



**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 41 Number 1**

**January 2025**

## President's Message

**CDR Bill Kirkpatrick, USN (Ret)**

So, the holidays are now almost behind us, and it is my hope that every member of our chapter has had a healthy, active, and happy time with friends and family.

On December 14<sup>th</sup>, many Veteran's organizations participated in the Wreaths across America program at Ruskin Memorial Cemetery. Estimated participation was well over 300 folks, including all the youth organizations. In 2023, we had less than 100 participants, with many of those young people involved with these youth groups.

The purpose of the Wreaths program is to *Remember, Honor and Teach*: Remember our deceased Veterans, Honor our heroes with a wreath placed on their grave and Teach our youth the value of freedom and patriotism.

Our MOAA Motto is "Never stop serving" and there were several of our Sun City Chapter members involved with the Ruskin Wreaths project.



It was the second annual event that our MOAA Chapter member Walt Cawein has organized. Walt has taken an active and personal interest in supporting

and honoring our deceased American heroes. He organized several grave cleaning events last year and spent the two weekends, prior to the 14<sup>th</sup>, making sure our veteran's stones were ready for the wreaths.

## January 2024 Program

**RADM Lawrence C. Chambers. USN (Ret)**

Born in Bedford, VA, Rear Admiral Lawrence C. Chambers '52, USN (Ret.), lost his Navy veteran father at age four and grew up with



his four siblings in Washington, DC, under the nurturing influence of his maternal grandparents. While in high school, Admiral Chambers, taking his cue from fellow Dunbar High School alumnus Wesley Brown, honed his academic and leadership skills, turned down offers from Harvard and MIT, and joined Brown at the Naval Academy—a move that culminated with his becoming the first African American Naval Academy

graduate promoted to flag rank.

After a tour of duty in Columbus, Admiral Chambers reported to flight training and received his wings in 1954. Chambers flew various fixed-wing aircraft, including the AF Guardian, the A-1 Sky Raider, the A-4 Skyhawk, and the A-7B Corsair II. Admiral Chambers' early command tours included Attack Squadron VA-15 and USS White Plains. Under Chambers' leadership, the White Plains earned the Ney Award for Best Small Ship Mess Afloat and the Type Commander's "E." In 1975, Admiral Chambers assumed command of the USS Midway, becoming the first African American to command an aircraft carrier. Under his command, the USS Midway played a critical role in rescuing South Vietnamese Air Force Major Bung Ly (Lee), his wife, and five children.

In December 1977, following a successful tour as skipper of Midway, Admiral Chambers was promoted to rear admiral. Admiral Chambers' later naval career included command of Carrier Strike Groups 3 and 4 and assignment as Vice Commander, Naval Air Systems Command. He retired from active duty in 1984 and began a second career in industry. Working for Unisys Corporation, he managed the Federal Aviation Administration and international weapons systems programs. Following retirement from Unisys, he embarked on a third career with Kinnevik AB, taking assignments in developing countries worldwide. Recently, he has focused on community service, including supporting the Midway Museum.



## 2024/2025 Chapter Officers

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### Surviving Spouse Liaison

### DIRECTOR

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[tsmith0750@hotmail.com](mailto:tsmith0750@hotmail.com)

### Chaplain

\$19.00 - 8 January LUNCHEON - \$19.00

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

**Reservations no later than 6 p.m. Sunday, 5 January 2025**

**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 at 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:

- Sesame Chicken—Boneless Thighs w/General Tso Sauce
- Chinese Pepper Steak
- Coconut Shrimp—Sweet Red Chili Sauce

Starch & Vegetable du Jour

**Desserts:** Chef's selected desserts

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





## Chaplain's Devotional for January

Rev. Dr. Tom Smith

“While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, winter and summer, and day and night shall not cease.” (Genesis 8:22 NKJV). We celebrate the New Year holiday every year, but our Scripture text shows us there is really no pause in the march of the universe. There is a divine order to everything under the sun. What will 2025 look like if we allow that divine order to guide our lives? Think of it. We can make affirmations knowing our steps are ordered by God. I want to give you five affirmations for 2025.

