



President's Message

CDR Bill "Bullet" Kirkpatrick, USN (Ret)

Hello Everybody,

We've just survived two extreme weather events and are thankful that the outcomes were not as dire as many news channels had reported. That is not to say that many in our SCC chapter have not been or know somebody who has been severely affected.

If you need help or know somebody who needs help, there are many resources available from the Government. On Friday, October 12th President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. [approved a Major Disaster Declaration for Florida](#). Federal disaster assistance is available to the state of Florida to supplement recovery efforts in the areas affected by Hurricane Milton from Oct. 5, 2024, and continuing.

The President's action makes federal funding available to affected individuals in several Florida Counties including, Hillsborough, Assistance can include grants for temporary housing and home repairs, low-cost loans to cover uninsured property losses, and other programs to help individuals and business owners recover from the effects of the disaster.

Individuals who sustained losses in the designated areas can begin applying for assistance by registering online at www.DisasterAssistance.gov, by calling 1-800-621-3362, or by using the [FEMA App](#). Hillsborough County also has [storm recovery resources](#). For more information, click on or cut and paste the following link in your browser:
<https://hcfl.gov/residents/stay-safe/storm-recovery-resources>

I hope to see all of you at our next luncheon on November 6th.

Bill

November Program

CDR Hillary Darby, USN (Ret)

Hillary Darby is a retired Navy Commander and will speak



about her experience as a woman Navy combat pilot and her work with resiliency and recovery programs such as Warriors At Ease. She served in the Navy for over 30 years. Initially she enlisted in the Naval Reserves, and went on to graduate from the United States Naval Academy in

1991. She earned her Naval Aviator wings as a helicopter pilot and then trained to fly the Navy's Seahawk helicopter.

During her first fleet squadron, HSL-45, based out of San Diego, California, she completed two deployments to the Arabian Gulf on small warships, with helicopter and crew serving as an extended airborne projection of the Navy weapon systems. She later served with HSL-40's Air Wolves as an instructor pilot, training newly minted helicopter pilots to fly the Seahawk. Upon completion of the instructor tour, she served on the staff of the USS NIMITZ (CVN 68) and then on to the Easy Riders of HSL-37 and supported Counter Drug Interdiction Operations off the coast of Central and South America.



Prior to retirement, she served as the Hawaii Navy Region Hawaii's Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Officer.

2023/2024 Chapter Officers

PRESIDENT

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

1st VP

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

Program Chair

2nd VP

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

Membership Chair

TREASURER

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

SECRETARY

Ms. Harriet Jordan,(813) 773-7676
secretary@sccmoaa.org

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

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

DIRECTOR

LTC Jeff Camp, USA (Ret).....
colcamp@icloud.com

Legislative Liaison

DIRECTOR

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

Newsletter Editor

DIRECTOR

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

DIRECTOR

Jean Bennett Stratis.....(813) 758-7330
jeanbennett.stratis@gmail.com

Surviving Spouse Liaison

DIRECTOR

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

Chaplain

\$19.00 - 6 November LUNCHEON - \$19.00

To Register: 813-924-1983

Reservations no later than 6 p.m. Sunday, 3 Nov 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

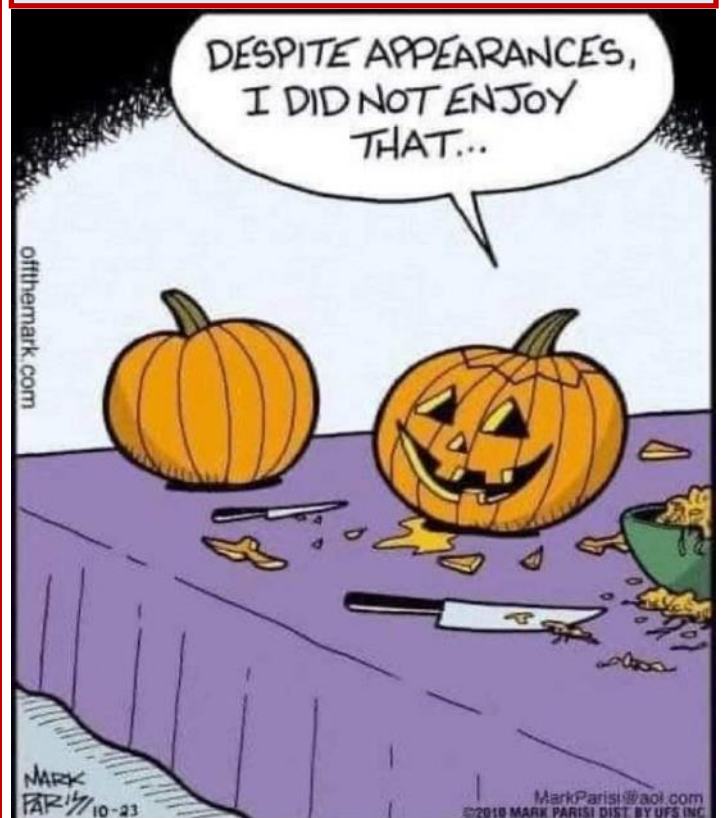
Entrees:

- Carved Turkey, Dressing, Cranberries, Gravy
- Carved Sugar Glazed Ham
- Baked Cod with Lemon Sauce

Starch: Vegetable du Jour

Desserts: Chef's selected desserts

Beverages: Decaf Coffee, Iced Tea, and Ice Water



THE ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS

Our Annual Meeting will occur on 6 November 2024. Our Bylaws (Article VII, Section 2) state, "There shall be an annual meeting of the Chapter during November for the receipt of annual reports, the determination of annual dues for the next calendar year, the election of officers and directors, and the transaction of other business."

The following slate of candidates for election as officers and directors will be up for election at the Annual Meeting:

OFFICERS (6)

1. President: CDR Bill Kirkpatrick, USN (Ret)
2. 1st Vice President: Col Danny Melton, USMC (Ret) - Program Chair
3. 2nd Vice President: Maj Kirk Faryniasz, USAF (Ret) - Membership Chair
4. Secretary: Lt Col Joe Mulhberger, USAF (Ret)
5. Treasurer: Lt Col Bill Patterson, USAF (Ret)
6. Immediate Past President: COL Eunice Patxot, USA (Ret) - Webmaster

BOARD MEMBERS/DIRECTORS (5)

1. Lt Col Ferris Garrett, USAF (Ret) - Universal Affairs
2. CDR Cliff Korn, USNR (Ret) - Newsletter Editor
3. LTC Jeff Camp, USA (Ret) - Legislative Affairs
4. Ms. Jean Bennett Stratis, Surviving Spouse Liaison
5. Maj Tom Smith, USAF (Ret) - Chaplain



VETERANS DAY

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

Sun City Center Veterans Day Ceremony

The officers and members of the combined Military Veterans Organizations of Sun City Center extend a cordial invitation for you to share in our community patriotic observance of Veterans Day on Monday, November 11, 2024. **The formal program will start at 10:00 a.m. in the Community Association's Community Hall located at 1910 South Pebble Beach Boulevard, Sun City Center. Doors will open at 9:00 a.m. at which time coffee and brownies/cookies will be served. The event is free and is open to the public. Guests are requested to be seated by 9:50 a.m.**

Our guest speaker will be Past Department Commander, Department of Florida of The American Legion, Ms. Eunice Butts. She served in the United States Air Force during the Vietnam era, followed by service in the USAF Reserves and the Alabama National Guard. She retired as a Technical Sergeant, USAF. She has been a member of The American Legion for 40 years and has risen through leadership positions until culminating in her election at the state convention as Florida Department Commander for year 2022/2023. She is well traveled, a committed mentor, and very active in The American Legion's National affairs.

The Grand Marshal will be Brigadier Colin Howgill, 31-year veteran of the United Kingdom Royal Marines. He was commissioned in May 1958 and served both as a Commando Special Forces infantry officer and helicopter pilot. He has extensive, worldwide combat experience in security, counter-terrorism, and counter-insurgency operations. In June 1988 he was appointed the Royal Marines Adie-de-Camp to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. He retired in April 1989 and settled in the USA becoming a US Citizen in 1997.

Our program also includes a musical interlude presented by the Southshore Concert Band with vocalist Lily Myers. The Color Guard will be composed of JROTC Cadets from Lennard High School. Following the ceremony, a wreath emplacement will take place at the Veterans Memorial located at the front entrance of the Community Hall.

The Chaplain's Corner

LTC Benny Blackshire, USA (Ret)

Greetings from the Chaplain's Corner. I hope everyone enjoyed coming back after the summer break. The September and October luncheons were well attended with two excellent speakers. Don't miss what's coming in November as shown in the newsletter. We started collecting membership dues for 2025 and have gotten off to a good start. If you haven't paid your dues and cannot make it to the November meeting, plan on mailing in your dues. See the dues notice elsewhere in the newsletter.

