The Alert Klaxon is wailing, 
the Bosun’s Pipe is calling, 
the Bugler has sounded Assembly.

Currently serving military, their families and the recently retired servicemembers need our help.

The FY 2018 President’s budget submitted on May 23rd proposes a 2.1 percent increase in military basic pay. This is less than the 2.4 percent increase under the formula in current law, which calls for a military pay raise to equal the annual increase in the wages and salaries of private industry employees as measured by ECI. Commenting on it, retired Air Force Lt. Gen. Dana Atkins, president and CEO of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), said: “We’re disappointed this request proposes another year of capping military pay raises below the average American’s. Seven of the past eight military pay raises fell below private-sector wage growth, creating a worrisome gap between military and civilian pay that threatens military retention. It’s also important to remember those raises were the smallest in 50 years.”

If signed into law later this year, the cumulative gap between military and civilian pay will increase to 2.9 percent; the last time the pay gap was at zero was 2013.

The budget was also very specific in detailing a variety of increases to health care fees and co-pays, including:

- All categories of beneficiaries, except active duty, active duty family members in TRICARE Prime, and TRICARE for Life, would see even larger fees across the board. There are no changes for TRICARE for Life beneficiaries. However retired TRICARE beneficiaries under age 65 would be hit the hardest.
- Raises TRICARE pharmacy fees, tripling them over a ten-year period. This includes generic medications obtained through the TRICARE home delivery program.
- Increases in the catastrophic caps for retirees from $3,000 to $3,500.
- All new increases in premiums, copayments and deductibles and catastrophic caps would increase annually based upon a previously unused National Health Expenditures (NHE) index instead of the currently used index of annual COLA rates. The NHE is projected to be 5.9 percent by 2019.
MOAA believes health care costs for service members and their family members should increase by the same percentage for cost of living adjustments, similar to how Medicare increases are determined for SS recipients.

As stated by General Atkins: “we should be providing more reasons for people to remain in service, not giving them reasons [like these] to leave.” We must do our best to protect against imposing disproportionate fee increases on those who earned their military health care coverage through decades of service and sacrifice.

Here are the links to send your Congressperson and Senators two messages asking for their support on MOAA’s positions:

To prevent disproportional Health Care cost increases:
http://capwiz.com/moaa/issues/alert/?alertid=77639626

Don’t bring back military pay caps:
http://capwiz.com/moaa/issues/alert/?alertid=77546626

Road Blocks and Grid-lock
If it seems like just yesterday that the Spending Bills for FY 2017 were finalized …. you would be correct (almost 200 days into the current fiscal year!!!). This legislative year has been drastically affected by the transition to a new Administration, the protracted hearings for nominees to fill the Cabinet and Supreme Court, the series of Continuing Resolutions to keep the government from shutting down, and most recently investigative hearings regarding the Russian interference in our last election. Now, Congress is faced with only 40 work days before the end of this fiscal year on September 30th, to pass spending bills for FY 2018. And then there’s the President’s agenda for Tax and Health Care reform that will also disrupt the normal agendas. The starting point for the National Defense Authorization Act and its companion Appropriations Bill is President Trump’s $603 billion base defense budget that leaves out much of what was on the congressional defense committees’ wish lists, as well as items Trump himself promised throughout his 2016 White House campaign. Both SASC and HASC defense hawks are hunkering down for a fight to get all $640 billion they say is necessary to rebuild the military after President Trump’s budget proposal fell short of their expectations. However, budget experts predict a battle [that’s a huge understatement] in the coming months between the administration, appropriators, party leadership and congressional committees that may fall short of delivering even the $603 billion Trump has proposed. The debate to overcome the sequester caps affecting Defense spending will just tie the whole legislative process into knots.

What’s A Good MOAA Member to Do About This

The upcoming August Congressional Recess will be a time for all chapters to aggressively address the issues above with face-to-face meetings with your congresspersons when they are back in their Districts. If it sounds like déjà vu all over again … IT IS. The proposed cuts to compensation and benefits by increasing cost shares to servicemembers/families has been driven by the sequester spending caps. Those caps will not go away as long as conservative members of congress continue to stand firmly against any tax increases (the Grover Norquist pledge) while pushing spending levels above revenues which grows the national debt. The Sequester was meant to be a poison pill of across the board cuts to spending to bring it in line with revenues. But the debt continues to increase and the annual interest payments [to foreign debt holders] are compounding faster and faster.

As Admiral Mullen (the then Chairman of the Joint Chiefs) said several years ago “the greatest threat to national security is the sequester”. We know our military and their families are resilient … but how long can they maintain that resiliency faced with pay that continues to fall behind the private sector and costs for health care increasing at a faster rate than those COLAs, all as a result of sequester
based budgeting. Morale is declining …. the next step will be problematic retention and recruitment, and declining Defense capabilities and capacities while the threats to our nation continue to multiply.

