



Heartlander

South Central Florida Chapter
September 2020



South Central Florida Chapter of MOAA

P.O. Box 7841
Sebring, FL 33872



Chapter Officers:

President: Mike Borders, tel. (h) 863-402-8292; (c) 703-795-8776
Vice President: Glenn West, tel. 614-296-5881
Treasurer, David Grey, tel. 785-282-5445
Secretary: Doug Tait, tel. 863-385-1763
Recruiting/Retention: Bob Posthumus, tel.: 757-876-4751
Legislative Affairs: Tom Nunnallee, tel. 863-446-0055
Personal Affairs: Craig Smith, tel. 207-703-3402
Newsletter: Bob Brooks, tel. 863-471-6318
Past President: Roy Whitton

Our Web Site: www.scfcmoaa.org

Florida Council of Chapters website: www.moaaf.org

Take Action. MOAA Legislative Action Link:

<http://www.moaa.org/takeaction/?tab=Legislative-Action-Center#Legislative-Action-Center>

8 September 2020 Dinner/Social with spouses/better halves/significant others: 6:30 PM, Dimitri's Banquet Room, 2710 Kenilworth, Sebring 33870

7 October 2020. Board Meeting: 1700 (5:00 PM) Business Meeting, 1830hrs (6:30 PM). Venue: Sea Services Museum, 1402 Roseland Ave., Sebring, FL 33870, (corner of Kenilworth and Roseland, about a mile east of Sebring High School).

Membership Renewal: Chapter Members, it's time to "REUP" for 2020. Please bring to the next meeting \$20 in cash, or a check made out to SCFC of MOAA in the same amount. Amount for Surviving Spouses is \$15. If you would like to mail it to us the address is: SCFC of MOAA, PO Box 7841, Sebring, FL 33872. Scholarship donations are also appreciated.

Christmas Toy Drive for the Salvation Army. Please bring a new, unwrapped toy(s), in the \$10-15 range to upcoming meetings. Let's make Christmas a little brighter for needy kids in our community. If you don't have time to pick up a toy, you can give chapter VP Glenn West or Mike Borders money and we will pick them up for you.

September Birthdays: 12 Sep—Dick Miller
15 Sep—Del Smith

Editor's Note: If your birthday is not recognized, it is because you did not include it on your application form. Please contact our Secretary, Doug Tait at 863-385-1763, and provide the same.

President's Message:

We have decided to go ahead with the dinner/social scheduled for Tuesday, 8 September, at Dimitri's restaurant (Banquet Room). We will ask that everyone bring their mask. We will take temperatures as each person enters and will have hand sanitizers everywhere you look. I have met with the restaurant owner and have been assured that they are taking all possible precautions. We will spread the tables out and will limit six people to a table. **Please let me know if you plan to attend.**

I encourage you to bring a new, unwrapped toy, in the \$10-15 range to the dinner or a future meeting. Glenn and Pam West are already collecting toys and/or cash to make our 2020 Christmas toy drive another smashing success. We will donate the toys to the Salvation Army as always. We expect that some of the lower income families in the local area will be hit even harder due to the COVID outbreak and its effects on jobs and income. Let's all help to make the season a little brighter for those kids who, through no fault of their own, would rather get a shiny new toy rather than a lump of coal.

It is also time to start the REUP campaign for 2021. Please provide a check or cash in the amount of \$20 (\$15 for Surviving Spouses) to our Treasurer, Dave Grey. Make checks out to SCFC of MOAA. You can mail them to SCFC of MOAA, PO Box 7841, Sebring, FL 33872. Of course, you can give the dues to Dave at the next dinner or meeting.

Hope to see you at Dimitri's on 8 September. Cheers,
Mike

ANNOUNCEMENT: NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING:

5 November 2019. The 5 November dinner/social at the Caddy Shack restaurant will also be the Annual Meeting of the chapter. While we will not need to elect new board members, we will discuss our finances, and determine chapter dues for 2020 (no change anticipated).

Members wishing to bring anything to the attention of the assembly are welcome to do so. The board would appreciate advance notification of anything a member wishes to bring up, but this is not required. Phone numbers of board members are on the front page of this newsletter.

