President’s Message
Col Leonard Friedlander, USAF, Ret

I had the distinct pleasure earlier this month to notify twenty-one Florida chapters of MOAA’s recognition of their accomplishments during 2017 by awarding them Five and Four Star Level of Excellence (LOE) Awards.

Seventeen chapters received Five-Star LoE Awards: Bradenton, Calusa, Cape Canaveral, Citrus County, Kingdom of the Sun, Lake & Sumter Counties, Lee Coast, Northeast Florida, Northwest Florida, Palm Beach-Martin Counties, Pensacola, St. Petersburg Area, Sarasota, South Central Florida, Sun City Center, Tampa, and Volusia County.

An additional four chapters received Four-Star LoE Awards: Charlotte Harbor, Halifax, Suncoast, and Treasure Coast.

The official list of LoE winners for MOAA can be found at the MOAA website: http://www.moaa.org/Content/Chapter s-and-Councils/MOAA-Awards/2018- Levels-of-Excellence-Awards.aspx

I’m not referring to the Federal, State and Local primaries and elections that
are coming up --- but the MOAA 2018 election that is ongoing right now!!!

This election provides you the opportunity to vote on proposed MOAA resolutions and by-law changes, and to elect MOAA’s newest leaders – 12 MOAA Directors (3 from Florida).

You can execute your vote by completing and mailing the printed ballot included in the August issue of *Military Officer* magazine or submit your vote electronically at [https://www.esc-vote.com/moaa2018/](https://www.esc-vote.com/moaa2018/). The deadline for casting your ballot is 2359 hrs on August 31st.

**LEGISLATIVE VICTORIES**
The recently released final report on the FY 2019 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) was a major win for MOAA’s advocacy efforts across the board.

- **A full 2.6%-percent military pay raise.**
- **Increased armed services end-strengths over FY 2018 levels.**
- **No reduction in Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH).**
- **No new TRICARE fees.**

MOAA's success at achieving these important goals in the final legislation came from working closely with congressional leadership and staffs and a concerted effort with our partners in The Military Coalition. But most importantly, support at the grass roots level from the MOAA membership in answering our calls to action and more than 17,000 MOAA suggested message flooding congressional offices.

While the TRICARE victory may prove to be only a reprieve in the larger budget battles to come, it is indeed an important one. The mobilization of our MOAA members combined with a supportive Congress put the ball over the goal line.

**CONGRESSIONAL RECESS ADVOCACY UPON US**
The August congressional recess is upon us, and our representatives are back in their districts. Inside this issue of the Communiqué, Bob Bienvenue has provided a detailed article on the key information necessary for you to discuss with your congressman and/or our senators, and where to find it. Take the time to visit them and make our case known.

Don’t forget to thank them for their support of the above issues, and seek their support for the future.

My proverbial door is always open for two-way communication. I look forward to visiting your chapter at your invitation to learn about the issues facing your chapter and your community, and to assist in any way that I can. Please feel free to contact me at any time.

Len

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**Tricare Retired Dental (TRDP) Transition to Federal Dental (FEDVIP)**

On December 31, 2018, the Defense Health Agency’s TRICARE Retiree Dental Program (TRDP) will end. However, as directed in the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2017, retired uniformed service members and their families, who were eligible for TRDP, will have the opportunity to enroll in the Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP).

If you are currently enrolled in a TRDP plan, you will not be automatically enrolled in a FEDVIP plan for 2019. You must enroll during open season which runs from November 12 to December 10, 2018 for coverage beginning January 1, 2019. [https://tricare.benefeds.com/InfoPortal/indexAction](https://tricare.benefeds.com/InfoPortal/indexAction)
## Florida Council of Chapters 2017 Level of Excellence Awards

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Alias</th>
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<tr>
<td>FL00</td>
<td>Florida Council of Chapters of the MOAA, Inc.</td>
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<td>FL01</td>
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<td>St. Petersburg Area Chapter, MOAA</td>
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<td>Treasure Coast Chapter</td>
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<tr>
<td>FL48</td>
<td>Palm Beach - Martin Counties Chapter of MOAA</td>
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Legislative Affairs

Lt Col Bob Bienvenu, USAF, Ret., Legislative Chairman, rbienven@sprynet.com

Special Legislative Update for August Congressional Recess District Visits

Hopefully you have received the latest info from MOAA on their expectations for the August Recess visits http://www.moaa.org/augustrecess/ This is where you will find the issues and Talking Papers to use in advocating for support from your respective Representatives.

