President’s Message
Col Leonard Friedlander, USAF, Ret

I know, from my discussions our Chapter leaders, that many of you were heavily involved in Memorial Day activities; participating in local parades, commemorative ceremonies, picnics, and speaking engagements. Yes, this commemorative holiday is one that hits home to those of us who have lost friends, comrades, and loved ones in the service of our country. It is an equally emotional day to those who are respectful of the sacrifices of the servicemen and women who gave their lives in the service of their country.

Events have not slowed since our return in April from the MOAA Council President’s Seminar and the “Storming the Hill” exercise in Washington DC. Our “Storming the Hill” exercise appears to have had some successes….but I don’t want to “count our chickens” yet.

The Senate Committee on Armed Services (SASC) markup of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) included the sought-after 3.1% pay raise for active duty forces.

On the Widow’s Tax front, HR 553 Military Surviving Spouses Equity Act has 327 co-sponsors and on the Senate side the S.622 - Military Widow’s Tax Elimination Act of 2019 has 77 co-sponsors. But it still has to be brought to the floor of both chambers and passed – and as Bob Bienvenue will tell you – “just because they co-sponsored it doesn’t mean they will vote for it.” So our work is not yet done. Read Bob’s Legislative column and act on it!!

Some of the most factual and timely information is provided to the MOAA membership in the MOAA Newsletters, which can be delivered to your email address on a weekly, bi-weekly or monthly basis. However, to receive the newsletter you must “OPT-IN” to receiving emails from MOAA.

Recent discussions with MOAA National indicate that we (Florida Chapters) have quite a few members (and chapter officers) who have not provided their email address to MOAA or signed up to receive the newsletter. If you wish to learn more about the newsletter’s contents, and to sign up to receive it, please go to http://moaa.highroadsolution.com/moaa_preference_page/EmailSearch.aspx

Many of our Florida chapters have strong ties to their local educational

Continued next page…
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institutions; providing scholarships to graduating JROTC cadets and other graduating high school seniors; presenting “Brown Bars” to newly commissioned ROTC cadet;, and providing financial support to veterans attending local colleges. I have been privileged during these last months to attend some of these annual scholarship award events, and have come away inspired by the caliber, initiative, and optimism of our young high school graduates and our returning veterans.

Be sure to check out the special section (pages 11-14) on our seven Chapters which garnered 2019 MOAA Foundation Community Outreach Grants. I encourage all of you to apply during the next cycle.

Preparations for the June 20-23 2019 Florida Council of Chapters convention are proceeding apace, and we are looking forward to an outstanding event hosted by the Tampa Chapter. RADM Michael J. Silah, NOAA (Director NOAA Officers Corps) will be the Saturday morning Breakfast speaker, and Lt. Gen. Dana Atkins, USAF (Ret), (MOAA President & CEO) will be the Keynote speaker at Saturday evening’s Military Gala. Lt Gen Atkins will also present the 2018 MOAA Communications Awards to the Florida Chapter winners at the President’s Reception on Friday event.

Looking forward to seeing you at the Convention in a couple of weeks, and thank you for all you do.

Len
Proposed Changes to Arlington National Cemetery Burial Eligibility

The Advisory Committee on Arlington National Cemetery (ACANC), which includes cemetery officials, retired servicemembers, and a former congressman, submitted its proposed changes to the Secretary of the Army last December. The ACANC’s proposal would limit eligibility to: servicemembers killed in action; members who died on active duty; former POWs; and recipients of medals of distinction, including the Medal of Honor, Purple Heart, and above.

Additionally, the committee proposed above-ground inurnment for the remaining WWII and Korean War Veterans, regardless of whether they fall under the above qualifiers.

MOAA is concerned over the exclusion of the current population of retirees and veterans from Vietnam through Post-9/11 eras, and remains committed to their stated position on this matter:

- Take no action restricting eligibility for the military retiree population, other than reserving a set number of plots for specific honorees, such as those killed in action or those who receive a Medal of Honor;
- Continue appropriate funding to undertake acquisition and development of adjacent land, including the Southern Expansion project currently underway; and
- Appropriate funds for the study and eventual acquisition of noncontiguous land to be used as an Arlington annex.

Our President and CEO Lt. Gen. Dana Atkins, USAF (Ret), has reached out to Army Secretary Mark Esper to discuss proposed eligibility changes for burial at Arlington National Cemetery and to offer possible solutions. Share your thoughts on this issue by emailing legis@moaa.org.

