President’s Message
Col Leonard Friedlander, USAF, Ret

As you work your way through this month’s Communiqué you will no doubt notice some FCOC Board and Committee chairperson changes – some planned, and others as a result of an incumbent’s illness and inability to continue in the position.

Three of our Area Vice Presidents (AVP) were re-elected to their positions (Pat Kluever, Carol Burgess & Wayne Brown); Mike Snodgrass was newly elected to the NWAVP position (replacing Scott Berry); Raul Gonzalez was elected ECAVP and Paul Loschiavo was elected SEAVP (completing the terms of Ernie Joy and Bill Armstrong respectively).

Additionally, the Board appointed Marilyn Leehan FCOC Treasurer – taking over from Don Courtney who has been our Treasurer for the past seven years. Don will continue as the Southwest AVP.

Our FCOC Surviving Spouse Liaison/Personal Affairs Coordinator for the past five years, Sherry Freese, was injured in a fall just days before our Convention. She resigned and is moving to Texas to live near her daughter. Patricia Green has volunteered to serve in her stead, and has been appointed to the position. We thank Sherry for all the support she has given to the FCOC. We wish her a speedy recovery and look forward to seeing her at future MOAA events. Additionally, Lorraine Holland has been appointed the FCOC representative to the Florida Veterans Council.

I want to thank ALL the individuals named above who have served MOAA, FCOC and their chapters in the past, and I welcome those who have volunteered to serve in the future. We are an organization of volunteers, and could not survive, at any level, without your support and service.

MOAA announced the recipients of their 2018 Levels of Excellence

Continued next page…
Awards – National MOAA’s annual recognition of the organization’s top-notch chapters and councils. I am very pleased to say that Florida received a total of 25 LOE awards (19 five-star & 6 four-star), and the list of recipients are provided on page 16. (Please remember that your chapter must submit an award package to be considered.) Thank you for your tremendous support and congratulations on your 2018 LOE award honors!

The August congressional recess is upon us, and MOAA is encouraging its membership and chapters to take advantage of this period to engage their legislators and urge them to vote affirmatively on MOAA supported legislation. Bob Bienvenue addresses the key issues in this newsletter, and I urge everyone to heed his call to TAKE ACTION.

I would be remiss if I didn’t thank the Tampa Chapter – and especially Convention Chairman Lewis VanDyke, Ruth VanDyke, Chapter President Carol Zieres, Operation Helping Hand, the Tampa Chapter volunteers, and the staff of the Safety Harbor Resort & Spa – for hosting an outstanding convention at a superlative location that will be remembered by all who attended. Your prior planning and attention to detail were evident, and definitely paid dividends.

Finally, it’s not too early to be thinking about the FCOC Leadership Forum on Jan 10-11 2020 in Orlando. Save the date!!

Thank you all for all you do.

Len

Congratulations to our 2018 Col. Marvin J. Harris Communication Award Winners!
MOAA has changed its strategy somewhat for this year’s Chapter engagements with their Congresspersons during the August Congressional Recess.

- First of all, they are naming this advocacy mission - **Summer Storming** - to indicate it is an extension of the April **Storming-the-Hill** event when four FCoC two-person teams visited every one of the offices of the Florida Congressional delegation.
- They are still encouraging each Chapter to schedule a face-to-face meeting with their congresspersons and/or staff in the local District Offices during the Congressional recess period which lasts until September 9th.
- And, they have provided a number of resources and CapWiz prepared emails on each issue so that the Summer Storming can be a barrage of correspondence from across the country to every one of our elected members of Congress.

In addition, I have prepared a table with the **voting records** on the respective House and Senate versions of the National Defense Authorization Acts (NDAA) and the most recent Bi-Partisan Budget Bill, for all the members of the Florida delegation. You will find the following Resources on the FCoC website [http://www.moaafl.org/](http://www.moaafl.org/) under the Legislative tab at the top of the home page, in the drop-down box labeled **Summer Storming** and includes:

Continued on next page
Talking paper: Don’t Dismantle Military Medicine
Talking Paper: Let’s Put an End to the Widows Tax
Talking Paper: Military Pay and Benefits: Necessary to Recruit and Retain the AVF
Open Letter to Congress: Retired Surgeons General “Intervene on Medical Billets”
Table: Voting Records on NDAA and Bi-Partisan Budget Bill.

Additional information is available at this link to the MOAA website:

**Background on the Congressional Actions on these Important Pieces of Legislation**

**HR 2500 House version of the NDAA:** Despite having 365 co-sponsors for HR 533 - the Widows Tax Repeal Bill - when an amendment was offered by HASC Chairman Cong. Adams. to incorporate its language into the NDAA, all Republicans voted against it, including the 135 who were co-sponsors. That amendment however did pass.

No Republicans voted for the final Bill when it did come up for its vote following the urging of Mac Thornberry, Ranking Member of the HASC, to reject it.

The **Bill was passed and MOAA reported** “there is plenty good in this NDAA for the Military Community”

**S-1790 Senate version of the NDAA** This Bill easily passed the Senate with bi-partisan support by a margin of 86 to 8. Unfortunately, when SASC Chairman Inhofe introduced an amendment to incorporate the provisions of S-622 – the Widows Tax Repeal Bill, into the NDAA, that action was blocked by Sen Paul. S-622 had been co-sponsored by 75 Senators including Rubio, Scott, and if you can believe it, Rand Paul!

The major differences between the two bills are pointed out in the MOAA article above – the most consequential of is the top line spending of $750 billion in the Senate Bill vs. $733 billion in the House Bill. MOAA’s position on those differences is detailed in the Summer Storming Resource materials. One other difference to be resolved in the Joint House-Senate conference Committee is the provision in the House bill that prevents DoD from diverting any authorized funding to building the “Wall”.