1. I am open to the possibilities and opportunities the New Year brings.
2. I am confident and capable in my professional abilities.
3. I release fear and embrace the present moment with sincerity.
4. I am stronger than my panic. I have the power to overcome this moment.
5. I set myself free when I forgive myself.

Be abundantly blessed today!



### 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.

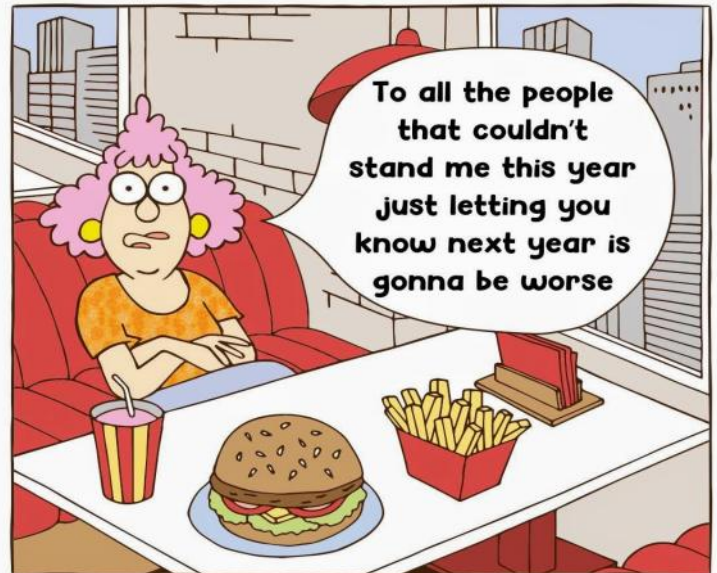


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Did you know we have a Facebook Page? We do! It's a great place to see what's happening in our chapter, and it allows you to express your opinions on our activities and keep in touch with other members. If you have a Facebook account, click the logo/link to "like" and follow our page. If you don't yet have a Facebook Account, Facebook makes it easy to establish one.

Like what you see in this newsletter? There's even more in the Florida Council of Chapter's newsletter at this link!

<https://moaaf.org/communique.aspx>



# Surviving Spouse Corner

Jeannie Stratis

Happy New Year! Good news from DC!! I'm looking forward to another productive year with many positive changes for our veterans, military family members and caregivers. See everyone at the January 8<sup>th</sup> luncheon.

Jeannie Stratis, Surviving Spouse Liaison

## News release from December 16, 2024.

House Committee on Veterans' Affairs Media Release: Today, House Committee on Veterans' Affairs Chairman Mike Bost (R-Ill.), and Rep. Juan Ciscomani (R-Ariz.), released the following statements after the House voted 382-12 to send the bipartisan, bicameral [Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act](#), to the president's desk to be signed into law:

"There is no better way to close out the Congress than to pass a good bill for veterans and their families," said Chairman Bost. "I am so proud of the changes the Dole Act will bring to VA to modernize, improve, and reshape the delivery of care and benefits. We worked hard to craft this legislation to put veterans – not government bureaucracy – at the core of it. The Dole Act will do that by expanding economic opportunities, simplifying the disability claims process, reforming services for aging veterans, opening more doors for mental health support, and a lot more. I want to thank my friend and colleague, Rep. Ciscomani, our colleagues in the Senate, and the dozens of outside organizations and stakeholders for their support and advocacy to help us deliver for veterans. I look forward to seeing President Biden sign this bill into law as soon as possible."

