later than 6 p.m. Sunday, 29 Sept 2024*

**Florida Room, Atrium Building**

**945 North Course Lane , Sun City Center, FL 33573**

Please give full names of members and guests, total number attending. Cost is \$19.00/person payable at the door (cash, check, or credit card). Social hour begins when you arrive, and the Business meeting starts at 11:00 followed by a speaker and lunch.

Remember, if you make a reservation and do not attend, you are expected to pay. Bring payment to next meeting or send check to:

***Military Officers Association of America***

***Post Office Box 5693***

***Sun City Center, FL 33571-5693***

### **Buffet Luncheon Menu**

**Garden Salad Bar with Dressing Assortment, Rolls & Butter**

#### **Entrees:**

- Roast Pork with Fuji Apples
  - Bratwurst with Sauerkraut
  - Chicken Schnitzel
- Starch and Vegetable du Jour

**Desserts: Chef's selected desserts**

**Beverages: Decaf Coffee, Iced Tea, and Ice Water**





Continued from page 1

winds and following seas” my friends. On a brighter note, I’d like to extend an enthusiastic “Welcome Aboard” to our two newest members, Col Walter Duzzny, USA (Ret.) and CDR Ed Barnes, USN (Ret.). Please make an effort to welcome them into the group.

At our last meeting Director Jeannie Stratis, our Surviving Spouse Liaison, received an Award, from MOAA National. She is not only a determined Surviving Spouse advocate for our members but for our community, as well. She continues to offer her time and talents to improve our Sun City Center Chapter and MOAA overall. Her goal has been to be a resource for the chapters surviving spouse members and to also involve them in chapter activities. Bravo Zulu Jeannie!



I’ll see all of you at the October 2nd luncheon.



“I can never remember: Does the phone go on the left or the right?”



### Veterans Corner Radio is the resource you need!

Veteran Bill Hodges has done the research and gathered the experts to help active military members, veterans, and their families access the benefits they’ve earned.

He’s the host of Veterans Corner Radio, a weekly 15-minute FM radio show and podcast that focuses on giving accurate, direct information straight from the people who provide services to military members and their families.



Veterans Corner Radio

Podcast

Host: Bill Hodges

- VA Healthcare
- Education Benefits
- Home loans
- Survivor Information
- Death Benefits
- And More...

Find over 240 recorded shows online!

[www.VeteransCornerRadio.com](http://www.VeteransCornerRadio.com)



Find us on Facebook



# Member Spotlight

## Chapter Immediate Past President

### COL Eunice Patxot, USA (Ret)

COL Eunice ‘Niche’ Patxot joined the military in 1983. If you’re wondering why a 29-year-old woman decides to subject herself to basic training, here’s why. I was laid off from a non-profit organization position and I was fascinated by the military uniforms the women wore. Off I went to basic training with my brother’s premonition that I wouldn’t make it. Why? I didn’t even participate in gym classes. No physical activity for this young lady. However, that quickly changed. There were numerous times when I actually maxed out my physical training test -- so there!

Basic training, officer candidate school, Panama as my first officer assignment, and numerous stateside assignments and schooling at Ft Huachuca, AZ, Forces Command in Atlanta, GA, Ft Leavenworth, KS, 629th MI Bn, the National Guard Bureau, and probably too many assignments at the Pentagon. No combat duty for me. Some would call me lucky but it’s something I would change if I could do it all over again.

Twenty-three years of active service came to an end in Dec 2005. Too young to retire, I worked as a defense contractor for 13 years at the Secretary of Defense level until I fully retired to Florida where I’m enjoying life with Bible School, gym, DIY home projects, travel, and, of course, getting involved in this amazing organization.

“It was an honor and privilege to wear the uniform!”





# MILITARY BENEFITS FORUM

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2024**

**2-4 PM**

**SUN CITY CENTER COMMUNITY HALL  
1910 SOUTH PEBBLE BEACH BLVD.**



Join us for our Second Annual Military Benefits Forum for our military members, veterans, family members, surviving spouses, and caregivers of all branches, grades and ranks.