Please begin planning now for that face-to-face meeting in August by calling your Representative’s District office to schedule it. MOAA will be providing prepared talking papers by the end of July that you can use to address the issues and even hand out at your meetings. Select your team for those visits now and provide them the background on these issues that have been flowing out of MOAA in their weekly Legislative Updates.

This mission is MOAA’s number one advocacy goal.

As has been asked in the past, MOAA would like your feedback after your meetings. The FCOC would also like that same feedback. Email to Colonel Dan Merry at MOAA danm@moaa.org or legis@moaa.org and “CC” Lt Col Bob Bienvenue, the FCOC contact rbienven@sprynet.com. Bob will consolidate the inputs to the FCOC President and Area VPs.

MOAA Legislative Update:

http://www1.moaa.org/legislative/
Chaplain’s Message
Chaplain (Col) Charles Caudill, USAF, (Ret) Religious Activities

Future Hope

On May 6th my faith in the younger generation was renewed. I was honored to give the invocation to the 24th Annual Military Ball of the Avon Park High School Air Force JROTC. The cadets planned, led and executed the entire event, with the culinary students catering the banquet. Over 200 people attended this year’s ceremonies.

Avon Park AFJROTC is generally acknowledged as the best of six ROTC programs in the Florida Highlands district. The Sebring MOAA filled a table and is one of several organizations and individuals which present scholarships and awards to eligible cadets. Mike Borders, Sebring MOAA’s President stated to the JROTC Commandant following the ceremony: “…you clearly have the best program of the six that our chapter supports. Every aspect of the dinner and ceremony are tops. Most impressive are your cadets. Yours is the only program where every kid has a complete uniform. Best haircuts. Best/crispest salutes. I could go on. What you and your NCOIC are doing shows in spades. Congratulations.”

Two of the highlights were the posting of colors and the POW/MIA ceremony both of which were executed to perfection. When each chosen cadet placed a representative service cover on the POW/MIA table and surrendered the salute with precision there were few dry eyes in the room.

This area has many disadvantaged families with 70% of the school’s student population eligible for the Free Lunch Program. It is gratifying to see how dedicated the cadets are regardless of their living situations. One 15 year old cadet asked me how to become a Chaplain in the service. He has no mother, a father who works in construction in the Miami area most of the year, and a younger brother he is taking care of. He was riding his bike 2 miles to school until it got broken and he couldn’t fix it. Now he is walking to and from school. Yet, because of JROTC he is always at school and participating in the program.

Out of their 13 senior cadets, one will matriculate at the US Naval Academy, one is attending the University of South Florida, one is joining the Army and six are enlisting in the Marines.

Many MOAA Chapters gives scholarships to qualifying JROTC seniors every year. I am pleased to be part of an organization that recognizes and honors the exceptional high school students in our regional areas. I encourage all of us to. Spending time with these young leaders is extremely rewarding; and we must realize they are our future hope.
President’s Message

LTC Marc Oliveri, USAR (Ret)

It had been 2 years since my last cruise aboard the beautiful Oasis of the Seas, but as Jenine and I boarded the great ship it was like coming home. The Oasis of the Seas, through our hosting chapter, Cape Canaveral, provided the perfect venue for our annual convention. Each chapter was well represented and the theme of our convention was honoring our Wounded Warriors.

Chairman Donn Weaver has provided an article outlining our very special guests. The seven-day cruise visited several ports of call and lots of late afternoon gatherings where the beverage of the day was served. Our chaplain even coordinated a marital ceremony where each couple repeated their marital vows. Everyone came voluntarily and no one needed to be dragged to the altar. A special thank you to both co-chairs Larry Jackson and Donn Weaver and the entire Cape Canaveral convention volunteers for achieving a successful convention.

Next year’s convention is just around the corner and preparations are currently underway for the 2018 convention to be held at the Sanibel Harbour Marriott Resort and Spa. Just returned from an on-site visit to the hotel. WOW!

Many of the chapters have lots to share with other chapters throughout Florida and beyond about their latest dinner, event, scholarships, JROTC and many other issues. Our council newsletter is issued every two months and sometimes this information may come out too late. So, to put a face to all our activities in a timely manner, I have asked Mike Snodgrass to coordinate our Facebook page for the Florida Council of Chapters. Please visit this and add your chapters events to our page. Share your ideas, recruit new members and help us to update our accomplishments. Click on the following to reach our page: FCOC FACEBOOK PAGE.

In a few weeks MOAA national will announce the Level of Excellence Award (LOE) winners for 2016. Like the advertisement for the lottery, “You Got to be in it to win it”, the same applies for the LOE awards. If you do not submit the application you cannot be considered for this award no matter how you may think you deserve it.

To help the chapter achieve success, I have asked Tony Pimentel, recently appointed to the council board to review and distribute some guidelines as to how best to attain success for the LOE award. Tony has reviewed many LOE awards on the national level, and will be of great value to us. Tony’s email address is on the board list of members and will be glad to help you by reviewing your submission before you submit it to national. Please gather your information and prepare to become a 5 star chapter.

