President’s Message
Col Leonard Friedlander, USAF, Ret

January 2020 is behind us, and with it, the FCOC Leadership Forum in Orlando. 140+ members attended from 30 Florida Chapters, two Georgia chapters, one chapter from South Carolina, and National MOAA.

In past years the Forum had seminars on various subjects running concurrently and since some chapters did not have enough members attending the Forum to cover all the seminars, we conducted a summary feedback session for all attendees the following day. This seemed to be duplicative and time that could be better spent for other purposes. So, this year we tried a slightly different approach – conducting the seminars consecutively - enabling all the attendees to participate in all of the sessions and eliminating the need for a “summary” the next day. We have received positive feedback on this approach and plan to continue this practice going forward.

The Leadership Forum dinner speaker, MOAA VP Jim Carman, presented well deserved MOAA Level of Excellence Awards to 24 Florida Chapters and FCOC Leadership Awards to 23 very deserving leaders within their chapters.

Planning and implementing an event like this is not a casual undertaking, and I would like to thank the many folks and organizations who contributed their time and effort to make this Leadership Forum a success:

- National MOAA for sponsoring the Dinner; the National MOAA Team that presented the seminars in Orlando (Erin Stone, Kathy Partain, Jim Carman, Rene Campos, Amy Sylvester); and those that worked behind the scenes in Virginia (Terri Coles, Victoria Twyne, Rebecca Culhane).
- The Rosen Centre Hotel staff – especially Georgina Rodriguez who managed our room reservations and Nanette Negron who coordinated everything.
- John Snyder and Marilyn Leehan for their management of the website registration process and the financials respectively.
- Lorraine Holland and her crew from the Central Florida Chapter (Orlando) for an outstanding job stocking and managing the Hospitality Suite during our stay at the hotel.
- And finally, Mike Borders --- who you may have seen lugging

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projectors and screens up and down the halls — and our wives Diana Borders and Christa Friedlander who managed & coordinated attendee registration and meal ticket distribution.

Mike and I, along with Marc Oliveri, Rick Buchanan and Ron Birchall are preparing to head up to Washington DC for the 2020 Storming the Hill exercise on March 25th, and I would appreciate your assistance in this effort. In addition to contacting your representatives electronically, please take the time to visit their local office to discuss some of the key issues related to military pay, healthcare, and benefits that affect active duty, National Guard, Reserve, their families, and retired/former military constituents. I call on each of you to be actively engaged in MOAA’s advocacy mission.

The 2020 FCOC Convention, hosted by the Palm Beach-Martin Counties Chapter will be held at the Marriott Palm Beach Gardens May 28 – 31 2020. Registration is expected to be open on the FCOC website shortly. I sent a request to all the Chapter Presidents asking for their Chapter’s support of the Convention in two ways; purchasing an ad in the Convention Magazine and, most importantly by encouraging their members to attend this annual event.

Looking forward to receiving your ad ---and seeing you in Palm Beach Gardens.

Thank you for all you do,
Len

Eglin AFB and Avon Park Bombing Range added

VA releases updated DOD list identifying Agent Orange sites outside of Vietnam

Citing a November 2018 GAO Report (https://www.gao.gov/assets/700/695490.pdf), the VA has released an updated Department of Defense (DOD) list of locations outside of Vietnam where tactical herbicides were used, tested or stored by the United States military. The new sites include Eglin Air Force Base on the Panhandle and Avon Park Bombing Range in south-central Florida.

The April 2019 issue of the Communiqué included a reprint by the Northwest Florida MOA chapter of a March 26, 2019 WBUR “Here and Now” radio program on the little known and on-going consequence of “Agent Orange” exposure by civilian contract workers at Eglin AFB during the Vietnam War.

The VA press release quotes current Defense Secretary Mark T. Esper: “DOD will continue to be responsive to the needs of our interagency partners in all matters related to taking care of both current and former service members. The updated list includes Agents Orange, Pink, Green, Purple, Blue and White, and other chemicals and will be updated as verifiable information becomes available.”

Veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange or other herbicides during service may be eligible for a variety of VA benefits, including an Agent Orange Registry health exam, health care and disability compensation for diseases associated with exposure. Their dependents and survivors also may be eligible for benefits.
MOAA raises *Storm Watch* flag over potential military health cuts

*(Excerpted from several of the January MOAA Weekly Newsletters)*

MOAA’s advocacy efforts paid off with a fiscal 2020 National Defense Authorization Act provision halting military medical billet cuts, however the fight to ensure Military Health System (MHS) reform improves the military health care benefit is far from over. Despite concerns from advocacy groups, the recently enacted NDAA indicates Congress is not backing down on its vision for MHS Reform.

The 2020 NDAA included the following explanatory statement to the Department of Defense: *Over the past four years, Congress has enacted several provisions designed to guide the Department of Defense in implementing a major reform of the military health system to make it more effective, efficient, and less costly. ... The conferees expect the Secretary of Defense to fully implement the law and to accomplish these critically important reforms expeditiously.*

**What Is the Purpose Behind Congress' MHS Reform?**

For decades, various committees, commissions and federal government entities have issued reports highlighting a need to re-evaluate or restructure the MHS. With the FY17 NDAA, Congress directed a restructuring of the MHS designed to address a variety of problems with both medical readiness and the provision of beneficiary care. And, although numerous lawmakers have stated MHS Reform is not intended as a cost-cutting exercise, Congress has stated their objectives include greater efficiencies and lower total management cost of the MHS.