The engagement of MOAA members will play an important role in the coming months.
Widows Tax Bill Coming up for a Vote?

Earlier this year, the House changed the rules of how it conducts its business. One of the reforms included the creation of a “consensus calendar” for bills with bipartisan support but have not been reported out of committee.

According to the rules change, when a piece of legislation gets 290 cosponsors the bill sponsor may file a motion to place it onto a calendar for a floor vote. After 25 legislative working days, the House is supposed to consider at least one bill a week from the calendar.

Based on this change and the overwhelming bi-partisan support from House members (336 co-sponsors as of June 5th) for Cong. Wilson’s HR 553 Military Surviving Spouses Equity Act, there may be a vote on it as early as mid-July.

On May 22, MOAA joined representatives from prominent organizations and congressional members at an all-day event to raise additional support for ending the widows’ tax which resulted in national news coverage!

There are still 5 members of Florida’s Congressional delegation who have NOT signed on to this bill. They are Ted Yoho (R-3), Daniel Webster (R-11), Francis Rooney (R-19, Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-23), and Donna Shalala (D-27). You can use this link to send a message to your representative asking them why they do not support the Bill or edit the message to thank them for co-sponsoring and request they work to get the bill to the floor for a vote. [http://takeaction.moaa.org/app/write-a-letter?0&engagementId=495393](http://takeaction.moaa.org/app/write-a-letter?0&engagementId=495393)

Now is the time to prepare for August Congressional Recess Meetings

This year the work on finalizing the NDAA by both the House and Senate Armed Services Committees is progressing on a deliberate pace. It is still possible the respective bills will come up for a floor vote in each chamber prior to the scheduled recess. If that happens the bills will be sent to a Joint Conference Committee to reconcile the differences which most likely will occur after the recess in the final days of the session during September. In either case MOAA will be watching that very closely and we can expect that any concerns with provisions in the Bills affecting the military community will be brought to our attention with appropriate detail to convey to our congresspersons during their time back in the District during the Recess.

What can you do now?

Contact the District Offices and inform them of the chapter leaders’ desire to meet face-to-face during August as a follow-up from the Storming-the-Hill event in April (when they were visited by
…continued from previous page

the FCOC team). Inform them that the purpose of this meeting is to discuss the MOAA position on the provisions of the NDAA that may impact the 780,000 currently serving military and their families, military retirees and their dependents, and the surviving spouses and children of deceased military/retirees who reside here in Florida. They may direct you to the scheduler to request that meeting – just do it – but also keep the District staff involved all the way.

Keep tuned into the MOAA website and in particular the “Advocacy News” articles that you can find easily under the TAKE ACTION tab on the website home page header. This will help you be an informed advocate on the issues MOAA lobbies on.

Watch for a Special FCOC Legislative Alert coming out via email in late July. It will contain an update on co-sponsorship of MOAA’s bills of interest, any issues coming out of MOAA’s review and analysis of the NDAA’s, links to MOAA’s Calls for Action and Point Papers you can use to guide your discussions and to share with the Congresspersons and their staff at your meeting.

What do we expect from you after the recess meetings?
Prepare a brief “Memo for the Record” to include who you met with and your observations regarding the Congressperson/staff reactions to the discussion and issues raised. MOAA will be asking for your feedback and so too we ask you to send a copy to myself and Len Friedlander.

MOAA’s Advocacy Mission in support of the Military Community is what drives our membership gains in the ranks of the currently serving and recent retirees.

It is well worth the effort and MOAA knows the gains are appreciated especially by those affected by the challenges we are able to overcome through those efforts.

HOT UPDATE:

Bill Could Block Military Medical Cuts
This week the House Armed Services Sub-Committee on Personnel (HASC-P) submitted their portion of the FY2020 National Defense Authorization bill, which outlines their intention to stymie the proposed cuts of nearly 18,000 military medical personnel.

This is an encouraging sign, and affirms the concerns MOAA has had all along, including those expressed earlier by the House Appropriations Committee, who went so far as to withhold $250 million for health care contractors or civilian hires, until DoD can respond adequately to specifics such as the impact these reductions would have on quality and access to care.

MOAA members and supporters since May have sent more than 23,000 letters, sending a clear message of concern and the need for legislative action. Ed Note: If you were not one of those who sent in that letter it’s not too late. Follow this link:

Tell Your Lawmakers to Protect Military Medicine
I sincerely hope everyone had a nice Memorial Day and am sure that you marked the occasion appropriately.

