Over the past year I have had the privilege of visiting 15 Florida chapters and have come away impressed with the vitality, initiative, and volunteerism that I found. I would be fooling myself, and lying to you, if I said that every chapter in our state -- or even every chapter I visited -- was a “top of the line” Five Star Chapter.

But we are quite a bit better than we think we are – reaching out to the local community and the local veteran population, supporting the ROTC and JROTC organizations, and advocating with national and state representatives and senators for their support of military/veteran/family/surviving spouse-friendly legislation. And our chapters will find ways to fund projects that are beneficial to the community; witness that six of the 22 Community Outreach Grants awarded by the MOAA Foundation were to Florida chapters.

All of our chapters (and many veteran’s organizations) are, to varying degrees, experiencing the same issues (aging population, declining membership, need for volunteers, time constraints, etc.), and addressing them with a variety of methodologies with mixed results.

We have the opportunity on Jan 10 & 11, 2020 to get together – Florida Chapter Leadership & National MOAA Staff -- at the FCOC Leadership Seminar in Orlando to address Legislative Affairs Tactics & Techniques; Membership Marketing; Surviving Spouse and Personal Affairs issues, among others. Registration will close on Dec 15th.

Anyone who is breathing must know that Election Season is upon us as we are being inundated with political ads, and politics has taken over the newspapers, television, radio, web, and probably our personal communications. There’s no getting away from it.

In fact, we in MOAA talk about issues related to military and veteran legislation all the time. 
stress the word issues – as opposed to individuals or parties. MOAA is apolitical – we strive to work with legislators of all parties to perfect and pass legislation beneficial to military personnel and their families (past and present).

Please remember that we need to avoid engaging in partisan political activities – especially when it can be inferred that MOAA (or your local chapter) is either supporting or advancing the position of a single political party. I am not suggesting that we do not have the right to free speech. But, for various reasons, some of us may be identified with MOAA in our community, and it is incumbent on us to be conscious of our surroundings and act accordingly.

As this year comes to an end, Christa and I would like to wish everyone a very Special Holiday Season --- Christmas, Hanukah, Kwanza --- and a Happy New Year.

Len

January 10-11, 2020, Rosen Centre Hotel in Orlando

2020 Leadership Seminar Schedule

**Friday, 10 January 2020**
1300 – 1345 **Membership Update:** Kathy Partain
1345 – 1515 **Chapter Affairs:** Erin Stone, Patrick Kluever
1530 – 1700 **Legislative Affairs/Advocacy:** Rene Campos, Robert Bienvenue, Steve Murray
1800 – 1900 **Reception/Cash Bar**
1900 – 2100 **Dinner, Keynote speaker and LOE Award presentations:** CAPT Jim Carman, USN (Ret)

**Saturday, 11 January 2020**
0630 – 0800 **Breakfast:** Café Gauguin
0800 – 0810 **Welcome:** Len Friedlander
0810 – 0815 **Pledge of Allegiance:** Len Friedlander. **Invocation:** FCOC Chaplain Terry Robertson
0815 – 0900 **MOAA Update:** CAPT Jim Carman
0900 – 1000 **Surviving Spouse/Personal Affairs:** Barbara Smith, Patricia Green, Tom Nunnallee, Craig Smith
1000 – 1015 **Break**
1015—1130 **Marketing Training:** Kathy Partain
1130 – 1145 **2020 Convention:** Jacqui Morris-Hayes, President, Palm Beach/Martin County, Paul Loschavio – Convention Chair
1145 – 1200 **2021 Convention:** Troy Scott, MOAS Convention Chair, President, Sarasota Chapter
1200 --1330 **Lunch:** Café Gauguin
1330—1530 **FCOC Board of Directors Meeting**
1530 – 1630 **FCOC Area VP meeting with area chapter leaders**
1630 – 1700 **FCOC President’s Remarks, Q&A, Adjournment:** Len Friedlander
1700 – 1830 **Personal Time**
1830 – 2200 **Dinner – TBD**

**Saturday, 11 January 2020**
1030 – 1600 **Spouse Group Activity:** shopping and lunch, Premium Outlet Malls/Restaurant TBD

Hope to see you there!
As the 2019 legislative calendar evaporates, the FY 2020 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) remains unfinished -- like other critical pieces of legislation – principally the Appropriation Bills.

The answer to that question is: if Congress cannot agree on a robust NDAA, this work must restart as part of the 2020 legislative cycle. And that result supposes that the remaining spending for FY 2019 will be dealt with in another CR by December 20th (to avoid a government shutdown) to extend funding through next September.

A full year CR would stall any new starts that were agreed to in the NDAA bills approved earlier by both the Senate and House. This has a real and significant impact on military readiness and family matters, like housing improvements, and medical services.