Guest speakers from the Florida Department of Veteran Affairs, James A. Haley Veterans Hospital, Hillsborough County Veteran Services, Veterans Benefit Administration, and local VSOs



This is a free event! To ensure a seat and an info packet, please register by scanning the QR code below or email [moaasccsurvivors@gmail.com](mailto:moaasccsurvivors@gmail.com) and provide first and last name.



**Sun City Center Chapter**  
*Surviving Spouse Committee*



## Interview with National MOAA President, Lt Gen Brian Kelly, USAF (Ret)

Lt. General Brian Kelly, USAF Ret., President of MOAA, was interviewed in August/September on Veterans Corner Radio, a podcast and radio program hosted by Bill Hodges, a MOAA Honorary Member of the Sun City Center Chapter.



This was General Kelly's second guest appearance on Veterans Corner Radio which focuses on getting information about benefits to military members and their families. It can be accessed

at [www.veteranscornerradio.com](http://www.veteranscornerradio.com) or you can listen directly by clicking on this link: <https://www.buzzsprout.com/952243/15722231>

During their discussion, General Kelly said that MOAA is the largest military organization and explained its mission for the past 95 years--Defend benefits for all ranks, all services, retirees, and their families.

General Kelly said that MOAA has thirteen staff members in Washington working with DOD and VA to further the mission of its 350,000 members in four hundred chapters. He stressed, however, that those voices become magnified when combined with other military organizations. Encouraging veterans to join those organizations is essential because a combined effort can make a difference to Congress as benefits cuts are considered to save dollars.

The recent PACT Act is a major confirmation that such

lobbying can be productive. Thousands of veterans exposed to toxic substances are now eligible for health care previously denied. A current challenge is getting the Richard Star Act across the finish line that will enable combat-disabled service retirees forced to retire early to concurrently receive, without reduction, disability compensation and retired pay.

Going forward, General Kelly said they are watching recruitment packages to ensure they are attractive to the next generation. He also talked about two new MOAA charities—one that assists with crisis situations and another providing children with financial help. He also announced a new annual conference aimed at making a bigger community impact.

### Surviving Spouse Corner Jeannie Stratis

Happy Fall everyone! It's a beautiful and exciting time of year in Florida. One reason to be excited is the upcoming Second Annual Military Benefits Forum, on Wednesday, October 30th, 2-4 pm, at the SCC Community Hall! It will be a great afternoon celebrating our military and honoring each and every one in attendance by providing valuable information and answering your questions. We have invited some fantastic speakers to give us an overview of benefits at a local level. The Florida Department of Veteran Affairs, James A. Haley Veterans Hospital, Hillsborough County Veteran Services, Veteran Benefits Administration, and local VSOs will be in attendance.

Share with your neighbors and friends and invite the community to attend. This is a free event; however, we are asking attendees to register to have enough seats and information packets. Register by either scanning the QR code on the Forum Flyer (Page 5), or email [moaasccsurvivors@gmail.com](mailto:moaasccsurvivors@gmail.com) and provide your first and last name. If you have general questions, email them to the email address provided before the event and we will try to address as many as we can.