MOAA understands Congress is serious about MHS reform, and MOAA is serious about protecting the military health care benefit. We acknowledge and appreciate Congress’ intent to improve the MHS, but we must play a critical oversight role in the MHS reform process. We are
concerned DoD has so far approached MHS Reform as a *cost-cutting exercise*, without the focus on readiness and beneficiary care improvements Congress intended.

**MOAA’s 2020 health care advocacy efforts will be laser focused on ensuring MHS Reform improves care for beneficiaries while maintaining the value of the military health benefit.**

**Ongoing TRICARE Reform and Fee Increases**

There were **NO** TRICARE-FOR-LIFE enrollment fees or deductibles in 2020.

While Congress enacted **no new** programmed TRICARE fee increases in the FY 2020 defense bill, several previously scheduled fee increases took effect Jan. 1:

**Enrollment fees for retirees who entered service prior to Jan. 1, 2018.** TRICARE Prime: $300 (single)/$600 (family), up from $297/$594; TRICARE Select: No fee.

**Enrollment fees for retirees who entered service after Jan. 1, 2018.** TRICARE Prime: $366 (single)/$732 (family), up from $360/$720; TRICARE Select: $471 (single)/$942 (family), up from $462/$924.

**Retail pharmacy fees.** $13 for 30-day supply of generic, $33 for brand name, $60 for non-formulary (up from $11, $28, and $53, respectively).

**Mail-order pharmacy fees:** $10 for a 90-day supply of generic, $29 for brand name, $60 for non-formulary (up from $7, $24 and $53, respectively – an average increase of 25%)

**TRICARE Expands List of Drugs It Won’t Cover**
The Defense Health Agency has been excluding some prescription drugs from TRICARE coverage after the fiscal year 2018 National Defense Authorization Act included a provision allowing DHA to do so.

Now, drugs that DHA categorizes as “Tier 4/non-covered” are excluded from coverage under TRICARE. These Tier 4 drugs cannot be obtained at pharmacies at military treatment facilities. They also aren’t available through the TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery Program. **Tier 4 drugs are only available at retail pharmacies at full out-of-pocket cost to the beneficiary.**

While MOAA understands the rationale for establishing Tier 4 to improve formulary management, we are concerned about where this process is headed. We are monitoring Tier 4 drug reviews closely to ensure DHA follows congressional intent and moves to Tier 4 only those medications that “provide very little to no clinical effectiveness.” MOAA is pressing DHA to establish an appeals process for Tier 4 determinations.

Beneficiaries can find out all drugs TRICARE currently covers by searching the [TRICARE Formulary](#) or calling Express Scripts at (877) 363-1303
Grassroots Activism – the Foundation of MOAA’s Legislative Advocacy

Tip O’Neil, the longtime serving Speaker of the House, famously said “All Politics is Local.” By that he meant that elected officials need to hear and act on the voice of the people who elected them. MOAA’s Legislative Advocacy works under the same principle. The voice of constituents, the Grassroots, is the most influential voice in advancing the goals of MOAA when it comes to legislative matters.

To effectively be that voice each of us needs to be informed on the goals, when an action is needed and with what purpose. The broad scope of MOAA’s Goals are stated in the January issue of the Military Officer Magazine.

Often, before the bills that address the topics in those Goals are even introduced, MOAA asks us to send messages to our elected Representatives requesting their support of those Goals. This creates an awareness on the part of Congress of those matters that are important to the Grassroots and to our constituents – the Military Community.

As the Congress begins deliberations on the Authorization and Appropriations Bills, MOAA staff analyzes the specific language in the drafts in order to identify any potential impacts to the military community with regard to pay, benefits and family support (like housing).

Then the real work begins … requests start coming from MOAA asking their members to send messages advocating for or against the changes that emerge from the House & Senate Armed Services Committees’ deliberations.

We should expect those requests to start coming soon – and continue with some frequency leading up to Storming the Hill on March 25th.

Here’s how your voice can help in MOAA’s advocate Mission:

Read also “MOAA’s Six Tips for Engaging Congress”:
https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2020-news-articles/advocacy/moaas-6-tips-for-engaging-congress/

MOAA and the Military Coalition are the Voices of the Military Community – please watch for and follow-thru on the Action Requests that will be coming our way throughout the year.

Let us all be part of MOAA’s One Powerful Voice
January 18, 2020

Col Leonard Friedlander, USAF (RET)
8221 Deerbrook Cir
Sarasota, FL 34238-4383

Dear Colonel Friedlander,

As we close out a very successful year for our association, I want to reflect on some of our proudest boasts from 2019 and preview highlights of our 2020 program year.

First and foremost, I want to thank all of you for your help achieving repeal of the "widow's tax" in the 2020 National Defense Authorization Act. Every chapter member who answered a call to action, visited a legislator in their home office, stormed the Hill in Washington, D.C., or in some way raised awareness of this egregious injustice deserves to take a bow!

Our council and chapter members were center stage throughout this fight—most recently during the Summer Storm campaign last August. Thanks to your efforts, we were able to marshal 77 co-sponsors in the Senate and 383 in the House, and win approval of a phased repeal that will completely eliminate the Survivor Benefit Plan and Dependency and Indemnity Compensation offset by January 2023. No military or veterans service organization worked harder to eliminate the "widow's tax" than your association. This is grass-roots advocacy in action, and all of you—our volunteer leaders in the field—were essential partners in securing this win.

Other highlights from 2019 include our association being recognized as a "Top Lobbyist" by The Hill newspaper for the 13th consecutive year and the completion of a major renovation to our national headquarters that will help secure the future of our association for another 50 years.