As of December 5, the chairmen of the House and Senate Armed Services Committees are saying they are still hashing out differences between their respective chambers’ versions of the fiscal 2020 defense policy bill and offering conflicting opinions on when that work may end as the days in session dwindle. Lawmakers have been split on a range of issues from allowing the Trump administration to use defense funding to build a wall along the southern US border, to language related to the Yemeni civil war, transgender troops, and the creation of a Space Force.

• Late on December 4, SASC Chairman Sen. Jim Inhofe (R-Okla.) spoke with Trump and met with Defense Secretary Mark Esper the next morning. Some issues aren’t as resolved as he thought they were, he said.

• HASC Chairman Rep. Adam Smith (D-Wash.) sees Monday, December 9, as the last chance to come to an agreement before Congress runs out of time to pass a joint NDAA and take care of the bill administrative actions before lawmakers leave for winter recess and 2019 ends.

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The path forward for a positive result on these issues is clear:
1. House and Senate NDAA conferees must agree to legislation that includes this language.
2. The full bodies in each chamber must pass that legislation.
3. President Donald Trump must sign it.

At all stages, your voice is critical to ensure that our elected representatives don’t neglect these duties and do what’s right.

MOAA and other military advocates won’t let the issues at the core of the NDAA languish. Join them by once again sending an urgent message to your legislators.

Act now to ask your legislators to support an NDAA that will:
- Provide the long-sought repeal of the Survivor Benefit Plan-Dependency and Indemnity Compensation offset, better known as the “widows tax.” Ending this unfair practice will restore proper benefits to more than 65,000 military survivors.
- Ensure DoD plans that would cut 18,000 medical billets receive proper scrutiny, and that the voices of all those who rely on these providers for their care are heard.
- Protect military families staying in privatized housing from unsafe and unsanitary living conditions by giving them the rights and resources they need to have their concerns respected and answered appropriately.
- Require an independent review of plans to merge the commissary and exchange systems, a move that, if executed improperly or without full study, could degrade a hard-earned benefit for servicemembers past and present, and their families.
- Provide a “basic needs allowance” giving extra cash to low-income military families. This provision is aimed at decreasing the number of families who seek regular support from food pantries.

2020 FCoC Leadership Seminar

Invitations for the January 10-11 Leadership Seminar have gone out and reservation info is available on the FCoC web site http://moaafl.org/LeadershipSeminar.aspx.

Please don't miss this opportunity to get caught up on the latest from MOAA on our advocacy mission.

This year all the topical sessions are sequential rather than concurrent – this allows every member of the Council and Chapter leadership team to participate in all the sessions.
Three subjects to be discussed in the Legislative Affairs session are critical to our continuing Advocacy Mission to support the 770,000 currently serving military, their families, retirees and their dependents receiving benefits, and surviving spouses and children who reside in Florida.

1. You’ll hear from MOAA staff about the past year’s advances in terms of legislation to address the needs of those constituents, and the priorities for further improvements to address the unmet needs in 2020.

Continued on next page
As 2019 begins to slip away with 2020 just around the corner, it is a good time to consider a bit of chapter house keeping as well as goal-setting.

First, for many chapters, December and January are when gala dinners are held and new boards of officers and directors are installed. The outgoing board members will be relieved to have a little extra spare time. But this is also a time when board turnover can lead to “stuff” falling between the cracks.

New boards may be unaware of the need to file 990 forms with the IRS. For some chapters, this is a very simple exercise. Depending on whether the chapter is a 501.c.19, or a 501.c.3, or both, a variety of forms have to be taken care of.

And then there is the annual filing with the state of Florida in order to keep the incorporation status up to date. This takes only a few minutes on SunBiz.org, but it has to be done by May. And it may be that the tax-exempt status with the state is coming up for renewal. That is one more thing to check.

My point here is that the outgoing leaders cannot assume the incoming leaders know what this is all about. Don’t let the “administrivia” cause a problem. Make sure there is someone covering these items.

Oh, by the way, make sure the Committee Module at MOAA National reflects the leadership changes. Update your info on the Florida Council of Chapters (FCoC) website too. Oh yes, don’t forget about submitting your packages for Communications and Levels of Excellence (LOE) awards.

All of this is important, necessary, and essential.

Continued on next page
Second, during the board transition, pay attention to your goals. What does the new board hope to accomplish? What programs and activities need or deserve the most attention? What are your membership goals for the year? How do you attract and retain members? There is much more to consider in the way of goals, but do this early, or you might find yourself behind the bow wave.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the 10-11 January Leadership Seminar in Orlando. As one chapter president and area vice president (AVP) told his area leaders in a note, he learned more in two days in Orlando than he had in his first year as a chapter president. I highly encourage participation in this forum and workshop. You will learn a lot from the MOAA National representatives, you will learn a lot from your fellow Florida chapter leaders, and you will enjoy the camaraderie. A good time is had by all, and you come away with more than you went in with. I guarantee it.

