I would like to extend to all Florida council and chapters members a very happy and healthy new year.

At my last message we had not yet taken the Florida Council Family and Friends cruise. I am pleased to announce that the cruise was very well received and financially successful. Unlike the conventions at sea, where most of us are used to having scheduled classes, but rather a scheduled ice breaker get together where everyone had an opportunity to meet other chapter members over a drink. I would be remiss if I did not mention our cruise directors, Larry and Linda Jackson, who not only coordinated the reservations, collected the funds, helped in the check in process and rearranged our dining seating, but also made sure that our group was very well cared for. I want to take this opportunity to thank both of them for an outstanding job. I will send out a survey requesting input for another Family and Friends cruise.

On January 8th and 9th we held our annual Leadership Forum in Orlando. Approximately 24 out of 43 chapters attended this forum. The enthusiasm I saw at the leadership forum was extremely gratifying. Many new chapter presidents in attendance were eager to return to their chapters to implement the many ideas shared with them. The feedback received from these chapters was positive with the emphasis on moving their chapter forward. I will be working very closely with all the AVPs and chapter presidents in the months to come.

At our Friday night forum dinner, we had 106 members in attendance. The new MOAA president Lt Gen Dana Atkins was our guest speaker, and he shared with us his vision for moving MOAA forward. We all miss RADM Norb Ryan, and I am sure that Lt Gen Dana Atkins will do whatever is necessary to continue MOAA’s success. This council will provide all the support he needs to accomplish his goals.

In the month of January, I had the opportunity to visit some of these chapters and their enthusiasm had not waivered. Their new leadership boards were still very eager to move the chapters forward in both recruiting and legislative involvement. We will provide all the support that we can as a council to help them accomplish their mission.

For our 2017 forum, I encourage all our chapters to attend. The 2017 forum will again be held in Orlando on January 27th & 28th. Please mark your calendars for this very important event. Remember, all chapter members are welcome to attend the forum.

As an advocacy organization, we somehow lose track of our purpose as a MOAA affiliate. We strive for increased membership not so we can fill our
President’s Message (continued)

dinner meetings, but so we can continue to be a powerful advocacy organization. As Admiral Ryan says it is all about numbers in Washington as numbers gain you access to Congress and the Administration. As your President I will have the honor to participate in "Storming the Hill" April 11, 2016.

Keeping this in mind our council legislative chair, Bob Bienvenue, has been working hard to insure that we receive the latest legislative updates from MOAA. Bob will disseminate this information to the local chapters where we encourage the local chapter membership to take action and write their congresswoman. To accomplish this, we ask that every chapter have an active legislative chair. If you have not reported who your legislative chair is, please contact Bob and provide him the name and email address of that person.

In May our council will conduct its annual convention in Lakeland, Florida. I encourage each of you to register for this event. The convention chair for this year is Gary Clark, president of Imperial Polk County Chapter, and he has a great convention planned. You can view the agenda on line at our council web site at www.moaaffl.org. See page 7 of this newsletter for details.

See you all in May

---

Dear Friend,

Today, I was thrilled to hear that the new VA nursing home in St. Lucie County will be awarded a $25 million construction grant in 2016 and is ranked as the eleventh highest priority state home project in the country by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Since taking office, I have been proud to stand with all of you here on the Treasure Coast to continually advocate for St. Lucie County to be home to this new facility. Even though we have more to do until this center is up and running, this marks an important step towards providing veterans of the Treasure Coast and surrounding areas the health care, follow-up assistance, and long-term care services that they deserve.

The new 120-bed facility will help answer the pressing need for a nursing facility in St. Lucie County and bring almost 200 jobs to the area. Our entire community deserves credit for their hard work and patience in getting us to this point, and I look forward to the day we open the doors of this much needed nursing home. In the meantime, I would like to keep an open dialogue with you. You may sign up here to receive my e-newsletter.

Sincerely,

Patrick E. Murphy
Member of Congress
Chaplain’s Message
Chaplain (Col) Charles Caudill, USAF, (Ret) Religious Activities

Dog Days

I have slowly realized that I have learned more theology from the dogs in my life than from all the religious professors, sermons and bible seminars I’ve encountered. I thank God for dogs. Therefore, I share this with all who have experienced the opportunity to love a dog and more importantly to have a dog love them. God loves us unconditionally and so do dogs.