In addition to our work together in Washington, D.C., several of our councils were instrumental in securing major legislative victories in their home states. Noteworthy achievements include the Arkansas Council championing a state tax exemption for military retired pay and survivor benefit plan payments; our Maryland Council helping to secure a $15,000 state tax exemption for the military community members over 55 years of age; and our Indiana Council leadership helping to win a phased exemption for military retirement pay.
I also want to commend Tom Robillard from South Carolina and Don Wolfinger from Missouri for spearheading a state-level legislative consortium to share best practices for state advocacy success across our association via periodic conference calls. If you or members of your leadership team would like join this consortium, I invite you contact retired Navy Captain Pat Williams at patw@moaa.org, who is coordinating headquarters support for state advocacy efforts.

Looking ahead to major events planned for 2020, we will be hosting three regional chapter leaders’ workshops to share best practices for chapter management, recruitment, leadership succession, and related topics, along with providing ample opportunities for networking with other volunteer leaders. This year’s workshops are scheduled for Kansas City, Missouri on May 1 and 2, Colorado Springs on September 25 and 26, and Louisville, Kentucky on November 13 and 14.

Additionally, our financial incentive programs in conjunction with USAA, MOAA (Mercer) Insurance, and Brennco Travel to supplement your council and chapter revenue streams will continue this year, as will our continued improvements to the Committee Module and other enhancements to more expeditiously share national membership data with our local chapters. Most importantly, I will look forward to welcoming the leaders of our 2019 Levels of Excellence award-winning councils and chapters to our annual meeting and LOE celebration dinner in Kansas City on October 23 and 24.

In closing, please accept my personal “thank you” for all you do to support our advocacy agenda, grow chapter and national membership, and serve your community in impactful ways. The national headquarters team is here to serve you, and we look forward to partnering with you in 2020 to continue efforts in strengthening our association.

Most sincerely,

Dana T. Atkins
I know Len has talked about it, but I wanted to comment on the recent Leadership Forum held in Orlando on 10 and 11 January. This was a well-attended, educational, and informative affair. We had great representation from MOAA National, the Florida Council of Chapters, and chapter leaders from all around the state. We also had representatives from the Georgia and South Carolina state councils. Some 140 attended in all. The Central Florida chapter (Orlando area) did us all a favor by operating the hospitality room (great job!).

The presentations by MOAA National and other participants were very useful and should help us all be better leaders for the FCOC and our chapters. I was asked by one participant why we do the January forum + the convention in the summer. I cannot speak for everyone, but I have been attending these things for five years now. I learn something new every time I attend. Some of you are clearly smarter than I am and may not need to attend either the January forum or the convention or both. I find them to be very useful. I also try to take advantage of the smart people in the room from around the state, other states, and D.C. I always learn something from other chapter and council leaders. I know that much of what I have learned has been of great use to me in my own chapter in the Sebring area. I have taken “golden nuggets” away from every gathering. I highly recommend these events to anyone, especially chapter and council leaders and members.

I hope you took the time to submit packages for the Colonel Marvin J. Harris Communications award program. Len Friedlander and I, with major help from Polly Parks-Cajigal and John Snyder, also submitted for our FCOC website as well as for the Communiqué. We are confident that we had a good package. Take note that the Levels of Excellence (LOE) packages will be due in a few months; start looking at the criteria now. Submitting your chapter for awards is a great way to get the recognition you deserve, as well as to demonstrate to your chapter members that you are on top of things as a chapter board of officers and directors.

Finally, I encourage you to TAKE ACTION. I also encourage you to encourage your chapter members to TAKE ACTION. Several of us will be travelling to D.C. in March to “Storm the Hill” on behalf of all MOAA members in the state of Florida. Sending in those cards and letters, or taking action via electronic means is highly important. The “Widow’s Tax” didn’t go away by itself. It was a direct result of MOAA’s actions at the national level, coupled with the individual members’ actions that made this a reality. Give yourselves a pat on the back. But the work never ends, so please continue to monitor the MOAA webpage, our FCOC webpage, the legislative inputs you see in this newsletter, and other pertinent resources. Our promised benefits are under constant assault. Do nothing about it and you will wish you had.

Cheers,
Mike
The SBP/DIC offset, also known as the Widow's Tax, has been eliminated. That's the good news! The not so good news is that the devil is in the details. The change is not retroactive. The first adjustment in benefits is scheduled for payments starting February 1, 2021. And the adjustments will be phased in through the period ending December 2023. Spouses affected by this increase will be contacted directly since each situation is different and may be complex.

This is a significant achievement. When I joined MOAA in 2005, this was their number 1 legislative priority. In reality, it has been a much longer time that this inequity has existed. MOAA lobbying, input from other military groups, members notice and involvement, legislators' enlightenment, and perseverance finally accomplished the goal.

There is other MOAA news...not just for Surviving Spouses. MOAA.org has reorganized their website and it is very user friendly. To illustrate: Front and center on the home page there is a statement "I am a" (blank). Click there and down drop lots of options e.g., jr.officer, retired officer, Chapter leader, member.... Click on your situation or your interest, and relevant options are listed. In three or four clicks you can find what you need or what interests you.

If Surviving Spouse is your choice, I recommend you explore membership in the Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter. There is an application on-line. Complete it, then either mail or email the form. You will then be informed by email of an upcoming meeting, the agenda and MOAA input, the time and date, the telephone number to call and your pass word number. Just follow the procedure outlined in the email. There is a teleconference meeting every 2-3 months. If you need some help doing this contact me.

Treasurer's Memo
By Marilyn Leehan, mllFCOCtrea@gmail.com

Good Morning Chapter Presidents & Treasurers:

FCOC dues notices have been sent by E-mail to all of our Chapter Presidents, to forward to the appropriate chapter officer (Membership/Treasurer/designated authority) for payment. They were sent to Chapter Presidents as a way of confirming and/or updating our list of Chapter Presidents throughout the state. If you are a Chapter President who has not received your dues notice, please send me a note with your current E-mail address ASAP, as dues are to be paid by March 1st.