Both the Senate and the House have passed the 2019 NDAA that came out of the Joint Conference Committee which reconciled the differences between the two versions of the Bill in favor of MOAA’s positions. As of presstime, the President has announced a signing of the bill at Fort Drum on Monday, August 13.

During your Recess visit, here’s what you can thank our Congresspersons for:

- Providing a full 2.6 percent military pay raise;
- Blocking attempts to increase TRICARE fees for servicemembers and their families; and
- Protecting housing allowances from any cutbacks.

Of course, the Appropriations Bill to fund this authorization is yet to be worked, and there have been threats by the President and other administration officials and certain members of Congress to shut down the government by blocking next year’s funding Bill even though there was a budget agreement in March to set the spending level in advance for 2019. We can’t do much more than to ask them at this month’s meetings to get the job done!

To reiterate what you can read in the link above, the major issues at these meetings should be (1) permanently repealing the “Widows’ Tax” and (2) seeking a commitment to maintaining an affordable and accessible health care benefit for all.

What to do if you don’t agree with a response/comment from Legislator

I recently read an article published by a group that advocates on behalf of retirees (not the AARP) addressing responses their members receive from congress in regard to their Action Alerts. That article had some good advice that is apropos to what we often receive in response to MOAA Action Alerts. Some responses are just a “thank you for your letter” and “I’ll keep your comments in mind”. Some say “I’ll take your comments under consideration once a Bill is introduced (or when it comes up for a vote)”. Many times, their response sounds like a lecture, especially when we are asking for funding on a certain matter. That lecture goes something like this:
“Our national debt is now over $19.9 trillion—making it larger than our entire economy. The deficit this year will only add to that debt with no surpluses in sight.”

When their responses are off the mark relative to the issue you raise or the question you ask - don’t let that go unnoticed. I know it’s a little more challenging to do that in a face to face encounter but be BRAVE and very importantly be respectful. Maybe you can start out like the following:

“I am very disappointed in your response. Respectfully, I believe you missed the point of my explanation. I am concerned about ________ I didn’t hear direct comment in your reply.”

If they move into questions regarding topics that are not related to your agenda don’t get bogged down in matters you are not there to discuss (example - building the wall, tax reform etc). Just let them know that MOAA only takes positions on matters that directly impact “military personnel matters and especially proposed legislation affecting the career force, the retired community, and veterans of the uniformed services.”

The following can be an affirmation of Congresspersons statements of support or it can be your passionate request for support. It can even be your introduction as to the purpose of the meeting.

“I am hopeful that you will stand by our nation’s solemn obligations to the well-being of our uniformed servicemembers, to their patriotic families who sacrifice in service everyday too, and to maintaining the earned benefits of those who have committed 20-30 years in patriotic service to our nation in uniform.”

Best of LUCK in this mission.
I would appreciate a summary of your impressions as to the Congresspersons indication of support and commitment to MOAA’s issues after your meeting.

H.R. 846: Military Surviving Spouses Equity Act As of Aug 3rd

269 cosponsors out of 435 – 62% (147R - 122D) FL Delegation: 21 Co-Sponsors

Latest to Join as Co-Sponsors (after Storming)

Lois Frankel [D-FL21] joined May 9, 2018
Kathy Castor [D-FL14] joined May 11, 2018
Darren Soto [D-FL9] joined Jul 12, 2018
Mario Diaz-Balart [R-FL25] joined Jul 13, 2018

Still NOT Co-Sponsors

Val Demings (D, FL-10)
Daniel Webster (R, FL-11)
Gus Bilirakis (R, FL-12)
Thomas Rooney (R, FL-17)
Francis Rooney (R, FL-19)
Debbie Wasserman-Shultz (D, FL-23)

Let’s work on getting 100% of the Florida Congressional Delegation to Support this Bill

Here’s the link to the MOAA Talking Paper on this subject
http://www.moaa.org/uploadedFiles/Content/Take_Action/Widow’sTax.pdf

On the next page you’ll find a talking paper on the Promises for Lifetime Military Healthcare followed by a table with data on the count of people affected by the changes to recently increased enrollment fees, co-pays and service fees to Tricare beneficiaries and the Tricare Pharmacy program.
Protect the Congressional Promises for Lifetime Military Healthcare

BACKGROUND
MOAA is a Congressional Chartered Veterans Service Organization advocating for fair and adequate compensation and benefits for military members, their families, retirees, their dependents, and for surviving spouses that was earned through years of service and sacrifice in keeping with the social compact which our nation entered into with those who served, and which serves as a positive example for those who might consider service.

