



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 6

June 2025

President's Message

CDR Bill Kirkpatrick, USN (Ret)

Well, folks, the summer months are just around the corner. Many of our "Snowbird" chapter members have already started their journey to that "home away from home". There are a few more members who will be starting that journey in the very near future. To those travelers, all of us wish you safe travels, fair winds, and sunny skies. We will look forward to your return after the summer.



We had a very successful luncheon in May. Our speaker was Dr. Susan MacManus, PHD. She has spoken at our May luncheon for as many years as I have been a member of our chapter. She is a well-known political expert, a University of South Florida Distinguished University Professor Emerita, a political analyst for WFLA News Channel 8, and has appeared on every major broadcast and cable television, and radio network. Dr. MacManus is Florida's most quoted political scientist.

She presented us with a very entertaining and thought-provoking exchange.

June 4th will be our last meeting prior to our hiatus during the months of July and August. After our June 4th meeting, we will meet again on September 3rd.

Drive defensively this summer and remember to keep the shiny side up!



June 2025 Program

Daniel "Danny" Alvarez Sr.

Attorney, State Representative, Business/Leadership
Consultant and Communications Specialist

In 2022, Mr. Alvarez was elected to the Florida State House of Representatives for District 69, located in Hillsborough County. He was reelected to this position in 2024, and he currently serves as Chair on the Criminal Justice Subcommittee and Vice Chair on the Security & Threat Assessment Committee. He also sits on the Judiciary Committee, Insurance & Banking Subcommittee, Justice Budget Subcommittee, and Transportation & Economic Development Budget Subcommittee.



Mr. Alvarez has experience in the private, political, and government sectors. For seven years, Mr. Alvarez worked as a writer and photographer at the Miami Herald. After college, he served as an infantry officer in the United States Army before transitioning to a Johnson and Johnson affiliate as a successful pharmaceutical sales representative. After law school, he worked as an associate in-house counsel for a financial services firm as well as the

Director of Strategic Development for a trust administration and Medicare compliance company. In 2014, Mr. Alvarez was asked to direct outreach and communication efforts to the Hispanic community in the Tampa Bay Area on behalf of the Governor of Florida and his re-election efforts.

After receiving the prestigious Distinguished Military Graduate designation from the University of Florida, Mr. Alvarez was commissioned as an infantry officer in the United States Army in 1997. He is a graduate of the Infantry Officers Basic Course, the Bradley Fighting Vehicle Leaders Course, the Basic Airborne Course, and the Jump Master Course. He was a performing member of the Silver Wings, the Army's first and oldest parachute demonstration and skydiving team. After six years of combined service, he left the Army in 2001 as a Captain, having successfully led hundreds of men and women while maintaining responsibility for millions of dollars in vehicles, equipment, and gear.

Rep. Alvarez will speak on Current legislation that impacts Floridians in general and Florida veterans specifically.

2024/2025 Chapter Officers

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Chaplain

\$20.00 - 4 June LUNCHEON - \$20.00

To Register: 813-924-1983

Reservations no later than 6 p.m. Sunday, 1 June 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***

June Buffet Luncheon Menu

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

Entrees:

- **Fried Chicken**
- **Pulled BBQ Pork**
- **Onion Crusted Salmon**

Starch & Vegetable du Jour

Desserts: Chef's selected desserts

Beverages: Decaf Coffee, Iced Tea, and Ice Water



GREATER SUN CITY CENTER AREA

MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY

A TRIBUTE TO OUR DECEASED VETERANS



The Sun City Center Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America is sponsoring the Memorial Day Ceremony to be held at the Veterans Theater in the Kings Point Clubhouse at 10:00 am on May 26, 2025. Those attending are requested to be seated by 9:45 am.

All Veterans in the Greater Sun City Center Area who have died since the 2024 Memorial Day Ceremony will be honored during the Living Flag Tribute and the Roll Call, the reading of names of the deceased veterans.

The guest speaker will be Chief of Staff of the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs, Colonel Alfred (Al) Carter, USA (Ret). The retired Army Colonel provides operational and administrative oversight of the department's functional entities and activities involving nearly 1,506 employees with an annual budget of more than \$181 million, impacting more than 1.5 million veterans and their families.

