President’s Message
LTC Marc Oliveri, USAR (Ret)

It was a pleasure meeting many of you at the January 12th and 13th, 2018 Leadership Forum in Orlando, Florida. In addition to the many Chapter Presidents, Membership chairs, Legislative chairs, and representatives from South Carolina and Georgia councils in attendance, we were pleased to have Lt. Gen. Dana Atkins as our Friday night dinner speaker and Level of Excellence (LOE) award presenter.

Twenty five chapters in the FCOC family of forty four received the prestigious LOE awards presented by Lt Gen Dana Atkins.

My congratulation to all those chapters for their outstanding achievement.

Please review the winners and photos on an adjacent page. I should note that Lt Gen Atkins also received from the Florida Council it’s recognition for his outstanding leadership over the last several years as the MOAA national president.

The forum started on Friday afternoon with two round table discussions. The membership roundtable was headed up by Terri Coles, MOAA national director for Chapters and Councils, Mike Borders, FCOC Membership Chair South Florida and Wayne Brown FCOC Membership Chair North Florida.

On the Legislative side of the house, Rene Campos, MOAA national director of Government affairs and Robert Bienvenue, FCOC Legislative chair led the charge.

Both round tables were well represented, however, I must be frank by saying that more chapters should have been represented in all categories.

Many thanks to Joyce Harte, FCOC Surviving Spouse Committee Chair, for providing a comprehensive overview presentation of the committees new role on the MOAA National Board.

An organization such as ours cannot extend the influence needed in congress without chapter support. These leadership forums are intended to provide each and every chapter the tools needed to be a successful advocacy organization.

I draw your attention to this month’s Communiqué article by Robert Bienvenue, our FCOC Legislative chair. In it he highlights the upcoming annual event of “Storming the Hill”
and the preparatory work requested of each of the 44 chapters in the Florida Council of Chapters.

“Of the approx. 355,000 MOAA members only 77,000 are signed up for the MOAA email Legislative Update.”- and of those only 4,100 recently took action – POOR SHOWING.
Are you one of the 77,000 signed up members? If not, WHY NOT?

It does not cost anything extra but allows you to participate in our “CALL TO ACTION” alarm. Just like firemen responding to a call we to should be on alert answering the MOAA call. It is for you that MOAA exists and advocates every day.

Taking this preparatory work one step further, “At EVERY chapter meeting someone should give an update on the current Calls-To-Action and provide assistance to those who have not followed up.”

Keeping the membership informed should be a primary part of every regular monthly meeting. We stand for the pledge, we bow our heads for the invocation why not sit and listen to the latest legislative updates.

I will be calling on each chapter within the next couple of weeks to request your assistance in making this year’s “Storming the Hill” not only successful, but fruitful for our military.

I call on each of you to be actively engaged in MOAA’s advocacy mission.

Thank you,
Marc

Lt. Gen. Dana T. Atkins, MOAA
National President and CEO, assists
FCOC President Marc Oliveri in presenting leadership awards at the Orlando Leadership Forum.

2017
Level of Excellence Awards

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Act Now

**URGENT FCoC “CALL FOR ACTION”**

As of right now Congress is facing another deadline for funding government operations on February 8th. Their fourth Continuing Resolution for FY 2018 was passed in January, that time after a three-day shut down. *The blame game has been cranked up to a fever pitch!*

MOAA is increasingly concerned about the compounding impacts this series of 5 CRs is having on the morale of the military community including families. Read more about it here: [send the latest suggested message to congress](http://www.moaa.org/Content/Take-Action/On-Watch/How-Government-Shutdowns-Hurt-the-Military.aspx?utm_source=newsl</a>etter&amp;utm_medium=email&amp;utm_campaign=legis

In advance of that next funding deadline, the House Appropriations Committee reintroduced a bill on January 25th to fund the Pentagon for fiscal 2018. The House has twice passed their version of the Defense Appropriations Act for fiscal 2018, but the Senate has not voted on a defense spending bill because there has yet to be an agreement between the chambers to a budget deal that would set the top-line dollar figure for defense and nondefense funding. The underlying issue in the negotiations for an overall spending plan deals with the need to raise the caps (sequester limits) imposed by the BCA. The Democrats and some Republicans in the Senate want the see those limits raised for non-defense as well as defense spending. Conservatives are not budging on raising spending for non-defense Departments and Agencies.

