



# The Council Communiqué

Florida Council of Chapters  
Military Officers Association of America

**MOAA  
Outstanding  
Newsletter**

**2007**

**2006**

**2005**

**2003**

**2001**

**1998**

**1997**

**Runner-up  
Outstanding  
Newsletter**

**2004**

**2002**

**2000**

**1999**

**2nd Runner-  
up N'letter**

**2008**

**2009**

**Issue No. 106  
February 2011**

## PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

CAPT DON FREESE, USN (RET)



Once again Florida proved its importance to MOAA's three tiered national, state and local organization when MOAA Chairman Admiral Abbott visited the NE Florida Chapter January 19 and President Vice Admiral Ryan visited Tampa and St. Petersburg Area Chapters January 20 to 23. Admiral Ryan also attended the monthly Operation Helping Hand Dinner at the James A. Haley

Veterans Hospital.

Why is Florida important to MOAA? First, Florida has over 2,500,000 veterans and 45,000 MOAA members (8,250 are members of MOAA's 42 Florida Chapters.) Second, Florida has the 4<sup>th</sup> largest Congressional Delegation with 25 (to increase to 27) House and 2 Senators in the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress. Third, at least four powerful 112<sup>th</sup> Committee Chairs are from Florida; John Mica, Transportation & Infrastructure, Jeff Miller, Veteran's Affairs, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Foreign Affairs and Bill Young Defense Appropriations. Fourth, MOAA members vote!

As Admiral Ryan says it is all about numbers in Washington as numbers gain you access to Congress and the Administration. Why is access important? MOAA needs this access because less than 25 % of the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress has any military experience.

In tough economic times there is extreme pressure to cut spending including the military. As "One Powerful Voice" for our military men, women and families MOAA hopes to explain the difference between Apples, the benefits military members and their families have earned by years of service and Oranges, entitlements that are given because someone lives in America.

As your President I will have the honor to participate in "Storming the Hill" April 13, 2011. Joining me this year the Florida "Stormers" are General Robertson, Rear Admiral Lestage, Sharon Richie-Melvin, Gary Clark, Bill Knehans and Joyce Harte. We hope to visit all 27 Florida members and to do our best to remind them of the difference between Apples and Oranges.

Thank you!  
Don Freese

## Legislative Comments

CAPT Bill Knehans, USN (Ret)  
Chairman, Legislative Affairs



The lame duck 111<sup>th</sup> Congress was kept in session almost a week beyond its anticipated adjournment date and surprised a lot of people by passing several pieces of legislation. Some of what they passed was not too contentious and some was very important to our interests.

After much wrangling they did extend the tax cuts that would have ended the first of the year, and passed a free-standing bill to repeal the "don't ask, don't tell" policy that enabled them to fast-track a Defense Authorization Act. They also passed a bill that cleaned up some of the oversights in the original Post 9-11 GI Bill and thereby improved that popular benefit.

On 17 December the House passed the streamlined FY 2011 National Defense Authorization Act that was crafted in a joint effort between House and Senate

*(Continued on Page 2 - -)*

**Legislative Comments** (Cont'd From Page 2) - - members. The bill subsequently passed the Senate and was signed by the President on 07 January 2011. Our military really needed this legislation to be maximally effective as they process two wars. As expected, another Continuing Resolution was passed that will now finance government operations until 04 March 2011. This leaves the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress to come up with a budget for the final seven months of FY 2011.

The 112<sup>th</sup> Congress was sworn in on 05 January 2011 and soon thereafter we began seeing the introduction of legislation in the House. Bills of special interest to us that have been introduced thus far include:

- ◆ H.R. 178 (Wilson) Repeals SBP/DIC offset
- ◆ H.R. 333 (Bishop) Grants full Concurrent Receipt, includes Chapter 61 retirees
- ◆ H.R. 303 (Bilirakis) Grants full Concurrent Receipt
- ◆ H.R. 186 (Wilson) Grants Current Receipt to Chapter 61 retirees
- ◆ H.R. 181 (Wilson) Reserve retirement credit backdated to 11 September 2001

The formal legislative session of the Senate begins when it convenes on 25 January and that is when we should see some companion bills to the House bills listed above.