**House Action on HR 3877 the Bi-Partisan Budget Bill.** With both NDAA's having passed, the President reached a compromise with the Senate and House for a Funding Bill for FY 2020 and 2021 that eliminates the potential for sequester, raises the debt limit and provides $738 billion for defense in FY 2020. [Note the difference in the top line spending from the NDAA levels.]

The House was first to act on the budget deal negotiated with Treasury Secretary Mnuchin, Speaker Pelosi, Senate minority leader Schumer, and Senate leader McConnell. Incredibly, 132 Republicans in the house voted against the bill even after Cong Thornberry said "This

Continued on next page
agreement undoubtedly makes our military stronger and more agile. This agreement has my strong support and I urge all of my colleagues to vote for it.” The Bill passed. And after that vote the House went into recess until Sept 9th.

Senate Action on HR 3877 The Senate took up the House Bill as is the case for budget bills and passed it 67-to-28 with a majority of the yes votes coming from the democratic side. Senate Majority Leader McConnell had touted the agreement ahead of the vote, saying “every one of our colleagues should actually vote for it. This is the agreement the administration has negotiated. This is the deal the House has passed. This is the deal President Trump is waiting and eager to sign into law. This is the deal that every member of this body should support when we vote.” McConnell and SASC Chairman Inhofe voted yes on this Bill. Senators Rubio and Scott (a member of the SASC) voted against it. It is expected the president will sign it this week.

Joint-House-Senate Conference Committee Our advocacy focus for Summer Storming should be the points in the talking papers asking for support to reconcile the differences in the NDAAs in favor of MOAAs goals. It may be easier to obtain a positive response from those who voted for the Bills [see the voting record on the materials posted to the FCoC website].

Remind those who you do get to meet that our constituency of 780,000 currently serving military and their families, military retirees and their dependents eligible for benefits, and surviving spouses and children -- all through their given patriotic service and sacrifice to our nation -- have earned the solemn promise made by President Lincoln in his second inaugural address to uphold the government’s obligation to care for the “widow and orphan” of the soldiers who have perished in battle.

What To Do Next
1. Send the suggested MOAA messages on Ending the Widows Tax and Protecting Military Medicine to our Senators and your Congressperson soon. It is very easy to edit the message to personalize it – maybe include a comment about their voting record.
2. Call the District and DC offices with the suggested call scripts found in the first link above.
3. Share this guidance with all your chapter members to make that “barrage” happen.
4. Set up a meeting with your representative/staff if at all feasible.

Hot Update August 7, 2019
“Nearly 70 Senators Call For Full Repeal of the Widows Tax in New Letter”

Both Senators Rubio and Scott are signatories to this letter
I must begin by congratulating the Tampa Chapter for the great job on the June convention. Chapter President Carol Zieres and her able team led by Lewis Van Dyke and Ruth Van Dyke did a fabulous job of putting together a superior event. There were many of the chapter’s folks involved in making things happen, and the teamwork paid off in spades. GREAT JOB!!

While at the convention, we were proud to have Lt Gen Dana Atkins, President and CEO of MOAA National make the presentations of the COL Marvin J. Harris Communications Awards. Florida again led the nation (Virginia was a distant second place). The Florida Council and fourteen of our chapters received either four or five-star awards for our newsletters and/or websites.

As I “snoop” around the different newsletters and websites of our Florida chapters, I see some outstanding products that could have easily won awards. But...awards packages were not submitted. Hmmmm. As FCOC VP and also as the President of the South Central Florida Chapter, I worked with Len Friedlander on the Council’s submission, and did the submission for my chapter. This involved about an hour and a half of work for each. An hour and a half to get the recognition so well deserved. Hmmmm. I recommend that you take a look NOW at the criteria for the awards. Some of the criteria are quite easy to adjust/adapt/adopt. And they will make your newsletter/website much better.

The same goes for your Levels of Excellence (LOE) awards package submissions. Take a look at the criteria. Take a look at what you do and how you do those things. Y/Our chapters are doing great stuff. Chapter leaders get up in front of their chapters and tell them all the great things they are doing...that they have great newsletters and websites. Well, why not take the little time required to put the awards package together? Send it in. Let an external evaluation board review the inputs. We don’t get IG inspections and don’t need them. But having an outside look at our products and processes is healthy and beneficial. Then you can tell your chapter that not only do you say you are great, but so does an outside evaluation board.

Come on!! Get the recognition you deserve for all your hard work and dedicated efforts!!

President Len Friedlander and I are already starting to put our thoughts together for the 10-12 January Leadership Forum/Workshop in Orlando. We are open to suggestions. We will be using the same hotel as last time—the Rosen Centre. They have provided great support and it is a good central location. Let us know your ideas. We don’t promise to incorporate everything you suggest—that would be impossible. But we promise to consider any and all ideas. Let us know.

I look forward to visiting more of your chapters in the upcoming months. I really enjoy these visits. It is great to see all the stuff you are doing first hand. Hope to see you soon!
Dear Readers,

Recently I was asked to be the Surviving Spouse Committee Member on the MOAA Florida Council of Chapters Board. I was pleased and proud to accept the appointment. I will do my best honor the commitment and make a noteworthy contribution. Thanks to all who offered recommendations and kind words of encouragement.

One of my duties on the Florida State level is to contribute a timely article to the COMMUNIQUÉ. My first effort addresses joining the Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter (SS-VC).

I just joined the Virtual Chapter myself on July 30. This was a telephone conference of SS-VC members from all over the States and two members of the National MOAA Board. I was sent an email with instructions for connecting and an agenda of the meeting. Connecting was easy.

What a great experience. Each member identified themselves and the Chapter they represented at the connectivity beep. Florida should be proud. There were many participants from our great state. There were over 40 participants from the West Coast, East Coast, South, and the Heartland. The program was informative and easily interactive.

The next Teleconference will be Tuesday, October 22, 2019 at 1 pm Edt. If you are not already a Virtual Chapter member, you should join now.

