



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



Volume 41 Number 2

February 2025

President's Message

CDR Bill Kirkpatrick, USN (Ret)

Hello Sun City Center MOAA members,

By the time you read this, we are well into the New Year. Many of you have made New Year resolutions for 2025 and, like many of you, your Chapter Board has made several resolutions, as well. As you know, your chapter membership has declined by about 16% since the beginning of 2024. The first of our resolutions is to increase our membership by at least 14 new members or about 10%, in 2025. Chapter members, you can help! If you know a Surviving Spouse, CWO, or Commissioned officer, invite the prospective member to lunch. This is a great way to gain new members and let new people share in the comradery. We also have resolved to have several "get-together" events outside of our monthly luncheons. If you have any ideas for an event, please let one of your Board Members know about it.

Six of your Board Members will be traveling to the Rosen Center, in Orlando, on the weekend of January 17th. The Florida Council of Chapters (FCoC) holds a Leadership Training Seminar (LTS), every year, during this time frame. This year the FCoC will hold a combined LTS/Convention. The LTS is where chapter leaders are trained for their roles in the MOAA enterprise. The convention is a time to enjoy the camaraderie of other MOAA members and guests, conduct the business of the Council, and remember those in our chapters that we lost in 2024 with a memorial service.

Our next luncheon will be held on February 5th. As I indicated at our last luncheon, due to the ravages of untamed inflation, our caterer has had to raise the price that he charges us by slightly over \$1.00 per meal. As a result, we have raised our luncheon price by \$1.00 per person to \$20.00. This is not optimal, but it is a sign of the times that we live in.

As always, fly high and fast, and remember to keep the shiny side up.

January 2024 Program

Tom Harding is February's speaker. He was born in "the anthracite coal country" of Scranton, Pennsylvania, and the son of a coal miner. At the onset of WWII, his family went through what everyone else did – rationing and reusing anything that could be to support the war effort. His uncle served in the Army Air Corps and sent him scale-model airplanes and a deck of cards with pictures of airplanes through which he learned to love airplanes!



He attended the University of Scranton – which was eight blocks from home. After two years of engineering, he switched from Physics to a major in Electronics. After college, he worked at Link, a company that built flight simulators and trainers, and then at IBM, which built avionics systems. While at these companies he worked in aviation programs including the C-141 Starlifter, P-3 Orion, and F-4 Phantom II. He was involved in the early space systems programs including the Gemini two-man program and Apollo three-man program. Meeting and having a great one-on-one discussion with Neil Armstrong was a real highlight of that experience.

He was later recruited into the Information Technology world. Where he spent most of his career. However, he managed to stay connected to the world of aviation by selling computer systems to Link! After several senior management positions, he was promoted to Corporate Vice President, Division General Manager at a Fortune 500 company, and eventually started his own consulting business. After thirty-five years of operating his own business, he retired here in Sun City Center. He is a member of the Silver Osprey Squadron # 64, Association of Naval Aviators, and will speak about the life and career of last month's speaker, RADM Larry Chambers.

2024/2025 Chapter Officers

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DIRECTOR

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Chaplain

\$20.00 - 5 February LUNCHEON - \$20.00

To Register: 813-924-1983

Reservations no later than 6 p.m. Sunday, 2 February 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 \$20.00/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 the next meeting or send check to:

***Military Officers Association of America
Post Office Box 5693
Sun City Center, FL 33571-5693***

February Buffet Luncheon Menu

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

Entrees:

- Chicken Marsala
- Baked Cod with Lemon Butter Sauce
- Stuffed Shells Marinara, Vegetarian

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

Guaranteed Success in 2025

Dr. John Maxwell addresses in *What Makes a Winning Team* a formula for guaranteed success in 2025 no matter the endeavor. He uses the acrostic SUCCESS to provide a road map to get you to your predetermined goal for this coming year. Let's talk about that today.

To reach the goal one must first define success. Dr. Maxwell defines success from a moral perspective as choosing to enter the arena of action, determined to give yourself to that cause that will better mankind and last for eternity.

S Select your goal.

Of noteworthy interest is the research that shows 95 percent of us have never written out our goals in life, but of the 5% who write out their goals 95% will be successful.