As we await the August congressional recess lets prepare your legislative chairs to review with your congressional representatives the issues that were discussed during the April “Storming the Hill”. These issues can be found on the national web site or you can click on the link below:

1. Eliminate Sequestration end Harmful Defense Cuts
2. Eliminate the Widows Tax
3. Prevent Disproportional TRICARE Fee Hikes

Meeting with our congressional leaders yearly by all council leaders should be supplemented by our local chapters. You, the chapters, can make all the difference. As an advocacy organization, our primary purpose is to advocate on behalf of the military, so please keep contacting your representatives to support the above issues. Make sure they all sign on.

Wishing you a very cool summer,

Marc
Personal Affairs
Sherry Freese, Personal Affairs Chair

Chapter Welcomes New Addition
Ernie Joy, EC AVP

Cape Canaveral Chapter President Scott Robinson, his wife Sarah, and their first child Jonathan. They brought Jonathan to one of the chapter’s weekly meetings to introduce him to members.

Scott is a former infantry officer who served multiple combat tours in the Middle East before leaving the Army to establish a law practice in Brevard County. He has been a member of the chapter for just two years before becoming president in January this year.

It doesn’t matter whether it’s a hurricane or a severe storm — being prepared will give you peace of mind when you need it most.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Home Supplies</th>
<th>Food Supplies</th>
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<tr>
<td>Flashlights</td>
<td>Bottled water 1 gallon (per person/day)</td>
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<td>Battery-operated lanterns</td>
<td>Nonperishable food</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weather radio</td>
<td>Cooler for long-lasting perishable</td>
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<tr>
<td>Batteries (different sizes)</td>
<td>Bottled drinks</td>
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<td>First aid kit</td>
<td>Manual can opener</td>
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<td>Duct tape</td>
<td>Cooktop/portable grill</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wind-up or battery-powered clock</td>
<td>Disposable dishware/utensils</td>
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<td>Fire extinguisher</td>
<td>Separate cooler for drinks</td>
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<tr>
<td>Can opener</td>
<td>Dry/small canned pet food</td>
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<td>Plastic garbage bags</td>
<td>Water for pets</td>
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<td>Scissors</td>
<td>Portable pet dishes</td>
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<td>Portable cell phone charger</td>
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<td>Extra clean clothes</td>
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<td>Heavy gloves</td>
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<td>Generator (only run outside)</td>
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REMEMBER:
- Have copies of important documents in a waterproof folder or container.
- Have enough of any prescription medications you and your pet take.
Surviving Spouse Advisory Committee (SSAC)
Joyce Harte, Member, MOAA Board of Directors
Print & Digital Media Committee

The Surviving Spouse Advisory Committee (SSAC) had an exceptionally busy two months. Their latest article (June 5) will be reprinted for all of Florida spouses at the end of this column. Along with Storming the Hill, they presented a “SSAC Report to the President,” outlining accomplishments during the year and their work plans for the coming year. Gen. Atkins response was appreciative and positive, pledging staff support for each of the major areas. SSAC will be working to add two virtual members to their committee, and perhaps virtual chapters as appropriate. They will also be working on guidelines for new members of SSAC for 2018. New SSAC members will serve four-year terms. I do hope that several of Florida’s surviving spouses will be interested in serving on SSAC as a virtual member and/or as a regular member. 52,000 of MOAA’s 355,000 membership are surviving spouses with a large percentage of these Floridians. New leaders are out there. I’ve met many of you. Speak out and volunteer when SSAC comes calling! Have a pleasant summer and may your A/C keep on humming.

The June 6th issue of “The Surviving Spouses of MOAA” written by SSAC member, Patricia Berquist:

On April 5, Surviving Spouse Advisory Committee members joined over 165 participants — including members of MOAA’s board of directors and staff, council and chapter leaders from almost every state, and members of the Currently Serving Advisory Committee, and Currently Serving Spouse Advisory Committee — for MOAA’s annual

Debt reduction is a national responsibility, and the budget should not be balanced by placing a disproportional burden on service members and their families.

Storming the Hill event in Washington, D.C. The storming teams provided congressional legislators detailed fact sheets on sequestration, the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP)/Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) offset, and TRICARE.

The return of sequestration in FY 2018 will cut billions from the defense budget and impose increased risks to U.S. national security. Debt reduction is a national responsibility, and the budget should not be balanced by placing a disproportional burden on service members and their families. Sequestration puts our national defense at risk with reduced spending on readiness and modernization, hollows our uniformed forces, and affects morale. A bipartisan debt-reduction package is needed to avoid disproportionate penalties to DoD that impact service members and military retirees and their families.

SBP is an insurance annuity to provide a military spouse up to 55 percent of the service member’s retired pay upon death for any reason. For active duty post-9/11 deaths, the coverage automatically is provided to the spouse. Under current law, survivors of deceased active duty and retired service members must forfeit DIC dollar-for-dollar from their SBP when military service causes the death and DIC is awarded by the VA, currently $1,258 a month ($15,095 a year). Those impacted by this inequity (64,100) lose all or part of their SBP. MOAA
has been fighting for full repeal of the offset for 16 years.