Finally, I hope that each of you enjoyed a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday with your friends and family. I hope you enjoy Christmas, Hannukah, or whatever holiday you celebrate to bring in the New Year the same way. Never stop counting your blessings and remember to respect your neighbor and love your country in 2020.

Surviving Spouse Corner
Patricia Green, Surviving Spouse Liaison/Personal Affairs

**Preparedness**

Did you know that pensions paid at the beginning of the month are for that month? If your spouse dies on the 5th of a month, for example, you will need to repay most of the pension and social security for that month. Have cash on hand to cover that month's expenses and a few months forward until SBP and/or life insurance may be received.

Get a lot of official death certificates. I used more than 17.

Read credit card bills carefully. There may be automatic charges your spouse authorized. These charges cannot normally be removed unless the credit card company has a certified copy of the death certificate. Keep track of your spouse's credit cards and joint credit cards. You may want to close some of them. You will need a death certificate for this also.

Check how properties and vehicles are titled. There are legal distinctions. Discuss this with your spouse and a trusted advisor. If you have separate bank accounts, consider POD (payable on death) beneficiary options to simplify movements of cash. Again, you will need an official death certificate, sometimes for each account.

*Continued on next page*
Keep at least one joint bank account open. Your spouse may receive income, e.g. Royalties, commissions, repayment of debt, or others in the form of a check. This check may then be deposited into the joint account, if the source of the income is not directed to another person in your spouse’s will or trust.

Discuss these things now to open communication and decide on actions.

The death of a spouse is inevitable. Try to remove as much work and stress as possible when you are not overwhelmed by emotion.

**Treasurer’s Memo**

By Marilyn Leehan, mllFCOCtreas@gmail.com

As you look ahead to some year-end paperwork, perhaps you can dovetail your efforts as you collect your own chapter dues, to plan for the following deadlines:

**SECTION IV - COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION AND ACTIVITIES**

(Rev. Sept. 2010)

**II. ANNUAL DUE DATES OF COUNCIL**

The following due-dates have been excerpted from various sections of the Blue Book in order to assist those involved in carrying out the actions indicated.

**A. 1 JANUARY**

1. Roster Information Form (Blue Book Table of Contents and/or Hot News Link). Include names of President, Vice President, Secretary, and Newsletter Editor for upcoming year, even if they have not been installed. Number of members reported is as of 31 December of the preceding year. The number of members listed will be used for dues computation and for determining the number of delegates to the annual business meeting. Send the form to Council Secretary.

   NOTE. This form may also be submitted via the Council web site, [www.moaafl.org](http://www.moaafl.org), and selecting Blue Book/Roster Information Form. If information on this form changes during the calendar year, send a revised form to the Council Secretary.

2. Dues. Dues are required on this date and must be paid to the Council Treasurer by 1 March. To compute the amount due, multiply the dues approved by the Council for that year times the number of members reported on the Roster Information Form. Send dues to the Council Treasurer.

**B. 1 FEBRUARY**

List of Deceased Members and Spouses. List should include name, rank, and service of each Chapter/Club member and each spouse who died during the previous calendar year.

*Continued on next page*
(1 Jan-31 Dec). Rank should be indicated by the branch of Service’s accepted abbreviation.

Deceased spouses should be listed by name and "spouse of" (followed by member's rank, name, and service). Deceased auxiliary members should be listed by name followed by "AUX" or by category used by the Chapter/Club. These names will be included in the program for the Memorial Service at the annual convention. Send list to the Council Secretary.

I will email your invoices on January 1, 2020 and they will be due by March 1, 2020. The charge is $.75 (75 cents) per member on the 12/31/2019 roster.

Please note that as your new treasurer, your checks will be sent to the following new address: FCOC Treasurer, P.O. Box 60603, Fort Myers, FL 33906

Thank you.

There once was a little boy who wanted to meet God. He knew it was a long trip to where God lived, so he packed his suitcase with Twinkies and a six-pack of root beer, and he started his journey.

When he had gone about three blocks, he met an old woman. She was sitting in the park just staring at some pigeons. The boy sat down next to her and opened his suitcase. He was about to take a drink from his root beer when he noticed that the old lady looked hungry so he offered her a Twinkie.

She gratefully accepted it and smiled at him. Her smile was so pretty that the boy wanted to see it again, so he offered her a root beer. Once again, she smiled at him. The boy was delighted! They sat there all afternoon eating and smiling, but they never said a word. As it grew dark, the boy realized how tired he was and he got up to leave, but before he had gone more than a few steps, he turned around, ran back to the old woman, and gave her a hug. She gave him her biggest smile ever.

When the boy opened the door to his own house a short time later, his mother was surprised by the look on his face. She asked him, “What did you do today that made you so happy?”

Continued on next page
He replied, “I had lunch with God.” And before his mother could respond, he added, “You know what? She’s got the most beautiful smile I’ve ever seen!”