I am certain that whatever you were doing, you took a few minutes to reflect on those who died in service to our great nation.

We all lost friends while serving in the military; some in combat, while others died or were killed as a result of training accidents.

I remember losing my first friend. 2LT Norman Anschutz. He and I attended our initial training courses as Signal Officers and then both went to Germany in late 1978.

In those days, there were massive maneuvers each March known as WINTEX (Winter Exercise). I recall coming back from a couple of weeks in the field in 1979 to find a message to call a common friend. He passed on the sad news that Norm had been killed during the maneuver’s convoy operations.

I have always thought about Norm and the seemingly promising career that never was. I think about him every Memorial Day. He is not forgotten.

On a lighter note, I hope to see you at the June convention in Safety Harbor. The Tampa chapter has done a ton of work to make the event a success.

There is still time to register, so make a point to get into the convention if you have not yet done so.

It doesn’t matter how many of these affairs I go to, I always learn something. I learn the most by sharing ideas and experiences with leaders from other chapters.

Sometimes we get to doing something in a particular way in our own chapters, without considering other options and ideas. I don’t claim to have a monopoly on good ideas; learning from the experiences of others may just make your chapter even better.

Finally, though Len has done so, I want to extend my congratulations to those chapters that were recognized as COL Marvin J. Harris Communications Award winners for 2018. Florida outdid all other states in the nation yet again. You can be proud of your accomplishments.

I encourage those chapters that did not compete to go in and look at the criteria and start preparing now for the next round. It isn’t that hard, and gets you the recognition you deserve. Congrats again to the winners!!
I wanted to take this article and introduce you to Terry’s Treasures. In these lines I will attempt to impart little bits of wisdom through personal stories, articles, emails that I have received, poetry and other things.

Please take it for what it’s worth—a way to help us relate God’s love more effectively to those whom we meet. Sometimes my Treasures will be long—maybe a page; other times they will be short—just a few lines. But they will always have a message that we can use.

Thanks for letting me use this space to share with you lessons I have learned. May God bless these words and may we all learn a little more about who God is, who we are, and how we can relate in a more God-like way with others.

For this article, let me share some of the things we really need to know about life. I learned these from Noah’s Ark:

1. Don’t miss the boat!
2. Don’t forget, we’ll all be in the same boat.
3. Plan ahead—It wasn’t raining when Noah built the ark.
4. Stay fit—when you’re 600 years old someone might ask you to do something really, really big.
5. Don’t listen to critics—just get on with what has to be done.
6. For safety’s sake TRAVEL IN PAIRS.
7. Build your future ON HIGHER GROUND.
8. Speed isn’t always an advantage; after all, the snails were on the same ark with the cheetahs.
9. When you’re stressed, FLOAT AWHILE.
10. Remember the ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic was built by professionals.
11. Remember that the woodpeckers inside are a larger threat than the storm outside.
12. No matter what the storm: When God is with you, there’s a rainbow waiting and it is God’s promise of His covenant!

These are just some fun facts that we should always keep in mind. Hope they help with whatever you are going through—be it smooth sailing or rough seas.
Florida Department of Veterans Affairs Update

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

Continued on next page
Attorney General’s Consumer Protection MVAP Fights Veteran-related Fraud

Thank you and your family members for the sacrifices you have made to protect our freedoms and keep our nation safe. It is an honor to serve the 73,000 active members of the Armed Forces and more than 1.5 million veterans who call the State of Florida their home.

My Consumer Protection Division works every day to protect Florida consumers from businesses and individuals that engage in unfair methods of competition or deceptive and unfair practices. Unfortunately, we often see these methods used to specifically target members of our active duty and veteran communities.

The Military and Veterans Assistance Program ("MVAP") was created to help educate military members and veterans on the types of scams that target their communities, what they can do to protect themselves, and how they can help protect others by reporting scams and deceptive business practices. In addition, members of the MVAP team work directly with military servicemembers and veterans who have been targeted, or their representatives, to help resolve their consumer protection related issues or find other outside assistance if necessary.

We continue to work tirelessly to ensure that our active duty, reserve members, and veterans of the Armed Forces are protected from unscrupulous businesses and individuals, but we cannot do it alone. WE NEED YOUR HELP.

If you are aware of a scam targeting our service members or veterans, or you have been affected by a scam or deceptive business practice, please file a complaint with my office by clicking the link:

(http://myfloridalegal.com/Contact.nsf/MVAP3?OpenForm)

or by calling my consumer protection division directly at 1-866-9-NO-SCAM (1-866-966-7226).