In 2008, Congress approved a Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance (SSIA) to partially compensate for the SBP/DIC injustice with incremental increases over 10 years (October 2017) toward eliminating the offset. The SSIA was extended last year at $310 a month ($3,700 a year) and ends May 2018.

MOAA Hill stormers ask legislators to cosponsor and support current legislation (H.R. 846 and S. 339) and engage House and Senate Armed Services, Appropriations, and Budget committee members, as their support will be needed for a solution to fully repeal the offset. If a full repeal cannot be funded, the SSIA should be extended.

Stormers also provided a document on TRICARE fee increase prevention to each congressional office. MOAA believes congressional actions should remain consistent with current philosophy and prevent disproportionate TRICARE fee increases.

Please contact your legislators on these issues using MOAA’s toll-free line to the capitol switchboard, (800) 272-6622. Ask the operator to connect you with your legislator’s office, then ask to speak with the legislative assistant or military legislative assistant, and request cosponsorship of H.R. 846 or S. 339.

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**MOAA Names Tags Available for Chapter Members**

Paul Loschiavo, Col, USMC (Ret)

Get a name tag in the style of MOAA- National! Send a check for $12 with your name, your rank, your chapter, your email address, and your mailing address to:

MOAA Palm Beach Martin Counties
PO Box 8171
Jupiter Fl 33468-8171

Spell everything out as you want it printed! The name tag will have a magnetic clasp.
Colonel Roy P. Whitton, USAFR (Ret) 1922-2017
COL Mike Borders, USA (Ret), Southwest Area AVP

Colonel Roy P. Whitton, USAFR (Ret), the long-serving president of the South Central Florida Chapter (FL-40) passed away on 13 April 2017 in Sebring, Florida. Col Whitton honorably served in the active and reserve forces for a total of 41 years, 2 months and 23 days.

Colonel Whitton initially entered the U.S. Army Air Corps as an enlisted man on 6 January 1941. He served throughout WWII and left active duty at the end of the war as a Staff Sergeant. Following his discharge, he returned to his native Indiana, used the GI Bill to get his degree, and in 1948 applied for and received a direct commission in the Air Force Reserve. He applied for active duty during the Korean War and was assigned to Williams AFB, Arizona. Once again in the reserves, he served his community in Indiana and was also an augmentee at the Tactical Airlift Command, HQS Military Airlift Command, and for his final 10 years as an “M-Day” assignee in the Pentagon as staff information officer in the office of the Secretary of the Air Force’s Office of Information. Colonel Whitton attended a variety of schools including Recruit Training, Air Plane Mechanics School, Squadron Officers School, Air Command and Staff College, Armed Forces Staff College, Special Operations School, and the National War College. Colonel Whitton retired on 28 December 1982 at Maxwell AFB on the same piece of tarmac where he did his first recruit drill as a private in 1941.

In addition to his long service to MOAA and the South Central Florida chapter, Colonel Whitton was the commander of several VFW posts in Indiana, as well as serving in other senior positions in the VFW in Indiana at the state level. He also was a charter member of the Air Force Association, serving as state president in both Indiana and Florida. He was also commander of an American Legion post in Indiana and Florida, as well as organizing and serving as president of the American Legion Press Association in Indiana. He later served as national president of the American Legion Press Association. Colonel Whitton was also instrumental in securing several AFJROTC units in Florida.

Colonel Whitton is survived by his wife Kay of Lake Placid, Florida, a son Matthew Whitton, stepdaughters Candy McCarty, Cally Stockton, and Christy Rosson, 11 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his son David Whitton.

Colonel Whitton’s legacy is that in life, he got involved. He made things happen. He didn’t wait for others to do or not do. He served his community, his Air Force, his country, and above all, dedicated his life to veterans and their families. He took care of “soldiers” of every stripe. He followed when necessary, but led from the front for most of the time. Above all, he served Christ and loved his family. Another member of the “Greatest Generation” has gone on to his next assignment. He will be missed by all who knew him.
“Come while you can really enjoy everything that Fleet Landing offers, from formal dinners and dances to exercise, volunteering and bridge. It’s the best decision we ever made!”

—CAPT & Mrs. Milton Miefert, USN (Ret), Current Residents

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Special Guests Enrich the 2017 FCOC/MOAACC Convention at Sea, 23-30 April 2017

CPT Donn A. Weaver USA (Former)

Dateline: 01 May 2017, Cape Canaveral, Florida

Special Guests Enrich the 2017 FCOC/MOAA Cape Canaveral Chapter Convention at Sea, 23-30 April 2017

Early in the morning of 30 April 2017, one of the largest cruise ships in the world pulled into Cape Canaveral Harbor after a seven day Caribbean adventure cruise. Among the 6240 people aboard were 187 MOAA members and supporters who attended the 2017 Florida Council of Chapters and the Cape Canaveral Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) annual Convention. They also came to support raising funds for college scholarships by the Cape Canaveral Chapter. MOAA members from South Carolina and Nevada, as well as MOAA National Board member, Joyce Harte, were also among the participants. One highlight of the Convention at Sea was the support received from the Brevard County business and veteran communities, as well as MOAA participants, to honor former US Army SPC Steve Swisher and his wife Jennifer as our sponsored and special guests.

