

Vol III No. 3 March 2019



Indian River Chapter MOAA
P.O. Box 644047
Vero Beach, FL 32964-4047

Indian River Chapter
Since 1983

MEMBERSHIP

Know someone who is a retired or former military officer or widowed spouse of an officer but not a member of our Chapter or MOAA? If so, Ask **THEM TO JOIN** and contact **Carroll Oates**
@ 954-494-8742



INDIAN RIVER CHAPTER NEWS

<http://ircmoaa.org>

2019 Officers and Board

President

LTC Robert Albrecht, Jr. 257-6678

1st Vice President

LTC Carroll Oates 954-494-8742

Membership Chair

2nd Vice President

MAJ Terry Treat 703-304-4935

Program Chair

Secretary

LTC James Blake 561-791-8467

Treasurer

COL Patricia Ryan 401-369-1280

Chaplain

LtCol Eric "Rip" Wieler 794-9719

Immediate Past President

LtCol Jim Rannazzisi 703-303-3672

Editor

CPT, USA Robert Scheppy 925-1117

Board of Directors

Col Carlos Halcomb 696-0094

COL Darryle "Sam" Kouns 978-6543

CAPT Eric Menger 532-6132

Surviving Spouse Liaison

Rayma Murray 231-1935

CDR John Papageorge 231-4581

LtCol Eric "Rip" Wieler 234-4111

Publicity Chairman

COL Mike Di Scipio

BOB ALBRECHT'S MESSAGE

Are you a member of our national organization?

The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)

Aka "Big MOAA"?

If your answer was No, I'm asking you to join the over 350,000 national members!!

The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) is the country's leading organization protecting the rights of military service members and their families. MOAA's greatest mission is to improve the lives of those who serve and their families, which is achieved largely through the tireless advocacy efforts taking place in our nation's capital. MOAA offers three membership tiers: BASIC, PREMIUM, and LIFE Membership

BASIC: As a BASIC Member, you'll have free electronic access to MOAA e-communications about news and support of critical advocacy efforts to protect your military benefits. **COST: FREE !!!!!!!**

PREMIUM: A full spectrum of career and financial resources, MOAA-exclusive publications, college scholarships for dependents, and countless discounts on products and travel.

March 2019

Membership Cost

\$48 (1 Year)

\$82 (2 Years)

\$108 (3 Years)

Surviving Spouse Membership Cost:

\$43 (1 Year)

\$73 (2 Years)

\$97 (3 Years)

LIFE: All of the PREMIUM benefits - plus more - for life. Additional benefits include waived initiation fees at the Army Navy Club of Washington, D.C., bonus discounts, and direct access to MOAA staff experts on the dedicated MOAA LIFE Member Hotline. MOAA Life Membership dues are based on your current age.

To become a National Member or Upgrade current membership status contact Carroll Oates at (954) 494 8742 or oatesonmiramare@aol.com or see the MOAA application in this Newsletter.

Never Stop Serving

Bob Albrecht

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS:

by Jay Torres

“A chapter must be politically nonpartisan. As an organization, a chapter should not support or oppose any candidate for public office. However, a legislative committee can and should make a deliberate effort to inform its membership of candidates' positions.”

Agent Orange

In January a Federal Circuit court ruled in favor of **Blue Water Navy veterans**, granting them presumption of exposure to **Agent Orange** during the Vietnam War. This is a major victory that may result in as many as 90,000 Vietnam veterans gaining access to VA healthcare and disability benefits that they otherwise would not have been eligible for. The VA currently recognizes 14 conditions presumptively caused by exposure to Agent Orange.

Executive Director of the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs

Former State Rep. **Danny Burgess, Captain US**

Army Reserves, was appointed Executive Director of the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs (FDVA) by Governor Ron DeSantis and the Florida Cabinet during the Jan. 24, 2019 Cabinet Meeting. FDVA is the premier point of entry for Florida's more than 1.5 million veterans. The agency operates a network of seven state veterans' homes and provides statewide outreach to connect veterans with their earned services benefits and support.

Mandatory public service?

A congressionally mandated commission has spent the past year reviewing options for **some form of mandatory public service**, such as the military, AmeriCorps, or Peace Corps. Among the proposals in their interim report is the idea of using the Selective Service to fill critical military billets. The commission is seeking input on whether women should be included. The commission hasn't made a recommendation one way or the other. However, one of the key findings so far is how poor civics education appears to be among students they've spoken to; most don't realize that young men are still supposed to register for the draft. Therefore, the commission is also seeking input on ways to enhance civics education.

TREASURER'S REPORT

By Patricia Ryan

On January 31, 2019, our chapter had \$17, 132.77 in a checking account.