State Legislation Update

Regular sessions of the Florida Legislature begin on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in March and continue for 60 consecutive days, which may be extended by a three-fifths vote of each house. Special sessions may be called by the Governor, or may be convened by joint proclamation of the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Representatives. Special sessions may not exceed 20 days, unless extended by a three-fifths vote of each house. The Florida fiscal year starts July 1 of every year.

The House and Senate released the 2019 fall interim committee meeting schedule which will run intermittently from September 16-December 13, 2019. The 2020 Legislative Session will convene on Tuesday, January 14, 2020.

You can check the status of veteran-related state legislation and/or appropriation requests at this link. http://floridavets.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/Vet-Bills-final.pdf. Please note, during session and interim committee weeks, the list is updated weekly. Otherwise, the list is updated monthly.

If you have any general questions, please contact the FDVA legislative staff: Allison Sitte, FDVA Legislative and Cabinet Affairs Director, Phone: (850) 487-1533, ext. 7723, Sittea@fdva.state.fl.us, Jessica Hunter, FDVA Deputy Legislative and Cabinet Affairs Director, Phone: (850) 487-1533, ext. 7712, Hunterj@fdva.state.fl.us.

If you have specific questions pertaining to the legislation or appropriation request, please contact the member who is sponsoring the legislation or request. Inclusion of legislation in this report is for informational purposes only. Inclusion does not imply endorsement of, support of, or opposition to any particular piece of legislation by the Florida Department of Veterans’ Affairs.
LIFE IS EXPANDING AT FLEET LANDING.
Introducing our newest neighborhood, Beacon Pointe at Fleet Landing.

“Our new neighborhood promises to bring even more energy and choice to this spirited community. We can’t wait to welcome you!”

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

TO LEARN MORE CALL (TOLL-FREE) 1.877.623.4229 OR (LOCAL) 904.685.4425.

Beacon Pointe at Fleet Landing

One Fleet Landing Boulevard
Atlantic Beach, FL 32233
BeaconPointeFL.com
CONGRATULATIONS

to our

seven Florida awardees

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the seven chapters identified below for applying for and receiving a MOAA Foundation Community Outreach Grant to support their chapter’s activities serving their military and veteran communities.

The MOAA Foundation Program has announced their awards totaling $79,400 to 22 MOAA chapters across the U.S. who are giving back to the military community through programs that provide needed outreach, services, and recognition to servicemembers, veterans, and military families. Seven of the 22 selected chapters are from Florida and FCOC is extremely proud of them for the work they are doing to support the military and veteran families in their community.

Many of our chapters are deeply involved in their communities and are doing excellent work. The seven Florida chapters receiving the MOAA Foundation grant took the extra step of documenting their ongoing project and submitting a grant request at the appropriate time. I hope that EVERY Florida chapter submits a grant request for their community project when the next grant cycle opens up.

The MOAA Foundation Community Outreach Grants are intended for the delivery of community services in one of nine areas of critical family need: housing, food assistance, employment, health (including behavioral health), family support, community reintegration, financial assistance, legal assistance, and transportation.

In the meantime — CONGRATULATIONS to our Florida awardees; you can read some of their stories on the following pages.

- Historic Mayport Chapter
- Indian River Chapter
- Northwest Florida Chapter
- Military Officers Association of Sarasota
- South Central Florida Chapter
- Tampa Chapter
- Treasure Coast Chapter

Col Leonard Friedlander, USAF, Ret
MOAA Grant Funds
“No Dough Dinner”
By CDR Pat Kluever, USN (Ret), Historic Mayport Chapter President

Long-time Chapter Director, Col Richard (Denny) Tomlin, USMC (Ret), held a passion for helping veterans, surviving spouses, and military families at USO Mayport by preparing and serving “No Dough Dinners” where 300 to 400 military family members are served a free dinner two Mondays a month.

In 2019, Denny’s health declined and he passed away 25 February 2019 at 78 years young. All of our Chapter members and Fleet Landing residents miss Denny’s friendly manner, his energy, his enthusiasm, and his drive to “never stop serving”.

In honor, the Chapter was inspired to submit MOAA Foundation grant request to fund additional No-Dough-Dinners. The MOAA Foundation Board of Directors approved the Historic Mayport Chapter’s grant request for $3,750. The first of four No-Dough-Dinner’s funded by the MOAA Foundation Grant is scheduled for 8 July 2019.