The number of members listed on each of the dues notices were taken from our Council website listing at www.moaafl.org and it may not match your chapter records. If this is the case, please

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cross out the number on your dues notice, re-calculate the amount due (by multiplying that member number times 75 cents) and list that as well. Please send a copy of the amended notice back with your check to me as instructed.

Next you will need to update your chapter membership number on our Council website. This is a good time to make any other updates, like new officers and committee chairs. Some of you have asked how this is done and I would do it for you if I could; however, only the authorized leadership person in each chapter with your password can do so.

My contact information is: PO Box 60603, Fort Myers, FL 33906. My email is: mllFCOCtreas@gmail.com and my mobile is 440-812-0100.

Thank you for your attention to this matter

Chaplain’s Message

By LCDR Terry Robertson, USN, Ret. terryrobertson49@gmail.com

Terry’s Treasure

If we took the same excuses we use for not practicing our faith and applied them to other important areas of life, we’d realize how inconsistent we can be in our logic. For example:

REASONS NOT TO WASH

1. I was forced to as a child.
2. People who make soap are only after your money.
3. I wash on special occasions like Christmas and Easter.
4. People who wash are hypocrites—they think they are cleaner than everyone else.
5. There are so many different kinds of soap; I can’t decide which one is best.
6. I used to wash, but it got boring so I stopped.
7. None of my friends wash.
8. The bathroom is never warm enough in the winter or cool enough in the summer.
9. I’ll start washing when I get older and dirtier.
10. I can’t spare the time.

Have you ever used a silly excuse for not practicing your faith? Let’s covenant together to be more regular in our practices and not use illogical excuses for not practicing. After all, Paul tells us to “not forsake gathering together” for the purpose of praising God.
Florida Department of Veterans Affairs Update

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

New Florida Veterans’ Newsletter

The Florida Department of Veterans’ Affairs is proud to announce a new monthly e-mail subscription newsletter, called Forward March. We are making great strides in enhancing direct communication with Florida’s 1.5 million veterans and their families, said MOAA member and FDVA Communications Director Steve Murray. To subscribe to our monthly newsletter, please click here.

Roy Clark tapped as FDVA Director of Legislative and Cabinet Affairs

Roy Clark has been named Director of Legislative and Cabinet Affairs for the Florida Department of Veterans’ Affairs by FDVA Director Danny Burgess.

“As a retired Army Colonel, Roy Clark brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to the Florida Department of Veterans’ Affairs. Following his distinguished military career, he established the legislative affairs office of the Florida Department of Military Affairs and years later worked for us in a similar capacity. We are delighted to have Colonel Clark back as our Director of Legislative and Cabinet Affairs,” said Burgess. “I look forward to working with him and having a successful 2020 Florida Legislative Session.”

FDVA Legislative Affairs Office:
Roy Clark
FDVA Legislative and Cabinet Affairs Director
Phone: (850) 487-1533, ext. 7723
ClarkR@fdva.state.fl.us

Florida Veteran Legislation Update

The 2020 legislation session is underway. The following links are provided for information. Inclusion does not imply endorsement of, support of, or opposition to any particular piece of legislation by the Florida Department of Veterans’ Affairs.

Florida Veteran-Related Legislation
Legislation Tracking Websites: Florida Senate and Florida House of Representatives
TAKE THE HELM.
SET YOUR COURSE 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. Discover 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

FLEET LANDING
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...
GENERAL QUARTERS, GENERAL QUARTERS... All hands mannnnnnn... your battle stations!

We are going to Palm Beach County for the annual Florida Council of Chapters Convention!

We’re staying at the just renovated Palm Beach Gardens Marriott and we’re going to have some fun!

It starts with either a round of golf at PGA National, the home of the Honda Classic, or a fishing trip out of Jupiter. That night, we’ll congregate for Officers Call at the Square Grouper in Jupiter. Do not wear a jacket and tie to the Square Grouper! It’s spectacularly casual, located right on the Jupiter Inlet, across from the Lighthouse! With any luck, Jimmy Buffet will pass by. (Even if he doesn’t, you’ll feel like he did.)

The next day, you get to either try your hand at kayaking on the Loxahatchee River or climbing the Jupiter Lighthouse. If you go on the four-hour kayak trip, you will see some of real Florida.... not the sort of thing you see at Animal Kingdom at Disney, but r-e-a-l Florida. With any luck, you’ll see manatees and turtles, and a bunch of birds in the wild. And, yes... maybe even an alligator.

If you climb the Jupiter Lighthouse, you’ll climb a lighthouse that was built during the Civil War. (Yup... there’s no air conditioning, and you need to be able to climb about 105 steps.). You’ll get a bird’s eye view of some of the most expensive real estate on the planet.

The second night, we’ll be sponsoring a “Dine Around.” We’ve made reservations at eight excellent restaurants, all within five minutes of the hotel. We hope you go with people you don’t know. The idea is to have a great time, while meeting fellow officers from around the state. (See the activities sheet for a description of the restaurants.)
Saturday kicks off with an address by LTG Dana Atkins, USA, (Ret), the President of MOAA, to breakfast attendees as to what MOAA is up to at Headquarters. Afternoon will feature some breakout sessions including a classy jeweler and a front-line report by a Ranger First Sergeant of the mission in Somalia now popularized as *Black Hawk Down*.