When I was four years old my dream was to have a dog. That Christmas Santa Clause gave me a puppy. Sadly, we had to give this puppy away because he chewed everything he could find. It left an empty place in my heart that wasn’t filled until four years later. It taught me we don’t get everything we want.

Jeep came into my life when I was eight and became my constant companion. We slept together, went everywhere together, and played together. He walked me to the school bus in the morning and met me when the bus returned home in the afternoon. I still see Jeep waiting for me wagging his tail. He loved to wrestle and play with all my friends. One afternoon my father met me at the YMCA to tell me Jeep was dead. Our neighbor beat him to death with a rake, because Jeep was chasing his cat. Dad said we have choices: We could kill the cat, but that would make us as evil as the neighbor; we could make the neighbor pay us for damages, but no amount of money could replace Jeep; or we could forgive our neighbor and pray that he would find God’s love so he wouldn’t want to kill an animal again. Jeep’s death taught me that we will have untimely losses, but God’s love, guidance and comfort will always see us through.

The lessons my father taught me helped when I had to comfort my twin sons after their dog died tragically in an accident. After our family shed their tears, we held a funeral for our pet in the back yard to help give us closure.

Today, one of my joys is Cami, a 13 year old Cock-a-poo (Cocker & Poodle mix) that I got from the SPCA. My wife of 46 years died suddenly of a brain aneurism, and for two years I suffered loneliness especially at night. Nothing was helping until my sons suggested I get a dog. Also, my best friend told me the dogs at the shelter needed to be adopted or they were euthanized. So, he, his dog and I went to the shelter. She was in the last cage I saw. When I picked her up in my arms she wrapped her paws around my neck. I took her outside to see my friend and his dog, too. They bonded instantly. When I went inside to ask about adopting her she followed me back into “prison” and wouldn’t let me out of her sight. I adopted her on the spot and it was one of the best decisions I’ve ever made. She would lick the tears from my face when I cried and stayed with me everywhere I went. As an adult, I had made the statement that no animal would ever sleep in my bed, but the first night I brought her home she snuggled next to me to comfort me, and she still does.

Cami and I are growing old together, but she still teaches me about God’s love. Theology confuses many people but the reality of a pet clarifies God’s message to us. Pets teach children and adults alike about responsibility, abundant love, affection, aging, hope and the naturalness of death. The SPCA and many other groups are there to help us find a tremendous companion who can help us regardless of our age.

God loves us unconditionally and so do dogs.
MOAA will be asking for a lot of activity from you in the months ahead...

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS
Lt Col Bob Bienvenue, USAF (Ret), Legislative Chairman

URGENT
Send out these letters to the HASC and SASC Chairmen and Ranking Members TODAY

The February Military Officer Magazine included tear-out letters pre-addressed to leaders of the House and Senate Armed Services Committees.

The letters urge these leaders to preserve what works about military health care and focus on fixing what’s not working. They also include several important principles that should be followed in any military health care reform effort. The HASC and SASC staffs tell us that getting a big flood of letters to the leaders of these two Committees will be helpful in getting MOAA’s recommendations on the table.

If you haven’t already mailed out the two sets of letters in your magazine please do it today. Add a personal note on this issue to reinforce the importance of MOAA’s concerns on health care changes affecting military families. You can print out additional copies from this website: http://www1.moaa.org/legislative/

To supplement this effort asked of all 38,000 MOAA members in Florida, the FCoC has also asked the seven Chapters who have members who reside in the Congressional Districts of the three Congresspersons who sit on the HASC to send a similar letter to their eight district offices. These targeted Congresspersons are Jeff Miller (R-1), Gwen Graham (D-2) and Richard Nugent (R-11).

And next month, the MOAA Magazine will contain tear-off postcards on the same topic that MOAA wants all members (and spouses) to send to your individual representative and senators. MOAA is hoping that all 535 congressional offices in DC [and the 29 for Florida] will receive a flood of those postcards.

These three actions will be just the first salvo in MOAA’s grass roots campaign for what is expected to be a difficult year again on pay and benefits for currently serving service members, their families, retirees and their dependents, and surviving spouses.