FROM THE EDITOR

Would you like to submit an **ARTICLE OF INTEREST?** Send it to **Robert Scheppy, Editor**, for inclusion in the Newsletter. scheppy70@gmail.com

March 2019

OUR NEW PUBLISHER

Postal Connections publishes our Newsletter. The store is owned and operated by **Marc Richard**, a fellow MOAA member. Marc is located on 1275 US Highway 1, Suite 2, Vero Beach, FL 32960. He's next to a Publix. Tel 772-778-4241. Fax 772-778-4246. pca228@postalconnections.com

FOREIGN MEDICAL PROGRAM

By Robert Scheppy

“The Foreign Medical Program (FMP) is a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care benefits program for U.S. veterans who are residing or traveling abroad and have service-connected disabilities. Under the FMP, the VA will reimburse veterans for health care associated with the treatment of service-connect disabilities.” (From the VA brochure)

US Department of Veterans Affairs

Foreign Medical Program

PO BOX 469061

Denver, CO 80246-9061

While living in China, the FPM issued me a BENEFITS AUTHORIZATION letter for Essential Hypertension. Every 90 days, I went to the **Hope Clinic** in Macau, China, which is run by an American missionary group. The American or Chinese doctors would provide ECGs and blood tests. Their on-site pharmacy issued me a 90 supply of pills. (The clinic would not purchase medicine Made in China.) I mailed the receipts to Denver and a few months later received a U.S. Treasury check.

IN MEMORIUM: **Marge Ann Burger**, a chapter member and surviving spouse, passed away on

January 30, 2019 at her home with her daughters and her caregiver at her side. Born March 25, 1926, Marge was married for 64 years to **Robert (Bob) Burger**. During World War II, Bob served in the U.S. Navy. He was a member of both MOAA and the Navy League.

NOTEZ BIEN: Our April 19th luncheon is open to non-Chapter members. Given the stature of our speaker, **LTG (Ret) Robert Caslen**, we expect a big turn out. Make your reservation early to ensure a seat. We also urge you to invite acquaintances and neighbors to attend, either as guests on your reservation form, or by direct mail (and payment) on a reservation form you give them. Please emphasize that advanced reservation and prepayment is absolutely required. The Vero Beach Yacht Club seats 100 and we will honor reservations as they are received until we reach capacity.

**Now and Always
We'll be There.**



1-800-247-2192 • www.moaainsurance.com

March 2019

APRIL CHAPTER LUNCHEON REGISTRATION

IRC luncheon, Friday April 19, 2019, Vero Beach Yacht Club, 11:30 AM

**We expect a sell out crowd.
Send in your reservation request NOW!**

Our guest speaker is a heavy hitter! **LTG (Ret) Robert Caslen**, who now lives in Jupiter, is the recently retired **Superintendent of West Point**. A 1975 United States Military Academy (USMA) graduate, LTG Caslen had previously served at West Point as a Co Tactical Officer and as the Commandant of Cadets. He has held command and staff positions in the 101st Airborne, 25th Infantry, 10th Mountain, and 3rd Infantry Divisions. He was deployed for Operation Desert Storm, and in Honduras, Haiti, Afghanistan, and Iraq. LTG Caslen was posted to the Pentagon during the 9/11 attacks. Following the attacks, he re-entered the Pentagon, helping search for wounded and reversing the air conditioning system to vent smoke from the building. LTG Caslen's presentation will provide his view of **The Army of 2030**. This is a rare opportunity to meet and hear a truly distinguished modern day warrior.

Menu Choices: \$22.00

- (1) Poached salmon with rice
- (2) Beef Bourguignonne over Noodles
- (3) Chicken BLT Salad

As we are accountable for each meal reserved, we cannot accept telephone reservations. **Kelly Menger** can be contacted at kcremens@hotmail.com

TEAR LINE

**Send reservations and payment by 5:00 PM
Friday April 12, 2019
VERO BEACH YACHT CLUB**

Name (s) _____

Menu choices: \$22.00 per person

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------|
| (1) Poached salmon with rice | \$ _____ |
| (2) Beef Bourguignonne over Noodles | \$ _____ |
| (3) Chicken BLT Salad | \$ _____ |
| TOTAL | \$ _____ |

Please make payments by check payable to IRC-MOAA. Mail to:

**Kelly Menger
PO BOX 1392
Vero Beach, FL 32961**

March 2019

MARCH CHAPTER LUNCHEON REGISTRATION

IRC luncheon, Friday March 15, 2019, Vero Beach Yacht Club, 11:30 AM

Our speaker is **Michelle Dale**, a **Gold Star Mother**. Michelle moved to Vero in 2008 from NE PA, where, over 60 years, she had lived, worked and raised a family. She is an honorary member of the IRC Veteran's Council and very active in Council activities. She teams with our own Carroll, Patty, and Terry in Veteran's in the Classroom presentations. Her son, **Army CPL Dale Kridlo**, was killed in action in Afghanistan on Nov 7, 2010. Michelle will share with us her experiences as a Gold Star Mother, some of which you may find surprising.