U Unlock your imprisoned potential.

Most of us use only about 10% of our potential; if we use as much as 25%, we are called geniuses.

C Commit yourself to God's plan.

Scripture declares God has a plan for each of us (Jeremiah 29:11). The more intimate I become with God, the more knowledgeable I become about His plan for my life.

C Chart your course.

One of my favorite proverbs is: "If you don't know where you are going any road will do." It is better to look ahead and prepare than look back and regret." We should make plans-counting on God to direct us, (Prov. 16:9).

E Expect problems.

Adversity is not our greatest enemy. God wired us with the capacity to be resilient and resourceful.

S Stand firm on your commitment.

S Surrender everything to God.

Be abundantly blessed today!



Find us on
Facebook

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://flmoaa.org/news/#>

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 \$20
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 THEATER	VETERANS DAY COMMEMORATION

Surviving Spouse Corner

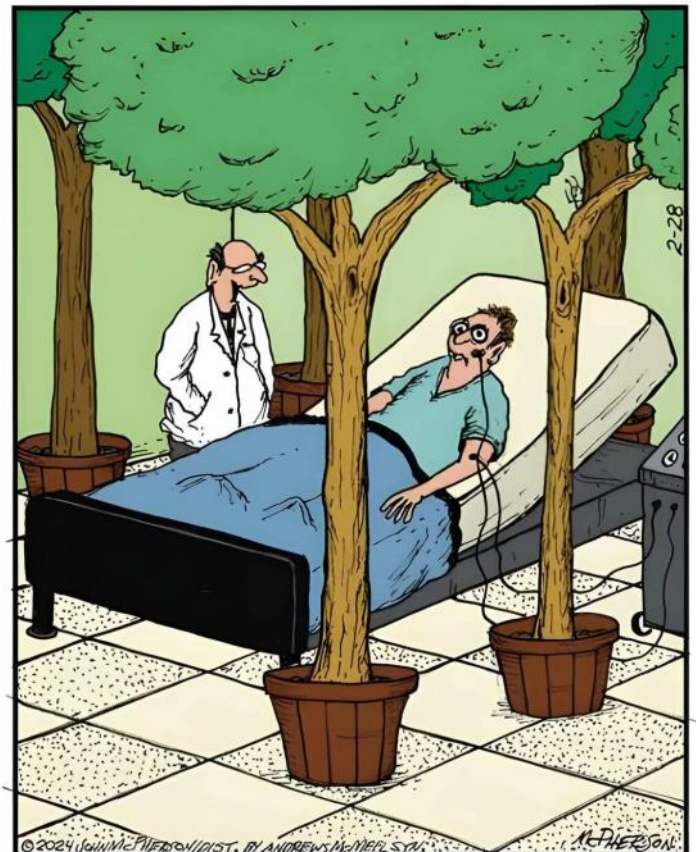
Jeannie Stratis

Happy Valentine's Day!

Many states have made legislative decisions that show appreciation for the sacrifices of service members, veterans, and their survivors. If you do a little research, it could result in monetary savings and opportunities. One area to investigate is Homestead Exemption with the Property Appraiser's Office. A link is included below. The deadline to apply for homestead exemption for 2025 is March 1st. Click on the link below and check your property tax payment and see what has been applied to your property. Recent qualifying life events could add additional exemptions to your property. If you are still unsure, call the Property Appraiser's Office and ask. They were very helpful when I called after a recent move.

County Property Appraiser: Ask about a homestead exemption, a widow (widower) exemption, or an over-age 65 exemption on your property tax or school tax. In Florida, there is a homestead, widow, and age exemption and property taxes on homesteaded homes. In addition, the property tax for homesteaded homes of disabled veterans is reduced by the same percentage of the disabilities affecting the veteran as certified by the VA. That benefit passes to the unremarried surviving spouse in Florida and is transportable to a downsized home.

[Hillsborough County Homestead Information](#)



"We're big on symbolism here. Suffice it to say, you're not out of the woods yet!"