Chosen to represent many area injured American veterans of the War on Terror, Steve reported his and his wife’s reaction to the opportunity this way:

"It’s a great challenge to find words to effectively express the gratitude Jenny and I feel toward the generous and heartfelt donations received from Ivey’s Construction, Integrity Golf of Orlando, Steve and Sheliah Fritz of Caldwell Banker Paradise Realtors, the Merritt Island Branch of the Florida Community Bank, Chapter 123 of the Merritt Island Disabled American Veterans, and two anonymous MOAACC members. Thank you is an understatement. Your gifts gave us an opportunity to meet the amazing heroes we had the honor to spend the best week of our lives with. We took land excursions in Haiti, Montego Bay, Jamaica and Cozumel, Mexico. We swam in clear blue waters, talked with locals, and browsed the colorful and vibrant shops. We relaxed on expansive and pristine decks while we watched dolphins swim alongside the boat, and were mesmerized by ocean waves as far as the eye could see. The food, entertainment, and staff on the Royal Caribbean’s Oasis of the Seas was impeccable.

This was our first opportunity to reflect on our time after my service (Ed note: see below). I am honored to have had the opportunity to have served and I loved my job as a soldier. What I am overwhelmed with now is the love and kindness we received from so many in the community, especially the Florida Council members on board and the Cape Canaveral Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America. Please accept our humble gratitude and appreciation for your generous donations and special camaraderie. You have changed our lives for the better and given us the best vacation of our lives. We will never forget the heroes we dined with, danced along side of, and relaxed in the Caribbean with”.

The Swishers are a special couple whose service to our country has included sacrifice and steadfast determination to find their way back as a combat veteran and spouse partnership. Steve joined the Army shortly after 9/11/2001 when he was working as a carpenter and bartender. He enlisted as an Infantry Soldier and was assigned to the 10th Mountain Division. His unit was deployed to Afghanistan from 2003-05 and fought in extensive close combat in areas near the Pakistan border. They were twice informed that dates for return to Ft. Drum in New York were delayed as the Army shifted focus to Iraq. Steve suffered TBI and a severe leg injury during his tour while earning the Combat Infantryman’s Badge,
several Army Commendation Medals and many other awards. He became a Heavy Machine gun team leader, often noted for leadership skills by his chain of command. His injuries required extensive treatment and led to his decision to leave the Army. In 2007 he married his high school sweetheart Jennifer Graham, 10 years after they last dated in Montana. They are a blended family with five children ranging in age from 21 to 7. They now live in Satellite Beach, FL. After many years of study, Mom and Dad teamwork, and financial sacrifice, Jenny earned her degrees and is a VA Nurse at the VA Hospital in Lake Nona, Orlando where she now helps many wounded and other veterans just as she has steadfastly stood with Steve. Steve has also begun to assist other veterans through the VA. They are truly American Patriots who never give up.

Steve and Jenny Swisher represent many wounded veterans in Brevard County who have sacrificed much and will continue to be honored in many ways in a community that supports its former and current warriors.

Steve in Afghanistan in early 2005
Convention at Sea, 23-30 April 2017
Military Ball
Courtesy of Ernie Joy, EC AVP

The Military Ball was an elegant event. As you see the room was large enough to have a small dance floor.

The photo to the right shows Convention Chairman Donn Weaver introducing our wounded warrior Steve Swisher and his wife Jenny at the ball. This was the Swisher’s first cruise and they had a wonderful time.
Convention at Sea, 23-30 April 2017

Fun at Sea

Courtesy of Sherry Freese, FCOC Personal Affairs
Ancient City Chapter Memorial Day Ceremonies
Ted Pappas

The Ancient City Chapter of St. Augustine, Florida recently conducted Memorial Day ceremonies at the National Cemetery in the city for the 14th year. The speaker was Brig Gen Brian M. Simpler, Florida Air National Guard. A massing of the colors from military, police, veteran’s organizations, and county organizations presented a colorful backdrop for the solemn reading of the 177 names of veterans who died this past year in St. Johns County. Military, county and city officials attended, along with several hundred citizens, paying their respect to the deceased. American flags were placed at each gravesite and red roses were placed by attendees at the conclusion. The National Cemetery has pyramids dating back to 1842 covering the dead from the Seminole wars. Headstones there are from all the US wars. Chapter President, Ron Birchall, was the MC, and CWO4 George McCrea was the Parade Marshall. SGM Ray Quinn gave an ode to our fallen comrades.
The Citrus County Chapter of the Military Officers Association (MOAA) conducted its annual JROTC Bud Wise Scholarship presentation on May 11th, 2017 at Citrus Hills Country Club. Pictured from left to right are: LTC David Brown, US Army, JROTC Instructor, Lecanto High School; Mrs. Geraldine Edwards, the mother of scholarship winner, Cadet Major Katie Brooks; Mike Mullen, Assistant Superintendent, Citrus County Schools and luncheon guest speaker; JROTC Cadet Major Katie Brooks, Lecanto High School, scholarship recipient; and CAPT Tim Holme, USN (Ret), MOAA Citrus County Chapter past President.