Instructions:
Go to www.moaa.org and sign in.
Scroll down to the very bottom.
Click on Site Map.
Scroll to the very bottom of the site map.
Click on Surviving Spouse under Family, then click on Join the Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter.
You will be connected to the Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter, Free Teleconference Call.
Download, then fill out the form and submit it.

A few days before October 22, you will receive an email from mssvc02@gmail.com. (Put this address in your contact list so you recognize it). The email will explain how to connect on October 22 and will include an outline of the agenda. The instructions are very simple. Just remember to push the mute button. You may wish to use speaker phone, as the meeting may last more than an hour.

Continued on next page…
Friends,

I have a question for you: How many friends do you have? Have you ever really thought about that? I don’t mean acquaintances, but friends. People you can depend on when times get tough—people with whom you have developed solid, positive relationships.

Many of us live such hectic lives that it’s difficult to devote the amount of time and energy good friendships require. As a result, those relationships suffer and we can feel ourselves growing apart. We’re often slow to respond to personal letters. We talk about getting together, but good intentions soon become lost opportunities, and before we know it four months have passed us by and we still haven’t spent any quality time together. All the while other demands on our time increase and the friendships move further down our list. We grow increasingly stressed and busy.

Recent medical studies indicate that good friendships are important to our health and well-being. In a study of 2,800 men and women over the age of 65, those with more friends had a lower risk of health problems and then recovered faster when they did develop a health issue. A Yale University study of 10,000 seniors showed that having friends reduced the risk of death by about 50% over a five-year period. Overall conclusions were that friends can help you reduce stress, improve the quality of your life, live longer, get a better job, expand your business, improve your marriage, and derive more joy from your life. It turns out that there is value to having friends over the long term.

The Christian scriptures remind us that friendship is a valuable thing to foster. “A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother” says the writer of Proverbs. And, “If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up!” says Solomon.

Have you been a true friend to a neighbor or acquaintance? Now is the time to begin, if you haven’t been. And now is the time to continue being a good friend if you have already been one.
2019 FCOC Convention wraps up successfully

By Lewis VanDyke
2019 Convention Chair

The 2019 FCOC convention, held at the Safety Harbor Resort and Spa 20-23 June and hosted by the Tampa Chapter, is now history. Feedback on the activities and facilities from those attending was very positive.

Thursday evening some attendees bussed over to the James A. Haley Veterans Hospital for a tour of the new virtual reality room and to attend the monthly Operation Helping Hand dinner honoring those wounded military receiving treatment at the hospital.

Friday was full of activities including presentations on local history, MOAA vacation opportunities, a wellness seminar and FCOC board meeting. That evening, LtGen Atkins conducted the formal awarding of Col Marvin J. Harris Communication Award winners. This activity was followed by the Presidents Reception where friendships were renewed and heavy hors d’oeuvres consumed.

Attendees then had an opportunity to experience Safety Harbor’s 3rd Friday festival on Main Street literally right outside the front doors of the Resort where there was dining, shopping and entertainment opportunities.

Saturday kicked off with breakfast and a presentation by RADM Silah, on the capabilities of NOAA, followed by a moving memorial service honoring those we lost in 2018.

The convention activities continued with a council business meeting and informative presentations by state and national MOAA representatives. Many took advantage of a great buffet lunch at the Resort while others sampled the local food restaurants or simply relaxed and took advantage of Safety Harbor Resort and Spa amenities.

Saturday evening’s events began with a social hour. Music and singing by the Sounds of Joy greeted everyone as they moved into the ballroom for the Military Gala. We were fortunate to have our own MOAA President and CEO, Lt Gen Atkins as our guest speaker.

At the conclusion of the dinner, many enjoyed music and dancing by the Joiner Quartet, while others simply enjoyed the camaraderie the weekend provided.

The weekend concluded with the Council board meeting on Sunday morning. Finally, as the Chairman for this year’s convention I would like to personally thank all of the Tampa chapter volunteers whose time and effort made the convention such a success.

Photos of Saturday evening’s festivities by Kimberly Howard are on the next page.

2019 FCOC Elected & Appointed Board

Northeast Area Vice President –
CDR Patrick Kluever, USN (Ret), Historic Mayport Chapter

West Central Area Vice President –
MAJ Carol Burgess, USA (Ret), West Central Chapter

Mid Central Area Vice President –
Lt Col Wayne Brown, USAF (Ret), Lake & Sumter Counties Chapter

Northwest Area Vice President –
Maj Gen Mike Snodgrass, USAF (Ret), Tallahassee Chapter

**East Central Area Vice President –**
MAJ Raul Gonzalez, NG (Ret), Military Officers Club of Volusia County

**Southeast Area Vice President –**
Col Paul Loschiavo, USMC (Ret), Palm Beach-Martin Counties Chapter

Appointed by Board to identified positions

FCOC Treasurer – Marilyn Leehan, Lee Coast Chapter (Replacing CW4 Don Courtney, USA (Ret))

FCOC Surviving Spouse Liaison – Patricia Green, Central Florida Chapter (Replacing Sherry Freese)

FCOC Rep to Florida Veterans Council – MAJ Lorraine Holland, USA (Ret), Central Florida Chapter (Vacant position)
Florida Department of Veterans Affairs Update

LTC R. Steven Murray, USAF (Ret.)
Communications Director, Florida Department of Veterans Affairs

New VA Clinic coming to East Pasco County

A June 7, 2019, groundbreaking ceremony took place in Zephyrhills, Florida, for a new 14,000 square foot Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) clinic, replacing the existing 4,500 square foot community based outpatient clinic (CBOC).

“As the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs (FDVA), we appreciate our federal VA immensely, and look forward to working with the VA in any way possible,” FDVA Executive Director Danny Burgess said.