Did You Know? “Summer Storming” Has Begun and There is a KEY Issue—TAKE ACTION

This is the time of year that our elected legislators take summer recess and go back their home states to see what their constituents want. That is the theory, in any case. Whether or not you believe that, it is time for each of us to TAKE ACTION. There are many important issues, and you can go to the TAKE ACTION link on the front page of the newsletter or on the chapter’s website: www.scfcmoaa.org, and click the button just below the TAKE ACTION star on the right side of the home page. The big issue this summer is the difference between the Senate and House versions of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). The House version eliminates the move by the DoD to reduce medical billets by 18,000 and close or reduce nearly 50 military medical treatment facilities (MTF’s). The Senate version of the NDAA does not address the issue. It goes without saying that this is a bad idea, COVID or no COVID. Interestingly, the service secretaries and service chiefs recently sent a letter to the Secretary of Defense urging him to stop the elimination of the MTF’s. Their letter didn’t specifically address the 18,000 medical billets, however. It may have been implicit since you can’t man the facilities without the people. What do you need to do? TAKE ACTION. There are “canned” letters prepared for the full range of issues that MOAA advocates for. You are urged to send all the letters to your representatives, but for purposes of *Summer Storming*, please send the letter to your senators regarding the MTF’s and 18,000 medical billets. Even the service secretaries and service chiefs think it is a bad idea. They have seen the light, so let’s help them out with our letters.

Did You Know 2? VA, Elizabeth Dole Foundation to offer respite relief for Veteran caregivers

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs in partnership with the [Elizabeth Dole Foundation](#) (EDF) today announced the launch of a new foundation program granting family caregivers access to no-cost, short-term aid to help those caring for wounded, ill or injured Veterans or service members in their homes during the coronavirus pandemic.

Under the [Respite Relief for Military and Veteran Caregivers](#) program, caregivers of Veterans can apply to receive approximately 24-hours of respite care from a [CareLinx](#) professional to help with bathing, companionship, cooking, exercising, grooming, light housekeeping, medical and medication reminders, mobility assistance, transportation and other activities.

“Caregivers charged with caring for our nation’s Veterans face new challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic,” said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. “They have become increasingly isolated and are hindered from getting reliable, outside help. This program provides caregivers compassionate and needed relief during this stressful time.” (Cont.)

Did You Know 2? (Cont.)

Respite Relief for Military and Veteran Caregivers will initially be available in select regions of California, Florida and Texas. The EDF will work to expand the program to other regions of the country later this year. [AARP](#) will also be supporting the effort by sharing information about the program with their members in the selected states.

Applicants to the Respite Relief for Military and Veteran Caregivers program will be selected and awarded by the Elizabeth Dole Foundation. Apply at [hidden heroes](#).

Did You Know 3? Our Chapter Again won the 5-Star Level of Excellence Award



Our chapter won this prestigious award from MOAA National for the fifth year in a row. Only about 15-20% of the some 400 MOAA chapters across the nation qualify for the 4 or 5-star award. The award

submission consists of two parts: objective and subjective. The objective part is something the folks up , at MOAA HQS look at in the “system.” You either do all the administrative stuff during the year or you don’t. If you wait until it is time to submit your package, it is too late. This is where the different board members like the Secretary, Treasurer, etc., come in. They have tasks to perform such as keeping the roster up to date or making sure MOAA has our banking data on file. The subjective part is where we get to tell our story. And of course, how well you talk about what you do, how you do it, and how well you do it, has a lot to do with the results of the evaluation of your package. This is done by a group somewhat like a promotion board. We couldn’t achieve the 5-star award if we didn’t have good programs. We can’t have good programs without good chapter members. One of the most important things you can do is to keep your membership with MOAA National up to date. And of course, keeping your membership with the chapter up to date is big as well. We appreciate all you members do to support the chapter. It is one of the best in the state of Florida and the country. We can all be proud.

Did You Know 4? VA publishes final regulation for its Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) today published its final regulation to improve and expand the VA [Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers \(PCAFC\)](#) with the final regulation going into effect on Oct. 1.

Under the final regulation, PCAFC will include [eligible](#) Veterans that have a single or combined service-connected disability rating by VA of 70% or higher, regardless of whether it resulted from an injury, illness or disease.

This is a notable change to the definition of serious injury from the current regulations, among other improvements aimed at standardizing the PCAFC and improving transparency in the program. (Cont.)

Did You Know 4? (Cont.)

[Expansion](#) of VA's PCAFC to eligible Veterans of earlier eras will occur in two phases. The first phase will begin October 2020 and will include eligible Veterans who incurred or aggravated a serious injury in the line of duty in the active, military, naval or air service on or before May 7, 1975. Phase two will go into effect two years later and include eligible Veterans of all eras.