The 25 March 2019 No-Dough-Dinner was dedicated to Colonel Tomplin. Historic Mayport Chapter members-servers were joined by Greater Jacksonville USO CEO Mike O’Brien, USO Mayport Director Joyce Shellhorn, and Denny’s surviving spouse, Cindy, along with their children and grandchildren. After a short ceremony, Chapter members started serving dinner to the assembled military families. Photos by Pat Kluever.
Indian River Receives $5000 Grant to Support Local Veterans in Need

The Indian River Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) has been selected as a recipient of a $5000 MOAA Foundation Community Outreach Grant for 2019 to fund special projects for the Veterans Helping Veterans program of the Veterans Council of Indian River County. The program provides free home improvements for veteran homeowners who can’t afford to do the repairs.

Indian River Chapter President Bob Albrecht, LTC, USA (RET), notes the Community Outreach Grant is intended for the delivery of community services in one of nine areas of critical family need: housing, food assistance, employment, health (including behavioral health), family support, community reintegration, financial assistance, legal assistance, and transportation. “We are very excited and honored to receive this grant” said Albrecht.

In 2018, the chapter received a similar grant which was used to provide critical roof replacement and air-conditioning repairs to two local veterans working in partnership with the Veterans Council of Indian River County. Carroll Oates, LTC, USAR (RET), 1ST Vice President, IRC MOAA is the Veterans Council Special Projects Officer in charge of the Veterans Helping Veterans Program.

NWFMOA Awarded MOAA Community Grant

By Dave Parisot, NWFMOA Community Outreach

The Northwest Florida Military Officers Association (NWFMOA), Florida Chapter 19, was awarded a community grant of $3,750 on April 18, 2019 by the Military Officers Association of America. A Chapter member has pledged a 50% match to the MOAA grant which will bring the total to $5,625.

The grant funds will be used to purchase furniture to outfit rooms for homeless veterans as part of the expansion of facilities at the One Hopeful Place shelter in Fort Walton Beach. When the furniture is received, volunteer members of NWFMOA will meet at One Hopeful Place to assemble the furniture and place it in the new living facilities.

This is the second consecutive year that NWFMOA has received a MOAA Community Grant. Last year’s award of $3,000 was used to purchase items to support local homeless veterans in conjunction with the 10th annual Homeless Veterans Stand Down of Okaloosa County.

We are most thankful to MOAA and its MOAA Foundation sponsors for selecting and supporting our local programs to assist veterans.
Sarasota Grant Offsets Community Concert at Patriot Plaza

By Brian McCarthy, RADM, SC, USN(Ret)

The Sarasota Chapter was pleased to be awarded a $2,500 grant from the MOAA Foundation for Celebrating the Stars & Stripes, a FREE community event at Patriot Plaza, co-located at the Sarasota National Cemetery on February 17th, 2020. The cost of the event is $20,000, requiring the Chapter to raise the balance of the funds.

This will be the third performance the Chapter has organized with the Pops Orchestra of Bradenton & Sarasota at Patriot Plaza. Vane Scott will perform the Many faces of Old Glory for the audience, a history of the American Revolution told with flags. The 2,000-person amphitheater is packed for these community events. The performance will be advertised in the Sarasota Magazine, accompanied by an article on the Chapter and MOAA. The Sarasota Magazine recently distributed 13,000 copies of the Chapter's recently published Old Glory brochure, which compliments the event and the Chapter’s American Flag Initiative, a 10-lesson curriculum being introduced into 53 elementary schools in Manatee and Sarasota counties on the protocol, etiquette, and history of our flag. Old Glory will be passed out to all those attending.

This year the Chapter also organized a 50th Anniversary Vietnam War Commemoration at Patriot Plaza, which the Sarasota Military Officers Foundation sponsored at the request of the Sarasota National Cemetery. Over 500 Vietnam Commemorative pins were awarded to Vietnam era Veterans. Never stop serving.

South Central Florida Chapter Donates $4000 to Highlands County Veterans Council

For the third time in two years, the South Central Florida Chapter was one of a small number chapters in the nation awarded the MOAA Foundation grant in the amount of $3750. The chapter added $250 from its own funds and made the total $4000. As with previous awards, the chapter donated these funds to the Highlands County Veterans Council for its Veterans Assistance Fund, bringing a two-year total of over $12,000 to the Council.