"Our freedoms are built on the courage, dedication, and sacrifice of our veterans. When they hang up their uniform and transition back into civilian life, it is our turn to stand for them," said Rep. Ciscomani. "As we close the 118th Congress, I am glad to see both chambers of Congress approved my bill, the Dole Act, which makes great strides to modernize and reform the VA, expand access to job training and employment opportunities, streamline the disability claims process, and improve the delivery of care and benefits, whether at the VA or at home. I am grateful to Chairman Bost, my colleagues in the House and Senate, and all the veterans and veteran-serving organizations that worked on this legislative package, and I urge the President to sign this bill into law as soon as possible."

[For a section-by-section summary of the Dole Act, click here.](#)

**Upcoming Events**

**Chapter Meetings & Luncheons**

January 8	June 4
February 5	September 3
March 5	October 1
April 2	November 5
May 7	December 3

**CAMARADERIE - SPEAKERS - LUNCH**

Luncheons are the first Wednesday of each month (except January) 11am-1pm. Cost is \$19  
Atrium Florida Room  
945 North Course Lane, Sun City Center  
Register to 813-924-1983 NLT 6pm the Sunday prior to the luncheon.

**MILITARY BENEFITS FORUM** | **MARCH 13, 10AM-12PM**  
SUN CITY COMMUNITY CENTER

**MEMORIAL DAY COMMEMORATION**  
MAY 26

**NOVEMBER 11** | **VETERANS DAY COMMEMORATION**  
VETERANS THEATER



# Chapter Members in the News

On **November 8<sup>th</sup>**, Congressman Vern Buchanan awarded several of your Chapter members the “Congressional Veteran Commendation”. This award is in recognition of the awardees’ Military and Community Service. Please help me congratulate the following SCC MOAA Members: Steve Browning, Bill Hodges (Honorary), Bill Kirkpatrick, Joe Muhlberger, and Robert Putnam.



Your newly elected 2025 Chapter Board Members and Installation Officer COL Steve Bond.



# A Thank You from the President!

On behalf of our MOAA Chapter, I would like to thank Susie and Charlie Collins for their very generous donation to our organization. This donation will help continue the great work of Grants and Cash awards that our chapter gives to support the local community. Our motto is "Never stop Serving." The Collins have modified that to "Never stop Giving".

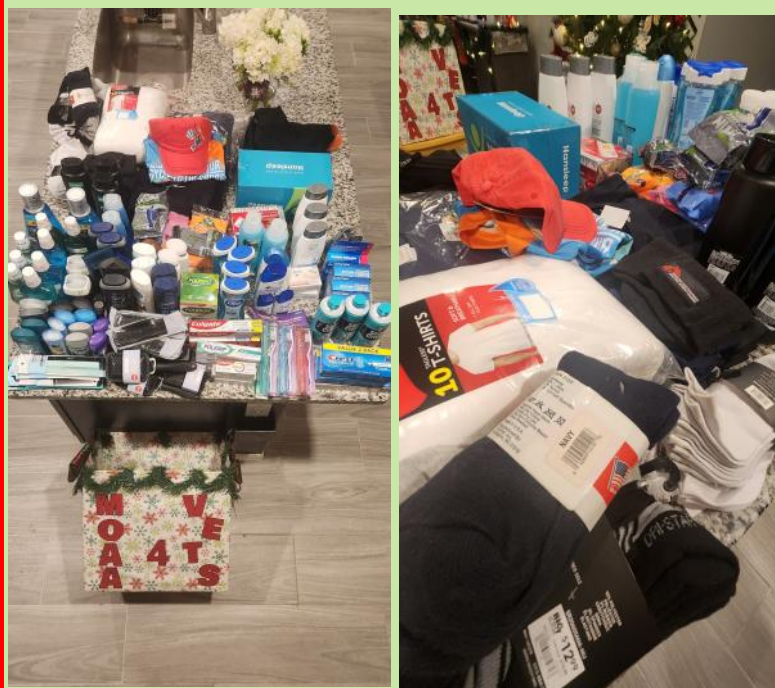
Thank you again Susie and Charlie!