"The expanded regulation addresses the complexity and expense of keeping Veterans at home with their families who provide personalized care," said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. "This will allow our most vulnerable Veterans to stay with their loved ones for as long as possible.

Expanding the program and eligibility for the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers ensures we can continue to meet the changing needs of America's Veterans and their caregivers."

Additionally, the new regulation will change the PCAFC [stipend payment methodology](#), define new procedures for revocation and discharge, and include certain advance notice requirements aimed at improving communication between VA and PCAFC participants as well as include information for [current program participants](#). VA is also standardizing operating procedures for the Caregiver Support Program, providing new training for staff and caregivers, and boosting operational capacity by hiring additional staff. With this expansion, Primary Family Caregivers in PCAFC will also have access to financial planning and legal services. VA is also working to fully implement the new information technology system required by the VA MISSION Act of 2018 by October 2020.

VA's Caregiver Support Program offers support services for caregivers including training, peer mentoring, respite care, a telephone support line, and self-care courses for caregivers of covered Veterans enrolled in VA health care who need personal care services.

Caregivers can visit [VA Caregiver support](#) website or call the Caregiver Support Line at 855-260-3274 for questions.

The final regulation can be found [here](#). If necessary, search for RIN 2900-AQ48, Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers Improvements and Amendments under the VA MISSION Act of 2018.

Are you looking for a way to serve veterans in a very direct and meaningful way?

Well, here is your chance. The County Veteran Services Office, located right behind the Watering Hole restaurant is short staffed and needs help desperately. They need someone to answer phones, greet folks coming in, and generally serve as an all-around receptionist. There is no pay for this job, but there is reward—the reward of helping our veterans. If you want to volunteer, call Denise Williams or Carol West at 863-402-6623.

SURVIVING SPOUSE CORNER

Craig Smith, Surviving Spouse/Personal Affairs Chair

Before I get into the meat and potatoes of topics this month, I wanted to point out that in July's MOAA magazine, there was a "Summer Reading List" which is very timely since a lot of us are still cautious to go out into crowds during this pandemic. The list covered various subjects, but I remind everyone the libraries are back open on a limited basis, and other bookstores, but keep your mind active by reading a good book.

During our virtual chapter meeting VA Aid and Attendance was discussed, this program is available to very low-income couples who require almost round the clock care and cannot afford it. There is a means test that determines who qualifies. But apply through the VA and let them make the determination if you or a veteran's spouse is eligible. I would say that by using the VA, it's a free service. I know that there are organizations that will seek to get you to use them, BUT after you pay them a fee. I have seen this being advertised on TV; I know the name of that organization. But I am not going to give them any publicity.

From the Government Relations Team in regard to the issue of remarriage, are three promising initiatives from the 116th Congress, lowering the remarriage age from 57 to 55, DIC to 55%, and easing the 10-year rule to five years for those severely disabled. Again, no specifics, just some areas which do not affect all of us but are on the table.

They also covered the many pitfalls of not sharing financial data in your senior years. I have covered many of the same topics in past articles, including passwords and joint ownership with right of survival for Bank safe deposit box, which many people use to store wills and valuables.

A good quality fireproof safe is an alternative (bolted to the floor) or heavy enough so you need three men and a truck to move it. Write the combination down and share it with a loved one.

We're heading into the fall season, so were going to be looking at preparing for the season ahead. And maybe covering some COVID-19 realities.

If you have a specific question or concern the following MOAA National Chairpersons are more than willing to help you address your specific concern, as am I. Their contact information is below or you may contact me at 207-703-3402.:

Gail Joyce
mssvc02@gmail.com
(214) 676-2132

Micki Costello
mssvc02@gmail.com
(214) 770-4140

Would you like to buy a MOAA polo shirt or some other MOAA item? Go to the MOAA "Store," click on the following link: <http://www.tmgwebstores.com/moaa/default.html> You can also call them at 1-866-860-9293. They have everything from men's and ladies' polos, coffee cups, hats, you name it.

Chapter Calendar

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2 December 2020. Board Meeting: 1700 (5:00 PM) Business Meeting, 1830hrs (6:30 PM). Venue: Sea Services Museum, 1402 Roseland Ave., Sebring, FL 33870, (corner of Kenilworth and Roseland, about a mile east of Sebring High School).

15 January 2021. 2nd Annual Gala at the Island View Restaurant at Sun N' Lake clubhouse, 5223 Sun N' Lake Blvd, Sebring. Time to be determined.