And don’t think for one moment that these MOAA-recommended tear-out letters and postcards don’t count much in legislators’ minds. Nothing could be further from the truth. What the MOAA Government Relations staff knows from years of experience - and direct feedback from legislators and their staffs - that the volume of correspondence counts. When legislators get tons of mail on a topic, the vast majority aren’t going to ignore their constituents.

MOAA’s Top 10 Goals for 2016
- Ensure any TRICARE reform sustains top-quality care
- Prevent disproportional TRICARE fee hikes

MOAA Legislative Update:
http://www1.moaa.org/legislative/
Legislative Affairs, Continued

Top Goals (Continued)
- Sustain military pay compatibility with private sector
- Block erosion of compensation and commissary benefits
- Protect military retirement/COLAs
- Sustain wounded warrior programs/expand caregiver support
- End disabled/survivor financial penalties
- Credit Guard/Reserve call-ups for retirement purposes
- Improve spouse and family support
- Assure timely access to VA and eliminate claims backlog

*MOAA will be particularly attentive to activity during the year on the Hill regarding these Goals*

Challenges for 2016
By the time you read this article in the February Communique, the 2017 President’s Budget will have been released.

MOAA staff will begin analyzing the impact of the proposals in that Budget on currently serving and retired members and families and begin preparing fact sheets and brochures to articulate MOAA’s positions to Congress and the public.

In late March, congressional committees are required to submit their “views and estimates” of spending and revenues within their respective jurisdictions to the House and Senate Budget Committees. In essence, these represent requests for the budget levels needed to provide for the nation’s defense.

Another Pay Raise CAP below Civilian pay growth.
Although it’s not official yet, advance word indicates the Pentagon will propose capping the 2017 military pay raise below the average American’s for the fourth year in a row.

Based on the Employment Cost Index the military should receive a 2.1 percent pay raise next year. Instead, the Pentagon is proposing a 1.6 percent capped pay raise in its budget proposal. That may not seem like a significant cut, but it adds up to hundreds of dollars out of pocket for servicemembers over the course of a year.

The proposed 0.5 percent reduction in pay further expands the pay gap between the military and the private sector. The pay gap now stands at 2.6 percent. And if Congress passes the Pentagon proposal, the pay gap will increase to 3.1 percent.

MOAA strongly opposes this proposal. When military pay raises started being capped in past times of budget constraints, they continued until retention and readiness suffered. This unwise process generated retention crises in the 1970s and the 1990s. It is reasonable to project a similar impact from the current actions on pay. And at a time when other benefits are being impacted as well this will only heighten that drastic possibility.

Health Care Coverage Threatened – Cost Share Increases on the Table
Armed Services Committee leaders already tipped their hand in the 2016 Defense Authorization Act passed in November on where they will focus this year. The Report out in the Bill included the following passage:

*In order to modernize and improve the military healthcare system the conferees agree that all elements of the current system must be re-evaluated, and that increases to fees and co-pays will be a necessary part of such a comprehensive reform effort.*

As that language indicates, nothing about the current system will be sacrosanct when lawmakers examine TRICARE - and neither will your wallet.
Proposals in early 2015 recommended scrapping TRICARE altogether, forcing beneficiaries into plans similar to those of federal civilians, imposing significantly higher fees, and means-testing TRICARE and TRICARE For Life (TFL) benefits so beneficiaries with higher incomes would pay even more. All of those and others could be on the table again in 2016.

Never Stop Serving
MOAA will be asking for a lot of activity from you in the months ahead urging you to send your elected officials MOAA-suggested messages. We will need your help contacting Congress and urging them to do the right thing by servicemembers and their families on these and other important issues, especially for our 188,000 constituents in Florida.

Surviving Spouse Advisory Committee (SSAC)
Electronic Device Emergency Plan

We Floridians are reminded each season to have our hurricane emergency plan and supplies on hand. Good advice, but what about other emergencies in this time of accelerating array of electronic devices? Do you know how to access your spouse’s smart phone (password protected) to get needed telephone numbers or other information? Can you log in to each other’s email, bank accounts, or credit cards? In emergencies, immediate access to these and other digital information is priceless and should be an important part of your plan.