South Central chapter president Mike Borders, stated: “Helping our fellow veterans who are less fortunate is all about leaving no veteran behind. The first two iterations of the program proved invaluable, and we want to continue our support and assistance.” As an active member of the Veterans Council, the local MOAA chapter plays an integral role in the operation of the assistance fund which provides food and financial assistance to needy veterans in the community. We are proud to help our fellow veterans in any way we can.

If you have questions on the application process or how to qualify, please contact Mike Borders at MBor57@aol.com, or cell: 703-795-8776.
Cape Canaveral Chapter
By Marilyn Sanford, MOAACC Public Relations

Academy Appointees/ROTC Scholarship Recipients Honored

The Military Officers Association of America’s Cape Canaveral Chapter (MOAACC) recognized 34 Brevard County students who this year received appointments to military academies and ROTC scholarships at a May luncheon held by MOAACC at the Indian River Colony Club in Viera.

The students, who were praised by MOAACC officials as future leaders, are headed to the U.S. Military Academy, the U.S. Air force Academy, the U.S. Naval Academy, and the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, as well as colleges with Reserve Officer Training Corps. They will major in studies that include aeronautical engineering, chemical engineering, aerospace engineering, premedical and veterinary medicine.

BAYSIDE HIGH SCHOOL: Nathan Johnstone, Navy ROTC Scholarship/Embry Riddle AU; Jordan Wiggins, Navy ROTC Scholarship/Norfolk State University.

COCOA HIGH SCHOOL: Jacob Sickles, Navy ROTC Scholarship/Embry Riddle AU.


MERRITT ISLAND HIGH SCHOOL: Fernando Barros, Army ROTC/Florida Institute of Technology, Ethan Deibert, U.S. Air Force Academy; Sean Druck, Navy ROTC (USMC Option)/Embry Riddle AU; Mason Elizondo, Army ROTC/Florida Institute of Technology; Maddie Murphy, Army ROTC/Stetson University; Alden Goodwin, Army ROTC/Georgia Military College; Francis Perrin, U.S. Military Academy Preparatory School; Ceaser Snetsinger,Army ROTC/Georgia Military College; Mark Stutts, U.S. Coast Guard Academy; Sydney Watson, U.S. Military Academy Preparatory School; Ethan White, Army ROTC/Florida Institute of Technology.


VIERA HIGH SCHOOL: Parker Boss, Air Force ROTC/University of Florida; Dane Campbell, U.S. Naval Academy; Jonathon Castillo-Negron, U.S. Air Force Preparatory School; Dalton Honegell, Air Force ROTC/University of South Florida; Jacob Light, Air Force ROTC/University of South Florida; Elizabeth Smith, Air Force ROTC/University of South Florida; Vanessa Tohorton, Army ROTC/Marion Military Institute.

At the Florida Institute of Technology’s ROTC Commissioning Ceremony on May 3, Major General John Dreska (USA – Ret) presented three new Army 2nd Lieutenants with commissioning sets, along with memberships to the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) and their Cape Canaveral Chapter (MOAACC).

VMI’s Sam Sorrells Speaks at March Luncheon

Leadership and Ethics are critical life skills that few learn, and fewer get the chance to experience and live day to day. Virginia Military Institute is internationally renowned for its Honor Code and the ability to train citizen-soldiers for a life of service with integrity. Major Sam Sorrells brought these skills to life with his presentation on Leadership and Ethics as experienced by Cadets of the Virginia Military Institute.

During his 22-year career in the U.S. Marine Corps, GySgt Sorrells was deployed twice during the 1970’s on 13-month tours to Southeast Asia, Korea, Okinawa, the Philippines, Taiwan, Thailand and Japan. He participated with the HMM-165 “White Knights”, a CH-46 Sea Knight helicopter squadron, in support of Operation “Frequent Wind” April 29 and 30, 1975, during the evacuation of the U.S. Embassy in Saigon, Republic of Vietnam. His many military awards include: combat Aircrew Wings and the Air Medal for Individual Action.

In February 2008, Sam joined the VMI Foundation as the Associate Director of Annual and Reunion Giving. He was appointed Major in the Virginia Militia in August 2008, and began his duties as an Officer in charge (OIC) in the Barracks as a member of the Commandant’s Staff. Currently, he is the Director of Administration of the VMI Alumni Association.
Cleland Bugle Award Presented to FIT ROTC Cadet

During the Korean War, a young Army Infantry officer, John Cleland, heard numerous bugle calls prior to an attack on his position by Chinese forces. As the Chinese deployed for the attack the bugle calls increased, and during the attack the bugle calls were greatest. If and when the attack was beaten off, the bugle calls decreased. After one attack by Chinese forces was repulsed, Cleland found a bugle during a sweep of the area. He was curious as to why the Chinese used so many bugle calls. What he learned was that, due to a shortage of radios, the Chinese used bugle calls to direct their forces to move into different formations, i.e. going from marching to an attack formation.