Colonel Carter served in numerous command and staff leadership positions in the U.S. Army as a Military Police Officer with duty assignments encompassing more than 40 countries including combat tours in Qatar, Afghanistan and Iraq.

No reservations are required, and the public is encouraged to attend.

Special seating will be reserved for the families of the deceased veterans.

For additional information contact Paul Wheat, LTC USA (Ret), at 813-391-7309.

Chaplain's Devotional for June

Rev. Dr. Tom Smith

The Value of Integrity

"So he shepherded them according to the integrity of his heart, and guided them with his skillful hands" (Psalm 78: 72, NASB).

Integrity is our most valuable possession. Integrity takes a lifetime to build and can be lost in a moment. Somehow along the line, erosion occurred in David's life. How could it have been prevented? Let's look today at how to recognize integrity, to maintain integrity, and understand challenges to integrity.

To recognize integrity, one must know the definition. The word *integrity* appears sixteen times in the Bible and means "whole, sound, and unimpaired." In Psalm 78:70-72 God moves David from keeping sheep to leading a nation. David learned valuable life lessons tending sheep that would translate to leading a nation. In biblical times, sheep were valuable for the wool, meat, milk, and skins used for clothing and other purposes. David recognized under the canopy of night stars that God was his Shepherd. He, too, was to follow God in every decision of life. Integrity was to be the foundation for every decision. Integrity is a long-term character trait; integrity is being what we say we are. David was to find that one of the most difficult tests of integrity was wealth.

Maintaining integrity is putting it into action. It is not so much the way things seem to be, or ought to be; integrity has to do with the way one acts. Let your "yes, be yes", and your no, be no." If there is one break in the wall, all manner of evil can slip in. Look at three principles for protecting integrity: (1) Do not bargain with truth, (2) Keep your eyes straight ahead, and (3) Consider where you are going and how to get there. "Guard my life and rescue me; let me not be put to shame, for I take refuge in you. May integrity and uprightness protect me" (Psalm 25:20-21).

Forgetting to follow the Shepherd eroded integrity in David's life as he forgot the lessons learned as a shepherd. Rather than tending the sheep, he abused his authority over the sheep. David was a murderer; David was an adulterer. He used his position over a nation to fulfill his selfish and sinful desires. But instead of running from God, David turned to God in worship. The sheep had come back to his Eternal Shepherd.

King David is best known as "the man after God's own heart." He did not allow his trespasses to dictate the outcome of his life. God does not change; therefore, we can rest under the watchfulness of our Eternal Shepherd. God's desire is for us to walk in integrity, the most valuable possession He gives us.

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

May 7
June 4
September 3
October 1
November 5
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.

MEMORIAL DAY COMMEMORATION
MAY 26

NOVEMBER 11
VETERANS THEATER

VETERANS DAY
COMMEMORATION

Surviving Spouse Corner

Jeannie Stratis

Improve Your Mental Skills with These Brain Exercises

Written by: Pat Green (Submitted by Jeannie Stratis)

Most of us have noticed a mental decline in a close friend or family member. Perhaps they don't seem as sharp, witty, or speedy as they once were. You might wonder whether others are noticing this with you as well. Mental decline is not just a phenomenon of aging. Stress, emotions, and poor diet and sleep reduce cognitive skills and affect all ages.

If you have had a stroke or a brain injury, or if you are concerned about a perceived mental decline, speak to your family doctor. If the doctor recognizes an issue, a neurologist can provide a detailed cognitive skills evaluation. Physical health and emotional health correlate with mental health. If you are consumed with grief or anxiety or dealing with a disease, deal with that first. If serious grieving extends more than two years, seek grief counseling for help. Complicated grief is seen in 9% of widows ages 60 to 75. A smaller percentage of men are affected.