# Veterans in our hearts on the Holidays!

For the 3rd year, the Sun City Center Chapter of MOAA has donated gifts for the veterans at the James Haley Hospital. Once again, you have outdone yourselves. On Dec 9th, Eunice Patxot, the chapter elf, delivered 2 boxes of toiletries, underclothes, shorts, T-shirts, and sweats just in time for the Vets to 'shop' at the Santa store. Ashleigh and Rasha from the Center for Development and Civic Engagement were grateful and appreciative of the donation and your generosity. During this holiday season, our members did their part in ensuring the veteran's needs were met during their stay in the hospital. Thank you for 'always serving'.







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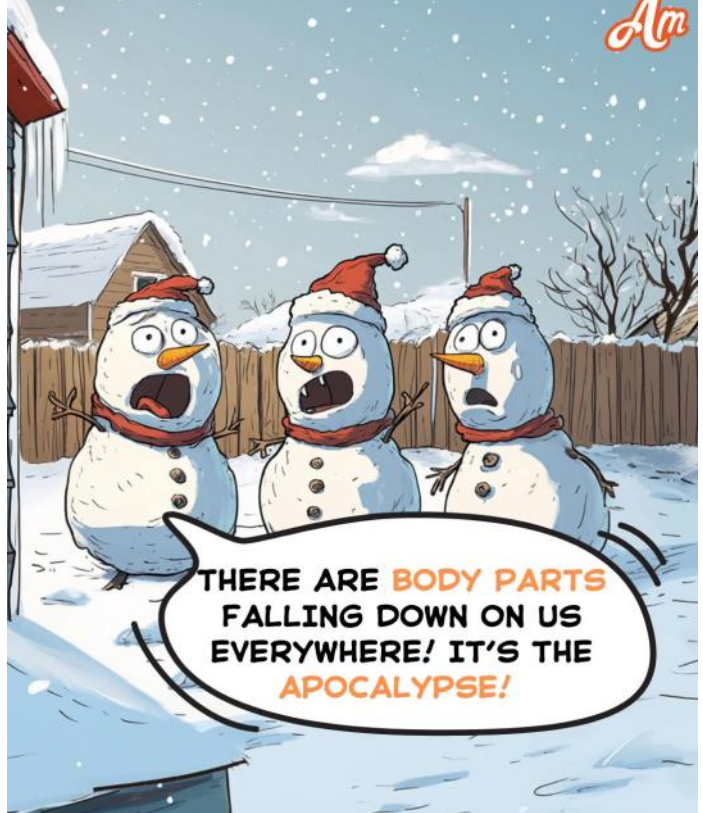
- Financial Assistance in critical times of need
- PAWS for Patriots through Southeastern Guide Dogs: MFST supports three blind veterans per year at a cost of \$5,000 per veteran
- Service Dogs for veterans with PTSD and other traumatic injuries
- Homeless Prevention for Women Veterans: help with rent, child care and licensing training
- Operation Warm Heart, administered by the 1st Sergeants Group at MacDill AFB, who provide commissary vouchers for soldiers in need
- Scholarships and Leadership Programs for students from military families
- Operation Helping Hand: monthly support for military families of wounded servicemen and women at the James A. Haley VA Hospital in Tampa



For more information, call  
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Available on [Amazon and Kindle](#).

## Member Spotlight

Are you involved in a community event, activity, or service? Send us a picture and a description of 'you' in action and we will highlight you in the chapter newsletter!

Newsletter Editor: Cliff Korn  
[newsletter@sccmoaa.org](mailto:newsletter@sccmoaa.org)

## 2023 Memorial Day Sponsor




**Simone M. Baillergeon**  
Owner/Short Sale Logistics

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- **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.

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(Please Print Carefully)

### Applicant Information

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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

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Tallahassee 32399-1300

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Hillsborough County Field Representative/Constituent  
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Legislative assistant:

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



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