Our mission to achieve and maintain that has not always been an easy journey and in the most recent years one filled with hazards at every turn in dealing with Congress and the Pentagon.

In 1996, Colonel Bud Day, USAF retired, a Vietnam POW and Medal of Honor recipient brought a case against the federal government on behalf of military retirees who were stripped of their military medical care benefits at age 65 and were told to enroll in MEDICARE. Although winning the case in district court in 2001, the judgment against the U.S. was overturned by the U.S. Court of Appeals.

CONGRESS HAS BEEN SUPPORTIVE
Congress recognized health care coverage was an important benefit earned through decades of service and sacrifice - and one that should be sustained over the lifetime of the servicemember and their family. In 2002 Congress redressed this situation by establishing the TRICARE for Life (TFL) program, which restored TRICARE military medical benefits for career military retirees over the age of 65, making the retirees eligible for both programs with Medicare as the primary payer and TRICARE as the secondary payer. Along with the Tricare Senior Pharmacy program it was the biggest expansion in government-funded health benefits in decades. Congress was thoughtful in its establishment of TFL, deeming it “a commitment of a grateful nation”. This left many retirees satisfied that the promise of lifetime health care had been restored.

CURRENT ISSUES
However, as recently as last fall, Congress raised pharmacy fees for everyone. Those increases were specified to pay for a reduction to the amount of the Survivor Benefit Plan/Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (SBP/DIC) offset for military widows. Essentially this means beneficiaries are required to fund their own earned benefits.

Additionally, DoD implemented unexpected and disproportional increases in their TRICARE service fees affecting the families of currently serving military and retirees not yet eligible for Tricare-for-Life. The fee changes have been implemented across just about every fee category.

MOAA is on guard to prevent any attempt to establish a new enrollment fee for TFL. TFL beneficiaries already pay more for their health care coverage than any other uniformed service beneficiaries because of the Medicare enrollment fees. And now they are paying much more for their medications, too, and will continue to do so with the planned increases in the out-years.

ACTION REQUEST
MOAA is concerned over repeated attempts to implement new fees on TRICARE for Life (TFL) beneficiaries, such as the proposals in recent versions of the National Defense Authorization ACT (NDAA) establishing enrollment fees. Adding more fees, coupled with the scheduled increases in pharmacy copayments, will degrade the TFL benefit, which was put in place to reflect the sacrifice of a career of service.

Please stand behind the past promises made to our servicemembers, their families and retirees regarding their health benefits.
### Selected Florida Demographics

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<th></th>
<th>Active Duty</th>
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With the number of our State of Florida constituents in the categories above and their high ranking across the country, we should expect more support from our Congressional Delegation on the MOAA Bills of Interest.

The United Way organization has implemented what it calls the Mission United program in several locations around the country, including several here in Florida.

Mission United is all about community collaboration.

It uses the existing United Way’s 211 service that offers comprehensive information and referrals to serve as a central contact point for veterans to access needed community support to ensure that service members and their families know what services are available, and help them access those services so that they receive the help they need.

The initiative also identifies gaps in the areas of veteran employment, housing, education, transition back into civilian society, and other needs.

The Mission United program works closely with any and all organizations or agencies that offer programs benefiting veterans.

The 211 program similarly gathers all of the current databases that are being developed and that organizations are willing to share, matching those with existing 211 databases.

Mission United reaches out to all organizations that provide comprehensive assistance to veterans and their families.

If your chapter is co-located with a United Way operation, check with them to see if they have a Mission United program started. The Lee Coast chapter is fully engaged and has found great success. There are also programs in Miami-Dade, Broward (founder in Florida), Suncoast, and Orlando. You may also contact Roger Triftshauser at: roger.triftshauser@gmail.com or Mike Borders at: MBor57@aol.com.
Chaplain’s Message
Chaplain (Col) Charles Caudill, USAF, (Ret) Religious Activities

Family Traditions
August 2018

Visiting an arts and crafts festival at a park in Vancouver, Washington, I saw couples walking hand in hand or standing and hugging each other. As the band played mothers and children danced together. Children twirled with each other, people performed alone just for joy, and couples swayed side by side. Observing new and old traditions at the annual event in the park was heartwarming.