If you want to improve your mental skills, try adding mental strengthening exercises into daily activities, such as:

- **Recall.** Practice memorizing names, phone numbers, vocabulary words, baseball standings, NCAA March Madness lineups, or TV program schedules. Look at a magazine photo for a few seconds, close your eyes, and try to recall items in the photo.
- **Analysis.** Read a newspaper article. Set it aside, then try to write a recap or summary of the article. Try to remember the who, what, when, where, and why.
- **Spatial.** Rearrange a linen closet, pantry, or garage. Look for the most pragmatic and yet economical use of space. Do the same exercise with drawers in kitchen, bed, or bath. While you're at it, set aside some donation items and throw out expired items.
- **Social.** Have a conversation every day. If you live alone, this might be a challenge. Practice small talk at the checkout line of stores. Initiate a phone call or an invitation. This is a must. Accept any invitations you receive. Try to remember a joke you can tell at your next social event.
- **Focus.** Stay focused on whatever activity you are engaged. It might be a conversation, gardening, dancing, chores, or workouts at the gym. Focus on listening, strength, the number of repetitions, muscles involved, posture, and breathing. Be in one with your thoughts. Meditation and prayer are very good options of mental focus.
- **Fun and games.** This can be all manner of social get-togethers. But there are some good solitary options. Jigsaw puzzles provide color and form discernment. Manipulation of the pieces is also good hand-eye coordination practice. Sudoku uses number grids, but it is not a math game. It is a logic exercise. Start with easy grids, and progress to expert status. Using computer sites, you can play Bridge, Gin Rummy, or Hearts with robots. These games require a memory of cards played and counted.



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FLORIDA

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VETERANS FLORIDA EXPO

Tampa, Florida
June 6 & 7, 2025



Scan the QR code to be notified of event updates and when registration opens.

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One-on-one conversations with the Experts to help with important life decisions.
- **Battle of the Pitches**
Statewide entrepreneur competition featuring inspirational veterans and spouses.
- **Networking**
Reception and meet-and-greet opportunities to expand your professional connections.
- **Earned Benefits**
Connect with state agencies for veteran-specific resources and assistance with Florida and federal benefits.

Admission is free!

Legislative Affairs

LTC Jeff Camp, USA (Ret)

Florida's 2025 Legislative Initiatives: Enhancing Support for Veterans

Florida continues to solidify its reputation as one of the most veteran-friendly states in the nation. The 2025 legislative session has introduced several key initiatives aimed at improving the lives of veterans and their families:

Investments in Veterans' Healthcare and Facilities

An allocation of \$15.3 million is designated for capital improvements to the State Veterans' Nursing Homes, ensuring that these facilities continue to provide top-tier care to Florida's aging veteran population.

Workforce Development and Employment Support

The state continues its commitment with a \$2 million investment to assist veterans in developing valuable skills, securing employment, and starting businesses. This initiative not only supports veterans but also provides Florida employers with a reliable source of trained and experienced professionals.

Dental Care Access for Veterans

Recognizing the importance of oral health, the 2025 budget funds a dental grant program that enables qualified Florida veterans to receive no-cost dental care, addressing a critical gap as only 15% of enrolled veterans nationwide are eligible for dental care through the VA.