Earlier this month, House leadership promised defense hawks and conservatives this vote on a defense appropriations bill in exchange for their votes on a stopgap spending measure needed to avert a government shutdown (HR 195, on Jan 22nd). But the bill that was introduced is [unlikely](http://www.moaa.org/Content/Take-Action/On-Watch/How-Government-Shutdowns-Hurt-the-Military.aspx?utm_source=newsletter&amp;utm_medium=email&amp;utm_campaign=legis) to be taken up by the Senate. It may, however send a strong message reinforcing that a deal to raise budget caps needs to be worked out.

Here’s what MOAA has to say about this mess:

“[the entire legislative] process is bogged down by politics, complicated by a lack of consensus on what should be our national priorities. While MOAA successfully remains nonpartisan, with a track record of support from both sides of the aisle, we are discouraged by the recurring ineffectiveness of closed-door meetings to grind out continued stalemates.

MOAA is concerned that, through this over-politicized process, Congress has been unable to uphold our national defense as a priority in its own right.”

Please share this Call for Action with your chapter members and reinforce the need to call your congresspersons, before the February 8th funding deadline, with an urgent message asking them to

“stop their petty partisan tactics and find a way to break through this current dynamic and fund our government through the end of this fiscal year, to include full appropriations for the FY 2018 NDAA. No more kicking the can down the street. Everything else should be on the back burner until this is done!”
As you start 2018, you should ask yourself a simple question: “has your chapter established membership, recruiting, and retention goals for the year?”

If you don’t set goals, you surely won’t achieve them! That sounds funny, but it really says something.

Set goals, work on them, and you will have something you can measure by the end of the year.

An important note is that MOAA National gives you credit for those members who pass away or move out of your area.

That is fine and dandy from a “Big MOAA” perspective, but your chapter membership could fade away and MOAA National wouldn’t count these lost members as “losses.”

So the bottom line turns out to be the bottom line: if you end the year with fewer members than you started the year, then your chapter is on a bad trend line.

That means you need to set more aggressive recruiting and retention goals. I will use the South Central Florida chapter as an example. We started 2017 with 52 members. We set a “net gain” goal of 6 for the year. That meant that we wanted to end the year with not less than 58 members. That meant that if we had lost 10 to moves, non-renewals, or deaths, we would have had to recruit 16 new members for the year.

We are a small chapter, so we figured that to achieve a net gain of 6, we would probably have to recruit at least 10 during the year—assuming some losses for the year. As it turned out, we did have one member pass away, but we retained all our members, and actually added 12 as a net gain for the year, giving us 64 at the end of 2017.

So have you set goals for 2018? If not, do so.

Then develop and execute a plan to end the year with more members than you started the year with.

Membership is not an end, but it is a means to achieving not only your chapter’s overall goals at the local level, but also helping to achieve MOAA National’s goals in its advocacy efforts.

We all know how important it is to “TAKE ACTION.” Members make this happen.

Mike Borders, mbor57@aol.com, 703-795-8776.
2018 MOAA Southeast Regional Council & Chapters Leaders Symposium materials now available on FCoC Website

This was the second year that the FL Council of Chapters hosted the combined regional MOAA Symposium with the FCoC Leaders Forum. I sent an email URGENT FCoC SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE on January 17th to all chapter presidents and LLs (as listed in the FCoC Data Base) with instructions on how to retrieve the materials from the Legislative Roundtable conducted at this event. If you click on the Legislative tab on the FCoC home page you’ll find them in the drop-down box under 2018 FCoC Legislative Update.

The Chapters’ Role in Storming-the-Hill

MOAA’s advocacy mission is a daily activity for many, especially those on the HQs staff. The annual Storming the Hill is the banner event in that mission. Members representing every state join with MOAA leadership and staff, the Board of Directors and Advisory Council members to walk Capitol Hill hallways meeting with our senators, representatives and their staffs. The work leading up to that event starts now and includes a concerted effort at the grass roots. Here’s what you need to know and do:

- MOAA’s Top-Ten Goals have been published in the January issue of Military Officer. The focus is on protecting career incentives – pay, allowances, retirement, healthcare, family support .... With a Quadrennial Review of Military Compensation (QRMC) already underway all these elements essential to the all-volunteer force are on the table. We must be vigilant to assure any changes/reductions do not negatively impact retention and readiness for an already stressed force. Here is the first CALL TO ACTION this calendar year to bring these concerns to our elected officials’ attention -- click on this link: http://www.moaa.org/Content/Take-Action/On-Watch/The-Core-of-Our-Nation-s-Military-is-the-All-Volunteer-Force.aspx?utm_source=Legis&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=QRMC