A proud family moment during the MOAA Citrus County Chapter JROTC Scholarship presentation to Cadet Major Katie Brooks pictured here with her mother, Mrs. Geraldine Edwards.
Tallahassee Chapter Links
Dennis Baker, Commander U.S. Navy (retired)

Dennis recognizes 2 chapter members in an interesting setting….

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FFwkyH-vnX0

http://www.flanews.com/2017/05/26/mission-bbq-has-an-american-take-for-missions-accomplished/

Florida Ranked One of the Top States for Veterans….


"Restless Hearts - What if Fallen Heroes Could Go Home"
www.restlessheartswarriors.com

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?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1477104892&sr=1-3&keywords=snowden%27s+story

To find out more about the Florida Veterans Foundation see the information on page 12 of this newsletter and visit their web site at https://floridaveteransfoundation.org/
Kingdom of the Sun Chapter (Ocala) Activities
Arlo Janssen, LTC, USA (Ret), Chapter President, KOS/MOAA

KOS Chapter Member Named Mid-Central Area AVP

The 2017 Florida Council of Chapters Convention was a carribean cruise on the "Oasis of the Seas." Our two official KOS delegates were Phil Johnson and Arlo Janssen. Both attended the annual meeting on board the ship on Monday, April 24, 2017. We both voted for a change to the FCOC by-laws to establish a new Mid-Central Area. Wayne Brown, a member of our KOS Chapter, was nominated to be the Vice President of the newly established Mid Central area. Our congratulations to Wayne Brown upon his election to this new position in FCOC.

KOS Annual Scholarship Dinner

The Kingdom of the Sun (KOS) Chapter held their annual Scholarship Dinner on May 4, 2017. The Five Star 2016 Marvin J Harris Communication Award was presented to Lt Col Sharon Murry, USAF Ret, at the start of the dinner meeting. Linda Byrd, Co-Chair of the KOS Scholarship Committee, served as hostess for this event. The dining room of the Elks Club was filled with many KOS Scholarship winners and their family members. Linda created a wonderful printed program for this annual KOS event. She was able to present the first annual 2017 Lt. Gen. Dana T. Atkins Scholarship Award along with four other KOS MOAA Scholarships. COL William V. Murry, USA Ret, presented eight 2017 KOS MOAA JROTC Medal Award winners along with the KOS MOAA Kilmark Award to the winner at this dinner meeting. The names of all the KOS winners were published in the Applause Section of the local Star Banner newspaper on May 21, 2017. Thank you Linda Byrd, Gorham Black, Tom Dann, Phil Johnson, and Bob Schlegel, members of the KOS Scholarship Committee, for all your hard work and support of KOS.

Chapter Factor

CDR Tom Dann, USCG Ret, a Kingdom of the Sun (KOS) judge for the Big Springs Regional Science Fair, Joseph Cilent, South Sumter High School, receiving the KOS MOAA Kilmark Award and a check from COL Bill Murry, USA Ret, a Kingdom of the Sun (KOS) judge for the Big Springs Regional Science Fair. Joseph Cilent received his award for the creation of an affordable robotic arm for amputees.
Military Officers Association of Sarasota Awards $24,000 in Scholarships

Alan Forrester, LT, USN

Southwest FL - The May luncheon highlighted the presentation of Sarasota Military Officers Scholarship Fund $2,000 scholarships to ten very impressive and deserving graduating seniors from Sarasota area high schools highlighted the Military Officers Association of Sarasota (MOAS) May luncheon. The recipients were Gabrielle Barroso & Kersten Damosh (SMA), Jillian Bland & Nehemiah Pride (Sarasota HS), Katie Cole (Riverview HS), Olivia Liang & Matthew Twagorski (Cardinal Mooney HS), McKensie Murray (Booker HS), and Marissa Brotz & Kayla Shelly (Pine View School).

The scholarship committee of MOAS received 26 applications for the ten $2,000 Scholarships. Each application included a 300-word essay, letters of reference, honors and work/volunteer descriptions, college acceptance letters and school transcripts. Reviewing and grading the applications is a huge and time consuming job. Claire Power, Chairman of the Scholarship Committee thanked her members for their commitment; Mary Gordon, Mike Staley, Kay Tracy, Jean Southworth and Len Friedlander.

The MOAS Veteran’s Scholarship Program awards were made to the Veterans Programs at the State College of Florida Foundation ($2,000); Manatee Technical College – East ($1,000); and Manatee College – West ($1,000).