After enlisted service, the young man attended Infantry OCS, eventually rising to Major General. He commanded infantry units from the Rifle Squad to the Mechanized Infantry Division, and fought as a Parachute Infantry unit commander in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. He was a commander, staff officer, a service school instructor, State Department Officer, overseas Military Advisory Group Chief, and Director of US Army Security Assistance during his military service. He is a highly decorated member of the US Army Infantry Hall of Fame.

In 1994, Cleland gave the bugle to the Florida Institute of Technology ROTC department to inspire cadets to become Army officers and, until his passing in 2017, recounted the story of the Chinese attack and bugle calls when he presented the award at an FIT ROTC award ceremony.

The Bugle Award is presented to a cadet recognized for leadership qualities including “personal example, infectious enthusiasm, and encouragement of others”. The name of each year’s trophy recipient is etched into the plaque below the bugle.

This year, the 25th Bugler Award was presented to Cadet Luke Mullins by Major General John Dreska, USA Retired. Mullins was cited by his ROTC instructors for exhibiting the leadership traits represented by the bugle.
Citrus County Chapter
By COL Mark Bodenheim USAR (Ret), President, Citrus County Chapter

May Meeting
Honors JROTC

The Citrus County Chapter held its annual JROTC Scholarship Awards luncheon on May 9th at the Citrus Hills Golf and Country Club. Pictured is first place awardee, Cadet Commander Logan Huffman, receiving a $1000 scholarship award. Pictured from left are: CWOS Liz Rivera, JROTC Senior Navy Instructor, Crystal River H.S.; Mr. Daniel Huffman, father; Mrs. Evelu Huffman, mother; Cadet CDR Logan Huffman; COL Mark Bodenheim, USA (Ret), President MOAA Citrus County Chapter; Chief Warrant Officer Four JJ Kenney, USMC (Ret), scholarship awards chairperson; and Superintendent Sandra “Sam” Himmel, Citrus County School District.

Citrus County Schools Superintendent Sandra “Sam” Himmel (left) receives a certificate of appreciation from the MOAA Citrus County chapter president, COL Mark Bodenheim, USA (Ret), for her presentation during the annual JROTC Scholarship Awards luncheon at Citrus Hills Golf and Country Club on May 9th, 2019. Superintendent Himmel presented examples of senior students graduating with outstanding records of scholarship and community service.

97-year-old WWII POW & Bombardier honored at April Mtg.

Above: JROTC Scholarship Awards runner-up (center) Army Cadet LTC James Fiorenza, receiving a $500 scholarship award. L-R: LTC David Brown, JROTC Senior Army Instructor, Lecanto H.S.; parents Matthew Fiorenza and Mary Ellen Fiorenza; COL Mark Bodenheim, USA (Ret), CWO0 JJ Kenney, USMC (Ret), scholarship awards chairperson; and Superintendent Sandra “Sam” Himmel, Citrus County School District.

The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), Citrus County Chapter President (left), COL Mark Bodenheim, USA (Ret) recognizes (right) 1st Lt George Hausold, USAF (Former) on his 97th birthday during the MOAA Citrus County/Ocala joint chapter luncheon on April 4th. 1st Lt Hausold, pictured with his wife Veni (center), was a bombardier of the US Army Air Force, 465th Bombardment Group and a WWII POW.
Highly Successful KOS Scholarship Dinner

A very successful KOS Scholarship Dinner meeting was held May 2, 2019, at the Ocala Elks Lodge. The KOS Chapter gave six $1,000 scholarships to Marion County seniors heading to military academies or with ROTC scholarships in college.

We were very impressed with the quality of this year’s KOS awardees. They are:

- Forest High School: Meghan Bolin; she received an appointment to the U.S. Coast Guard Academy. Cadet Commander Kaileigh Skinner; she will attend Santa Fe College with an Air Force ROTC Scholarship. Cadet Major Jeremy Wellhoner; he will attend Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University on an Air Force ROTC scholarship.

- Trinity High School: Samuel Kwatkosky; he has received an appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy. Nadia Vassou; she has received an appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy.