Menu choices: \$22.00

- (1) Baked Ham w/ Rum Raisin Sauce
- (2) Panko Fried Cod w/ Tartar Sauce w/
Vegetable & Starch du Jour
- (3) Grilled Chicken Caesar Salad
Dessert per Chef

As we are accountable for each meal reserved, we cannot accept telephone reservations. **Kelly Menger** can be contacted at **kcremens@hotmail.com**

TEAR LINE

**Send reservations and payment by 5:00 PM
Friday March 8, 2019
VERO BEACH YACHT CLUB**

Name (s) _____

Menu choices: \$22.00 per person

- (1) Baked Ham w/ Rum Raisin Sauce \$ _____
- (2) Panko Fried Cod w/ Tartar Sauce w/
Vegetable & Starch du Jour \$ _____
- (3) Grilled Chicken Caesar Salad \$ _____
- TOTAL \$ _____

Please make payments by check payable to IRC-MOAA. Mail to

**Kelly Menger
PO BOX 1392
Vero Beach, FL 32961**

March 2019

CONVENTION TIME

Join members of the 42 Florida MOAA Chapters from the Florida Panhandle to the Florida Keys



The Florida Council of Chapters 2019 Convention
Hosted by the Tampa Chapter at the Safety Harbor Resort & Spa
June 20 thru 23

Registrations will be accepted up to **5/14/2019**

For Detailed Registration information and agenda see the Florida Council of Chapters (FCOC) Website Link: <http://www.moaaf1.org/Convention.aspx>

For Detailed Registration information and agenda see the Florida Council of Chapters (FCOC) Website Link: <http://www.moaaf1.org/Convention.aspx>



The Veterans Council of Indian River County invites you to the STARS & STRIPES Spectacular GALA. Saturday, April 13, 2019 at 6:00 PM



About the STARS & STRIPES Spectacular GALA:

The Veterans Council of Indian River County is bringing the formal military dinner to our community as a way to fund raise for the important programs provided to veterans in our county. The proceeds of this event will benefit VETERANS HELPING VETERANS Program which provides financial assistance to veteran home-owners who need safety and quality of life modifications to their homes.

The Gala will include a formal dinner; DJ hosted dancing, and a Special Speaker: **Master Chief Rick Keiser USN (RET) SEAL**

A Silent Auction will be available to attendees, with many interesting products and services from the most discerning businesses in Vero Beach.

If we have enough members interested we can reserve a MOAA Table!!!!

COST: \$150 per person Details on how to make reservations and purchase tickets online as well payment by check will made available SOON.

The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) is the country's leading organization protecting the rights of military service-members and their families. Those who belong to MOAA not only lend their voices to a greater cause, but they also gain access to extensive benefits tailored to the needs and lifestyles of military officers and their surviving spouses. MOAA members proudly hail from every branch of the uniformed services. To them, we have made the same promise that they have made to their country: **Never Stop Serving.**

THE LARGER OUR NUMBERS, THE GREATER YOUR VOICE.

**Why MOAA
membership matters.**



Select YOUR Membership: LIFE PREMIUM BASIC

Name _____

Rank/Branch of Service _____

Active Retired Former Reserve National Guard Surviving Spouse

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Date of birth _____ Telephone _____

Email _____

To ensure deliverability of MOAA communications, please provide a personal email without a ".mil" domain if available. We value your privacy. MOAA does not rent or sell its members' emails to third parties. If you include your email address, you will receive e-communications from MOAA as a member benefit. Visit www.moaa.org/email for details.

Spouse Name _____

Spouse email _____

Your spouse has access to all of your MOAA member benefits.

Local Chapter Name _____

**For LIFE or PREMIUM options, choose one of the following payment methods:
Method of payment**

Check (please make payable to MOAA) Visa Mastercard AMEX Discover

Charge my card the full amount due \$ _____

Card number _____ Expiration date _____

Signature _____

For LIFE only, consider E-Z Pay with 10 convenient, interest-free installments

You'll receive monthly invoices, and your balance will reflect credit for any unused dues paid on your current annual membership.

Enclosed is my check payable to MOAA for \$ _____
(1/10th of my dues; invoices will be sent monthly for remaining dues)

Charge my credit card above in the amount of \$ _____
(1/10th of my dues; invoices will be sent monthly for remaining dues)

Check here to have your credit card automatically charged monthly for the remaining installment payments.

Dues to MOAA are not deductible as a charitable contribution for federal tax purposes.

Annual membership dues include a \$12 subscription to Military Officer magazine.

Send To: MOAA, PO Box 1488 • Merrifield, VA 22116-9820

For faster service, call (800) 234-MOAA (6622) or visit www.moaa.org/join.

LIFE Membership Dues

Dues are based on your current age.

50 and under	\$851
Age 51-55	\$801
Age 56-60	\$757
Age 61-65	\$692
Age 66-70	\$615
Age 71-75	\$529
Age 76-80	\$434
Age 81-85	\$332
Age 86-90	\$234
Age 91-95	\$145
Age 96-99	\$88
Age 100+	FREE

PREMIUM Membership Dues

One-Year PREMIUM
\$48 (Surviving Spouse - \$43)

Two-Year PREMIUM
\$82 (Surviving Spouse - \$73)

**15%
Savings**

Three-Year PREMIUM
\$108 (Surviving Spouse - \$97)

**25%
Savings**

BASIC Membership Dues

FREE