Meanwhile, the old woman, also radiant with joy, returned to her home. Her son was stunned by the look of peace on her face and he asked, “Mother, what did you do today that made you so happy?” She replied, “I ate Twinkies in the park with God.” And then she added, “You know, he’s much younger than I expected!”

Too often we under-estimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around. Let’s each try and change the life of someone by having “lunch with God” this week.

Gov. Ron DeSantis signed the annual Veterans Day in Florida Proclamation and extended a greeting and best wishes to all observing the national holiday.

Declaring that the flags of the U.S. and Florida be flown at half-mast during daylight on December 7, 2019, Gov. Ron DeSantis signed the annual Pearl Harbor Day Remembrance Proclamation.
2020 Legislative Session Convenes January 14

http://floridavets.org/news/veteran-legislation/ provides the following link to current veteran related legislation making its way through the system, though it makes no endorsement.


Official legislation tracking websites are:
Florida Senate: https://www.flsenate.gov/  Florida House: https://www.myfloridahouse.gov/

VA Clinic Groundbreaking in St. Augustine

ST. AUGUSTINE, Fla. – Gov. Ron DeSantis joined the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs today for the groundbreaking ceremony of a Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) located in St. Augustine. The Governor was joined by Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs Executive Director Danny Burgess, Congressman John Rutherford as well as local county and city officials.

“The groundbreaking and establishment of St. Augustine’s Community Based Outpatient Clinic has been a long time coming, and I’m honored to be a part of this project that will provide healthcare services and support for the men and women who have honored our country through military service," said Governor DeSantis. “I will continue to work to ensure that Florida remains the most veteran-friendly state in the nation. Our veterans will always have my support.”

The St. Augustine CBOC will provide an interdisciplinary team model directed toward health promotion, disease prevention, management of acute and chronic medical conditions, referral to specialty care and coordination of patient health care needs across the continuum. Services will range from physical therapy to podiatry, as well as post-traumatic stress disorder groups and military sexual trauma therapy.
Do you miss TDY?

Well-paid, Technical, Part-time Employment Opportunity for Motivated Retired Personnel

Leak Testing Specialists, Inc. (LTS) has well-paid opportunities for long term (yearly), seasonal employment that is well suited to motivated, early-retired persons or others who are available for employment in the late spring, summer, and/or early fall of the year.

Qualifications:
During the initial employment period, LTS provides paid training and technical development that equips the employee to perform this work effectively. This initial employment, training, and qualification are provided at the LTS, Inc. facilities in Orlando and Merritt Island, Florida.

Pre-requisites:
LTS, Inc. personnel are required to maintain qualification for access to the controlled-access areas of the nuclear powerplants. This includes, but is not limited to:
1. Nuclear utilities security evaluation. This is somewhat similar to a government clearance.
2. Physical capability required for admission to the controlled areas of the nuclear powerplant.

Current Positions Available:
LTS is seeking to add personnel for the following positions:
2. Liquid Dye Penetrant (PT) and Visual (VT) Weld Inspection Technicians and Trainees.

Experience, Training, or Skills:
Previous Training or Experience in the following areas is valued, although not required:
1. Nondestructive Testing, and Quality Assurance/Quality Control
2. Welding, Mechanical, and Electrical/Electronic Technology

Location & Time Requirements: LTS, Inc. facilities are located in Orlando and Merritt Island, however, seasonal employees can live elsewhere. LTS has several types of travel opportunities: Weekly travel positions. The typical workweek for these positions includes three nights away from home. There are also Project Assignment opportunities. These positions typically involve assignment to a nuclear powerplant or other location for periods of six weeks to six months.

About Leak Testing Specialists, Inc.:
Since 1995, Leak Testing Specialists, Inc. (LTS) has been a leader in high sensitivity leak testing for the nuclear power industry. Due to ongoing growth of our business, LTS is seeking additional personnel for long term, seasonal (part year) employment positions. http://leaktestingspec.com/

Interested? Contact Leak Testing Specialists, Inc. at info@leaktestingspec.com, or call (407)737-6415 and ask for Brad Shaw or Cyndi Reid.
TAKE THE HELM.
WHY DRIFT ALONG WHEN YOU COULD STEER STRAIGHT FOR PURPOSE AND CONTENTMENT?

Add your heart, mind and soul to a cause, or turn your energy to new passions and fascinating friendships in our welcoming community. Enjoy a lifestyle that surpasses expectations, and take confidence in a future that offers the unmatched advantages of Life Care. Explore the possibilities that await at Fleet Landing, senior living at its best.

Discover Fleet Landing and ask about our brand-new neighborhood, Beacon Pointe.
Call 1.877.915.0378 or visit www.FleetLanding.com
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...
Fort Stewart Retiree Council

Retiree Appreciation Day (RAD)

Keeping Soldiers for Life Informed

PRESENTATIONS FROM THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS:

- 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Stewart
- Dynamic Keynote Speaker
- Department of Veterans Affairs
- Department of Army Retirement Services
- MOAA - Legislative Update

Saturday, February 22, 2020
The Venue at University of Central Florida
12777 Gemini Boulevard North, Orlando, Florida 32816-8041
(Located behind the UCF CFE Arena)

Registration begins 8:00 A.M.; Presentations begin at 9:00 A.M.