- Vanguard High School: Tania Rodriguez is graduating from with an International Baccalaureate diploma; she has received an appointment to West Point.

Eight MOAA JROTC Leadership Medal Award winners were recognized by COL Bill Murray and our KOS Chapter in the year 2019.

Cadet Capt Lydia Desy, Belleview High School; Cadet/CSG Elana Lee, Lake Weir High School; Cadet/PO2 Kassidy Leverett, North Marion High School; Cadet Major Yanna Ramos, Dunnellon High School; Cadet First Lieutenant Cheyenee Watson, North Marion High School; Cadet
Dr. MacManus Speaks at Sun City May Meeting

Dr. Susan MacManus was the featured speaker at the May 1st Sun City Center, FL Military Officers Association of America luncheon held in the Florida Room at the North Side Atrium.

Dr. MacManus received her master’s degree from the University of Michigan (1969) and her undergraduate (1968) and Ph.D. (1975) degrees from Florida State University.

She is nationally renowned for her expert and incisive commentary on public opinion and intergenerational politics and has appeared on ABC, NBC, CBS, FOX, CNN, Fox News Channel, MSNBC, PBS, BBC, NHK (Tokyo), Australian Television, C-SPAN, National Public Radio, and in various print media.

Dr. MacManus discussed various factors pertaining to the 2016 general election as well as the upcoming national election in 2020. She also discussed the recent Florida gubernatorial election, pointing out the impact the various categories of voters, i.e., black, white, Hispanic men and women had on the outcome. She also discussed the various generational groups and their impact on the elections.
$16,000 in Scholarships Awarded to JROTC Cadets

At its annual Scholarship Luncheon on May 2, 2019, the President of the NWFMOA Scholarship Fund, Inc., Major Dave Parisot, awarded $16,000 in college scholarships to seven local JROTC cadets. Six of the scholarships were for $2,000 each and one for $4,000 (see accompanying photo for scholarship winners; Cadet Sarah Brown won the $4,000 award.) NWFMOA currently supports seven local JROTC units with their Scholarship Program.

The program was started in 1997 with the award of one $500 scholarship. The program subsequently grew to where a $500 award was made to a graduating JROTC cadet from each of the five high schools in Okaloosa County. The increased scholarships are due to significantly increased donations to the Scholarship Fund by Chapter members and local businesses, and to an endowment left by Chapter member Lt Col Jim Heavener, USAF, Ret., on his death in 2016. For more information on NWFMOA’s scholarship program, go to www.NWFMOA.org and click on “Scholarship Fund” at the top of the page.

The NWFMOA also presents their scholarships at each school’s JROTC Awards program and Senior Class Awards program to recognize each cadet in front of their peer groups. At each JROTC Awards program, the Chapter also presents the MOAA Medal, ribbon and certificate to a junior year cadet as selected by the JROTC Instructor staff.
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA (MOAA)
FLORIDA COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS (FCOC)

The MOAA Florida Council of Chapters (FCOC) is comprised of 44 Chapters with nearly 8,000 members and their families. FCOC is one of MOAA’s largest Councils. MOAA has a membership of over 380,000 members in all 50 States.

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

The 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

Advertise with Us!

Submitting Articles and Pictures for The Communiqué

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

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

If you have questions about your submission, contact

Polly Parks
pparks@igc.org
703-338-6881
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<th>Placement Description</th>
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Size of Ad: ___________________ # of Placements: ________ OR Annual: ________

Notes:
Annual is from Jan-Dec; six (6) issues published electronically on the 10th of the even month. Mid-year placement for a recurring annual placement can be at pro-rated annual rate for remaining issues. Remaining copy due dates for 2018 are: October 1 and December 1.

Ad placement in printed Annual Convention Program (June) is handled separately by Convention Committee; POC's listed under Committee Chairs on last page of Communiqué

Amount: $____________ (make check out to: Florida Council of Chapters and mail, with this ad form, to: Polly Parks, Communiqué Editor, c/o SCFC of MOAA, PO Box 7841, Sebring, FL 33870.

Business Name: ____________________________________________________________
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- Submit PDF or jpeg file to: pparks@igc.org
- Ad copy must be submitted by the first of the month of the month of publication; i.e. Feb 1 for the January-February edition. Please notify the editor in advance if you plan to change the ad copy.

Any further questions, please contact: Polly Parks, pparks@igc.org or 703-338-6881.
# Florida Chapters & Web Sites (if available)

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