The existing Zephyrhills, Florida CBOC was established in April 2006, and then relocated into a newly constructed facility adjacent to the local Florida Hospital. In 2008, the clinic added a Mental Health Annex. The new CBOC will provide Primary Care, expanded Mental Health services, Podiatry, Physical Therapy, Women’s Health, Telehealth, and a anticoagulation pharmacy, with many additional exam rooms in the 14,000 square foot facility.

Governor Ron DeSantis signed a proclamation designating August 7, 2019 as Florida Purple Heart Day to recognize recipients of the military’s oldest award given to combat-wounded veterans and encourage Floridians to honor their sacrifice.

Another CBOC opened in Riverview, Florida on May 21, 2019 and on June 6, a groundbreaking for a CBOC in New Port Richey was held. In addition, construction is underway at the Tampa VA Medical Center for a new private room bed-tower. It will have 96 medical-surgical beds and 40 ICU beds and is expected to open by 2023.

Section continues on page 13
LIFE IS EXPANDING AT FLEET LANDING.
Introducing our newest neighborhood,
Beacon Pointe at Fleet Landing.

“Fleet Landing is the best decision we ever made. And it keeps getting better with more opportunities to continue the life we love. Make plans to join us!”

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USN(Ret), Residents

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www.BeaconPointeFL.com
Governor Approves FY19 FDVA Budget

On its 30th anniversary, the Florida Department of Veterans’ Affairs continues to be the premier point of entry for Florida veterans to access earned services, benefits and support. The agency’s budget resulting from the recently concluded 2019 Florida Legislative Session was signed into law June 21 by Gov. Ron DeSantis and continues its legacy of excellence.

“I’m proud of Governor DeSantis, our Cabinet and legislature in supporting FDVA and the 1.5 million veterans of our state,” said Danny Burgess, executive director of the Florida Department of Veterans’ Affairs.

The legislature approved an agency budget of approximately $132 million for the state fiscal year beginning July 1, 2019. More than $120 million comes from trust funds established to support the agency.

Bob Asztalos named Florida Veterans Foundation Chair

FDVA Executive Director, Danny Burgess announced July 2, 2019, that the chief lobbyist for the Florida Health Care Association and retired U.S. Navy Senior Chief Bob Asztalos has been appointed chairman of the Florida Veterans Foundation. Former Chairman Mike Mason has been named Chairman Emeritus.

Asztalos has been active for years in legislative circles advocating for Florida’s veterans and the FDVA. “It is a privilege to work with such a dedicated group of people committed to meeting the needs of the veterans who have given so much for their country,” said Asztalos, upon his appointment. “Veterans have so many unmet needs and I look forward for the Foundation to be an even greater part of the solution.”

The Florida Veterans Foundation is the Direct Support Organization to the Florida Department of Veterans’ Affairs. The nonprofit Foundation, now in its 11th year, operates for the benefit of the Department, Florida’s more than 1.5 million veterans, and veteran service organizations.

Governor DeSantis signs two veteran-related bills

Save the Date!

Florida Council of Chapters Annual Convention 2020
29-30-31 May 2020

Host Chapter: Palm Beach – Martin Counties Chapter
Location: just refurbished Palm Beach Gardens Marriott

Engaging speakers, military ball, cocktail party

Also:
Climb the Jupiter Lighthouse
Kayak on the Loxahatchee River
Fishing in the Atlantic
Gorgeous beaches
Five-star shopping at the Gardens Mall*
Golf Tournament

You just might have to come early or leave late to get it all in!

*MOAA is not responsible for the destruction of any credit cards at the Gardens Mall...
A highly successful fundraising campaign allowed the MOACC Scholarship Corporation to present 10 scholarships to deserving young people at the July luncheon. This year’s winners and the institutions they attend are:

- Mackenzie Baysinger, Florida State University
- Sarah Bliss, Florida Southern College
- Charlotte Coon, University of Florida
- Forrest Dipert, Purdue University
- Christian Hayes, University of Northern Florida
- Cassandra Ketchum, Anderson University
- Keely Knudson, University of Florida
- Ryan Kressler, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
- Chad Schroeder, Georgia Institute of Technology
- Reagan Wilf, University of Florida

The June MOACC luncheon featured Sergeant First Class Melvin Morris, USA Ret., recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor. SSG Morris shared how this honor has impacted his life and explained how he has leveraged this recognition to help benefit his community.

SFC Morris was born and grew up in Okmulgee, Oklahoma and entered the Oklahoma Army National Guard in 1959. He later requested to join the active Army.

He became one of the first soldiers to don the “green beret,” at the command of President John F. Kennedy, in Fort Bragg, N.C. in 1961. He volunteered twice for deployments to Vietnam and received the Medal of Honor for his valorous actions on Sept. 17, 1969.
while commanding the Third Company, Third Battalion of the IV Mobile Strike Force, near Chi Lang.

Melvin Morris led an advance across enemy lines to retrieve a fallen comrade and single-handedly destroyed an enemy force that had pinned down his battalion from a series of bunkers. Morris was shot three times as he ran back toward friendly lines with the American casualties, but did not stop until he reached safety.

Initially, SSG Morris was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross in April 1970 for his extraordinary heroism during the 1969 battle. Within a month after receiving the DSC, he returned to Vietnam for his second tour. SFC Morris continued to serve for 15 more years, before retiring at Fort Hood, Texas in May 1985.

In 2002, the Defense Authorization Act called for a review of Jewish, Hispanic, and African American veterans of World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War, to ensure that no prejudice was shown to those deserving the Medal of Honor. Subsequently, the DSC awarded to SFC Morris was upgraded to the Congressional Medal of Honor, which he received from President Obama on March 18, 2014.