The next day we boarded a riverboat to cruise the Columbia and Snake Rivers where Lewis & Clark endured and explored in the early 1800’s. It is a beautiful section of the country with historical importance. A guest presenter from the Nez Perce tribe came on board in full tribal regalia to tell us about his nation & its customs. His headdress had buffalo horns and a his fully beaded vest was made by his sister. The Nez Perce supplied, food, horses, guides, protection and friendliness to the Lewis & Clark expedition. Their history is at least 10,000 years old, and the narratives of their creation and lessons for living are continuing to be passed down from generation to generation to keep their observances alive.

Those of the Jewish faith also preserve their heritage and rituals. Throughout the Old Testament until the present time the Jewish family is a place of love and tradition. I am always in awe of the Babylonian Exile in 586 BCE (according to Encyclopedia Britannica) in which the Jews were held in captivity for 70 years before they were allowed to return to Jerusalem. Although the Jews suffered greatly they maintained their national spirit and religious identity.

From the beginning of human history families have handed down training and stories for the survival of their descendants. Parents continue to teach their children philosophies and skills to carry their ideals forward. Today, children are bombarded with tremendous outside influences and values that may differ from those parents are trying to instill.

It is extremely important that parents, grandparents and great-grandparents continue to demonstrate their beliefs by example; especially their faith in God and the abiding love in their hearts. I will have the opportunity to illustrate this in person soon as I will be with my son, grandchildren and great-grandchildren for vacation.

“Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.” Proverbs 22:6

“Tradition is a guide and not a jailer.”
W. Somerset Maugham
Successful Fight for Traffic Light at Haley VA Hospital

They worked it like a military campaign — Operation Traffic Signal.

TAMPA -- It wasn’t exactly the Normandy landings, but lives will be saved, proponents promise, with their victory in a four-year effort to get a traffic signal installed in front of the James A. Haley Veterans’ Hospital on busy Bruce B. Downs Boulevard.

On August 3, 2018, the Hillsborough County Commission approved the project, to be designed and built by the county and paid for — to the tune of $1.4 million — by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Credit the work of two people with military connections setting up a web page, conducting traffic counts, gathering 750 petition signatures and lobbying the decision makers. They are the co-chairs of the operation — Robert Sawallesh, a retired Army lieutenant colonel and veteran of the Vietnam War, and Mary Ellen Harlan, a top Haley volunteer and widow of a Navy aviator fatally injured in Korea.

"We’re grateful to all those involved to make it happen, especially the passionate efforts of Bob and Mary Ellen," said Haley spokeswoman Karen Collins. "They truly care about the health and well-being of veterans."

The hospital generates plenty of traffic on its own — about 5,000 visitors every day, said former county commissioner Mark Sharpe, who heads a regional alliance known as Tampa !p.

All told, this stretch of Bruce B. Downs carries about 50,000 cars per day, according to Hillsborough County statistics.

To protect those pulling in and out at the hospital, the county will install a traffic signal, modify turn lanes, and add pedestrian safety features.

Sawallesh, of Valrico, said the traffic improvements will "mean a great deal to the recovering wounded and injured and their families who drive in and out of the Veterans Hospital campus daily."

MOAA Members, Robert Sawallesh (left) and Mary Ellen Harlan (right), a past President of Tampa MOAA MOWC, led the successful campaign for a traffic light at James A. Haley Veterans Hospital. Photo: Times, 2017.

Sharpe said his alliance supported the traffic signal project, in part because more growth is coming to the USF area.

"Safety is the bottom line for us," he said, "with the number of students going back and forth and people who served their country using that hospital daily."

Abridged August 3, 2018 Tampa Bay Times article by Howard Altman, (haltman@tampabay.com or (813) 225-3112).

In FY2017, the James A. Haley Veterans’ Hospital in Tampa served veterans from 66 of Florida’s 67 counties and all 50 U.S. states.

If MOAA members want to add their names to the traffic signal safety petition, it can be accessed at:

GREAT JOB!
Governor Honors Korean War Veterans During Armistice Day

TALLAHASSEE – Gov. Rick Scott signed the annual Korean War Armistice Day Proclamation, honoring the state’s Korean War veterans and commemorating the 65th anniversary of the end of the war. More than 139,000 Korean War veterans currently reside in Florida.