Saturday night, features a cocktail hour followed by the Military Ball...so pack your dancing shoes! The dinner will include an address by freshman Congressman Mike Waltz, detailed to the House Armed Services Committee, who will speak on the Committee’s vital bipartisan work. Did I mention that he’s also a retired Army Lieutenant Colonel and member of MOAA and a current member of the Canaveral Chapter?

And... we’ll top off the Ball with Neil Zirconia, who does Neil Diamond better than Neil Diamond. I should mention that a couple dozen members of the Palm Beach - Martin Counties chapter saw Neil Zirconia a few months ago, and had a great time.

I do need to issue a warning.... the hotel is three or four minutes from The Gardens Mall. Think Bloomingdales, Michael Kors, Tiffany, Nordstrom, Saks, Apple, Louis Vuitton, Coach, Tesla. You had better make sure that you’ve paid off any balance on your credit card before going there. For those inclined to go shopping, this is like walking up to the plate in Yankee Stadium with the Red Sox on the field and a hundred thousand people watching. I am also required to mention that MOAA is not responsible for the destruction of any credit cards.

The intent of the convention is to have some fun. ‘Hope you’ll join us! Thursday-Friday-Saturday-Sunday, 28-31 May 2020. The weekend after Memorial Day.

Colonel Paul Loschiavo USMCR (Ret)
Chairman
MOAA FCOC Convention 2020

P. S. This will probably be the last time that they put a Marine in charge of entertainment...

*Right: Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse. For those who don’t want to (or can’t) kayak or climb 105 winding stairs, the Museum and Natural Area has plenty for all ages. The Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse & Museum is operated by the Loxahatchee River Historical Society, Inc., a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. In addition to the Lighthouse and Museum, the Society is the managing partner of the 120-acre Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse Outstanding Natural Area, part of the nation’s beautiful National Conservation Lands. As stewards of the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse & Museum and a partner in the National Conservation Lands, the Loxahatchee River Historical Society preserves and interprets the dynamic history, ancient cultural heritage and sensitive natural systems of the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse Outstanding Natural Area and the Loxahatchee River region. The Lighthouse and Museum will be closed Memorial Day.*
Reserve your **FREE** Ticket today at [www.thepopsorchestra.org](http://www.thepopsorchestra.org) or by visiting on Facebook [www.facebook.com/events/2308744782681444/](http://www.facebook.com/events/2308744782681444/)

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**THE SARASOTA MILITARY OFFICERS FOUNDATION**

**CELEBRATING THE STARS & STRIPES**

**WITH THE POPS ORCHESTRA**

**PRESIDENTS’ DAY**

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17TH, 2020 AT 4:00 PM**

**PATRIOT PLAZA, SARASOTA NATIONAL CEMETERY**

Reserve your **FREE** ticket today at [www.thepopsorchestra.org](http://www.thepopsorchestra.org) or by visiting us on Facebook [www.facebook.com/events/2308744782681444/](http://www.facebook.com/events/2308744782681444/)

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**END**
South Central Florida Chapter
By COL Mike Borders, USA (Ret), President

Hurricane Hunting in Lakeland

Members and their spouses from the South Central Florida chapter made a field trip on 6 February to the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Office of Marine and Aviation Operations (OMAO) Aircraft Operations Center in Lakeland.

The group was met by the commanding officer, CDR Christopher Sloan, and received detailed briefings from Jonathan Shannon, a former USN officer and currently a civilian serving with NOAA.

While the Center is mostly known for its “Hurricane Hunters,” it has a much broader mission that includes a wide range of meteorological phenomena, tornado study and tracking, the monitoring of marine species such as whales, flood operations, fisheries, mapping and more.

The visit was highly informative and educational. One of the group members commented: “I had heard of the Hurricane Hunters, but I had no idea they did so much more.”
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Top, L to R: mother and child Fin whales; Right whales; Hurricane Hunter “tilt” mascots. Bottom: NOAA briefing officer, Jonathan Shannon, describes a number of weather and wind models that were used to plot what became Category 5 Hurricane Dorian last summer. The models help in determining the celebrated “cone of uncertainty.”
FIT ROTC Panther Battalion Commissions
Two Army Second Lieutenants

Florida Institute of Technology ROTC Panther Battalion members, Chase Causey and Alicia Maldonado were commissioned as Army Second Lieutenants on December 13. Causey, a native of Blackfoot, Idaho, was commissioned in the Infantry Engineers. Maldonado, a graduate of Merritt Island High School, was commissioned into the Chemical Corps. BG Michael Sloane, the Program Executive Officer for Simulations, Training and Instrumentation (PEO STRI) in Orlando, FL was the guest speaker. MG John Dreska, USA (Ret), presented the new officers with their first “Gold Bars” and welcomed the two new 2LT’s into MOAA on behalf of the Cape Canaveral Chapter.

Wreaths Across America at CC National Cemetery

On Saturday, December 14, the Good Deeds Foundation (GDF) of the Cape Canaveral Chapter (MOAACC) provided funds to support the Cape Canaveral National Cemetery (CCNC) Wreaths Across America Program. The
ceremony was open to the public, and everyone who attended was invited to help place the wreaths at the headstones of the nearly 9,000 veterans interred there.

MOAACC GDF President, Donn Weaver, was the Master of Ceremonies, and chapter member RADM Wayne Justice, USCG (Ret), was the Keynote Speaker. “I was honored to keynote the annual Wreaths Across America Ceremony to nearly 1,500 participants at the Cape Canaveral National Cemetery today” said Admiral Justice. “This cemetery added over 1,900 veterans to its hallowed grounds this past year. Wreaths Across America remembers and honors all veterans, and teaches our children, through various programs, the value of freedom.”