Morris, an honorary member of MOAACC, currently resides with his wife Mary in Cocoa, Florida. He is actively involved in the Medal of Honor Foundation’s Community Development Program which works with teachers to promote an understanding among students of the American tradition of liberty, the country’s military history, and patriotic values. Volunteers, using the Oral Histories of Medal of Honor Recipients, focus on how students can use these examples of courage, commitment, sacrifice, integrity, citizenship, and patriotism, to effect change in their own communities.

2018 MOAA Level of Excellence Awardees

**COUNCIL 5 STAR:** Florida Council of Chapters of the MOAA, Inc.

**EAST CENTRAL AREA 5 STAR:** Cape Canaveral Chapter; Halifax Area Chapter; Indian River Chapter MOAA; Treasure Coast Chapter; The Military Officers Club of Volusia County.

**MID CENTRAL AREA 5 STAR:** MOAA of Citrus County Chapter, Inc.; Kingdom of the Sun Chapter; Lake & Sumter Counties Chapter.

**NORTHEAST AREA 5 STAR:** Northeast Florida Chapter; 4 STAR: Historic Mayport Chapter.

**NORTHWEST AREA 5 STAR:** Pensacola Chapter, MOAA; Northwest Florida MOA, Inc.

**SOUTHWEST AREA 5 STAR:** Calusa Chapter; Charlotte Harbor Chapter; Military Officers Association of Sarasota, Inc.; South Central Florida Chapter of the MOAA; 4 STAR: Bradenton Chapter; Lee Coast Chapter, MOAA.

**SOUTHWEST AREA 5 STAR:** Palm Beach - Martin Counties Chapter of MOAA.

**WEST CENTRAL AREA 5 STAR:** St. Petersburg Area Chapter, MOAA; Sun City Center Chapter; 4 STAR: Clearwater Chapter; Suncoast Chapter; Tampa Chapter, MOAA.
Clearwater Chapter
By MAJ Robert J (Jim) Souders, USAF, Ret., Clearwater Chapter MOAA Drumbeat Editor

Clearwater Chapter Awards Annual JROTC Scholarships
As part of the Clearwater Chapter’s ongoing support for JROTC, two graduating Clearwater High School Marine JR ROTC cadets -- Cadet Commander Captain Noah P. Evans and Cadet Executive Officer Captain Maria Moreyra -- were awarded scholarships of $1,500 each. Both cadets will be attending college and were outstanding students. An additional cadet, Sergeant Ethan P. Campbell, was interviewed, but had joined the Navy and would not be attending college at this time.

Top right: (L-R): LTC Steve Hodges, USA, Ret; Cadet CPT Noah Evens; LTC Bob Behm, USA, Ret, Chapter President; Cadet CPT Maria Moreyra and LTC Dave Mason, USA, Ret.

Right: (L-R) ROTC Scholarship Recipients Noah Evans and Maria Moreyra

Historic Mayport Chapter
By Pat Kluever, President Historic Mayport Chapter

MOAA Foundation Grant Feeds Mayport Military Families
On 8 July 2019, volunteers from MOAA’s Historic Mayport Chapter gathered at the Mayport USO on Mayport Road to prepare and serve pizza, salad, desert, and drinks to about 300 military family members during the monthly “No-Dough Dinner.” The event was funded by a 2019 grant to the local Chapter from the MOAA Foundation.

The prep team of seven volunteers huddled at noon on the day of the dinner to chop vegetables for the salad bar; help set up chairs, and wipe down tables.

The team made short work of the items to

Continued on next page
At 4:30 p.m., the serving volunteers mustered at Mayport USO and two PizzaHut delivery vehicles arrived loaded with 100 pizzas in insulated containers. The cheese, pepperoni, sausage and mushroom pizzas were transferred directly into warming ovens in the kitchen.

The MOAA Chapter serving team joined for a picture, received their assignments, and helped prepare the various stations for serving dinner.

Vice President Bob Gall and Director Dave Rasmussen ran the drink station. President Pat Kluever took tickets at the serving window of the kitchen and communicated the requested type of pizza. Mary Kluever, Pam Medina, and Nancy Russel loaded pizza onto paper plates in the kitchen and served the dishes through the serving window. John Lones, Louise Lones, Maureen Gall and Tom Dames helped serve at the salad bar. Karl Price, Ursula Dames, and Jackie Mears covered the most important (to the kids) desert table.

The “No-Dough-Dinner” is restricted to active duty military members and dependents. Military families started checking in with USO Mayport administration at about 4:45 to receive their tickets for dinner and desert; red for pizza, drink, and salad bar and blue for the desert table.

Serving started around 5:00 pm and a significant line of military families had already formed. Serving during the first hour was steady; with families coming in groups for

Continued on the next page
Historic Mayport continued from previous page

Above: Mayport USO Hall during No-Dough-Dinner

dinner after the first hour.

Some children found choosing the type of pizza difficult, but no one had any problem choosing a desert.

Mike O’Brien the CEO of Greater Jacksonville USO stopped by to wish everyone well and make sure everything was going smoothly. Joyce Shellhorn and her crew at Mayport USO provided assistance where needed.

At 7:00 pm the Mayport USO crew swung into action to help volunteers clean up the kitchen and the hall. The joint clean up effort to wash serving utensils, stow equipment, sweep down floors, remove trash, and set up for the next days events went smoothly.

After the estimated 300 meals were served, the still warm extra pizzas were taken to the gate guards on duty at Naval Station Mayport.

In total the 16 volunteers from MOAA’s Historic Mayport Chapter logged 40.5 hours in support of this No-Dough-Dinner.

Historic Mayport Chapter is proud to serve the military families in the Mayport area in partnership with Mayport USO and with the support of the MOAA Foundation. With MOAA Foundation support we look forward to serving at least two more No-Dough-Dinners during the next year.

Photo credits: Pat Kleuver
Kingdom of the Sun Chapter
By Arlo Janssen, LTC, USA (Ret), Editor of the Sunbeams, KOS/MOAA

“Stuff the Bus” again a success

The “Stuff the Bus” (STB) campaign was the big summer time 2019 KOS Chapter project.