Meet representatives from the below agencies during the RAD Information Fair, which will begin shortly after the presentations (1300 - 1600 Hours)

Hosted by Fort Stewart/Hunter Army Airfield, GA - Retirement Services Office

Walk-in registration can be accomplished at the event – “We” want you there!

Retirees from all service branches and their family members are also invited!

PLEASE NOTE: Handguns, knives and weapons of any type are not permitted in The Venue.
Missions and Memories

Del Smith, 98-year-old WW II Dive Bomber and fighter pilot, and South Central Florida Chapter member, preparing to take a flight in a Cessna 172 at the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) 1240 Aviation Development Center at the Sebring Regional Airport.

By John Rousch
Reprinted from Highlands News-Sun “Flightlines” column, 29 Nov. 2019

From time to time I receive an e-mail, text, or a phone call from folks in the area asking about aviation or commenting on a recent article. The following e-mail from Fred Carino set in motion a very special day last Saturday morning at the EAA Chapter 1240 Aviation Development Center on the flightline of the Sebring Airport.

“I am a retired naval officer (surface), member of the Military Officers of America Association (MOAA) and also curator of the Military Sea Services Museum here in Sebring. Through both organizations I have come into contact with Delbert Smith. Del served as a dive bomber and fighter pilot aboard USS Hornet CV-12 during World War II. I was honored to have him ride in the tow vehicle Monday in the Veterans Day parade as we pulled a replica of USS Samuel B. Roberts DE-413 downtown. On Tuesday, my wife and brother were honored to take him to see the new movie, “Midway”. Del is 98 years young but this movie was quite gripping for him. Afterwards I asked him what he thought of the film and he answered, "Very accurate. Too accurate in fact."

Del still drives and lives alone in Sebring Village (his wife of 66 years passed 5 years ago.). I haven’t asked him about it, but I think if someone suggested it to him, he might like to go flying sometime. And so, I am asking you if it would be possible to make this happen could we talk? I’d be happy to cover the fuel costs and get him out to the field, if this is something he’d accede to. Of course, I wouldn’t broach the subject with him without a green light from you.”

I was all too happy to arrange a flight for Del, and after a few phone calls it was all set for 9:00 am Saturday. Billy McCullers, President of the Heartland Flying Club would be the pilot, and Del would be in the co-pilot seat and fly the Cessna 172. Fred had sent his email earlier in the week which gave me time to announce the flight to my high school aviation classes. I encouraged them to come out and meet Del and hear some stories of his service and meet a veteran who was in the thick of the Pacific aerial war from aircraft carriers.

Like many, after the attack on Pearl Harbor, Del enlisted in the U.S. Navy and went into flight training though the Civilian Aviation Corps learning to fly in Piper Cubs. A progression of different bases and more advanced aircraft, he was soon practicing takeoffs and landing on aircraft carriers in Lake Michigan. The U.S. Navy converted two side paddlewheel lake ferries to aircraft

Continued on next page
carrier training ships. After that Del was off to the Pacific flying the Dauntless and Curtiss Dive Bombers off the USS Hornet CV-12 in the Pacific. I asked him what it was like to roll over in a high-altitude dive and face all the anti-aircraft fire. He said he was following his training and was too busy to worry about much else, he was just doing his job.

While on submarine patrol, he spotted a sub but before he could turn around and line up his attack it had submerged. The next day, George H. Bush was picked up by a submarine in the same area after ditching his torpedo bomber. Del felt it was the same sub, and how history might have changed.

Another mission required a long-distance attack on the Japanese fleet launched in the late afternoon. This meant that those returning would be low on fuel and must make a night carrier landing. When he returned, there were so many aircraft trying to land, he ran out of fuel, he didn’t make it back on the carrier. He ditched his plane next to a nearby destroyer, and he and his rear gunner were soon out of the water and on their way back to the carrier. He flew missions the next day saying he was just doing his job. All us were honored to meet Fred and Del, and for students Madison Murphy, Carson Danzey, and Anthony Colon, it was a unique history lesson.

Soon Del was off on his 45-minute flight with Billy. Upon his return, Billy said Del did most of the flying and was as smooth as silk and if he was a flight examiner, he would have awarded Del his pilot’s license right then. The last time Del was at the controls of an aircraft was 1951. Del still has the touch. We hope we can do it again soon.

Last Saturday was an example of how our EAA hangar is more than a place to hold classes, programs and pancake breakfasts. It can be a touchstone back to our history, a history that can be forgotten too soon in our fast-paced lives. If you go see the movie “Midway”, and I hope you do, please take time to remember and appreciate all the sacrifices the men and women of our armed forces who gave so much so we can have our lives today. After all, they were “Just doing their jobs”.