**MOAA ACC Veteran’s Day Activities**

On Saturday, January 18, 2020, MOAA’s Cape Canaveral Chapter held its Annual Installation Banquet. At this event, a gathering of over 100 members, family and friends, honored the outgoing MOAACC Officers and welcomed in the new 2020 Officers. VADM Donald Hagen, USN (Re) did the honor of installing the new President, MAJ (R) Tim Pishdad, along with the rest of the new Officers and Directors. In honor of his many years of selfless service, COL (R) Jerry Gill received the Chapter's highest award: The Distinguished Service Award.

Everyone enjoyed a spirited social hour, dinner, and entertainment by Sass n’ Brass. It was a special evening of fellowship and celebration.
Citrus County Chapter
By COL Mark Bodenheim USAR (Ret), Membership Director, Citrus

Climate Change Science and DoD planning

Above: MOAA Citrus County chapter members, veterans and the public listen to Professor David Dilley, CEO of Global Weather Oscillations, Inc. give his presentation on climate change science, predictions and the effect upon Department of Defense future planning during the January 16, 2020 MOAA sponsored speaker presentation at the YMCA. Right: CAPT Terri Harrison, USN (Ret), president of the MOAA Citrus County Chapter, presents a certificate of appreciation to Professor David Dilley, for his presentation during the January 16, 2020 MOAA sponsored speaker presentation at the YMCA.

Chapter holds Installation dinner and 2020 officer election

The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) Citrus County chapter president COL Mark Bodenheim, USA (Ret), (left), 2020 chapter president elect CAPT Terri Harrison, USN (Ret), (center) receives the chapter gavel from the MOAA Florida Council of Chapters president, Col. Len Friedlander (right) at the 2019 December installation dinner at the Citrus Hills Golf and Country Club.

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The 2020-elect MOAA Citrus County Chapter officers and board directors installed during the 2019 December installation dinner. (1st row left to right): COL Mark Bodenheim, USA (Ret), immediate past president and membership director; COL Pete Tan, USA (Ret), chapter vice president; CAPT Terri Harrison, USN (Ret), chapter president. (2nd row left to right) Lt Col Tom Pettigrew, USAF (Ret), special events coordinator; Lt Col Mike Berry, USAF (Ret), chapter legislative director; MAJ John McGee, USA (Ret), chapter secretary; LCDR Gary Runyon, USN (Ret), chapter treasurer.

Above: COL Tom Green, USA (Ret), (left) is recognized for his 24 years of service as the outgoing MOAA Citrus County Chapter treasurer by chapter president, COL Mark Bodenheim, USA (Ret), (right). COL Green is also currently serving as the treasurer for the Citrus County Veterans Foundation as well as various groups at Hernando United Methodist Church.

Above: COL Mark Bodenheim, USA (Ret), and the MOAA Florida Council of Chapters president, Col Len Friedlander, USAF (Ret), place the 2018 national MOAA Five Star Level of Excellence award onto the chapter’s flag banner.
Kingdom of the Sun Chapter
By Arlo Janssen, LTC, USA (Ret), Editor of the Sunbeams, KOS/MOAA

2020 Installation of Officers

The 2020 KOS Installation Luncheon of newly elected Officers and Directors for the year 2020 was held on January 2, 2020, in the Ocala, FL, Elks Club dining room. Col Leonard Friedlander, USAF, FCOC President, did the installation of our Officers for 2020. Kudos to our newly elected KOS Chapter Officers and members of the KOS Board of Directors. The following individuals were installed to serve as KOS Chapter Officers: Lt Col Carol Walker, USAF - President; COL Craig Ham, USA - 2nd Vice President; Lt Col Sharon Murry, USAF - Secretary; Linda Byrd, SSM – Treasurer; and COL Robert Schlegel, USA, Immediate Past President. The KOS members installed to the KOS BOD for a two-year term are: CDR Tom Dann, USGC; MAJ Joe Voge, USA; and Barbara LaFleur, SSM. Col Leonard Friedlander, gave our KOS Chapter members an update on recent MOAA and FCOC activities.

On Thursday December 5, 2019, the KOS Christmas luncheon was held at the Elks Club. The highlight of this luncheon was the donation of a large number of Christmas gifts to the Ocala Arnette House.

On February 6, 2020, the KOS monthly luncheon will be held at the Ocala Elks Club. It will be hosted by the ladies of the KOS Chapter. The program is selected and operated by the KOS Chapter ladies who always do an outstanding presentation for our February luncheons.
Mayport CO visits Fleet Landing

On 29 January 2020, CPT Jason Canfield, Commanding Officer of Naval Station Mayport, visited Fleet Landing to inform the community and chapter members of the station’s mix of tenant commands and units operating both ships and aircraft. CPT Canfield was able to provide a candid update on the station and his vision for the future.

The Captain shared his delight in being back in Florida. Captain Canfield and his wife Patience are both Cocoa, Florida natives, however it took 25 years of a Navy career before he was stationed in Florida. He is a Naval Flight Officer with over 2,000 hours in P-3 electronic surveillance aircraft and has traveled the world on operational missions.

The presentation was followed by questions and answer period. Base security and infrastructure were key concerns, and attendees were amazed at the scope and breadth of issues that Captain Canfield was addressing each day. Attendees appreciated the discussion of their interests and concerns.

December “No Dough” Dinner brings joy!