This year, the program was run by the Marion County Veterans Council. The Council provided 750 backpacks this year for assembling sets of school supplies for needy children.

COL Craig Ham, a KOS chapter member and a member of our KOS Board of Directors, is the current President of the Marion County Veterans Council. Other key KOS chapter players supporting the “Stuff the Bus” campaign were Lt Col Carol Walker and Kay Chandler. There were also a number of KOS volunteers that played a supporting role by handing out flyers at the front entrance of Walmart stores in Marion County.

The “Stuff the Bus” flyer listed the most needed school supplies. A special trailer or large yellow school bus was parked near the front of each store and then used to move the school items into storage.

The trailer is sponsored by the Triple Crown Trailers for the “Stuff the Bus” campaign.

Four different Walmart stores were visited on Saturdays, (July 13, 20, 27, and August 3). The last 2019 event for “Stuff the Bus” was held on Tuesday, August 6, 2019, and gathered school supplies at several Ocala downtown locations.
Lee Coast Chapter

By Marilyn Lehan, Secretary and Webmaster, Lee Coast MOAA

Lee Coast MOAA Honors
Lee County JROTC

There are 7,247 cadets enrolled in the various Lee County JROTC’s – a figure which includes 27% of the high school population and 850 cadets in the Middle School Junior Leader Programs!

The Lee Coast MOAA Chapter was therefore proud to be well represented at the May 1, 2019, Lee County School District’s JROTC Award Ceremony. During the impressive evening, the achievements of outstanding cadets from the 15 Lee County High Schools were acknowledged with certificates, awards and scholarships. Various JROTC teams were recognized as State Champions and National finalists.

Thank you is in order to Chapter member and Deputy, Lee Co. Schools JROTC, Teresa Galgano, LTC, USA (Ret) who purchased the “MOAA Exceptional Potential for

Continued on next page
Military" medals. LTC Galgano and Terry Robertson presented one to each cadet from the high schools. They also presented $1,000 scholarships from the Lee Coast Chapter to the following five graduates whose objective is a military career, are in pursuit of a commission and are already enrolled in an ROTC program for this fall: Orianna Gonzalez, Navy at USF; Shemiah Lee, Army at FAMU; Alyssa Peters, Army at UNF; Casey Feist, Army at USF; and Woodson Coulanges, Army at FSU.

Leadership Education & Training (LET) awards were also presented. Mike McMahon was a presenter of the LET 2 for Superior Academic Achievement and LET 3 for Exceptional Leadership awards on behalf of the West Point Society. Gary Bryant presented the Let 1-4 DA Superior Cadet Awards.

The “Major General James L. Dozier Award” for the most outstanding graduating JROTC LET was presented by the General himself to the Cadet Area Commander. At that point, Roger Triftshauser was called to front and center stage. Roger was serious, speechless and totally perplexed. Chapter member Thomas Madigan, LtCol, USA (Ret), Director of Army Instruction, stepped forward to present Roger with the “Commanders Award for Public Service.” This well-deserved surprise not only honored Roger, but it also highlighted much of what our Lee Coast Chapter does for the County’s JROTC and living our “Never Stop Serving” motto.

The Lee Coast Chapter is also proud of sponsoring the Lee County Raider Challenge, which has apparently been good preparation for higher levels of competition. The State Champions were North Ft Myers Female Team and four other teams were in second and third place positions.
MOAA and NWMOA Chapter member Patt Maney, Brigadier General, USAR, Ret., and retired Okaloosa County Judge, is the 2019 recipient of the Disabled America Veterans (DAV) award for Outstanding Disabled Veteran of the Year. The award ceremony took place August 3, at the DAV’s annual convention in Orlando.

Maney was chosen from among dozens of nominees from throughout the nation. According to Ashleigh Byrnes, the DAV’s deputy national communications director: one thing that set Maney apart from the other nominees was the breadth of his work on behalf of veterans.

Brig. Gen. Maney was severely injured in Afghanistan in 2005 by an IED explosion that blew up a vehicle in which Maney was riding. All four people in the vehicle survived, but Maney was severely injured, including suffering traumatic brain injuries. He spent almost two years at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center recovering from severe head, neck, and back injuries.

Although the Army determined that Maney could not return to duty, he did eventually return to the judicial bench as a County Judge in Okaloosa County from which he retired in 2018.

Drawing from his own experience in recovering from his injuries, Judge Maney established a Veterans’ Court in Okaloosa County. This successful experiment led to the establishment of the State of Florida’s system of veterans’ courts through the 2012 passage of the T. Patt Maney Veterans Treatment Intervention Act.

General Maney also spearheaded development of the Okaloosa-Walton Homeless Veterans Stand Down in 2009 which continues today. Further, by 2011, his efforts working with the federal Department of Veterans Affairs led to a Okaloosa County Veterans Center which provides free services, including mental health care, to veterans.

Previously, Brig. Gen. Maney was inducted into the Florida Veterans’ Hall of Fame in 2018. On July 31, 2019 he was appointed by Florida Department of Financial Services CFO, Jimmy Patronis, to the Veterans’ Hall of Fame Council which oversees and selects Hall of Fame inductees.
AFSOC Change of Command

A Change of Command Ceremony for the US Air Force Special Operations Command (AFSOC) was held June 28 at Hurlburt Field. Lt Gen James C. Slife assumed command of Headquarters, AFSOC from Lt Gen Marshall B. “Brad” Webb. The change-of-command was presided over by General David L. Goldfein, Chief of Staff, United States Air Force. Also, in attendance was General Richard D. Clarke, Commandeer, United States Special Operations Command.