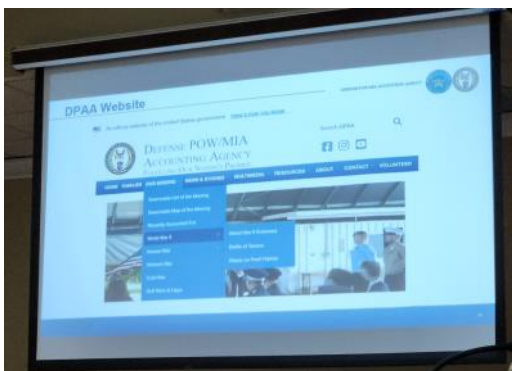
# Our September Meeting Highlights



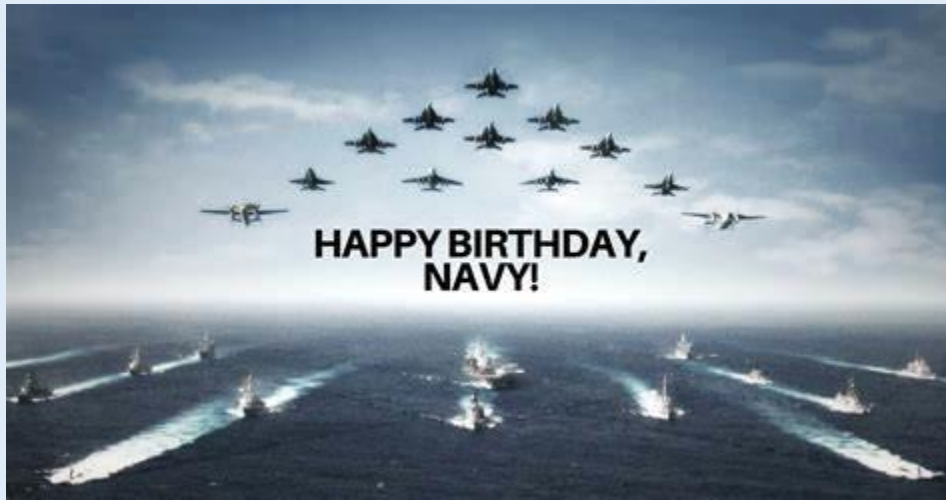
Jeannie Stratis receives Outstanding Service award from MOAA National



Danny Melton speaks on Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency



# *Happy Birthday to the United States Navy*



The theme for the Navy's 243rd Birthday is "Forged by the Sea." This year's theme captures the aspirations of every Sailor's journey in uniform and conveys the notion that every Sailor is shaped and strengthened by service in the Navy. It also highlights the fact that our Navy is a team that has been forged, tempered, and toughened over 243 years of maritime operations. And,

quite naturally, it speaks to the Navy's unique and fundamental relationship with the sea.

For 243 years, our U.S. Navy has celebrated the seekers of knowledge and adventure. Our Sailors proudly continue this tradition, so this year, we celebrate the security they provide for all Americans by their creativity, their dedication, and their enterprising sense of adventure.

Since its earliest days, the U.S. Navy has operated to deter our adversaries and to fight and win in the event deterrence fails. As our adversaries strive to match and outpace the capabilities of our fleet, it is imperative that we continue to grow, develop, and innovate – principally through the dedication and sacrifice of the Navy men and women "forged by the sea" – in order to retain our maritime superiority.

In an effort to curb British Sea Control, the Continental Congress established the Continental Navy, which later, on October 13, 1775, became the United States Navy. When the infant Navy was first formed, it consisted of just two armed vessels – tasked with disrupting munition ships supplying the British Army in America. Yet over the past nearly two and one-half centuries, our Navy has grown to become the largest, most advanced, and most lethal fighting force the world has ever known.

In 1972, the Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Elmo Zumwalt, designated October 13 as the Navy's official birthday, and directed that it be commemorated so as to "enhance [the] appreciation of our Navy heritage" and reinforce "pride and professionalism in the Naval Service."

From the Navy's original six frigates to the fighting force today comprised of a ready and resilient submarine, aviation, and surface force, our Navy continues to challenge old boundaries, develop new alliances, and forge new strengths. And – thanks to our proud, 243-year history – we are Forged by the Sea.