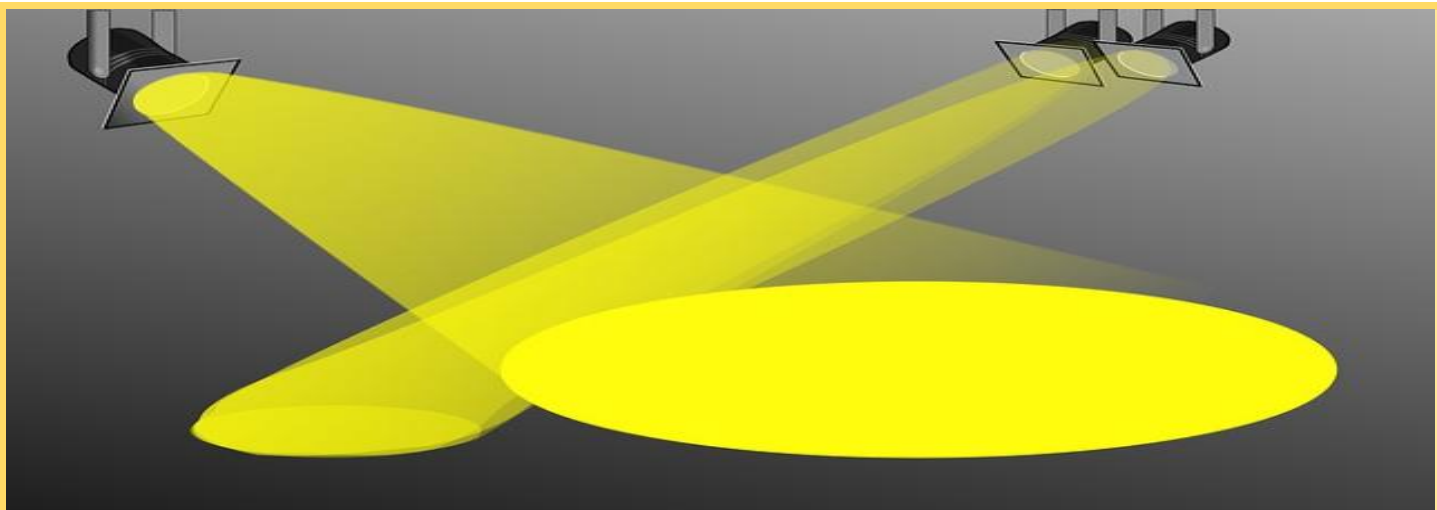
Hope Florida: A Pathway for Patriots Initiative

Launched in late 2023, this initiative has already served over 1,000 veterans and their families. The program connects veterans with Hope Navigators who assist in accessing a range of services, from housing and employment to mental health support, ensuring a holistic approach to veteran care.

Defense Infrastructure and Community Support

The budget includes \$7 million for the Defense Infrastructure Grant Program and \$5.7 million for the Military Base Protection Program. These funds aim to enhance the military value of installations within the state and support local community efforts to engage in service partnerships with military installations.

For more information on Florida's veteran services and initiatives, visit <https://www.floridavets.org>



Member Spotlight

Great news!



Jeannie Stratis has been awarded the MOAA National Surviving Spouse Liaison Chapter 2024 Award. Jeannie has been a member of the chapter for 6 years. In 2020, the chapter formally established a Surviving Spouse Program. Jeannie was instrumental in establishing the program, and she graciously agreed to lead this effort as the Surviving Spouse Liaison and a member of the Chapter's Board of Directors. She instantly made an impact. Jeannie immediately reached out to the surviving spouses. Jeannie quickly established a bond with the surviving spouses, encouraged them to attend our monthly lunch meetings, and is an important sounding board. Through Jeannie's efforts to educate, encourage, and engage with our Surviving Spouse Members, they have truly become an essential part of the Chapter's family.

Email from MOAA National President

Jean,

Congratulations on your selection as the recipient of the 2024 MOAA Surviving Spouse Liaison Excellence Award.

The Sun City Center Chapter members hold you in high regard for your many years of service and dedication to MOAA, the council, chapters, and your community. Your accomplishments and noteworthy contributions throughout the year surpassed all other nominees.

Your efforts to educate, encourage, and engage our surviving spouses and the broader Florida military community exemplify your commitment to "Never Stop Serving."

Sincerely, BK

Brian T. Kelly (BK)

Lieutenant General, U.S. Air Force (Ret)

Our May Meeting!

If you weren't with us in May, you missed a good one! Dr. Susan MacManus once again regaled us with the nuances of Florida and National politics. To say that she held our member's attention would be a huge understatement. Dr. MacManus is an honorary member of our Chapter and should be back next May to update us on the political situations that continually surround us.



Area High School JROTC

LTC Jeff Camp (USA) Ret

It's JROTC season again. Thanks to COL(r) Eunice Paxton and LTC(r) Joe Muhlberger, Sun City Center MOAA made it a huge success. Thanks to their support, MOAA medals, certificates and most importantly (to the recipient), a \$100 gift card was present at ten programs throughout Hillsborough County. The season began at Sumner and Lennard High Schools in April and on May 9 at Riverview High School with Navy JROTC Cadet Alina Singh being awarded the MOAA medal by LTC Joe Mulhberger.