John Rousch is EAA Chapter 1240 President and is the Director of the Highlands Aviation and Aerospace Academy, a community partnership between the School Board of Highlands County, the Sebring Regional Airport, EAA Chapter 1240, and Career Source Heartland, and other community groups supporting youth He can be reached at johnrousch73@gmail.com, call or text 863-273-0522

Toys for the Salvation Army

From left to right, L to R: Mary Stephan, Salvation Army; South Central Florida Chapter of MOAA Toy Program Coordinator Glenn West; Annmarie Hesterlee, Salvation Army; and Mike Borders, SCF Chapter President, with just some of the donated toys for local children in the Highlands County area. The annual joint effort is facilitated by Tom Nunnallee, Chapter Legislative Chair, who is also Executive Director on the Advisory Board of the Highlands County Salvation Army.
Cape Canaveral Chapter
By Marilyn Sanford, MOAACC Public Relations

Passing the Torch
Veterans conduct ‘Fireside Chats’ with ROTC Cadets

The Florida Tech ROTC Panther Battalion recently conducted a camp field training exercise for cadets in Malabar. The field exercise included patrol base operations, squad tactics, day and night land navigation, and “fireside chats” with Army Veterans.

Four veterans were invited to share lessons, tips, and experiences they learned over their military careers with the cadets. The veterans—all retired members of the U.S. Army—were Command Sergeant Major Gary Baura, Lieutenant Colonel Bob Faulkender, Colonel Tony Deane, and Colonel Steve Bond. They shared their combined experiences of over 100 years of military service, stretching from wars and military operations in Vietnam, the Cold War era, Panama, Desert Shield and Desert Storm, to on-going operations in the war on terror.

Faulkender, Deane, and Bond are members of the MOAA Cape Canaveral Chapter (MOAACC) Speakers Bureau. The MOAACC Speakers Bureau offers a community service to area organizations and clubs by providing information on military service, patriotism, leadership, military and U.S. history.

“Over the course of our military careers, we all benefited from mentors providing us with hard-learned knowledge, guiding us, and sharing their experiences—This is one way we can ‘pay it forward’ with the future generation of Army leaders”, said COL Steve Bond. LTC Jimmy Crook, Professor of Military Science at Florida Tech, thanked the veterans for providing invaluable information to the cadets.

Space Coast Honor Flight
Circuit Judge David Dugan, MOAACC October luncheon speaker, shared his experience with the Space Coast Honor Flight. As a volunteer Board Member and Guardian Coordinator, Judge Dugan related the decades-long effort to enable veterans of WWII, Korea, and Vietnam to participate in this life-changing experience.

Continued on next page
The Space Coast Honor flight has been operating locally since 2011 and the chapter Good Deeds Foundation (GDF) has supported it for years.

The Florida Institute of Technology (FIT) School of Psychology currently sends graduate students, who are studying veterans and active duty military in health-related professions, to accompany veterans on these flights. Unfortunately, some students cannot afford the fee to be guardian escorts. Thus the three organizations came together at the luncheon, and the GDF presented a check for $2,000 to FIT to enable 5 graduate students to go on Honor Flights in 2020.

MOAACC Veteran’s Day Activities

For most Americans, Veterans Day is one day of the year where they are reminded to thank the nation’s veterans for their service as they go about their daily business. For members of the MOAA Cape Canaveral Chapter, Veterans Day is an opportunity to continue to remind Americans—young and old—why the nation stops on November 11th each year to remember and thank veterans and the serving military for their service and sacrifices.

As a community service, the MOAACC Veterans Back to Class (VBC) program and Speakers Bureau provide a outreach to the community. MOAACC support for the holiday started in September and continued through the Veterans Day week.

Twelve of the VBC volunteers spoke to over 2,300 students at 15 Brevard County high schools and four elementary schools about Veterans Day and the importance of service to the nation. The Speakers Bureau supported 12 additional events.

Capt Bill Muckler, USMC (Ret) said of the speaking experience: “One of the important things was seeing older veterans ‘light up’ when I thanked them for their service.”

Above: COL Jeff Rogers, USA (Ret) speaks to a group of veterans and non-veterans at Grand Villa in Melbourne for Veterans Day commemoration.

Right: Capt Bill Muckler, USMC (Ret) speaks in Melbourne for Veterans Day commemorations.
MAJ Rosenfield Receives DAR Medal of Honor

The Satellite Beach Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), presented MAJ George Rosenfield, USA (Ret) the group’s highest award—the Medal of Honor—at a Nov. 2 ceremony in Melbourne Beach. Rosenfield is an active member of the Military Officers Association of America, Cape Canaveral Chapter (MOAACC) and the Jewish War Veterans of America. On Friday, 8 November, Rosenfield was also recognized as the Jewish-American War Veteran of the year, and received a Quilt of Valor.