As a minimum, for each spouse you will need:

- user name and password for smart phone and email. The email account is of major importance since it is often the gatekeeper to various other on line accounts. If possible, memorize these two.
- user names and passwords for financial institutions, credit cards, insurance (life, health, auto, home owners, etc),
- PayPal or other on line payment accounts such as digital wallet
- data storage accounts such as Apple Cloud or Google Docs

Find a safe and easily assessable storage place. This can be elaborate such as the commercial Secure Safe or Legacy Locker which securely encrypts and stores your account information and passwords in one place. This is ideal for a long term “Digital Estate Plan.” For an emergency plan, you could simply use a locked file in your own home or an index card(s). Currently I use an old fashioned ”Telephone and Address Book.” I put only the name of the account in ink and use pencil for user name, passwords, security Q & A and other info. These last items seem to change more quickly than military friends’ telephone #’s and addresses. Make sure your spouse knows the location of this gem!

Your emergency “Electronic Device Plan” should not take you any longer than an hour. Do it now for each other!

Your Digital Estate Plan is far more complex and time consuming but worth exploring…
Convention Agenda Highlights

Friday, May 13, 2016
- Historic Summerlin Military Academy founded in 1887 as the first public high school located in Bartow, Florida, and attended by 500 high school cadets.
- Sun ‘n Fun campus & Central Florida Aerospace Academy.

Saturday, May 14, 2016
- Breakfast Lodwick Field Chow Hall.
- Polk Academies Displays & Demonstrations. Community support displays. Lunch.
- 1940’s, 1950’s, 1960’s Hangar Canteen Event—Swing Band, Swing Dancers, and more. Dig out your old uniforms!!!

Sunday, May 15, 2016
- Veterans Park Memorial Ceremony
- Salute to Veterans Sculpture Unveiling

Gary Clark, Colonel USAF ret.
Convention Chair
Gary@CPAlliance.com, 863-688-1725

Details and information visit:

MOAA Florida Council of Chapters Convention 2016
**Florida Council of Chapters**  
2016 Annual Conference  
13-15 May 2016

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### Registration Form

**Member Full Name:** ____________________________________  
**Rank:** _______  
**Service:** ____________________

**Mailing Address:** ____________________________________  
**City/State/Zip:** ______________________________

**Email:** _________________________________________  
**Phone:** _______ ________________________

**Chapter:** ____________________  
**Spouse/Guest: (First and last name):** ____________________

**Name on Badges: Member:** ____________________  
**Guest:** ____________________

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**Will Attend/Participate at Friday Summerlin Military Academy Cadet Review/Discussion**  
Yes___  
No___

### Convention Events

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<th>Number</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Summerlin Military Academy</td>
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<tr>
<td>President’s Reception</td>
<td>Fri</td>
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<td>All Hands Breakfast</td>
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<td>Lunch</td>
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<td>Hangar Canteen</td>
<td>Sat</td>
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**OR**

**Save $20 with Inclusive Convention Package**  
$140.00  
$ ________

### Total Convention Cost

$ ________

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**Convention shirts:** $35.00  
Ladies: SM M L XL  #_______  
Mens: SM M L XL 2XL  #__________  
(circle choice)

**pick up at convention**

### Grand Total  
(Convention and shirts) $ ________

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**Hotel Reservations**

- To make reservations call hotel directly or follow the link:  
- Indicate MOAA special rate.
- **Rooms will be held until the cutoff date April 17th, 2016**
- Mary Babylon, Sales Manager,  
  Hampton Inn & Suites, Lakeland South-Polk Parkway  
  3630 Lakeside Village Blvd, Lakeland, FL 33803  
  Tel: 863 603 7600  
  Fax: 863 603 7601

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**Imperial Polk County Chapter MOAA, 2016 Convention, PO Box 3911, Lakeland, FL 33802**
### 2016 MOAA Florida Council of Chapters Convention

**“Engage the Future; Appreciate the Past.”**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Start</th>
<th>End</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<td>Bus to Summerlin Academy</td>
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<td>CoC Board Meeting</td>
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<td>Memorial Service Brief</td>
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<td>Welcome &amp; Introduction</td>
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<td>CFAA Tour</td>
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<td>Bus to Hampton Inn</td>
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<td>Breakfast at Hotel</td>
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<td>1200</td>
<td>New Board Meeting</td>
<td>Hampton Inn</td>
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</table>
Bradenton Chapter Elects Officers
Don Courtney, FCOC Treasurer
Bradenton Chapter President