The MOAA Junior ROTC awards program recognizes an outstanding cadet or midshipman in his or her next-to-last year in the program who has demonstrated exceptional potential for military leadership. The presentation of an MOAA JROTC medal and certificate is an excellent way for chapters to gain exposure in their community and, at the same time, foster a positive military recognition among the youth of the community.



To be eligible for an award, a candidate must:

- be in the next-to-last year of an ROTC or JROTC program.
- be in good academic standing.
- be of high moral character.
- demonstrate a high degree of loyalty to the unit, school, and country; and
- demonstrate exceptional potential for military leadership.

The recipient is selected by the individual's unit commander, who will coordinate the selection and presentation with the local MOAA chapter.

You can see all the award presentations and winners on our Sun City Center Facebook page.



(reprinted from <https://www.army.mil/>)

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Army will celebrate its 250th birthday on June 14, 2025, commemorating the Army's distinguished service to our nation. The central theme for this year's celebration is "This We'll Defend."

"As we prepare for our future, we also reflect on our past," said Gen. Randy George, Chief of Staff of the Army. "'This we'll defend' was first used as a battle cry by the Continental Army. Today it reminds us that our Army's purpose is clear: to fight and win the nation's wars. We remain committed to honing our warfighting skills, enforcing standards and discipline, and living the values that have defined our Army culture for the past 250 years."

As we enter 2025, the Army's 250th birthday will be celebrated with a series of commemorations, including leadership engagements, community outreach events and other events showcasing Army units, history, lineage and esprit de corps.

Established on June 14, 1775, the Army is a year older than the United States itself. Since its establishment, Army Soldiers, families and civilians have supported our nation, bearing true faith and allegiance to the country, the Constitution, their units and fellow team members as they defend the nation and provide assistance in times of need, including disaster relief and recovery efforts.

For 250 years, the U.S. Army has offered endless possibilities and opportunities for service to our nation. With over 200 career choices for Soldiers and more than 500 career paths for civilians, Army possibilities are endless. The Army helps create a sense of purpose through personal growth and professional development – empowering Soldiers and civilian employees to be part of something greater than themselves and to be all they can be.

"For 250 years, Soldiers have proudly served our country and protected its people, with our oath to support and defend the Constitution as our guiding principle," said Sgt. Maj. of the Army Michael R. Weimer. "We continue to stand ready to respond to the needs of the nation, and to fight and win when called upon. This we'll defend!"

To learn more about the Army's 250th birthday, visit:

[America's First National Institution | U.S. Army](#)

[250th Army Birthday | DVIDS](#)

“In Strange Company”

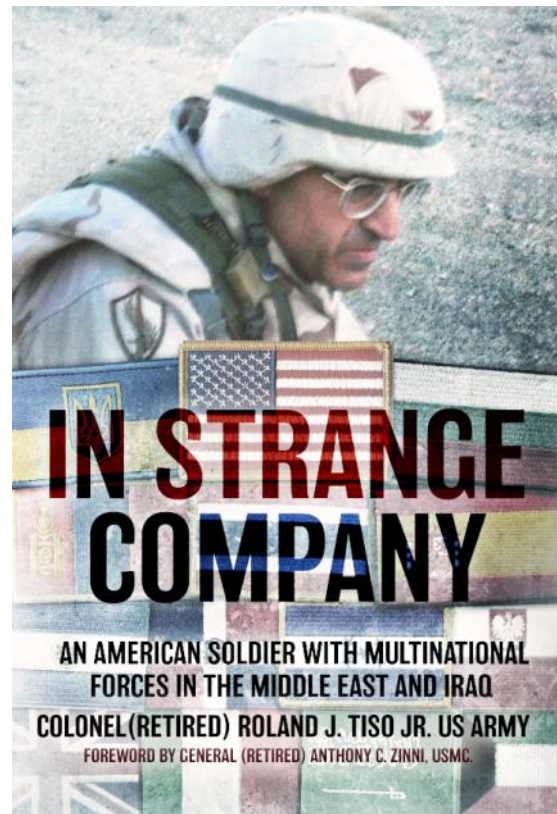
Local Bloomingdale, FL author COL Roland Tiso, USA (Ret) has released “In Strange Company”, a memoir detailing his experiences with multinational forces during the Iraq War. The book provides perspectives on coalition warfare challenges and operational planning in complex settings. Tiso's narrative describes the intricacies of working alongside various international forces and the significance of American leadership in such contexts. The foreword to the memoir is written by General A.C. Zinni, USMC, former Commander of U.S. Central Command.