The specter of the report from the President's Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform (Debt Commission) continues to loom, and it is expected to be a threat to our interests that will require a great deal of time and effort over the next several years to protect those interests. In addition to its usual schedule of helping draft legislation and then trying to push it through Congress, the Government Relations Department at MOAA will be busy keeping a watchful eye for the Commission's recommendations showing up in proposed legislation. It will be interesting to see if any of the recommendations appear in the President's 2012 budget when it is released in mid-February. Interesting times to come!

## Florida Veterans' Affairs

LtCol Steve Murray, USAF (Ret)  
Florida Legislative Affairs Chairman

### Department Begins Project for Vietnam War Veterans - -

*Courtesy American Forces Press Service*

WASHINGTON -- More than three decades after the war's end, the Defense Department has begun a project to pay tribute to the nation's Vietnam War veterans.

The 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War Commemoration was spawned from the 2008 National Defense Authorization Act.

"It was a very important time period for veterans, because most Vietnam veterans as a whole never received the

homecoming that our troops receive now," said Army Lt. Col. Hunter Holliday, public affairs officer for the commemoration.

At the center of the project is a website, "50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War Commemoration," at <http://www.vietnamwar50th.com>, which will serve as a clearinghouse for information on the war once it is fully functional, a milestone expected this spring.

Information gleaned from the website is expected to be used for myriad purposes, such as to chronicle facts, provide educational materials, and offer resources for a commemorative partners program, Holliday said.

The partners program will comprise guidance and materials for agencies, veterans groups, local government and nongovernment organizations to conduct their own Vietnam War commemoration activities.

The website is expected to play a major role in the campaign, said Jeff Wilson, who handles marketing for the project, noting it will be highly interactive and will include content on historical events, a timeline, photos, documents, video and audio. A calendar will list major Defense-sponsored events.

The website offers a prelude of activities and ceremonies to:

- ◆ Honor Vietnam War veterans and their families -- including prisoners of war and those listed as missing in action -- for their service and sacrifice on behalf of the United States.
- ◆ Highlight Armed Forces service during the Vietnam War, in addition to contributions made by government and private organizations.
- ◆ Pay tribute to the contributions made on the home front by U.S. citizens.
- ◆ Highlight the advances in technology, science and medicine in military research made during the war.
- ◆ Recognize contributions and sacrifices made by U.S. allies during the war.

"Hopefully [the commemoration] will be a healing process for the veterans who were never recognized properly when they came home," Holliday said, noting the volatile political landscape that surrounded the war.

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### Did You Know? - -

TALLAHASSEE -- Florida currently has seven veterans in the U.S. House of Representatives and one veteran in the U.S. Senate.

In addition, the Executive Office of the Governor has several prominent veterans. Gov. Rick Scott is a Navy veteran and Lt. Gov. Jennifer Carroll is a retired Navy lieutenant commander. Scott's chief of staff, Mike Prendergast, is a retired Army colonel.

Also, Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs Interim Executive Director Bob Milligan is a retired Marine Corps Lieutenant General.

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## WANTED!! MORE CHAPTER AUXILIARY LIAISONS

Violet M. Smith  
FCOC Auxiliary Liaison

Yes, I am back again with a request to all the Florida MOAA Chapter Presidents. I thank all the Presidents who have answered the call in the past and selected either a Surviving Spouse or if one is not available, a Spouse to fill the position of Auxiliary Liaison.

When the President of FCOC, Captain Donald Freese put out the appeal for more Chapters to select Auxiliary Liaisons, we did have some success, but it is not enough.

It is the desire of MOAA to have an Auxiliary Liaison in each of the MOAA Chapters. To date we only have 27 Chapters responding in Florida.

Having an Auxiliary Liaison within the chapters only adds to the strength of the membership. It encourages the spouses and surviving spouses to be strong supporters of MOAA at Chapter as well as National level.