More than 34,000 Americans were killed in action during the war, with approximately 103,000 wounded and more than 7,800 missing, including more than 150 Floridians.

Friday, July 27, 2018 is Florida Korean War Armistice Day.

Governor Signs 2018 Florida Purple Heart Day Proclamation

TALLAHASSEE -- Gov. Rick Scott has signed the annual Florida Purple Heart Day Proclamation. The governor calls upon Floridians to pay special tribute to those members of the Armed Forces who have received the Purple Heart, while also honoring the families of the fallen.

Tuesday, August 7, 2018 is Florida Purple Heart Day.
“We looked at a number of communities, but Fleet Landing stood out for its friendly, welcoming atmosphere, elegant dining, beautiful grounds and proximity of medical and military services.”

—Col & Mrs. Frank Donnelly, USMC(Ret), Current Residents

Discover a retirement community that enhances your life on all levels. Call to learn more: 904.242.6560 or 1.877.291.4484 toll free

One Fleet Landing Boulevard | Atlantic Beach, FL 32233 | fleetlanding.com/military
Cape Canaveral Chapter
By CAPT Ernest Joy, USN, (Ret)

MOAACC Scholarship Awards Ceremony

The Cape Canaveral Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America held its annual scholarship awards ceremony in July. Ten highly qualified college students received $3500 each for their use toward college expenses. Since 1984 the Chapter has awarded $665000 to 253 deserving winners. More than 100 people attended the ceremony, including the director for Councils and Chapters, COL Terri Coles USA Ret. from MOAA national.

Left to right: Jordyn Sheffield, Stephen Weaver, Patrick Anderson, Kaylee Cornish, Kyle Gonzalez, Andrew Stewart, and Brady Baldree.

The Missing in America Project comes to the Space Coast

On June 23, 2018, there was a unique military funeral service at the Cape Canaveral National Cemetery (CCNC) in northern Brevard County. For the first time in the history of our area, 21 veterans and one veteran spouse, whose cremains had been abandoned at funeral homes, in several cases for decades, were given the solemn burial with military honors all veterans earn.

More than 250 people attended this special ceremony, and many veteran organizations in the county gave their support. The MOAACC Good Deeds Foundation (GDF) provided funds and seven MOAACC members were in attendance.

The Missing in America Project (MIAP miap.us) was formed in California in 2009 and is gradually spreading across America. MIAP Florida began researching the history of unclaimed cremains to confirm veteran status in funeral homes in Jacksonville and Miami. MIAP has now come to the Space Coast.

The cremains of more than 4000 veterans in Florida are estimated to be unclaimed and languishing in funeral homes and mortuary storage. Often, there are unpaid cremation expenses or no funds for burial by relatives unaware that VA burials are available at no charge. Our Space Coast MIAP-FL support team will begin research in area funeral homes in August after the volunteers have been trained and received certification. The ceremonies will continue until all abandoned veteran cremains are identified and laid to rest in a dignified manner next to thousands of other veterans and spouses already resting in honor at CCNC. Support for the MIAP-FL local program is needed as volunteers are needed to act as pall and flag bearers, along with other roles, for each ceremony. Contact Donn Weaver, 321-613-2403, for more information.
Historic Mayport Chapter
By CDR Patrick R Kleuver, USN, Ret

Commander Preston Roland from Commander Littoral Combat Ship Squadron TWO (COMLCSRON TWO) briefed the Fleet Landing community on the Littoral Combat Ship (LCS) on August 1, 2018. The LCS’s are the newest ships to be home ported at Naval Station Mayport.

CDR Roland explained the design of the ship, the missions and capabilities of the ship, and the concepts for crewing and operating the ships from Mayport.

The event was well attended in Johnson Hall by about 150 residents and MOAA Mayport Chapter members in attendance. Originally scheduled for one hour, the briefing to a spirited audience at Fleet Landing lasted about 90 minutes with CDR Roland fielding some 30 insightful questions from attendees.

Following the briefing CDR Roland joined the Historic Mayport MOAA Chapter membership at a private luncheon in the Atlantic Dining Room at Fleet Landing. CDR Roland received many expressions of thanks and appreciation for a thorough, informative, interactive, and totally outstanding presentation on these newest naval combatants stationed at Mayport. Well Done to CDR Roland and LCSRON TWO!