COL Tiso intends to donate the proceeds from his book to veteran causes. On May 8, 2005, he donated \$5,000.00 to the Fisher House at James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital.

The book recounts COL Tiso's service from 1994-2004, focusing on his last decade in uniform. It addresses his observations on the deployment issues of trained Iraqi divisions and allied forces in 2003-04, which led to manpower and equipment shortages and an unsatisfactory campaign outcome. The roles of allies in restoring order in Iraq were underrecognized. Tiso discusses insights into planning the Iraqi campaign and the complexities of multinational service, based on his assignments at U.S. Central Command, as Senior Military Adviser, and Chief of Staff for the Coalition Military Assistance Training Team developing the New Iraqi Army.

His account of operational planning for the war in Iraq presents the concerns of military planners and senior commanders to liberate and stabilize the country, offering readers a better understanding of the challenges of operational war planning, coalition warfare, the difficulty of stabilizing Iraq after the fall of Baghdad, the development of the New Iraqi Army, and ultimately a deeper understanding of America's “long war” in Iraq.

“In Strange Company” is available on Amazon and other booksellers.



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- **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

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David J. Gauthier

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MOAA
FOUNDATION

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

2025 Memorial Day Sponsor




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Burial, Cremation, and
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June BIRTHDAYS

JUNE Birthdays

Julie Floyd	June 5
Gene Ehlers	June 7
Janice Brochmeier	June 11
Dan Shaffer	June 14
Ferris Garret	June 18
Lynn Barrett	June 18
Ferris Garret	June 18
Lynn Barrett	June 18
Bill Patterson	June 19
Pierre Joly	June 26
Greg Phelps	June (not specified)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

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Why MOAA chapter membership matters.



Name _____

Rank _____ Branch of Service _____

☐ Active ☐ Retired ☐ Former ☐ Reserve ☐ National Guard ☐ Surviving Spouse

Spouse name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Date of birth _____ Telephone _____

Email _____

(To ensure deliverability of MOAA communications, please provide a personal email address.)

Are you a member of MOAA? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unknown

MOAA Member Number (if known): _____

Not a MOAA national member yet? Check here to receive a BASIC Membership at no cost to you.  **BASIC**

And, for \$5 a month, you can upgrade to **PREMIUM** membership, giving you immediate access to a full spectrum of career and financial resources, exclusive publications, college scholarships for dependents, and countless discounts on products and travel. Visit moaa.org/join to learn more.

How did you hear about MOAA Chapter involvement?

Are you a member of any other MOAA Chapter(s)? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, which one(s)?

To complete enrollment:

- **Fill in this form** on your computer, save it, and email it to **MOAA Sun City Center Chapter P. O. Box 5693, Sun City** as an attachment. Do not include credit card information. We will contact you to finalize payment if required; or
- **Print it out**, fill it in by hand, and mail it with a check made out to **MOAA Sun City Center Chapter** (see payment info); or
- Go to **WWW.SCCMOAA.ORG** (visit chapter website)

You will be opted in to receive e-communications from NOAA and your local chapter. You will be able to opt out of any further e-communications at any time. NOAA will not sell or share personal information

**Chapter membership
and dues information:**

[illegible]



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Sun City Center, FL. 33571-5693

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Michael Owen

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Apollo Beach, FL 33572-2251

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Tallahassee 32399-1300

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Jim Boyd

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Vern Buchanan

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Washington, DC 20515

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

Hillsborough County Area Manager - MarDee Buchman
Hillsborough County Field Representative/Constituent
Service - Melissa Jackson

U.S. Senators

Ashley Moody

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Washington, DC 20510

Tel. Local - TBA
DC - 202-224-3041

Legislative assistant: TBA

Rick Scott

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DC - 202-224-5274

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