Here is a devotion from Our Daily Bread, titled "**God's Timing**," by Leslie Koh.

Mag had been looking forward to her planned trip to another country. But, as was her usual practice, she prayed about it first. "It's just a holiday," a friend remarked. "Why do you need to consult God?" Mag, however, believed in committing everything to Him. This time, she felt Him prompting her to cancel the trip. She did, and later, when she would have been there, an epidemic broke out in the country. "I feel like God was protecting me," she notes.

Noah too relied on God's protection as he and his family waited in the ark for nearly two months after the flood subsided. After being cooped up for more than ten months, he must have been eager to get out. After all, "the water had dried up from the earth" and "the ground was dry" (Genesis 8:13). But Noah didn't just rely on what he saw; instead, he left the ark only when God told him to (vv. 15-19). He trusted that God had good reason for the extended wait, perhaps the ground wasn't completely safe yet.

As we pray about the decisions in our life, using our God-given faculties and waiting for His leading, we can trust in His timing, knowing that our wise Creator knows what's best for us. As the psalmist declared, "I trust in you, Lord...My times are in your hands" (Psalm 31:14-15).

What do you believe God is saying to you about a decision you may be facing? How can you trust Him and wait for His guidance?

Father, please grant us the wisdom and guidance to move according to Your will and ways, for we trust in Your plans for our lives. Amen.



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

<https://sccmoaa.org>

MOAA
INSURANCE
PLANS

**Standing with you
at every stage.**

1-800-247-2192
www.moainsurance.com/plans

100392



Member Spotlight

Lt Col Ferris Garrett, USAF (Ret)

In 1965, Ferris Garrett graduated with a B.S. Degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Maryland and was Commissioned as an Air Force 2nd Lieutenant. His first assignment was to a 7-month long Aircraft Maintenance Officer Course at Chanute AFB, IL. This began his 21 years of active-duty service. Duty locations include four overseas (Phu Cat AB, RVN; Zweibrucken AB and Ramstein AB, Germany; Incirlik AB, Turkey) and eight installations within the US. Many of the assignments were at base level, within Tactical Fighter Wings (TFW), equipped with F-100 fighter aircraft, then F-4s, and later, F-16s and F-15s. In between, he was selected to attend the University of Oklahoma for an M.S. Degree in Aeronautical Engineering. As a Maintenance Staff Officer, he was part of a team that evaluated all Fighter Wing aircraft maintenance operations within a Major Air Command. At the Air Force jet engine overhaul depot, Ferris directed the J79 Engine Component Improvement Program (CIP), which also provided technical support to other Nations with F-104 or F-4 aircraft. At the Pentagon, his assignment was as Chief, Depot Maintenance Programs. His team developed, justified, and defended the Air Force Depot Maintenance budget submission each year.

Ferris retired in 1986 to a home they owned in Sundance, a rural subdivision about five miles south of Sun City Center (SCC). Sundance was a part of the original SCC development. In 1987, he began a 19-year career with Hillsborough County Government. As a Senior Engineer, his section reviewed construction plans for water and wastewater lines and facilities for residential and commercial projects. In 1986, a County Fire Rescue Station was built in Sundance and was staffed by volunteer firefighters. Ferris became a volunteer firefighter and then became a State-Certified EMT and for over 20 years was the Volunteer Chief of that Station and responded at night/weekends to about 2,000 emergency calls.

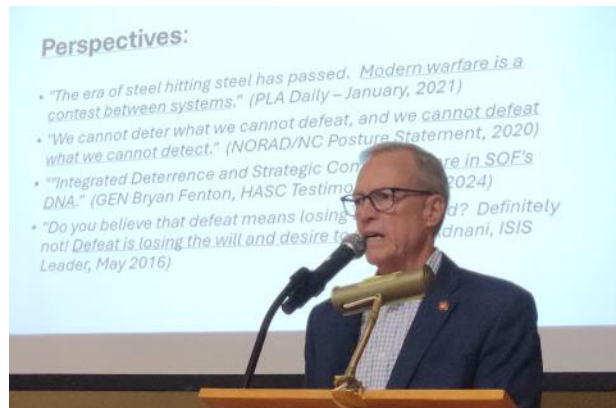
In 2015, the Garretts left Sundance and bought a home in the Renaissance section of SCC. He then joined MOAA, MOWW, & Silver Osprey's Squadron and has been active member for the last eight years and has held several positions. His main interest is Public Safety. Ferris and Elaine have been married for 59 years. They have a daughter and a son, a grandson, and two great granddaughters.