Above, left: A family gets into the holiday spirit at the 9 December “No Dough” Dinner co-sponsored by The MOAA Foundation, USO Mayport and MOAA’s Historic Mayport Chapter. Center: Over 300 meals of pizza, were served to military families, with 100 children receiving a $10 Navy Exchange card, photos with Santa, s’mores, and a toy. Right: Historic Mayport Chapter Team with Santa; 12 chapter volunteers set up and served.
Chapter raises funds during CV-60 Classic ½-Marathon

Donations and pledges of over $2,000 will be used by Historic Mayport Chapter to support local high school JROTC activities in their mission to build better citizens”.

January “No-Dough” feeds 330

With financial support from the MOAA Foundation, MOAA’s Historic Mayport Chapter partnered with USO Mayport to provide 330 dinners to military families in the Mayport area. The families enjoyed the Winn Dixie fried chicken, mashed potatoes, and green beans, along with salad, desert, and a drink. One new 43” television donated by a Fleet Landing resident, and two used televisions were raffled off the next day and the winners were notified on Facebook.

Thank you to all Historic Mayport Chapter members and friends who helped.

Prep Team: Chet & Andrea Davis, Mary Kluever, Louise Lones, Mike Marchetti, Dale & Jay Ransom, Camille Rigney, and Peggy Steck.

Serving Team: Rob & Tamara Byrd, John & Louise Lones, Dave Lynch, Pat & Mary Kluever, Karl Price, Dave Rasmussen, Nancy Russell, Joe & Pat Ruthenberg, and Peggy Steck.

Above: the course was 13.1 miles. Right: Chapter members Mary Kluever (L) and Louise Lones (R) finished the race in under three hours and both won second place in their respective age class - CONGRATULATIONS & WELL DONE!!
Chapter completes 17 years of “Support Our Troops”

The Trooper’s Task Force of Six Shooters recently sent a thank you note for the boxes they have received from the MOAS chapter and community members. Attached was the above photo.

The past 17 years, the Sarasota chapter (MOAS) has distributed approximately 34,000 postal boxes to the public to fill for service members serving under harsh conditions and in harms-way or in austere environments. Distribution takes place during events such as the Veterans Day parade, where this past year 1,200 boxes were handed out.

Complete instructions are included with each box and a list of suggested care package items to place in the box can be found on the MOAS chapter website. The website provides all the information an individual, clubs, schools, etc. would need to send packages or financially support this program. Emphasis is on personal items and servicemember support items. Be sure to keep a list including the cost of items purchased for the Customs Form. The Chapter knows the troops appreciate the boxes and frequently receive thank you notes.

Continued on next page
The Trooper’s Task Force of Six Shooters recently sent a thank you note. The text of this note follows:

“On behalf of Trooper’s of Task Force Six Shooters, we would like to extend our sincere appreciation for the care packages that you have provided. It was exceptionally thoughtful and very welcomed. Our entire team was very grateful for the opportunity to enjoy the comfort items that you provided. The Commander, LTC Matthew Wolfe, and Command Sergeant Major, CSM William Wisecup, took great pleasure in handing out the packages and enjoying the smiles that it brought to our Soldier’s faces. Your gesture in supporting our deployed troops is truly appreciated. Wish you all the best during the holiday season, please know that you are making a difference.

Sincerely,
The Troopers of Task Force Six Shooters
Guns up, Scouts Out!”

Ringling School of Design featured at January Meet

The January luncheon featured a very informative presentation on Ringling College of Art and Design given by Stacy Corley, Vice President for Advancement. Ms. Corley’s talk included two videos: one showing life at the college and the area, and the second, a senior thesis animated short story demonstrating the value of creativity.

The College, which offers a BA or BFA in 14 different majors with nine minors, attracts students from 57 countries, 4 Commonwealths and territories, and 44 states – while maintaining a 36% Floridian student body. The College employs veterans and there are over 40 veteran students. Over 90% of the students receive some sort of financial aid.

Almost 70% of the students live on campus as the studies are very intense and students use the computer labs at all hours.

Ringling students have received 14 Student Academy Awards; the school is rated as the #1 Game Art school in the US, and #3 in the world; one of the Top 16 Film Schools; #2 in the US for Illustration & #2 for Animation; Graphic Design USA named Ringling a Top Design school; and

Left: Stacy Corley, Ringling College of Art and Design Vice President for Advancement. Right: MOAS President Troy Scott at the January Sarasota chapter luncheon.

St Petersburg Area Chapter
By LTC Pauline Mallory, USA (Ret), President

St Petersburg Area Chapter Honors JROTC Cadets

The St Petersburg Area Chapter honored the JROTC cadets at Admiral Farragut Academy (AFA) by holding their regular November 2019 luncheon in the AFA West Lounge. The guest speakers were two cadets who shared their stories. Other cadets participated in the Color Guard. All the cadets joined us for lunch and chapter members enjoyed talking with them as they ate lunch. Several members brought in pictures and yearbooks to share with the cadets from their “younger years.” It was such a success, we plan to do it again in 2020. This event was sponsored in part by USAA.

Top right: St. Petersburg Area Chapter members with some of the cadets.
Bottom right: the faces of the future.

Pearl Harbor Memorial Luncheon

The Saint Petersburg Chapter, in conjunction with the Military Order of the World Wars (MOWW) Clearwater and the MOAA Clearwater Chapter, held a Pearl Harbor Day Remembrance Luncheon at the Bayou Yacht and Country Club on 6 December 2019.

The keynote speaker was Mr. John Tornga of Honor Flight of West Central Florida and his guest, Mel Smith who is 101 years young but was a contractor working at Pearl Harbor when the Japanese attacked the base and harbor.