Citrus County Chapter
By COL Mark Bodenheim USAR (Ret), President, Citrus County Chapter

2019 Veterans in the Classroom a Resounding Success

The 2019 Veterans In The Classroom (VITC) program, managed by the MOAA Citrus County Chapter, placed nearly 70 veterans into over 370 Citrus County School District classrooms.

VITC presenters ranged from Marine Corps veteran Sunshine Arnold to 99-year-old WWII veteran William Toby Wing.

If you are a veteran and would like to participate in the 2020 VITC program, please contact COL Mark Bodenheim, USA (Ret), by email at: markboden@hotmail.com.
Collages (above and right) show the range of Citrus County 2019 Veterans in the Classroom participants and their rapt and grateful audiences.

**November features “Oldies but Goodies” Choir**

Right: the “Oldies But Goodies” choir, led by choirmaster Debi Shields (inset, right), presented a veterans patriotic choir program to Grand Living residents and MOAA Citrus County Chapter members at the Nov 14 meeting.

Left: MOAA Citrus County Chapter president COL Mark Bodenheim, USA (Ret), pins his 97 year old mother-in-law and WWII Army veteran, Ruth Johnson, with a Veterans Appreciation Week pin honoring female veterans, during the Nov 14 meeting at Grand Living.
Kingdom of the Sun Chapter
By Arlo Janssen, LTC, USA (Ret), Editor of the Sunbeams, KOS/MOAA

“On Top of the World” Veterans Park Dedicated

Over 800 participants attended the newly established “On Top of the World” (OTOW) Veterans Park dedication ceremony on Veterans Day, November 11, 2019. The new Veterans Park honors the resident veterans and creates a memorial to all veterans. Each branch of the Armed Forces is honored around the five-sided center monument with a pole for their respective service flag. The park recognizes POWs and First Responders with flag poles.

A number of KOS Chapter members attended the dedication with a few playing key roles in the ceremony. LTC Robert Irick, USA (Ret), the Senior Instructor for the JROTC program at the West Port High School, directed the JROTC Color Guard with the presentation of the Colors. LTC Arlo D. Janssen, USA (Ret), the Immediate Past President of the KOS Chapter gave the Pledge of Allegiance for the program. COL Aleks Brzezanski, USA (Ret), was seated in the front row as a special guest.

Indian River Chapter

The Pickled Pedalers of Indian River Colony Club collected loose change throughout the year to purchase 20 bicycles for donation to the Marine Corps Toys for Tots program. “What a joy to imagine 20 surprised and happy kids on Christmas,” said Pedaler Gloria Zannis. "This annual tradition of buying and donating bikes is rewarding for all of the Pickled Pedalers.”
Southwest Florida Chapter
By Susan Farr, President, Southwest Florida Chapter

Veteran’s Day

On Veteran’s Day, Rear Admiral Wilmot was the keynote speaker at the Community School of Naples “Through their Eyes” Veterans Project, which celebrated a remarkable collection of art and words. Created by students, faculty, family, and friends the portraits and accompanying biographies are a tribute to service, commitment, and sacrifice. Over 400 veterans and families attended the event.

Save the date!

53rd Annual Military Ball

The 53rd Military Ball will take place on Saturday, February 22nd, 2020 at the Vanderbilt Country Club, Naples, FL. Theme: Victory in Europe. Cost: $100 per person. For more information, e-mail: info@moaswf.org or Susan Farr @ 239-246-6901.

All are invited. Hope to see you there!

Officer Installation set for January

The following veterans were elected to the chapter 2020 Board of Directors at the November annual meeting.

Susan Farr – President
Andrew Vallozzi – 1st Vice-President
Jack Fulmer – 2nd Vice-President
Treasurer – Benny Bennett
Estelle Rourke – Secretary
Neil Frost - Director
Jerry Johnson – Director
Tony Peguese – Director
Robert Perfetto – Director
Sun City Center Chapter
By CAPT B. Frank Kepley, USN (Ret), Legislative Liaison

Donations to My Warriors Place and MacDill 1st Sergeants Council

The Military Family Support Trust (MFST) and the Military Officers of America Association (MOAA) each presented a $1,000.00 donation to Kelly Kowall, owner of My Warrior’s Place in Ruskin, FL. In addition, MFST gave the MacDill 1st Sergeants Council $3,500 and MOAA gave them $1,000.00.

The donations were presented in the Sun City Center Freedom Plaza Atrium, on November 11, 2019.

Operation Warmheart, one of the many beneficiaries supported by MFST, is an organization that assists families in all branches of the military in time of need. One of its primary missions is to provide emergency grants to MacDill AFB members. They also provide various types of gift cards and gasoline and in general provide morale, health and welfare assistance to as many needy military families as funds will allow.