- Survivors of deceased military members forfeit part or all of their Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) annuity when they are awarded VA Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC). This loss of any portion of the SBP annuity is known as the “widows tax.” As a partial offset to this “tax” the FY 2018 National Defense Authorization Act makes the Supplemental Special Indemnity Allowance permanent at its current level of $310 a month with future increases indexed to inflation. However, lawmakers won't be able to do much more unless they're given the budget authority necessary to pay for ending the tax. MOAA is asking us to take the next step to get the House and Senate Budget Committees to give their counterparts on
the Armed Services Committees - who have jurisdiction over military survivor issues - necessary funding to provide relief.

Here is the second CALL TO ACTION of the year on this longstanding priority of MOAA:

http://www.moaa.org/Content/Take-Action/Top-Issues/Currently-Serving/Armed-Services-Committees-Need-Funding-to-End-%e2%80%9cWidows-tax%e2%80%9d.aspx?utm_source=Legis&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=EndWidowsTax

The reach of MOAA leaders and staff and their messaging into the grass roots of our membership is dependent on the chapters’ activism in promoting the Legislative Goals and advocacy mission. That is not going on as well as it could. Here are some stats that were shared at the Legislative Roundtable as part of the Leadership Forum mentioned above.

- Of the approx. 355,000 MOAA members only 77,000 are signed up for the MOAA email Legislative Update.

  We can do better

- Of those who do receive that email, approx. 4100 actually sent out the suggested capwiz messages during the critical past three months when the NDAA was stalled in the Conference Committee to reconcile differences between the Senate and House versions of that bill. During this same time period, the government was faced with three shutdown deadlines, none of which solved the problem of funding the DoD.

  We can do better advocating for our military and their families

The story to derive from this information is that our base IS NOT as engaged as we all might have thought. What's your action plan to improve on that?

  Here are some suggestions gleaned from reports on what some chapters are doing:

- At EVERY chapter meeting someone could give an update on the current Calls-To-Action and provide assistance to those who have not followed up.

- Report to your members on your Congresspersons’ co-sponsorship of MOAA’s “bill of interest” and on their votes during the recent weeks for legislation that MOAA is tracking. A great source for that is www.govtrack.us. It takes a little knowledge of what's happening on the hill to do this.

- Ask your members to make phone calls to the Washington office to question “why not” in reference to supporting our priorities. Try to always include letting them know that their 780,000 military connected constituents in Florida are disappointed in their lack of support, or are grateful for it, when that is appropriate as well.

- Close the loop on the second and third bullets above in your Chapter Newsletter. We all know only a small percent of membership goes to the meetings. Let the rest know too!

**PRE-STORMING Action Alert**

This year the actual date when our Council President, Marc Oliveri and his team will be visiting our Representatives and Senators at their DC offices is April 17th. During February he will be contacting all the Capitol Hill Offices of the Florida Delegation to request those meetings.

During March, I will send out an FCOC Legislative Update Email to all Chapter Presidents and assigned Legislative Liaisons, with a suggested letter to be sent to your local Representative’s DC and District offices announcing the planned visit by President Oliveri, and a general description of topics they will be asked to support. You might also receive a similar request through the MOAA Weekly Legislative Updates with a cap-wiz message that goes to their DC office. Sending multiple messages on the same topic does not lessen the importance of our requests, it only enhances it.

At your next Chapter meeting let your members know that this request for action extends to them as well. Then make sure you provide timely info to them to act on it.
Legislative Calendar for the first half of 2018.
As of right now Congress is facing another deadline for funding government operations on February 8th, after passing their fourth Continuing Resolution for FY 2018, this time after a three-day shut down in January.

Before this deadline the President will give his annual State of the Union address when he is expected to present his priorities for Defense spending that will be in the Administration’s FY 2019 Budget request expected to be released on February 5th.

As congress’s focus shifts to the priorities in the President’s address, congress’s focus will shift from the urgent business of funding the government and raising the debt ceiling. This same situation happened last year when congress passed several Continuing Resolutions going 215 days into FY 2017 before agreeing on an Omnibus spending bill for the remaining 151 days of the fiscal year, because of distractions driven by the President’s priorities.