The process is such a simple one. All we ask is for the Chapter Presidents to select a Surviving Spouse or a Spouse to serve as the Liaison. Just send me the name, telephone number, home address and e-mail address, name of the chapter and if the person selected is a spouse or a surviving spouse. I will do the rest. I will be in touch with that person and send all the information on to National. The new liaison will be put in the Data Base of MOAA's Auxiliary Member Advisory Committee. In turn they will receive the copy of the "Affiliate" and receive an e-mail message each month from the AMAC. This is useful information which may be copied for their Chapter's Newsletter and/or passed on to the Surviving spouses and Spouses within the chapter.

Any questions may be addressed to me at my e-mail address which is [alexgrammie@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:alexgrammie@tampabay.rr.com) or call my home telephone number which is 727-595-5543.

Again, my thanks to all the Auxiliary Liaisons now serving and a thank you to the Chapter Presidents who submitted the information to me.



### Keep Your Power

**The Uncomfort Zone**  
Robert Evans Wilson, Jr.

"Baby Bobby! Baby Bobby!" The words stung and Mike knew it - he could read it in my face.

"Sticks and stones may break my bones, but names will never hurt me!" I yelled back.

Mike just laughed; he knew I didn't believe it. Bolstered by figuring out how to push my buttons, he continued to torment me as I walked home from school.

"Baby Bobby! Baby Bobby!"

The charge had an element of truth because I had cried several times in first grade, but I was now in fifth grade and had long outgrown my fear of school. I recalled the menacing teacher who pounded her paddle on our desks and threatened to spank us if we kept talking in class. She made several kids cry, but I was the one who got the reputation. It wasn't fair, but four years later I was still ashamed of my crying and Mike knew it. He continued the harassment.

"Baby Bobby! Baby Bobby!"

He stuck his face right in (Continued on Page 5 - -)



## TIME IS RUNNING OUT TO MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS FOR THE 2011 CONVENTION AT SEA

Larry C. Jackson  
Convention Chairman

We are running low on our reserved inventory of cabins for the May 8, 2011 sailing of the Freedom of the Seas from Port Canaveral. Even though we have reservations for 70 cabins and 136 attendees, the cruise line is recalling portions of our unsold inventory. This means that we will not be able to guarantee our advertised prices for much longer. Prices for cabins not in our group have gone up and our guaranteed prices are significantly lower than what you would pay if you weren't a MOAA member.

If you have not done so, please visit [www.moaafi.org/Convention/Default.aspx](http://www.moaafi.org/Convention/Default.aspx). At this site you can view the cabin prices, see a movie about the cruise and see the exclusive shore excursions that we have arranged for our group. You can also book your cabin at a secure site.

Another way to register for the Convention and book your cabin is to call Capt Larry Jackson directly at his office. That number is 866-291-1331 (toll free). Capt Jackson will be happy to take your information and get you all set up for the cruise.

In addition to the MOAA Florida Council of Chapters' convention meetings and Memorial Service, our Convention at Sea will feature a free welcoming cocktail party, a bridge tournament and a military ball. We will also have special programs featuring speakers from MOAA national headquarters, as well as interesting speakers from Florida chapters.

We have also planned exclusive shore excursions which will be informative and entertaining. In St Thomas you will be able to visit an underwater park and aquarium followed by a gourmet wine pairings lunch with a cooking demonstration. On St Martin our optional excursion will take you on visits to the studios of 3 local artists. Following our visit to the studios will we adjourn to the beach for a lobster lunch.

Make sure you don't miss this convention.

**Book today!!!**

### MOAA President VADM Ryan Visits USCG Sector St. Petersburg - -

January 21 - - VADM Ryan visited the USCG to brief them on the "climate" towards the military in Washington and MOAA's efforts to continue to support military men and women and their families.

More importantly VADM Ryan was interested to learn about the issues important to the currently serving USCG men and women. Many items were discussed, but the following were important.