L to R: MOWW Commander LTC Steve Hodges, USA (Ret); CAPT Peter Gunderson, USN (Ret), St Petersburg Area Chapter President; and Clearwater Chapter Past President MAJ Norm Belson, USA (Ret) lit candles in a ceremony to show unity among the chapter.
Sun City Center Chapter
By CAPT B. Frank Kepley, USN (Ret), Legislative Liaison

Tampa Bay Port Manager Speaks at Feb Luncheon

Dennis M. Martin, General Manager Operations, Safety & Training, Port Tampa Bay was the featured speaker at the Military Officers of America Association (MOAA) monthly meeting on Wednesday, February 5th in the Florida Room at the North Side Atrium.

Following a career afloat in the merchant marine and as an oilfield marine operations captain, Dennis came ashore in Tampa for a 15-year stint in vessel agency, covering ports in Florida, the U.S. Gulf & the U.S. east coast.

In 2007 he assumed a position in Houston as operations manager and port captain for a vessel operating company handling a diverse portfolio of bulk and breakbulk cargoes. He was responsible for supervising the loading and discharging of cargoes throughout the western hemisphere including the Americas and Europe.

Following a brief sabbatical in New Orleans, he returned to Tampa in 2015 and his present position with Port Tampa Bay, the fourth largest and most diverse port in Florida.

He gave a comprehensive presentation about the history of the port, from the time it was solely a phosphate fertilizer port to today’s diverse operation including but not limited to vegetables, petroleum imports construction material, and the cruise industry. He discussed port security i.e., how they would coordinate with police agencies and the military in the event of an attack. They have developed contingency plans with Coast Guard and Navy. He also commented on the Skyway bridge, which limits the size of cruise ships to 2700 passenger ships, not allowing the 6000 passenger ships into the port. He feels that this is an advantage rather than a drawback.

Prior to the port presentation, national MOAA 5-star certificates were presented for the newsletter, chapter and website; from left: CAPT Frank Kepley, USN (Ret), LTC Benny Blackshire, USA (Ret) , and Maj Jim Haney, USMC (Ret) Also, certificates for perfect attendance were awarded to Bo Heiniger, James Cloor and Charley Collins.
2020 meeting kicks off with Honor Flight Network presentation

MSGT George Colon, USA (Ret), Honor Flight representative, was the featured speaker at the Sun City January 2 chapter meeting in the Florida room at the North Side Atrium. Colon was assisted by Lt Col Gary Gilchrist, USAF (Ret), a member of the MOAA Clearwater Chapter and on the Board of Honor Flight® of West Central Florida, Inc. (“Honor Flight”) which was established as a regional hub of the Honor Flight Network in October, 2010.

George Colon serves as a board member for the Riverview Chamber of Commerce and is on two of their committees; Military Committee and Membership Committee. He is also a board member for the Florida Advisory Council on Military Education. He presented information on the Honor Flight West Central Florida (HFWCF) program achievements and its plans for the future.

The Honor Flight program can be found in 45 states and has 125 hubs throughout the nation. It is managed by volunteers and 97% of the funds donated go directly to the flights. The cost for each mission is $75,000. The WWII and terminally ill veterans have top priority for the flights. The costs for the guardians that accompany the veteran is $500.00. If anyone wishes to donate time or money to the organization they can do so by contacting the web site at https://www.honorflight.org/.

Doris Glass, a longtime MOAA member who has been in charge of the reservation process for years, and has done an excellent job, was given a certificate of appreciation by Jim Haney, current president of the local MOAA chapter. Doris’ replacement will be Jane Foppe and the new reservation phone number is (813) 924-1983.
2020 Officers inducted by FCoC President

Col Len Friedlander, USAF (Ret) was the featured speaker at the Military Officers of America Association (MOAA) monthly meeting on Wednesday, December 4TH in the Florida Room at the North Side Atrium.

He has served as the Florida Council of Chapters (FCOC) Southwest Area Vice President, Council Vice President, and was elected FCOC president in June 2018. Subsequent to the lunch Col Friedlander inducted the 2020 Officers for the chapter.

COL Friedlander discussed the recent MOAA annual Washington D.C. “Storm the Hill” endeavor and resultant MOAA legislative concerns. He commented on the planned reduction in the number of overall military health care providers particularly for individuals other than active duty service members. He urged the members to contact their political representatives and advise them of their concerns regarding pending legislation. In addition, he reminded them to visit the Action Section of the MOAA web site and send the recommended letters to their representatives. These letters, coming into the legislators from all over the nation, have a significant impact on decisions to pass various bills.

Tampa Chapter

LTC Robert Sawallesh, USA (Ret) who has long labored to get the dangerous intersection on Bruce B. Downs Blvd. at the intersection of the James A. Haley Veterans’ Hospital, the University of South Florida, and iQ Luxury Student Apartments better regulated says pressure must continue to be exerted on Hillsborough County officials to ensure they move expeditiously from Final Design stage to construction. The petition website can be accessed at: https://www.gopetition.com/petitions/remove-the-danger-highway-intersection-at-usf-and-tampa-veterans-hospital-campuses.html.
The MOAA Florida Council of Chapters (FCOC) is comprised of 44 Chapters with nearly 8,000 members and their families. FCOC is one of MOAA’s largest Councils. MOAA has a membership of over 380,000 members in all 50 States.

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

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

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

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

Thank you!

FCOC

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

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

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

If you have questions about your submission, contact

Polly Parks
pparks@igc.org
703-338-6881
The Council Communiqué
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Per Issue | Placement Annual (6 issues)
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Quarter Page (4” H x 3.5” W) | $ 75 | $ 300 / SAVE $150
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Notes: Annual is from Jan-Dec; six (6) issues published electronically on the 10th of the even month. Mid-year placement for a recurring annual placement can be at pro-rated annual rate for remaining issues. 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.

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