USS Iwo Jima Homeports to Mayport

9 August 2018 - Members of MOAA’s Historic Mayport Chapter and Fleet Landing residents Pat and Mary Kluever, Denny and Cindy Tomlin, and Joe and Pat Ruthenberg teamed up to help the Navy League welcome the USS Iwo Jima back to homeport Mayport after a six month deployment. Our Fleet Landing group helped hand out small American Flags and cheered with a large group of family and friends gathered to welcome home sailors and marines onboard the Iwo Jima as she arrived. Also onboard USS Iwo Jima were family members of the crew who had traveled to Norfolk, Virginia to experience a “Tiger Cruise” from Norfolk to Mayport. There was lots of excitement as families were reunited with their service members - a joyous home coming and Fleet Landing residents were proud to be part of the welcoming committee! Photos by Mary Kluever
The “Stuff the Bus” was our big summer time KOS Chapter project. The program is run by the Marion County Schools. We had a number of KOS volunteers that played a supporting role by handing out flyers at the front entrance of five Walmart stores in Marion County in July and August. The flyers list the most needed items of school supplies for needy children in Marion County. A large yellow School Bus is parked near the front of the store and is packed with the school items. Five different Walmart stores were visited in July and August on Saturdays, 9 AM – 5 PM (July 7, 14, 21, 28 and August 4). The final “Stuff the Bus” event is called “Super Tuesday” and was held on August 7, 2018. Our “Welcome Back” luncheon will be held on September 6, 2018, to start our fall KOS Chapter activities.

Our October 4, 2018, meeting is next on the schedule and this is followed by our KOS Annual Meeting and Memorial Service on November 1, 2018.
By Clair Power
State College of Florida has informed the Sarasota Chapter that two student veterans have received scholarships of $1,500 each from the chapter’s award of $3,000 to the State College of Florida Foundation. The students are: Jacob Blenker, E6 USA, a nine-year career infantryman who served as a vehicle commander and rifle team leader in Paktika Province, Afghanistan. Jacob sustained severe injuries from an IED and after a long recovery hopes to be a full time student at SCF in the fall and pursue a career in Nursing. Jeffery Guilbault, E4 USAR, joined the US Army in February of 2016 and is still an active member of the Reserves. He is currently enrolled at SCF’s Venice Campus and is working toward a Bachelor's Degree in Business Management while being employed part time by the City of North Port.

JULY PROGRAM:
Robyn Bell – Pops Orchestra - Supporting Musikers
The Importance of Keeping Community Music Alive

The July Sarasota Chapter meeting featured Robyn Bell (http://www.robynbell.net/), the daughter of a Vietnam Veteran and leader of the Pops Orchestra of Bradenton and Sarasota, She explained the value and fulfillment of being able to deliver great, uplifting, low-budget musical events with an extended family of 60 musically-talented volunteers, “Musikers,” the heart of her Pops Orchestra, who range from children to the elderly, including a 95-year-old WWII veteran. She “orchestrated” our drawing for two season tickets to the Pops Orchestra’s 43rd season, “Pops Stars Take the Stage”.

Robyn said her upcoming 8th season conducting POPS, as, by far, the best yet, starting with our Veterans’ concert on November 11th & 12th “John Denver – Coming Home”, featuring tribute artist Tom Becker. The Pops generously donates 100% of the profits to our Scholarship Fund. So you will not want to miss it!! http://thepopsorchestra.org.
John Harbaugh with one of the Vietnam veterans at the "pinning" ceremony conducted at Lake Placid's American Legion Post #25. This was the fourth ceremony we have conducted in partnership with Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) chapter 1097.

Four other Florida chapters received grants: Indian River, Northwest Florida, St. Petersburg, and Treasure Coast.

The MOAA MFI Community Outreach program supports MOAA councils and chapters delivering to their local communities vital programs and support services in eight areas of critical military and veteran family need including housing, employment, financial assistance, behavioral health and more.

Following a presentation on the USACE Jacksonville District Lake Okeechobee Herbert Hoover Dike Dam Project at the August chapter meeting, Mike Borders presented MOAA coffee cups to presenters: Ingrid Bon, P.E., Project Manager Forward and Gary Russ, Chief, South Florida Operations Office.
Clearwater / Tampa Chapters

Veterans Art Center Tampa Bay (VACTB), a 501c-3 not-for-profit, has been “A Force For Art” since 2014. The center provides mental health healing and suicide prevention through the arts for military, veterans, first responders and their families. VACTB offers therapy, healing/wellness, and educational programming through courses such as Art Boot Camp, Art of Magic, Drawing, Woodworking, and Creative Writing. It also stages monthly events such as Art in the City.