The effect of:

- ◆ High tempo of operations on servicemen and women and more importantly their families multiple relocations
- ◆ The housing slump as there is no USCG base housing and Coast Guard men and women have purchased homes that are now upside down and
- ◆ The housing slump as there (Continued on Page 5 - -)



Pictured from Left to Right. - - CAPT Donald Freese, USNR (Ret) President, MOAA Florida Council of Chapters; CDR Peter Martin, USCG, Deputy Commander, USCG Sector St. Petersburg; VADM Norb Ryan, USN (Ret) President, MOAA; CAPT Sheryl Dickinson, USCG, Sector Commander, USCG Sector St. Petersburg; CAPT John Turner, USCG, Commander, USCG Air Station, Clearwater; and MAJ Ed Lillich (Ret), President, MOAA St. Petersburg Area Chapter.,

### IMPORTANT DATES:

- ◆ 28 & 29JAN2011 - Winter Presidents Meeting, Emerald Green, Destin, FL
- ◆ 01FEB2011 - Chapter Deceased lists due to FCOC Secretary
- ◆ 01MAR2011 - Chapter Membership Dues to FCOC Treasurer
- ◆ 08-15MAY2011 - 2011 Convention at Sea
- ◆ 08-15MAY2011 - 2011 Annual Meeting during Convention at Sea
- ◆ 18-20MAY2012 - 2012 Convention, Marriott Palm Beach, Florida

**VADM Ryan Visits** (Cont'd From Page 4 - -)

is no USCG base housing and Coast Guard men and women have purchased homes that are now upside down and cannot sell when they get orders. Then some have had to file bankruptcy which also cause security clearance problems.

- ◆ Restrictions of Home Owners Assistance Program (HAP) high insurance rates and refusal of USAA to ensure their homes in Florida.

Interstate Compact needed for:

- ◆ Children's education transfer of credits from state to state when relocated
- ◆ Professional spouse licensing transferability (teachers, CPAs, nurses, lawyer, etc.)
- ◆ Instate tuition rates

Florida specific:

- ◆ Homestead exemption

Attendees reported that it was great meeting! America is indeed fortunate to have men and women serving like CAPT Dickinson, CAPT Turner, CDR Martin and their crew! Submitted by FCOC President CAPT Don Freese, USN (RET)

**Keep Your Power** (Cont'd From Page 3 - -) - - mine and stated deliberately, "Baby... Bobby!"

I punched him in the nose, and suddenly he was the one crying. I had to fight several more boys that year before the name-calling stopped. It was not the solution I wanted, but it worked. It took me years to learn that the problem was mine; that I was giving away my power every time I reacted to taunting and teasing. And, it's a problem that doesn't go away with childhood.

Insecure adults wanting to feel superior will seek out your weaknesses and attempt to make you feel bad. Several years ago, I was invited to speak on Creative Thinking in Business to a civic club luncheon. During the meal, a man at my table sneered, "Sooo, you're a motivational speaker. Well, motivate me!" His tone of voice said it all - the difference between him and a school yard bully was the accompanying, "Na Na Na Na Nah."

I was shocked by the un-professionalism, and thought, "I'm getting heckled, and I'm not even on stage yet." So, I laughed and said, "Dude, nobody can motivate you, but you."

He shocked me a second time by apologizing after my presentation. He explained that the club had a new speaker each week who tried to sell something, and that most of them were boring. To his surprise, he said he found my presentation entertaining and motivating.

If we give in to bullies, they can rob us of our confidence and our motivation. Lately, I've worked with my children on how to not give their power away when kids assault them verbally. "Laugh it off," I tell them, "even if the words hurt. Fake it if you have to; the trick is to fool them into thinking it doesn't bother you."

My friend Rob Maxwell uses what he calls Verbal

Judo to fend off words that hit like a fist. "In some martial arts," he explains, "you don't meet force with force. Instead, you take your opponent's thrust and redirect it away from you. Often their own energy works against them."

As an example, he told me of a college friend who was teasing him about losing his hair. Rob replied, "It's true John, I am losing my hair, but you were always the handsome one."