Installation of officers at the Bradenton Chapter dinner. Left to right: COL Gill Ruderman (First Vice), CWO4 Don Courtney (President), BG Richard Blunt (Second Vice), Joyce Harte (Outgoing President), Capt Jose Coco Valdez (Treasurer), CPT Laura Burks (Chaplain), Col Pat Newhall (Social Secretary)

Kingdom of the Sun (Ocala) Chapter Elects Officers
Arlo Jenssen, Chapter President

January 7, 2016 Installation luncheon for Kingdom of the Sun. Marc Oliveri, President, Florida Council of Chapters, installed our KOS Officers. The luncheon was held at the Ocala Elks No. 286 in Ocala, FL.

Left to Right...
Bob Morris, Director
Phil Johnson, Director
John Rose, Director
Bonnie Morris, Director
Ralph Spiller, Director
Betty Hayes, Secretary
Linda Byrd, Treasurer
Carol Walker, 2nd Vice President
Bob Schlegel, 1st Vice President
Arlo Janssen, President of KOS
Marc Oliveri, President of FCOC

Chapter Factors
February 2016

Working Weekend
Florida Council of Chapters Gets Down to Business

January 8-9, 2016
Orlando Hilton

Barry Wright, (above) Director of MOAA’s Council & Chapter Affairs, rallies the troops.

MOAA President, Lt. Gen. Dana Atkins, dinner speaker, chats with FCOC President Emeritus, John Morrison.

(above) FCOC Legislative Liaison, Bob Bienvenue, highlights MOAA’s goals.

Newly appointed FCOC Membership chairs, Mike Borders (L) SFL & Wayne Brown (NFL) present best recruiting practices from 2015.

MOAA President, Lt. Gen. Dana Atkins with FCOC President, Marc Oliveri.

East Central Area AVP Ernie Joy and wife, Ellie, sponsored the hospitality suite at the hotel.

The spouses enjoyed a shopping trip and luncheon planned by Ellie Joy (first row center right)
“Moving to Fleet Landing was a gift to our children – they know we are safe, secure and enjoying life while future assisted, memory or skilled care accommodations are on site if needed.”
—LtCo Richard & Karen Sturtevant, USAF(Ret)

You’ve led a career of distinguished service. Isn’t it time you enjoyed the same?

Explore life at Fleet Landing, where the social culture reflects its military roots while expanding to encompass retirees from all occupations. Fleet Landing is committed to excellence, dedicated to high-quality programming and devoted to relationships built on integrity and trust. Just like your distinguished career.

Come to Fleet Landing and experience a vibrant lifestyle that offers luxurious amenities, a wide range of fulfilling activities, and enjoy the camaraderie you’ll share every day by living at Atlantic Beach’s premier retirement community.

Call for a private tour today:
toll free 1.877.291.4484 or local 904.242.6560

One Fleet Landing Boulevard | Atlantic Beach, Fl. 32233 | www.fleetlanding.com/military
**NWFMOA Installation**

Scott Berry  
NW Area Vice President

The photos were taken at the installation ceremony for the Northwest Military Officers Assn (NWFMOA) on 1/6. The group photo also shows former chapter presidents in attendance. The older gentleman is Lt Gen LeRoy Manor, USAF (Ret) who used to be president of national TROA.

**South Central Florida Installation**

Mike Borders  
FCOC Membership, Southern FL

Here is a picture of the installation ceremony for the South Central Florida Chapter. This took place on 12 January. In the photo, Council President Marc Oliveri swears in our Board of Officers and Directors. From left to right, chapter president Mike Borders, vice president Ron Buckley, treasurer John Harbaugh, newsletter editor Bob Brooks, membership chair Ed Gadbois, and secretary Malcolm Johnson.

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**Chapter Factors**

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Restless Hearts: Five fallen heroes go home in search of closure.  
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Mayport Chapter Installation of Officers

John Snyder
FCOC Web Master

Names from left to right:
Pat Ivory, Chapter President and NE Area VP of the Florida Council installs the members of the Board for 2016. Left to right: Bob Frampton, Jim Snyder, Bob Bachmann, Carol Trentalance, Jim Dunne, Gale Ruskosky, Terri Ivory, Jerry Johnson, Jim Jandreau, Steve Souder and John Snyder.