The goal of MWP is to honor, support and promote healing of the mind and spirit in a relaxed environment out on the water at no cost to that “individual.” To make a positive difference in the lives of those “individuals” who loved and cared deeply for a military service member who died while serving in the Armed Forces. It is intended to be a safe haven where healing can begin. MWP is supported through donations. The staff are all volunteers. For more information you can visit www.mywarriorsplace.org. It is located at 101 22nd Street NW Ruskin, FL 33570. Telephone number is (813) 321-0880.
Veteran suicides subject of November meeting

Gary Carlson, Suicide Prevention Coordinator, Riverview Outpatient Clinic, Riverview FL, with the James A Haley VA Hospital, was the featured speaker at the Sun City November 6 meeting. Gary Carlson is a retired United States Air Force Chief Master Sergeant and holds a Master of Science in Counseling and Psychology.

The difficult subject was VA suicides and what and how the VA is coping with them. He stated that veterans’ suicides are about 5% higher than non-military suicides. The patients that seek help are categorized into three categories; routine, urgent and emergent and he discussed how the VA deals with each type. They are evaluated and treated by multidisciplinary teams. Once the individuals are stabilized, they are contacted weekly to try and assess their progress or lack thereof.

He noted that Vietnam veterans are the most difficult to convince of their need for treatment. They are afraid of the stigma associated with mental health treatment and how it might affect their job and personal relationships.

Although dependents and spouses are not eligible for treatment from the VA, they are provided with information and assistance in obtaining treatment from other sources. The veterans suicide crises number is 1-800-273-8255 (press 1).

His previous experience includes Program Manager, Command and Control Training and Education Center of Excellence, Quantico, VA; Program Manager/Plan of Instruction Manager for Theater Battle Management Core System (TBMCS) Force Level for the United States Marine Corp (USMC); Program Manager/Training Manager, Elmendorf Air Force Base, AK; and Program Manager for Theater Battle Management Core System (TBMCS).
Effective Communication, Part 2
By Col Paul Loschiavo USMC (Ret), South East Area Vice President

Communicating with the chapter is always challenging. If you are successful at growing your chapter, staying connected with everyone can be problematic. It’s a great problem to have.

Communicating by snail mail can be time consuming and expensive.

Email is simple, quickly delivered, and basically free. But, there are two major problems with email: we all get too much of it and some people change email addresses more often than they move.

Keeping track of email addresses can be challenging. On a computer, you simply create a group in whatever your email program is, then update it as necessary.

A simple way is to create a contact file for the chapter and keep chapter members’ email addresses in the notes section of the contact file — not the email section! When you need to send a blast email, just copy and paste all the email addresses into the "to" section of the email. Or, you can address it to yourself and paste the group contacts into the bcc: section, and everyone’s email address will be hidden.

Or you can explore commercial contact manager applications. In Palm Beach-Martin, we use Constant Contact. Our plan allows us up to 500 email addresses, unlimited blast emails, and one registration email per month. By paying for it annually, they charge us about $360 a year. Though I was skeptical when I first found out that we were using it, I’m now totally convinced it’s worth it. We have about eighty members, and thirty spouses, all with their own email addresses. We have a number of other groups, such as “prospects” and JROTC Instructors. As the chairman of the 2020 Convention, I have a group called “chapter presidents” and it’s how I’ve been sending out ads for the convention.

Constant Contact is not the only available software available. I belong to a sailing club that uses Avacado very effectively. There are literally hundreds. But the point I’m trying to drive home that using one of these systems is a great idea.

The basics are similar to the email programs. You start by loading each individual and their email address into the system. But then you create “groups” to whom you would send emails. One group would include all chapter members. A second could be just Board members. Another might be prospective members, and another just for the spouses. One person can be in just one group or every group. When you decide to send a blast email, you choose which group or groups will receive it. Many of the programs can do just about everything but set the table for your catered event.

Another advantage of commercial applications is customer support, which can vary, but ours has been excellent.

Contact me if you have any questions. My best email is MOAA.fcoc.sef@gmail.com.
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 COUNCIL COMMUNIQUÉ is distributed electronically to all our chapters, MOAA Headquarters in Virginia, and our influential contacts across the state of Florida.

The COUNCIL 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

Advertise with Us!

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
**The Council Communiqué**

**ADVERTISING ORDER FORM**

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<tr>
<td>Half Page (8” H x 3.5” W) or (4” H x 7.5 W)</td>
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Size of Ad: ___________________ # of Placements: _______ OR Annual: _______

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. Copy due dates for 2020 are: the first day of February, April, June, August, October, and December.

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.

Business Name: __________________________________________________________

Address: __________________________________________________________________

City: _____________________________________ State: ________ Zip: _________

Business Contact: ___________________________ Email: ___________________________

Tel/Cell #: __________________________ Fax #: ___________________________

- Submit PDF or jpeg file to: pparks@igc.org
- 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.
## Florida Chapters & Web Sites (if available)

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![MOAA Insurance Plans](image)
The Council 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.