PURPOSES OF THE MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) is a not-for-profit corporation that is operated exclusively to further the interests of the nation and its uniformed services personnel, their family members, and survivors.

From the preamble to the Bylaws of The Military Officers Association of America

- To inculcate and stimulate love of country and flag;
- To defend the honor, integrity, and supremacy of our National Government and the Constitution of the United States;
- To advocate military forces adequate to the defense of our country;
- To foster the integrity and prestige of uniformed service;
- To foster fraternal relations between all branches of the various Services from which our members are drawn;
- To further the education of children of Service personnel;
- To aid personnel of the Services from which our members are drawn, and their family members and survivors, in every proper and legitimate manner; and
- To present their rights and interests when Service matters are under consideration

We unite to form THE MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

TAKE ACTION!!
www.moaa.org

If you want to sign up for a range of updates from MOAA National:

Go to: http://moaa.highroadsolution.com/moaa_preference_page/EmailSearch.aspx and follow the prompts. It gives various options for the type of information desired, as well as the frequency you may wish to receive it. Don't miss out on this valuable resource!

WHO CAN JOIN MOAA?

MOAA membership is open to all officers, commissioned or warrant, whether on active duty, retired, former, reserve or national guard of all the seven uniformed services, including the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Coast Guard, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Public Health Service.

Nametags: If you don't have and DO want a chapter nametag, please let us know. We need your info as you want it to appear on the tag: Name, Rank, Service. Spouse/significant other's name. The cost is \$10.00 each. Here is an example:



MOAA Legislative Goals for 2020

- Ensure any changes to the Military Health System sustain military-medical readiness and beneficiary access to top-quality care.
- Sustain military pay comparability with the private sector and block erosion of compensation and non-pay quality of life benefits.
- Protect family support programs, and ensure military-provided services (housing, PCS, childcare) are affordable, readily available, and meet quality standards.
- End financial penalties for military survivors.
- End concurrent receipt penalties for military retirees.
- Achieve equity of benefits, protections and administrative support for Guard/Reserve members consistent with their active duty counterparts.
- Ensure timely access to service-earned benefits, and resist proposals to erode foundational services delivered through VA and DoD.
- Support legislation, policies, and programs to enable the seven uniformed services' ability to recruit, retain, and manage personnel.

Take Action. MOAA Legislative Action Link:

<http://www.moaa.org/takeaction/?tab=Legislative-Action-Center#Legislative-Action-Center>

The Heartlander is published monthly by members of the South Central Florida Chapter of Military Officers Association of America, P.O. Box 7841, Sebring, FL 33872. The Chapter is an apolitical and not-partisan, non-profit organization affiliated with National MOAA and the Florida Council of Chapters, MOAA, not associated with the Department of Defense. The views expressed do not necessarily reflect the views of MOAA, the Florida Council of Chapters, the Chapter or DOD.

CHAPTER MEMBERS IN ACTION



Cadet Matt Andrews is running the obstacle course at the USAF Academy in Colorado Springs. He was the first grantee of \$500 from our chapter. His mother told me that he is "getting used to the yelling."



Cadet Micah Marsh is our second grantee. Micah is in AFROTC at Embry-Riddle. He was also our guest speaker for the August meeting. Along with Micah are Fred Carino, Mark Colbert, and Mike Borders



Photo Captions. Cadet Alecsis Sanchez of Sebring High School with Colonel Mark Colbert and Chief Dennis Green. Cadet Sanchez was the awardee of the MOAA medal, ribbon, and certificate. She is a Senior this year.



These are just some of the toys collected so far for this year's Salvation Army toy drive. Glenn and Pam West are again honchoing this program. Please contact Glenn if you would like to contribute funds. Otherwise, please bring a new, unwrapped toy to our next meetings or dinners.

Now and Always We'll be There.