We can expect that MOAA will analyze the President’s Budget Plan for FY 2019 after it is released and identify the provisions that do not adequately support the earned compensation and benefits for our servicemembers, their families, retirees and surviving spouses. You’ll read about those provisions in *Military Officer*, the weekly email Legislative Updates and in the FCoC Communiqué.

Please be actively engaged in MOAA’s advocacy mission in support of the 780,000 constituents (as listed just above) that reside here in Florida.

Legislative Report Card

In addition to issues that get rolled into the defense appropriations and acquisition bills, MOAA supports the following bills. This is where the Florida delegation currently stands:

**S 66 / Support** A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit certain retired members of the uniformed services who have a service-connected disability to receive both disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs for their disability and either retired pay by reason of their years of military service or Combat-Related Special Compensation, and for other purposes. **Senator Nelson: Not signed on; Senator Rubio: Not signed on.**

**S 143 / Support** A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit against income tax for amounts paid by a spouse of a member of the Armed Forces for a new State license or certification required by reason of a permanent change in the duty station of such member to another State. **Senator Nelson: Not signed on; Senator Rubio: Not signed on.**

**S 339 / Support** A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to repeal the requirement for reduction of survivor annuities under the Survivor Benefit Plan by veterans' dependency and indemnity compensation, and for other purposes. **SPONSOR: Senator Nelson; Senator Rubio: Signed on.**
Legislative Report Card
Continued from previous page

S 422 / Support A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify presumptions relating to the exposure of certain veterans who served in the vicinity of the Republic of Vietnam, and for other purposes. Senator Nelson: Signed on; Senator Rubio: Signed on.

HR 303 / Support A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit additional retired members of the Armed Forces who have a service-connected disability to receive both disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs for their disability and either retired pay by reason of their years of military service or combat-related special compensation. SPONSOR: Rep. Gus Bilirakis; Rep. Vern Buchanan; Rep. Neal Dunn; Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen; Rep. John Rutherford

HR 333 / Support A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit retired members of the Armed Forces who have a service-connected disability rated less than 50 percent to receive concurrent payment of both retired pay and veterans’ disability compensation, to extend eligibility for concurrent receipt to chapter 61 disability retirees with less than 20 years of service, and for other purposes. Rep. Ted Deutch; Rep. Matt Gaetz; Rep. Darren Soto;

HR 1384 / Support A bill to amend titles 5, 10, 37, and 38 of the United States Code to ensure that an order to serve on active duty under section 12304a and 12304b of title 10, United States Code, is treated the same as other orders to serve on active duty for determining the eligibility of members of the uniformed services and veterans for certain benefits and for calculating the deadlines for certain benefits. Rep. Kathy Castor; Rep. Brian Mast; Rep. Stephanie Murphy

HRA 92 / Support A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to increase the maximum age for children eligible for medical care under the CHAMPVA program. None

HR 93 / Support A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for increased access to Department of Veterans Affairs medical care for women veterans. Rep. Alcee Hastings

HR 102 / Support A bill to expand the research and education on and delivery of complementary and alternative medicine to veterans, and for other purposes. None


If your Congressperson is not yet a co-sponsor, has your Chapter asked them to SIGN-UP?

Information compiled from MOAA Legislative Action website, February 3, 2018: http://takeaction.moaa.org/
Valentine’s Day
February, 2018

The month of February seems to focus on “Valentine’s Day” when our thoughts turn to giving gifts to our loved ones. Most of us don’t remember how Valentines originated, so I thought I would review it for us.

Valentine’s Day started in the 3rd century when Saint Valentine was a Bishop in Rome under the rule of Emperor Claudius II. Claudius was having trouble recruiting members for military service. Men didn’t want to leave their wives and children because tours of duty could last from months to years. Claudius issued an edict that no marriage could take place in Rome, thinking this would solve the problem. However, Bishop Valentine defied the order and married couples in secret for which he was condemned to death. As Valentine awaited execution, his admirers would come to jail bearing notes and flowers. One ardent admirer turned out to be the daughter of a prison guard who used to visit him for hours at a time. On the day of his execution, February 14, 269 AD, Valentine wrote her expressing his gratitude for her love, support and friendship and signed it “Love from your Valentine”. In 496 AD Pope Gelasius set aside February 14th as a special day to honor Saint Valentine.