Our October Meeting Highlights



Col Keith Lawless, USMC (Ret) speaks on Integrated Deterrence .



"We cannot deter what we cannot defeat and we cannot defeat what we cannot detect" (NORAD/NC Posture Statement, 2020)



Our members seem to have sweet teeth!



Bullet recognizing a superb presentation!



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
 - 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

Florida has decided to relocate due to our vulnerability for hurricanes. Please note our new location.



Surviving Spouse Corner

Jeannie Stratis

MOAA Joins Surviving Spouses on Capitol Hill in Fight for Critical Legislation

By: Jen Goodale

MOAA recently joined more than 150 military survivors on Capitol Hill in support of the 2nd Annual Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS) [Gold Star Families Advocacy Week](#). This effort, backed by more than 35 military and veteran organizations, sought to address critical legislative needs that directly impact military survivors.

This year's Hill event focused on advocating for the passage of four bills:

The Love Lives On Act (H.R. 3651/S. 1266) addresses the complex realities facing surviving spouses who remarry after losing a servicemember. Currently, surviving spouses lose access to certain survivor benefits when they remarry before age 55. This bill would allow surviving spouses to retain these critical benefits regardless of remarriage.

The Caring for Survivors Act (H.R. 1083/S. 414) seeks to increase Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) for eligible survivors. Currently, DIC paid by the VA is significantly lower than comparable benefits for other federal survivors, such as those in the civil service or law enforcement.

The Health Care Fairness for Military Families Act (H.R. 1045/S. 956) would expand health care coverage under TRICARE to dependents of servicemembers up to age 26, aligning the program with civilian health care standards. Currently, military families often find themselves in a position where their children age out of TRICARE coverage at 21 (or 23 if they are full-time students).

The CHAMPVA Children's Care Protection Act (H.R. 2414/S. 1119) addresses age limits like the Health Care Fairness Act, but focuses on young adult dependents of veterans who die from a service-connected disability who are eligible for the Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs (CHAMPVA). This bill would extend coverage to these children until age 26, ensuring that survivors of veterans have access to critical healthcare for their dependents.

Advocating alongside these military survivors, coupled with MOAA's endorsement of these bills, underscores our commitment to all service-connected families. The importance of honoring the sacrifice of these survivors must go beyond extending sympathy and translate into actions that support the financial well-being of those left behind.

Getting these bills across the finish line will require a push from the entire military and veteran community. Contact your lawmakers using MOAA's [Legislative Action Center](#) to express your support and urge Congress act to protect those who have already sacrificed so much.

We didn't need the seatbelts... We had the MOM ARM 🍻



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

Happy Birthday, US Marine Corps

The official birthday of the United States Marine Corps is on 10 November 1775. That was the day when the Second Continental Congress established the Continental Marines with the following decree:

That two battalions of Marines be raised consisting of one Colonel, two lieutenant-colonels, two majors and other officers, as usual in other regiments; that they consist of an equal number of privates as with other battalions, that particular care be taken that no persons be appointed to offices, or enlisted into said battalions, but such as are good seamen, or so acquainted with maritime affairs as to be able to serve for and during the present war with Great Britain and the Colonies; unless dismissed by Congress; that they be distinguished by the names of the First and Second Battalions of Marines.

Prior to 1921, Marines celebrated the recreation of the Corps on 11 July with little pomp or pageantry. On 21 October 1921, Major Edwin North McClellan, in charge of the Corps's fledgling historical section, sent a memorandum to Commandant John A. Lejeune, suggesting the Marines' original birthday of 10 November be declared a Marine Corps holiday to be celebrated throughout the Corps. Lejeune so ordered in Marine Corps Order 47.

The celebration also includes a reading of Marine Corps Order 47, republished every year, as well as a message from the current Commandant, and often includes a banquet and dancing if possible. In many cases, the birthday celebration will also include a pageant of current and historical Marine Corps uniforms, as a reminder of the history of the Corps.¹ Another modern tradition includes a unit run on the 10th. Marines are reputed to celebrate the birthday, regardless of where they may be in the world, even in austere environments or combat.





"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



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

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

Jeannie Stratis

Realtor
 813-758-7330
jeannie@mccabere.com



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

2024 Memorial Day Sponsor

Universal Realty

Simone M. Baillergeon
 Owner/Short Sale Logistics

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

Email: simone@sccrealty.com
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



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 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>