The organization, supported in part by Clearwater and Tampa chapters, is located at Gaslight Square, 6798 Crosswinds Dr. N, St Petersburg, FL 33710. VACTB can be found on Facebook or Messenger @forceforart. The center Founder/CEO Mack Macksam can be reached at 813-460-8952; VACTB@outlook.com. Contributions and Volunteers are always welcome.

Proceeds from General Snowden's Book Sales Go to Florida Veterans Foundation

Dennis Baker, Commander U.S. Navy (ret.)

Lt. General Lawrence F. Snowden, USMC, (Ret) passed away in February of 2017 generously leaving 50% of his book sales going to the Florida Veterans Foundation.

To find the book: https://www.amazon.com/dp/098594384X/ref=sr_1_3?&s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1477104892&sr=1-3&keywords=snowden%27s+story

To find out more about the Florida Veterans Foundation visit their web site at https://floridaveteransfoundation.org/

The Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017, H.R. 3218, passed by the House and Senate was signed by the President on August 16, 2017. Also known as the Forever G.I. Bill, the legislation improves provisions in the existing G.I. Bill and provides more flexibility for using educational benefits. The measure contains a number of provisions that specifically impact disabled veterans and their families, including:

To see the complete text of the Forever G.I. Bill click here

Click the link below for a summary of the bill: https://www.votervoice.net/BroadcastLinks/KMvctjoV-qtTngicgr8UQQ

Skip Hartnett, Maj USMC, (Ret), West Central Chapter
The Veterans’ Club of University Village

Meetings are held the 2nd Monday of each month at University Village
Please call to RSVP at (800) 524-5020

Tampa’s Superior Life Care Retirement Community offers spacious apartments and villa homes on 36 acres with resort style amenities and services. University Village is located just blocks away from the James A. Haley Veteran’s Hospital and in close proximity to the MacDill Air Force Base.

As an exceptional continuing care retirement community in Florida, University Village offers you The Shield.

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Call (813) 975-5009 or toll-free (800) 524-5020 today.
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA (MOAA)
FLORIDA COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS (FCOC)

The MOAA Florida Council of Chapters (FCOC) is comprised of 44 Chapters with nearly 8,000 members and their families. FCOC is one of MOAA’s largest Councils. MOAA has a membership of over 380,000 members in all 50 States.

The FCOC’s primary communication vehicles are our bi-monthly publication, *The COUNCIL COMMUNIQUÉ* and our Website www.MOAAFL.org Ads run for one year.

The *COMMUNIQUÉ* is distributed electronically to all our chapters, MOAA Headquarters in Virginia, and our influential contacts across the state of Florida.

The *COMMUNIQUÉ* provides a unique forum for businesses to reach a select segment of the population. The membership is patriotic and professional. We encourage your business to reach out to our members by advertising in *The COUNCIL COMMUNIQUÉ*.

In appreciation of Businesses that also support the FCOC Annual Convention with Ads in the Convention Souvenir Program Book within the last year the FCOC offers a discount for the same size Ad shown on the following Order Form.

Thank you!

FCOC

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**Submitting Articles and Pictures for The Communiqué**

Articles can be attached to an email. Microsoft Word works best. You can also type your information into the body of an email where it can be copied and pasted into the newsletter. PDF files can also be used.

Pictures should have a .jpg extension. If you are sending pictures from your chapter, please include the chapter name and the names of those in the picture. A few words on what the event is about will help interest the readers.

If you have questions about your submission, contact

Polly Parks
pparks@igc.org
703-338-6881
## ADVERTISING ORDER FORM

<table>
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<th>Size of Ad</th>
<th>ANNUAL</th>
<th>CONVENTION ADVERTISER</th>
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Address: _______________________________________________
City: _____________________________________
State: _________________________ Zip: __________
Email: ____________________________________________
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- Submit PDF file to: [advertising@MOAAFL.org](mailto:advertising@MOAAFL.org)
- Ad information must be submitted by the 1st of the month “preceding” the first month of publication.
# Florida Chapters & Web Sites (if available)

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<th>Chapter</th>
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A current issue of The Council Communiqué can be found at the Florida Council of Chapters Web Site: http://www.moaafl.org/, drop down menu Events/News. Opinions expressed by writers are their own, and may not express the positions of FCOC or the MOAA.