Reviewing my own journey to know the real meaning of love always seemed to accompany a tragic event in my life. It seems that it would be death that would teach me about love. It started with my dog, Jeep, when I was 10 years old. My love for Jeep was so deep that I felt I loved him more than I did my own brother and sister. He was my constant companion for over six years. One day my father called me out of the YMCA swimming pool to tell me Jeep was dead. He had chased the neighbor’s cat, and the neighbor had beaten him to death with a rake. Holding me, my Dad said we could ask for money, but no amount of money could bring Jeep back. He said we could kill the neighbor’s cats, but that would make us just like the neighbor. As he continued to hold me in his arms, he said we could have enough love for Jeep that we would not have any room for hatred. I cried long and hard, but it was the first time I really understood the intensity of love.

Next, was the death of my father and mother who both had a long dying process. Then my brother, whom I idolized, was killed while flying his airplane. Lastly, my wife of 46 years died suddenly due to an undetected brain aneurysm. There were no good-byes. She was the love of my life. Two weeks after she died, on Easter Saturday, I performed the wedding of a girl I had baptized. She was marrying a submariner who had pulled into the Norfolk, VA harbor and this was the only window they had to
Chaplain’s Message continued...

to get married. That wedding was the most spiritual and loving I have ever conducted.

From my personal experience, I learned that seeming tragedies are transformed into a deeper meaning of love. Here are specific aspects of love I want to share with you. Love gives without being asked. It is unconditional, and has no strings attached. Love means never feeling alone. It is tender and gentle, adventurous and affectionate.

Once you have truly fallen in love, you can’t fall out of it. So, on this Valentine’s Day, I wish all of you the gift of love.

St Pete Chapter Fund Raiser:
Convention Shirt Quilt

This lovely quilt, made from the shirts of previous FCoC conventions, will be offered in a drawing at the 2018 convention in Sanibel. This fund raiser is sponsored by the St. Pete chapter.

TICKETS: 6/$5:00

More Info? Contact Sherry Freeze, 727-641-5979
We looked at a number of communities, but Fleet Landing stood out for its friendly, welcoming atmosphere, elegant dining, beautiful grounds and proximity of medical and military services.

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

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

One Fleet Landing Boulevard | Atlantic Beach, FL 32233 | fleetlanding.com/military
2018 Leadership Forum Spouse Activity
Orlando / January 13, 2018

Laughter, Shopping, and Lunch!
North East Florida Chapter
LT David Mosley, USN (Ret), North East Florida Chapter Secretary/Membership Chair

North East Florida Chapter Awards Mrs. Johnnie Walsh the MOAA President’s Award

January 17, 2018: North East Florida Chapter President COL William Bransford presents the MOAA President's Award to Mrs. Johnnie Walsh in recognition of her many years of dedicated and loyal service to the Northeast Florida Chapter while serving as the chapter secretary. Mrs. Walsh expressed her deepest gratitude and thanks to the membership for the many years of support and friendship.

Bradenton Chapter

Col Mike Borders, USA (Ret), Membership Chair, South Florida presents Bradenton Chapter President, CWO4 Don Courtney, USA, Ret, with a FCOC leadership award at the Orlando January Leadership Forum.

Calusa Chapter

Col Mike Borders, USA (Ret), Membership Chair, South Florida presents Bradenton Chapter President, CWO4 Don Courtney, USA, Ret, with a FCOC leadership award at the Orlando January Leadership Forum.
Hello Members of the Florida Council of Chapters

It’s time to **Make Your Reservation** for our 2018 Annual Convention to be held 1-3 June 2018 at the Sanibel Harbour Marriott Resort in Fort Myers, FL. This promises to be a super convention with a line-up of distinguished guest speaker, starting with MOAA’s President, Lt Gen Dana Atkins, Coast Guard Admiral Thad Allen who directed the federal response to Hurricane Katrina, plus speakers from the VA, MOAA Staff, and Fort Myers Historical Society.

The setting is spectacular and we have been given a room rate of $139 a night, with free parking and no resort fee (and no taxes if you sign up through the FCOC site). The same rate applies if participants wish to register up to three days before or three days after the convention.

We have chartered the Sanibel Princess for a dinner cruise on Friday evening and our Military Ball promises to be fantastic with music from one of our favorite bands “La Croix”.

Please check out the FCOC website, [www.MOAAFL.org](http://www.MOAAFL.org), for more information and photos, and register online with your credit card.