Members of the Tampa Chapter 2016 Board

Tom South, Secretary

Front Row (Left to Right)
Maj. John T. Massey, USAF, (Ret); COL Carol Zieres, USA, (Ret); CW3 Bill J. Farrow, USA, (Ret); LTC Jim Griffin, USA (Ret); CAPT Robert J. Silah, USN, (Ret); Maj. Richard Tinsley, USMC, (Ret);

Second Row (Left to Right)
Maj. Fred (Scotty) Cleland, USAF, (Ret); LTC Charles (Chris) Hart III, USA, (Ret); CW2 Thomas South, USA (Ret)

Back Row (Left to Right)
CAPT Donald Dvornik, USN, (Ret); LTC Robert Swallesh, USA, (Ret); COD William A. Schneider, USA, (Ret); Maj Gen James Jones, USAF, (Ret)

Not Shown: Col Milt Steadman, USAF, (Ret)
Retiree Appreciation Day
Saturday, February 20, 2016
The Venue at University of Central Florida
12777 Gemini Boulevard North, Orlando, Florida 32816
(located behind the CFE Arena)
Registration 8:00 am; Event 9:00 am – 4:00 pm
Special Guest: SMA (Ret) Raymond F. Chandler III

Come enjoy a variety of speakers from the following agencies...
Department of the Army, Military Officers Association of America,
TRICARE and Veteran Affairs

Meet representatives from various agencies during
our Information Fair...

Hosted by Ft. Stewart, Georgia Retirement Services Office

Pre-registration desired, but can also register at the event, click link:
https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2016-retiree-appreciation-day-tickets-19551708687

www.facebook.com/ftstewartrso

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

ONCE A SOLDIER, ALWAYS A SOLDIER... A SOLDIER FOR LIFE
FCOC Cruise, December 5-10, 2015
Marc Oliveri, FCOC President
Ted Foster

Our purpose was to relax and have fun with family and friends; promote camaraderie among members who share MOAA's values and commitments; and raise needed funds to help support chapter recruiting activities. To encourage max participation, we selected a popular Western Caribbean itinerary out of Fort Lauderdale with full day visits to Belize and Cozumel.

2017 FCOC Convention at Sea
Tampa’s Superior Life Care Retirement Community offers spacious apartments and villa homes on 36 acres with resort style amenities and services. University Village is located just blocks away from the James A. Haley Veteran’s Hospital and in close proximity to the MacDill Air Force Base.

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

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Call (813) 975-5009 or toll-free (800) 524-5020 today.
Nominations Open for 2016 Class of the Florida Veterans’ Hall of Fame

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

TALLAHASSEE – The Florida Veterans’ Hall of Fame Council is currently accepting nominations for the fourth annual class of inductees into the Florida Veterans’ Hall of Fame. The nomination period is open until May 31, 2016. Anyone is permitted to nominate a military veteran.

The Florida Legislature established the Florida Veterans’ Hall of Fame to honor and recognize veterans, both living and deceased, for their post-military service to the state.

Those nominating a veteran will need to complete a nomination packet that can be downloaded from www.FloridaVeteransHallofFame.org. Nominations are based on established criteria including recognizing veterans who, through their works and lives during or after military service, have made a significant contribution to the state of Florida through civic, business, public service or other pursuits. It is not a traditional military hall of fame, as it focuses on post-military contributions to the State of Florida. Up to 20 individuals may be selected for induction into the hall each year.

“We are privileged to be one of only nine other states that can honor its veterans for heeding the call to public service after they leave the military,” said retired Army National Guard Sgt. Maj. Ray A. Quinn, chairman of the Florida Veterans Hall of Fame Council. “As we roll into our fourth class, we are reaching far and wide to get nominations for those who exemplify continued service, sacrifice and commitment to a greater cause throughout their lifetime so that we can honor them by inducting them into the next Florida Veterans’ Hall of Fame.”

Names honoring selected inductees are commemorated on a plaque in the Capitol Rotunda in Tallahassee. Since 2013, nineteen Florida veterans have been inducted into the Florida Veterans’ Hall of Fame.