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**Dates of Establishment of the Military Services - -**

After reading that the U. S. Coast Guard was established on January 28 (No year mentioned) in two (2) separate Chapter newsletters, I thought that I would do a little research - - so I did. The following is taken from the American Legion web-site:

"According to the Department of Defense Directive 1005.8, the prescribed precedence of military flags is determined by service birthdays. The appropriate order is given below:

**Army Birthday – 14 June 1775**

**Marine Corps Birthday – 10 November 1775**

**Navy Birthday – 13 Oct 1775 (Abolished Feb 1781 - Reinstated 7 Sep 1781)**

**Air Force Birthday – 18 September 1947**

**\*Coast Guard Birthday – 4 August 1790\***

Just to be on the safe side, I checked to above dates with the service web-sites (except for my Marine Corps - - I've know that one since May, 1953, and the Navy Birthday was in 1871 - - which was changed to the above date sometime in the late 1950's or early 60's). All of the above dates check out with the web-sites, although the Coast Guard site notes that the Navy was established in 1798. I have no idea where the January 28th date comes from for the Coast Guard, but suspect that it has to do with name changes from the Revenue Marine and the Revenue Cutter Service then the inclusion of the Lighthouse Service and the later inclusion of the Bureau of Marine Inspection and Navigation (But no dates are noted on the USCG site).

*Editor*

\*According to the Institute of Heraldry, and in keeping with the order in which troops are listed in Department of Defense Directive 1005.8, during peacetime the Coast Guard falls under the Department of Homeland Security. If, during wartime, the Coast Guard is called into service under the control of the Department of Defense, then the Coast Guard flag would come before the Air Force flag in order of precedence.

CHAPTER/CLUB HAPPENINGS

♦ Halifax Area Chapter - - Celebrated Christmas on 06DEC10 with 30 veterans at the Emory L. Bennett Veterans Nursing Home in Daytona Beach. They entertain the veterans at the home on the first Monday of each month.

♦ Pensacola MOAA - - Recently donated \$500.00 to the USO of North Florida.

♦ Broward County Chapter - - Has elected LtCol Sam Trichilo, USAF (Ret) to a fourth term as President. Sam must love the job. While we are at it, congratulations to all of the newly elected Chapter Officers - - and may God be with all of you.

♦ Cape Canaveral Chapter - - Has it's first Woman President. Col Susan Neugebauer, USAF (Ret) was installed, along with the other new officers on Saturday, 08JAN11.

♦ Indian River Chapter - - Provided some interesting information in their December newsletter - -

1. Naval Aviation Centennial - - The birth of Naval Aviation will be recognized during 2011, the 100th Anniversary of the date of the contract for the purchase of the Navy's first aircraft is 01MAY11. An aggressive schedule of appearances by Naval Aircraft throughout the year can be found at http://www.public.navy.mil/airfor/centennial/Pages.Events.aspx

2. War of 1812 Bicentennial Events - - On 18JUN1812 President James Madison and the United States Congress declared war on Great Briton. The ensuing conflict involved many battles throughout the continent over the next two years before peace was negotiated. The Navy History & Heritage Command will be sponsoring events at key battle sites over the two-year bicentennial period. Details can be obtained at http://www.visit1812.com/.

♦ Palm Beach Area Chapter - - Provided the web address for FREE downloadable calendars with Official Service Branch Seals. For more information go to: http://www.homelifeweekly.com/

The Council Communiqué is the newsletter of the Florida Council of Chapters, Military Officers Association of America, and is published bimonthly: February, April (Convention Issue), June, August, October, and December. A current issue of The Council Communiqué can be found at the Florida Council of Chapters Web Site: http://www.moaafl.org/. Opinions expressed by writers are their own, and may not express the positions of the FCOC or the MOAA.



The Council Communiqué
FLORIDA COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

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THIS PUBLICATION IS INTENDED PRIMARILLY FOR FCOC AND CHAPTER LEADERSHIP, BUT SHARING IT WITH CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP IS ENCOURAGED.
THANK YOU, Mick Cotten, Editor