More information will be coming in the April edition.
Citrus County Chapter Reports
CAPT Terri Harrison, USN (Ret)

At the January 2018 chapter meeting of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) Citrus County Chapter, members listen to Citrus County Commissioner Jimmie Smith’s presentation on issues/solutions affecting veterans in Citrus County. For information and a calendar of chapter events, visit the chapter website at: http://moaafl.org/Chapters/CitrusCounty/ or call the chapter membership chairperson, CAPT Terri Harrison, USN (Ret) at 352-410-9215

The MOAA Citrus County Chapter installation dinner at Citrus Hills Country Club on December 7th, 2017. Chapter member, COL Mike Prendergast, USA (Ret) and Citrus County Sheriff (inset, left), administers the oath of office to chapter officers and board members.

MOAA of Citrus County chapter president, COL Mark Bodenheim, USAR (Ret), (right) presents CAPT Tim Holme, USN (Ret) and his wife Joy, with four etched MOAA wine glasses containing CAPT Holme’s dates of service as the chapter’s president for two separate terms.
South Central Florida Chapter
COL Mike Borders, USA, (Ret), SW Area Vice President, South Central Florida Chapter President

L-R: MOAA Foundation VP Mike Turner and MOAA President Lt. Gen. Dana Atkins are presented with a donation to the scholarship foundation by SCFC President Mike Borders and CDR Fred Carino, USN (Ret), SCFC Vice President, at the January Leadership Forum in Orlando.

SCFC President Mike Borders presents SCFC Treasurer COL George L. Cajigal, USA (Ret), with a State Council leadership award for his efforts with the Vietnam War 50th Anniversary Commemoration program.

L-R: January 9, 2018, MOAA Florida Council President Marc Oliveri swears in the SCFC board for the 2018-19 term: Ed Gadbois (Membership), Bob Brooks (Newsletter), Mark Milia (Secretary), Fred Carino (Vice President), George Cajigal (Treasurer), and Mike Borders (President). Not pictured: Tom Nunnallee (Legislative Affairs), Linda Tuthill (Personal Affairs/Surviving Spouse Affairs).
**Kingdom of the Sun (KOS) Chapter Activities**

LTC Arlo Janssen, USA (Ret), Editor of the Sunbeams, KOS/MAOA

Starting the January KOS Installation Ceremony

L to R: Betty Hayes, Wayne Brown and Carol Walker

Installation Time for KOS
L to R: Betty Hayes, Barbara LaFleur, Wayne Brown, Carol Walker and Linda Byrd.

Kay Chandler near her “Stuff the Bus” station

**KOS Chapter Activities:** The “Annual Installation of KOS Officers” luncheon took place on January 4, 2018, to start our new year of activities and KOS meetings. Wayne Brown, the Mid Central Vice President, installed our KOS Officers for the year 2018. Bob Schlegel, the newly installed KOS Chapter President, and Arlo Janssen attended the Florida Council of Chapters Leadership Forum held at the Rosen Hotel in Orlando on January 12-14, 2018. Our KOS Chapter received a Five Star Level of Excellence (LOE) Award for 2016 at the evening banquet. This was our third Five Star Award in recent years. Kay Chandler received the Council Leadership Award for all her work on the Marion County “Stuff the Bus” program. The award will be presented to her at our KOS February 1, 2018 luncheon, which is held at the Elks Club in Ocala, Florida. The Distaff Luncheon is always a great program for our KOS Chapter members. The Surviving Spouses from our KOS Chapter will be honored at this luncheon. We have several KOS members interested in the 2018 Florida Council Convention set for June 1-3 at the Sanibel Harbor Marriott Resort and Spa.

**SNOWDEN’S STORY**

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

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

Lt. General Lawrence F. Snowden, USMC (Ret) passed away in February of 2017 generously leaving 50% of his book sales going to the Florida Veterans Foundation. To find the book: https://www.amazon.com/dp/098594384X/ref=sr_1_3?&keywords=snowden%27s+story

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

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

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

Click the link below for a summary of the bill:

https://www.votervoice.net/BroadcastLinks/KMvctjoVqtThgIcgr8UQO

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

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

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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 COMMUNIQUE* and our Website 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 COMMUNIQUE*.

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

Thank you!

FCOC

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

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

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

If you have questions about your submission, contact

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

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<tr>
<th>Size of Ad</th>
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- Submit PDF file to: advertising@MOAAFL.org
- Ad information must be submitted by the 1st of the month “preceding” the first month of publication.
Florida Chapters & Web Sites (if available)

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