After helping to present the awards together with RADM Brian McCarthy, MOAS President, and Claire Power, MOAS Scholarship Committee Chairperson, Sarasota County Sheriff Tom Knight addressed the students and the membership.

Sheriff Knight spoke of his respect for the nation’s veterans and for the work that organizations like MOAS do for the community. He recounted his father’s World War II service in the Pacific as a B-29 tail gunner. It was only after his father’s passing did he discover, from an uncle, that his father had been shot down three times; once being rescued by a submarine after three days in a raft.

Sheriff Knight, addressing the scholarship recipients, spoke of life lessons and the values of humility and integrity. Mentioning the reduction in Sarasota County’s crime, he gave full credit to the hardworking staff and patrol officers in the Sheriff’s department, and stressed the importance of having and maintaining one’s integrity; if lost, it is almost never regained. As a final note, Sheriff Knight spoke of leadership by example and being a role model for others to emulate. Sheriff Tom Knight is the 10th Sheriff of Sarasota County, serving since January 6, 2009.

MOAS Scholarship Chairperson Claire Power (L) & the 2017 Scholarship Awardees. (Back Row l-r) Nehemiah Pride (Sarasota HS), Matthew Twagorski (Cardinal Mooney CHS), Jillian Bland (SMA) & McKensie Murray Booker (HS). (Front Row l-r) Katie Cole (Riverview HS), Marissa Brotz (Pine View), Kayla Shelly (Pine View), Gabrielle Barroso (SMA), Olivia Liang (Cardinal Mooney CHS) & Kersten Damosh (SMA).
MOAS Assists with Academic Olympics Final

Len Friedlander, Col, USAF (Ret)
FCOC Vice President

The Academic Olympics Finals competition, sponsored by the Education Foundation of Sarasota, was held on Saturday April 1st. For the first time, Venice HS won the competition with a score of 228; followed by Pine View (198), Riverview (174), Cardinal Mooney (148), Sarasota (110) & Suncoast Poly (108).

Kay Tracy & Christa Friedlander, representing MOAS, distributed backup battery chargers, embossed with the MOAA logo and motto, to all Academic Olympic participants. George Tracy, MOAS Past President, presented a check for $500 from our Scholarship Fund in honor of Pat McLain, longtime supporter of the Academic Olympics, to Kati Burns, Program Mgr (1) % Jennifer Vigne, President, Education Foundation (r). The gift will be used to support five members of the All Star Team that will represent Sarasota County in the Commissioner’s Academic Challenge in Orlando April 27-29.

Academic Olympics All Star Team

David Ervin, Sarasota HS; Bailey Jordan & Liam Hines, Venice HS; Mo Glickman Pine View; Caroline Hobson, Cardinal Mooney; & Julie Rohrbacher, Riverview HS

MOAS Past President Receives Award

George Tracy (c), MOAS Past President, received the JFCS Veteran’s Service to Community Award on May 3rd from JFCS CEO Heidi Brown and Troy Scott
October 27, 2011

Photocopying of Military Identification Cards

Recent incidents regarding the photocopying of military identification cards and common access cards (CAC), by commercial establishments to verify military affiliation or provide government rates for service, have been reported.

Personnel are reminded that the photocopying of US Government identification is a violation of Title 18, US Code Part I, Chapter 33, Section 701 and punishable by both fine and/or imprisonment.

Many military members, family members and DoD employees are unaware of this law. Please pass to the lowest level and include in training for force protection, information security and OPSEC.

FPO COMMENTS: Criminal elements and terrorist organizations place U.S. government identifications as a high value logistical element when planning acts against the U.S. military.

Although commercial establishments are not prohibited from asking for military/government identification, many government personnel and commercial establishments are unaware of the prohibition on duplication of government identification. Unfortunately, there are no safeguards in place to ensure a government identification card won’t be counterfeited or “cloned” based on a photocopy by a commercial establishment.

It is recommended that military/DoD personnel provide a state drivers license or other form of photo identification to be photocopied if an establishment insists on a photocopy of the traveler’s identification.

*NOTE: This does not apply to medical establishments (i.e. doctor’s office, hospitals, etc...) who are allowed take a copy for the purpose of filing insurance claims; and other government agencies in the performance of official government business.

UNCLASSIFIED

REMEMBER
Should you witness activity that may be criminal or terrorist in nature, contact the Pentagon Force Protection Agency IMMEDIATELY at 703-662-2729
We're Helping Vets and Their Families Starting Memorial Day!

They served our country. Let's serve them back. (And it's as simple as skipping that trip to the coffee shop!)

The One Less Latte Challenge is an easy, affordable way to help the Florida Veterans Foundation make futures a little brighter for vets and their families right here in the sunshine state. Instead of ordering that caramel or vanilla latte with the extra whipped cream, join together with thousands of others and use that money to bless someone who desperately needs the help.