1-800-247-2192 • www.moainsurance.com

USEFUL ADDRESSES, PHONE NUMBERS AND WEB SITES

Air Force Retiree Services: (800) 531-7502;

www.retirees.af.mil

Arlington National Cemetery: (703) 607-8000;

www.arlingtoncemetery.org

Armed Forces Retirement Home: (800) 422-9988;

www.afrh.gov

AAFES: (214) 312-2011; www.aafes.com

Army Retired Services: (703) 571-7232; [https://](https://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement)

soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement

Burial at Sea: (866) 787-0081; [http://www.public.navy.mil/](http://www.public.navy.mil/bupersnpc/support/casualty/mortuary/Pages/BurialAtSea.aspx)

[bupersnpc/support/casualty/mortuary/Pages/](http://www.public.navy.mil/bupersnpc/support/casualty/mortuary/Pages/BurialAtSea.aspx)

[BurialAtSea.aspx](http://www.public.navy.mil/bupersnpc/support/casualty/mortuary/Pages/BurialAtSea.aspx) Combat Related Special Compensation:

[http://www.secnav.navy.mil/mra/CORB/Pages/CRSCB/](http://www.secnav.navy.mil/mra/CORB/Pages/CRSCB/default.aspx)

[default.aspx](http://www.secnav.navy.mil/mra/CORB/Pages/CRSCB/default.aspx) DEERS: (800)-538-9552, Fax: (831) 655-8317;

www.tricare.osd.mil/deers

Defense Commissary Agency: www.commissaries.com

DFAS Casualty Assistance Branch: (800) 321-1080 or (216)

5225955; (For Reporting a Retiree's death, option #1)

I.D. Cards Benefits and Eligibility: (866) 827-5672; [https://](https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsl/appj/)

www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsl/appj/

[site;jsessionid=_liU5y-4sPqyCtImmgUJThnUWUeAanhb15E](https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsl/appj/site;jsessionid=_liU5y-4sPqyCtImmgUJThnUWUeAanhb15EaGXQn4lh2pEEKpso!416826654?execution=e1s1)

[aGXQn4lh2pEEKpso!416826654?execution=e1s1](https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsl/appj/site;jsessionid=_liU5y-4sPqyCtImmgUJThnUWUeAanhb15EaGXQn4lh2pEEKpso!416826654?execution=e1s1)

Internal Revenue Service: (800) 829-1040; www.irs.gov

Marine Corps Retired Affairs: [https://](https://www.manpower.usmc.mil/webcenter/portal/MRAHome)

[www.manpower.usmc.mil/ webcenter/portal/MRAHome](https://www.manpower.usmc.mil/webcenter/portal/MRAHome)

(Hover over "Veteran Marines " then click on "Retired Services")

Medicare: (800) 633-4227. TTY: (877) 486-2048;

www.medicare.gov

Military Officers Assoc. of America: (800) 234-6622;

www.moaa.org

National Burial Services: (800) 697-6940

NPC Navy Reserve Personnel Management (PERS 9):

(866) 827-5672; [www.npc.navy.mil/career/](http://www.npc.navy.mil/career/reservepersonnelmgmt/Pages/default.aspx)

[reservepersonnelmgmt/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.npc.navy.mil/career/reservepersonnelmgmt/Pages/default.aspx)

Navy Casualty Assistance: (800) 368-3202

Navy Retired Activities Office: (866) U-ASK-NPC

(866-827-5672)

MILL RetiredActivities@navy.mil; [www.npc.navy.mil/support/](http://www.npc.navy.mil/support/retired_activities/Pages/default.aspx)

[retired_activities/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.npc.navy.mil/support/retired_activities/Pages/default.aspx)

Reserve Component SBP: (866) 827-5672 ask for PERS-912

Retiree Dental — Delta Dental: (888) 838-8737;

www.trdp.org

Servicemembers Group Insurance (SGLI): (800)

419-1473; www.insurance.va.gov

Social Security Administration: (800) 772-1213;

www.ssa.gov

Pay/SBP Questions: www.dfas.mil. Pay inquiries and update of pay or SBP records in case of death, divorce, or remarriage:

Retiree:

Defense Finance and Accounting Service

U.S. Military Retirement Pay

P.O. Box 7130 London KY 40742-7130

(800) 321-1080, (216) 522-5955

SBP/RSFPP annuitant:

Defense Finance and Accounting Service

U.S. Military Annuitant Pay

P.O. Box 7131 London KY 40742-7131

(800) 321-1080, (216) 522-5955

(800) 669-8477; www.insurance.va.gov

Burial information: (800) 827-1000; www.cem.va.gov

GI Bill: (888) 442-4551; www.gibill.va.gov

VA: www.va.gov **Regional offices:** (800) 827-1000

(overseas retirees should contact the American Embassy/consulate)

TDD (800) 89-4833

Insurance: A Regional Office and Insurance Center

PO Box 7208 (claims inquiries) -ORPO

Box 7327 (loans) -ORPO

Box 7787 (payments)

Philadelphia PA 19101

(800) 669-8477; www.insurance.va.gov