“With nearly 1.6 million veterans and a proven track record of service to the country, the Florida Veterans’ Hall of Fame is honored to recognize those who have taken the passion of service one step further to make Florida a great state not only for veterans but for each and every Floridian,” said State Rep. Jimmie T. Smith, an Army veteran and vice chairman for the Florida Veterans’ Hall of Fame Council.

The Florida Veterans’ Hall of Fame Council, a seven-member advisory panel, is responsible for accepting nominations to be considered for induction into the Florida Veterans’ Hall of Fame. In selecting its nominees for submission, the council gives preference to veterans who were either born in Florida or adopted Florida as their home state. Each year, the council transmits its recommended list of nominees to the Florida Department of Veterans’ Affairs, which submits the nominations to the Governor and Cabinet, who will select the nominees to be inducted.

“Let us never forget our veterans, through whose selfless service and sacrifice we enjoy freedom and liberty,” said Mike Prendergast, executive director of the Florida Department of Veterans’ Affairs. “Help us recognize the contributions and talents of America’s finest.”

For nomination information, visit http://www.FloridaVeteransHallofFame.org.
Opening of 318-acre Cape Canaveral National Cemetery In Mims, FL
CAPT Mary B McLendon, USN (Ret’d)
Personal Affairs / Benefits
Article by Don Murphy, Cemetery Director
November 18, 2015

The latest opening of the brand new National Cemetery in Mims, FL this month signifies our nation’s on-going commitment to care, in perpetuity, for the men and women who served with distinction in the U.S. armed forces.

In President Abraham Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address, he said, “From these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion.”

It is a pledge the current and future employees of Cape Canaveral National Cemetery will renew daily as they provide each Veteran’s final benefit with the full dignity and solemnity that befits great service to our country. The new 318-acre cemetery will serve the burial needs of more than 163,000 Veterans in the cemetery’s service area for the next 100 years.

Cape Canaveral National Cemetery is a National shrine and a centerpiece for the community. It will serve as a gathering place on special occasions, especially Memorial Day, to pay tribute to the brave men and women who served our country during times of war and peace. The cemetery will also be a focal point for greater volunteerism in the community. Veterans and non-Veterans, civic groups and youth organizations can contribute toward fulfilling our nation’s final promise to maintain this cemetery as a national shrine.

Cape Canaveral National Cemetery is located at 5525 Highway 1, Mims, FL 32754. Phone: 321-383-2638.

Reprinted with permission from the Halifax Area Chapter, Officers Call Newsletter, February 2016
Bring the Wall to Flagler

Gary DeKay
Flagler County Chapter

The Flagler County Veterans Advisory Council is sponsoring the Vietnam Memorial Moving Wall November 11-13, 2016.

"Bring the Wall to Flagler"
Veteran’s Day Weekend
November 11, 12, 13, 2016
Flagler County Airport

Hosted by the Flagler County Veteran’s Advisory Council and the Flagler County Airport

Become a Sponsor or Make a Donation
For more information, to become a sponsor or make a donation
Contact the Flagler County Veteran’s Service Office – 386-313-4014
Make Checks payable to: “MOAA – The Wall”
Mail check to: MOAA – The Wall, P.O. Box 352495, Palm Coast, FL 32135
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA (MOAA)  
FLORIDA COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS (FCOC)

The MOAA Florida Council of Chapters (FCOC) is comprised of 43 Chapters with nearly 8,000 members and their families. FCOC is one of MOAA’s largest Councils which 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 *COMMUNIQUE* is distributed electronically to all our chapters, MOAA Headquarters in Virginia, and our influential contacts across the state of Florida.

The *COMMUNIQUE* 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 (pg 17).

Thank you!

FCOC

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**Submitting Articles and Pictures for *The Communiqué***

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

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

If you have questions about your submission, contact

Marty Brown
wb2vyk@gmail.com
336-601-1318
## ADVERTISING ORDER FORM (03-31-2011)

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**Amount:** $__________

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- Submit PDF file to: [advertising@MOAAFL.org](mailto:advertising@MOAAFL.org)

- Ad information must be submitted by the 1st of the month “preceding” the first month of publication.
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About Our Newsletter...

We’re on the Web!
See us at: www.moaafl.org/

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’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/. Opinions expressed by writers are their own, and may not express the positions of FCOC or the MOAA.