It all starts at just $5 and it all starts this Memorial Day! Join the One Less Latte Challenge now!
2017 Florida Legislative Session

The 2017 Florida Legislative Session concluded May 8. Two veteran-related bills were signed into law, while the remainder died in various House and Senate subcommittees or did not come up for a floor vote before "Sine Die." Any signed legislation coming from the 2017 Florida Legislative Session generally takes effect July 1, 2017.

Gov. Rick Scott signed Senate Bill 7008 into law April 5. The bill saves the Florida Veterans Foundation, the Florida Department of Veterans’ Affairs direct—support organization, from scheduled repeal. The Foundation, established as a non-profit organization by the legislature in 2008, provides emergency financial assistance for veterans and their families during times of serious financial need. The bill also enables the Foundation to continue to fund and administer projects and activities such as the Florida Veterans’ Walk of Honor, the Florida Veterans’ Memorial Garden and the Florida Veterans’ Hall of Fame without an appropriation of state funds. Learn more about the Foundation at www.FloridaVeteransFoundation.org.

Governor Scott signed House Bill 401 into law May 9. The bill expands the list of forms of identification that a notary public may rely on when notarizing a signature on a document to include a veteran health identification card issued by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

For more information or to discuss future legislation, please contact FDVA Legislative and Cabinet Affairs Director Roy Clark at ClarkR@fdva.state.fl.us or FDVA Deputy Legislative and Cabinet Affairs Director Jessica Kraynak at KraynakJ2@fdva.state.fl.us. They can be reached at (850) 487-1533.

News

- **Veterans’ Hall of Fame Nominee Deadline Closes in Two Weeks**: Nominations are being accepted through May 31 for potential inductees in the Class of 2017 Florida Veterans’ Hall of Fame. The Florida Veterans’ Hall of Fame recognizes and honors those military 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. The Florida Veterans’ Hall of Fame Council transmits its recommended list of nominees to the Florida Department of Veterans’ Affairs, which submits the nominations to the Governor and Cabinet, who select the nominees to be inducted. For more information, visit http://floridavets.org/our-veterans/florida-veterans-hall-of-fame/.

- **Fourth Annual State of Florida Women Veterans’ Conference**: The Florida Department of Veterans’ Affairs will host the Fourth Annual State of Florida Women Veterans’ Conference at the Orlando VA Medical Center at Lake Nona, June 9-10. For more information, call (727) 319-7418.

- **World War I Commemoration Begins**: The Florida Capitol Museum is sponsoring an exhibit entitled, “Over Here and Over There: The United States, Florida, and World War I.” The traveling exhibit will be on display at the Old Capitol in Tallahassee until Sunday, May 21. A total of 42,030 Floridians served in the war, according to the museum. The enlistment numbers in Florida were significant for a state with fewer than one million residents. More than 116,000 Americans were killed in the war, including 1,134 Floridians. Countless others performed their patriotic duty by purchasing liberty bonds, volunteering with service organizations, and conserving food and raw materials. The state’s climate and abundance of land made it an ideal location for military training, technological development and agricultural production.
Key Upcoming Events
- May is Military Appreciation Month
- May is Florida Military Spouse Appreciation Month
- May is Asian Pacific American Heritage Month
- May 20 – Armed Forces Day
- May 20 – Honor Flight Tallahassee
- May 23 – Cabinet Meeting, Tallahassee (Presentation of annual Memorial Day Resolution)
- May 29 – Memorial Day
- May 31 – Governor’s Veterans Service Award Presentation, Brooksville National Guard Armory, 16386 Spring Hill Drive, Brooksville, FL 34604. Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. with the ceremony beginning at 9 a.m.
- June 6 – D-Day (1944)

Regards, Steve

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

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Reporting Veteran/Military Targeted Scams in Florida
Submitted by: Maj, USMC (Ret), West Central Chapter

Great information if you live in Florida and are concerned that you have been the victim of a scam, please consider contacting the State of Florida’s Military and Veterans Assistance Program (MVAP).

FYI Florida residents now have a place to report companies/advisors that try to charge Veterans or their family members when they file a claim or application for benefits - this most often happens with claims for a Non-Service Connected VA Pension with Aid and Attendance or for a VA Survivor/Death Pension with Aid and Attendance. They will take complaints on this issue and on all other Military/Veteran targeted scams, too.

The Florida Attorney General, Pam Bondi, has a new Military and Veterans Assistance Program (MVAP) within the Florida Consumer Protection Division of her office – please pass this information along to your Veteran/Military contacts.

Complaints may be filed by phone or online:
Phone: 1-866-9-NO-SCAM (1-866-966-7226)
Here’s the website link for additional information: [http://www.myfloridalegal.com/MVAP](http://www.myfloridalegal.com/MVAP)
Thanks, Kristen

Kristen Sellas
Casework Director
Veterans & Military Affairs Liaison
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

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.

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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

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

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Size of Ad</th>
<th>ANNUAL</th>
<th>CONVENTION ADVERTISER</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.
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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/. Opinions expressed by writers are their own, and may not express the positions of FCOC or the MOAA.