MILITARY BENEFITS FORUM

THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 2025

10AM-12PM

**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 and provide first and last name.

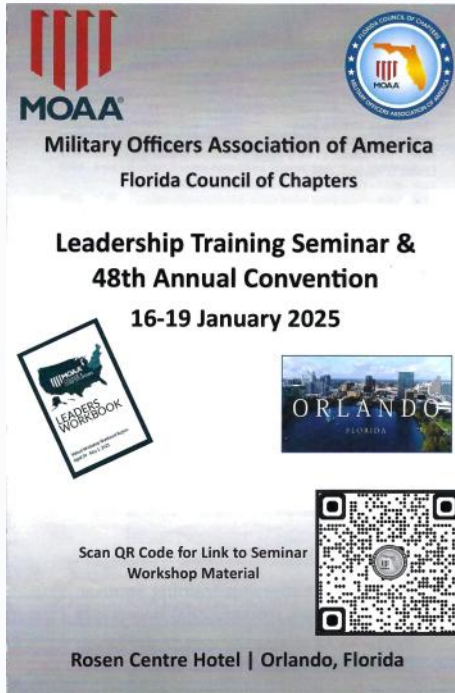


Sun City Center Chapter
Surviving Spouse Committee



Chapter Leader Training

In January, six chapter board members and four spouses attended the Florida Council of Chapters 2025 Leadership Training Seminar & 48th Annual Convention. We not only learned a lot about how to better serve you, the members, but also how to better promote our organization to the world. At a dinner hosted by MOAA we were motivated by MOAA President and CEO, Lt Gen Brian (BK) Kelly (USAF, Ret) speaking about MOAA's past, present, and future.



The poster features the MOAA logo (Military Officers Association of America) and the Florida Council of Chapters logo. It announces the Leadership Training Seminar & 48th Annual Convention from January 16-19, 2025, at the Rosen Centre Hotel in Orlando, Florida. It includes a QR code for seminar materials and a 'Leaders Workbook' icon.



Lt Gen Kelly expresses his passion for MOAA expectations.



Eunice doesn't leave empty handed!



The Rosen Centre knows how to do dessert!



Jeannie Stratis is a big winner at Casino Night!

Our January Meeting!



RADM Larry Chambers, USN (Ret) speaks on the Raid on Son Tay



The Chapter recognizes our outstanding long-time caterer with a plaque. They provide an outstanding monthly meal for us even in the face of rising costs. Starting in February the luncheon price will be \$20.00.



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

The Many Ways MFS & You Help Military Families

- **Scholarships and Leadership Programs**-Supporting Florida high school & JROTC students
- **Career Development Grants**- Year round vocational grants for Florida students and veterans (restrictions apply)
- **JROTC Awards & Certificates Program**- Champion Hillsborough county JROTC students & Florida public schools in citizenship
- **Honor Flight Guardianship**- Fund 4 guardians annually for flights to Washington, D.C.
- **Service Dogs**- Partnership to help subsidize guide dogs and service dogs for veterans

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



Support Your MOAA Charities

Bequests and Heritage Society

A bequest - a gift made through your will - allows you to retain control of your assets during your lifetime and distribute them as you wish upon your death. After providing for loved ones, many people choose to include a gift to The MOAA Foundation.

Some of the most common types of bequests include a fixed-dollar amount, a specific property, a percentage of the estate, or the residual portion of the estate. A charitable bequest may reduce estate taxes. Consult an attorney when making or revising a will to ensure compliance with state law and to minimize applicable taxes.

Donors who provide for The MOAA Foundation either by means of a bequest or a planned gift are eligible for Heritage Society membership. For more information, please email our Development office at foundation@moaa.org or call **(800) 234-6622, ext.169**.

For bequests to The MOAA Foundation, your attorney may find the following wording useful:

"I give and bequeath _____ (description of property) and/or the sum of \$ _____ to Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) Foundation, a Virginia nonprofit, charitable organization (EIN: 46-4219250) that is tax-exempt under section §501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code doing business at 201 North Washington Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314-2539. These funds are to be used in support of all MOAA Foundation charitable programs offered by MOAA, its subsidiaries, its councils or its chapters to currently serving uniformed servicemembers and veterans of all ranks, their families and their survivors."



"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](#).

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

2023 Memorial Day Sponsor





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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

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MOAA's Legislative Action Center link: <https://moaa.quorum.us>



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