# IT'S THAT TIME OF THE YEAR AGAIN!



**YOUR 2025  
MEMBERSHIP  
DUES ARE  
NOW  
PAYABLE!**

## CHAPTER 2025 ANNUAL DUES

- Officers: \$20.00
- Surviving Spouses: \$15.00
- Spouses: Free

### HOW TO PAY YOUR DUES

1. Cash or check or Credit Card at our Luncheon
2. Mail your check to:  

Sun City Center MOAA Chapter  
P.O. Box 5693  
Sun City Center, FL 33571-5693
3. Online
  - Go to [moaa.org](http://moaa.org)
  - Login if you have an ID and password. If not click on "Join" and create your account.
  - After you login click on "Chapters" Then Click on "Pay Dues Online" and follow the instructions



See our **NEW** website for everything you ever wanted to know about our chapter!

<https://sccmoaa.org>



**Standing with you  
at every stage.**

1-800-247-2192  
[www.moaainsurance.com/plans](http://www.moaainsurance.com/plans)

100392



"This is historical fiction and will give the reader insight into one of the pivotal battles of the Vietnam war. Matt's work putting this together was prodigious. I don't know how he did it. As a historical novel, I think it is great."

General Walter Boomer, US Marine Corps (Ret)  
 Available on Amazon and Kindle. [https://www.amazon.com/Battle-Quang-Tri-Easter-Offensive-ebook/dp/B0B9HLYGFM/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?crid=3CUC5Q8P9SL91&keywords=battle+of+quang+tri+matt+jackson&qid=1671114378&prefix=%2Caps%2C94&sr=8-1](https://www.amazon.com/Battle-Quang-Tri-Easter-Offensive-ebook/dp/B0B9HLYGFM/ref=sr_1_1?crid=3CUC5Q8P9SL91&keywords=battle+of+quang+tri+matt+jackson&qid=1671114378&prefix=%2Caps%2C94&sr=8-1)



We support military men, women, and families with funds from individuals and organizations who care.

### The Many Ways MFS & You Help Military Families

- **Emergency Financial Assistance**- In crucial times of need
- **Scholarships and Leadership Programs**- Supporting Florida high school & JROTC students
- **Career Development Grants**- Grants for Florida high school seniors and recently graduated students
- **JROTC Awards & Certificates Program**- Champion Hillsborough County JROTC students & Florida public schools in citizenship
- **Service Dogs**- Partnership to help subsidize guide dogs and service dogs for veterans
- **Honor Flight Guardianship**- Fund 4 guardians annually for flights to Washington, D.C.

For more information, call  
**813/634-4675**  
 or log onto our website at  
[milfamilysupport.org](http://milfamilysupport.org)

1010 American Eagle Blvd. Ste 400  
 Sun City Center, Florida 33573



Relationships built on great service.



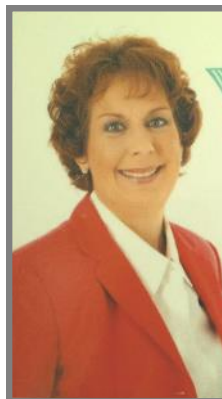
Mindy McCabe  
 Realtor  
 813-426-4165  
[mindy@mccabere.com](mailto:mindy@mccabere.com)

Jeannie Stratis  
 Realtor  
 813-758-7330  
[jeannie@mccabere.com](mailto:jeannie@mccabere.com)



[www.mccabere.com](http://www.mccabere.com)  
[Facebook.com/mccabere](https://www.facebook.com/mccabere)  
[mindy@mccabere.com](mailto:mindy@mccabere.com)

## 2024 Memorial Day Sponsor



Simone M. Baillergeon  
 Owner/Short Sale Logistics

307 S. Pebble Beach Blvd.  
 Sun City Center, FL 33573

Email: [simone@sccrealty.com](mailto:simone@sccrealty.com)  
[www.sccrealty.com](http://www.sccrealty.com)

Office: 813-633-3311 Cell: 813-917-3629

## 2024 Memorial Day Sponsor

### Louis DeSouza

Funeral Director

813-634-9900

1851 Rickenbacker Dr  
 Sun City Center, FL 33573

[info@sccfh.com](mailto:info@sccfh.com)