General Slife has had multiple assignments in the local area, including Hurlburt field. He received his commission via ROTC at Auburn University and was subsequently assigned to Hurlburt from July 1992 to July 1995 as an instructor pilot with the 20th Special Operations Squadron. He returned to Hurlburt in June 2002 as director of Operations, 20th Special Operations Squadron, and, again, from 2011 to 2013 as Commander, 1st Special Operations Wing.


We welcome General Slife back to our local area and congratulate him on his promotion to this distinguished assignment.

NWFMOA Members Achieve Life Milestones

NWFMOA’s July 11th, luncheon meeting, honored Lt Col Sam Lombardo, USA (Ret), on his June 12, 2019, 100th birthday and Doris Day on her July 7, 90th birthday. Both of these NWFMOA Chapter members are distinguished heroes in their own rights.

Sam Lombardo is a combat decorated hero of World War II, Korea, and Vietnam, with distinguished awards of the Silver Medal, Bronze Star (with 1 OLC), and the Combat Infantry Badge among other awards. At the luncheon, NWFMOA President Nick Marotta presented Sam with a Resolution from the Okaloosa County Board of Commissioners highlighting Sam’s military career and declaring July 12, 2019 as “Sam Lombardo Day” in Okaloosa County. He also received certificates of recognition on his century-mark birthday from Lt Gen Dana Atkins, USAF, Ret., President and CEO of MOAA National and from NWFMOA by chapter President Nick Marotta. A personal note was also received from Admiral Walter F. Dornan, USN, Ret., MOAA Board Chairman.

Continued on next page
Doris Day is the surviving spouse of Brig Gen George “Bud” Day and an American heroine who has served as a military spouse, businesswoman, and champion for the humane treatment and release of Vietnam POWs and MIAs. Doris was presented with a certificate of recognition from NWFMOA by Nick Marotta and a bouquet of flowers.

Left: The birthday cakes and flowers honoring Doris Day and Sam Lombardo on their 90th and 100th birthdays at NWFMOA’s July 11th luncheon. The cakes provided the desert for the luncheon buffet.

South West Central Chapter
By COL Mike Borders, USA (Ret), President

MOAA Grant Donated to Highlands County Veterans Council

For the third time in two years, the South Central Florida Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) was one of a small number chapters in the nation awarded the MOAA Foundation grant in the amount of $3750. The chapter added $250 and made the total $4000.

As in the previous occasions, the chapter donated these funds to the Highlands County Veterans Council for its Veterans Assistance Fund. This fund provides food and financial assistance to needy veterans in the community. With this year’s grant, the chapter has donated over $12,000 to the Veterans Council in the last two years.

According to local chapter president retired Army Colonel Mike Borders: “Helping our fellow veterans who are less fortunate is all about leaving no veteran behind. The first two iterations of the program proved invaluable, and we want to continue our support and assistance.”

Left to right: South West Central Chapter members John Harbough, Charlie Martin stand with Harry Marsh, President of the Highlands Council Veterans Council bearing the ceremonial $4,000 check. Chapter President Mike Borders is at right.

As an active member of the Veterans Council, the local MOAA chapter plays an integral role in the operation of the assistance fund.
Sun City Center Chapter
By CAPT B. Frank Kepley, USN (Ret), Legislative Liaison

**RADM Ron Silva and wife visit Normandy**

RADM Ron Silva, USCG (ret) and Beverly Silva represented the Sun City Center Chapter of the Military Officer’s Association of America (MOAA) on the MOAA National Chartered D Day River Cruise to Normandy on 9-16 June 2019. The cruise memorialized the 75th Anniversary of the D Day Invasion.

The group visited both Utah and Omaha Beaches, sites of the two landings by US Armed Forces on D Day.

LTGEN Dana Atkins USAF (ret), MOAA National President and CEO, laid a wreath at the Signal Monument on Omaha Beach (see attached photos).

The group also visited the Normandy American Cemetery at Colleville-sur-Mer on the bluff overlooking Omaha Beach and several other monuments and museums commemorating the D Day Invasion.

RADM Silva stated: “The visit to Normandy was a very moving experience for all.”

**Chapter wins prestigious MOAA Communications**

On June 21, local MOAA C (center) received two Five-Star Communication Awards for the SCC Chapter. He is flanked by MOAA National President and CEO Lt. Gen Dana Atkins, USAF (Ret), (right) and (left) Col Len Friedlander, USAF, (Ret), President, of the Florida Council of Chapters. The presentation took place during the National Annual MOAA Convention. It is the 3rd straight year that the local chapter has received a Five-Star Communications rating. The awards are for the chapter Website, created and managed by Jim Haney, MAJ USMC (Ret) and the monthly Newsletter published and edited by Frank Kepley, CAPT, USN (Ret).
Navy CAPT Richard Petrucci discusses Cuban Missile Crises

CAPT Richard J. Petrucci, USN (Ret) was the featured speaker at the June 5th luncheon held in the Florida Room in the Sun City North Side Atrium. Having entered the Navy at the time of the Cuban Missile Crisis, Dick provided the members with a comprehensive review of the details surrounding that event from its start to its successful conclusion. He also provided background on the unsuccessful “Bay of Pigs.”

A 1961 Naval Academy graduate he was designated a Naval Aviator in 1963 and served till 1986. Flying assignments included four tours in Patrol Squadrons including command of Patrol Squadron 26 in Brunswick, ME. He also earned subspecialty designations in Computer Science, Computer Systems Management, Anti-Submarine Warfare Operations, and Weapons Systems Acquisition Management.

CAPT Petrucci earned a Master’s in computer science from the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, CA and attended the Naval War College in Newport, RI.

After retirement from the Navy, he joined Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Company in Marietta, GA as a senior engineer. Following a second retirement, he moved to Tampa, and in 2002 he joined the faculty at the Sarasota Military Academy (SMA), the country’s first charter military high school, where he was Chairman of the Math & Science Department for three years.

Dick also holds the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the Civil Air Patrol where he served as Deputy Squadron Commander, Aviation Safety Officer, Aerospace Education Officer and Character Development Instructor for Cadets. He stays active as the Vice President for Education and Director of Youth Programs for the Sarasota-Manatee Council of the Navy League.
JAHVA Wins MOAA Foundation Community Grant

The Tampa Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) is most thankful to MOAA and the MOAA Foundation sponsors for selecting and supporting our local programs to assist military veterans. A $3750 2019 MOAA Foundation Community Grant was awarded to support the expansion of the Creative Arts Therapy program at Tampa’s James A. Haley Veterans’ Hospital (JAHVH).

The grant will support a more than $19,000 “wish list” for Music and Art Therapy needs including musical instruments to potter’s wheels, projectors, and laser-jet color printers.

The grant was presented to Hospital officials at a June 20, 2019 Operation Helping Hands dinner held in the JAHVH Spinal Cord Injury dining room. The dinner was attended by over 500 people, including MOAA members from the 42nd Florida Council of Chapters convention.

Dinner attendees were privileged to meet several combat wounded patients undergoing therapy and treatment at JAHVH. A tour of the JAHVH Art and Music Therapy Center and the CAPT Robert J. Silah Virtual Reality Room was also undertaken. Prior to the facility tour, COL Zieres met with Mr. Geoff Hopkins, Chief of Recreation Therapy, who also arranged for interviews with four patients with their permission.

The Creative Forces program began at JAHVH in October 2017. The Creative Forces/NEA Military Healing Arts Network is a partnership led by National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). The NEA works with the Department of Defense, Veterans Affairs and state and local arts agencies that serve the special needs of military patients and veterans with traumatic brain injury and psychological health conditions, and their families and caregivers.
The JAHVH is the first VA hospital in the nation to be a site for Creative Forces.

“This is a one-of-a-kind collaborative network,” stated Hopkins. The JAHVH has partnered with the STRAZ Center for the Performing Arts, the Morean Art Gallery in St. Petersburg, University of South Florida School of Dance, the Art-Thread Foundation, the Dali Museum, St. Petersburg College of Fine Arts - Tarpon Springs campus, and many others. Their efforts will continue to expand the extensive creative arts opportunities available to wounded, ill or injured active duty service members, veterans and their families.

One of the active duty patients interviewed was Mr. Nick Catinna, who has been undergoing therapy in the program for 10 months after suffering a Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). He was accompanied by his parents, Nick Sr. and Jan Catinna.

Nick shared his story on how the Art and Music Therapy program changed his life by giving him a renewed outlook through creative expression using poetry and art.

He is participating in a special art project, “The Mask” program, which he has been working on with his board-certified Art Therapist, Ms. Merrilee Jorn.

In the program, patients are given paint and a mask as their canvas. The masks are part of the initial patient evaluation and the image is shared with the rest of the interdisciplinary treatment team.

Before a small audience, Nick unveiled for the first time his own personal mask and explained, “The Mask program communicates how a ‘demon’ can affect a patient suffering from PTSD or TBI. The eyes catch a glimpse of my soul.” The Mask project is designed to help the patient remove the demon(s).

Creative Forces is placing creative arts therapies at the core of patient-centered care at 11 military medical treatment facilities around the country and is making a tremendous impact on the health and recovery of patients suffering from PTSD and TBI.
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The JAHVH Polytrauma Center is a product of Dr. Steven Scott, Chief of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitative Services, whose vision has become a reality, bringing together the three tenets of the Creative Forces Network: Clinical, Community, and Capacity.

The Tampa Chapter MOAA and Operation Helping Hands are pleased to be an integral part of the team that supports that vision by continuing to provide invaluable resources necessary for the sustainability of the JAHVH creative arts program.

“Helping Hands - Helping Heroes.”

West Central Chapter
By COL Jim Engelage, USA (Ret)
JROTC Coordinator, West Central Chapter

L to R: Major Carol A. Burgess, Cadet Promise Nelson and Cadet Angelina Tedemonti. Cadet Promise Nelson and Cadet Angelina Tedemonti of Hernando High School both received a $500 scholarship from Major Carol A. Burgess, President of the West Central Chapter #43 of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA). The scholarships were presented at the annual Hernando High School JROTC Awards Ceremony during recent ceremonies.

Cadet Tiana Hardy, right, Hernando High School, receives the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) Medal and Certificate for exceptional potential for military leadership from MAJ Carol A. Burgess, President of the West Central Chapter #43, Military Officers Association of America. The award was presented during the recent Hernando High School JROTC Awards Ceremony.
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](http://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

Submit 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

Advertise with Us!
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FORM

Per Issue
Placement Annual (6 issues)

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Notes: Annual is from Jan-Dec; six (6) issues published electronically on the 10th of the even month. Mid-year placement for a recurring annual placement can be at pro-rated annual rate for remaining issues. Remaining copy due dates for 2018 are: October 1 and December 1.
Ad placement in printed Annual Convention Program (June) is handled separately by Convention Committee; POC’s listed under Committee Chairs on last page of Communiqué

Amount: $____________ (make check out to: Florida Council of Chapters and mail, with this ad form, to: Polly Parks, Communiqué Editor, c/o SCFC of MOAA, PO Box 7841, Sebring, FL 33870.

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• Ad copy must be submitted by the first of the month of the month of publication; i.e. Feb 1 for the January-February edition. Please notify the editor in advance if you plan to change the ad copy.

Any further questions, please contact: Polly Parks, pparks@igc.org or 703-338-6881.
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The Communiqué is the newsletter of the Florida Council of Chapters (FCOC), Military Officers Association of America, and is published bimonthly: February, April, June, August, October, and December. MOAA, it’s Councils and Chapters are non-partisan organizations. The Communiqué is intended for wide distribution within the FCOC including Chapter Leaders and all Chapter Members in Florida.

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.