Burial, Cremation, and  
 Out of State Transfer

### David J. Gauthier

Certified Public Accountant—Sun City Accounting  
 Sun City Center, Florida 33573



(813) 634-9500  
 (813)642-8112-Fax

Income Tax Preparation  
 Corporate and Business Taxes  
 Accounting and Bookkeeping



# Sun City Center Chapter Member Application

PO Box 5693, SCC, FL 33571-5693

(Please Print Carefully)

## Applicant Information

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Alt Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Rank \_\_\_\_\_ Branch \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

## Spouse Information

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Alt Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Are You a National MOAA Member?** If yes supply MOAA Number \_\_\_\_\_

**Do You Wish a Chapter Name Tag at \$10?** Names? \_\_\_\_\_

**Are You a Member of Another MOAA Chapter?** Which One? \_\_\_\_\_

**To complete enrollment:** fill out application and mail to SCC MOAA Chapter, PO Box 5693, Sun City Center, FL 33571-5693

**More information?** Contact [kfaryniasz@hotmail.com](mailto:kfaryniasz@hotmail.com) Phone: (813)255-5178

### Other Information:

Chapter annual dues are \$20 and \$15 for Surviving spouses. Spouses and significant others are welcome and free.

Chapter luncheons/meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month except July and August. Guest speakers are part of the program each month.





Sun City Center Chapter  
Military Officers Association of America  
P.O. Box 5693  
Sun City Center, FL. 33571-5693

### **Florida House District 70**

#### **Mike Beltran**

##### **Offices and Addresses:**

Local - 3618 Erindale Drive  
Valrico, FL 33596-6311

State - 303 House Office Bldg.  
402 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee 32399-1300

**Tel.** Local - 813-653-7097  
State – 850-717-5057

Legislative Assistant - James Jacobs

### **Florida Senate District 20**

#### **Jim Boyd**

##### **Offices and Addresses:**

Local - 717 Manatee Ave.  
Suite 100  
Bradenton 34205

State - 312 Senate Bldg.  
404 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee 32399-1100

**Tel.** Local – (813) 779-7059  
State – (850) 487-5020

Legislative Assistant:

Amanda Romant  
romant.amanda@flsenate.gov

### **Florida Congressional District 16**

#### **Vern Buchanan**

##### **Offices and Addresses:**

Local - 510 Vonderburg Drive  
Suite 303  
Brandon, FL 33511

DC - 2110 Rayburn House Office Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20515

**Tel.** Local – 813-657-1013  
DC – 202-226-5015  
Fax – 202-226-0828

Hillsborough County Field Representative/Constituent  
Service – MarDee Buchman

### **U.S. Senators**

#### **Marco Rubio**

##### **Offices and Addresses:**

Local - 501 E. Polk Street  
Suite 601  
Tampa, FL 33602

DC - 284 Russell Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20510

**Tel.** Local – 813-947-6288  
DC – 202-224-2573  
Fax – 202-224-3041

Legislative assistant:

Taylor Sanchez

#### **Rick Scott**

##### **Offices and Addresses:**

Local -801 N. Florida Ave  
Suite 421  
Tampa, FL 33602

DC - 716 Hart Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20510

**Tel.** Local – 813-225-7040  
DC - 202-224-5274

Legislative assistant:

Kyle Joshua Hill

The sponsors that appear in this publication do not reflect an endorsement by MOAA or this affiliate. The Sun City Center (FL) MOAA Newsletter is published by the Sun City Center Chapter, which is an affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA). MOAA is the nation's largest and most influential association of military officers. It is an independent, nonprofit, politically *nonpartisan* organization. The newsletter is delivered electronically only.

Commercial solicitation of members using membership rolls and/or rosters is prohibited. Articles may be taken from MOAA and DoD publications. The Chapter is tax exempt under Section 501(c)(19) of the Internal Revenue Codes.

MOAA Take Action link: <http://takeaction.moaa.org/?1>

