Veterans Day, November 11th -- an occasion to acknowledge and appreciate the service of our fellow military veterans, as well as our active duty, National Guard and reserve military comrades -- is almost upon us.

This year is a bit more meaningful as we look back to the original celebration associated with November 11th – Armistice Day – and we celebrate the centennial anniversary of the end of World War I. I hope our MOAA Chapters will join their communities in celebrating the veterans who have served their country with honor, and the magnificent achievement of the United States in 1918.

With the summer months behind us, and the return of the snowbirds to their southern homes, we have been working on finalizing the plans for the 2019 FCOC Leadership Forum to be held January 11th & 12th in Orlando and the 2019 FCOC Annual Convention being hosted by the Tampa Chapter in Safety Harbor from June 21st to 23rd. We urge you to sign up to attend both events.

January 2019 Leadership Forum
Since the Leadership Forum is, for all intents, “around the corner,” I would like to stress the importance of chapter leadership and membership attending the Forum.

There are many elements to MOAA chapter mission and viability – chief among them are our legislative agenda and advocacy, chapter affairs and membership, and the incorporation of surviving spouse and personal affairs needs that will be discussed amongst the participants.

I am not going to delineate the scheduled activities for the two-day event as they are outlined in the proposed Agenda on the Leadership Forum webpage. Suffice it to say that we will have senior members of the MOAA National staff to interact with attendees on both days of the conference in Roundtable discussions and presentations.

Admiral Walter Doran, USN (Ret), a member of the MOAA Board of Directors & Chairman of the MOAA Military Family Initiative Board has been invited to be our keynote speaker at the Friday evening dinner. Admiral Doran will present the MOAA Level of Excellence Award to those Florida Chapters that were unable to

Continued next page…
receive their awards at the MOAA Annual Meeting in Phoenix.

As an added bonus for attendees, MOAA is sponsoring the Friday Evening Dinner and there is no charge associated with the dinner menu selections on the Forum registration.

2019 Florida COC Convention
I don't want to forget mentioning our 2019 convention hosted by the Tampa Chapter of MOAA and to be held at The Safety Harbor Resort and Spa. Information on the Convention is available in this newsletter, and registration for both events will be available on the FCOC Website this week.

I want to remind all of our Chapter leaders that the primary method for making the convention successful is through advertisements in the Convention magazine that enable us to keep the costs manageable. Advertisement Reservation forms were sent to each of the chapters, and we look forward to receiving your chapters ads for the magazine. If you need a replacement form, please contact the Tampa Convention Chairperson Lewis VanDyke at vandykerl@verizon.net.

Christa and I wish you and your loved ones a very Happy Thanksgiving holiday. I hope to see you during my upcoming chapter visits and -- for a start -- at the FCOC Leadership Forum.

Hurricane Michael Relief Efforts

As we go to press, Hurricane Michael has slammed into the Florida Panhandle and Big Bend area as an unprecedented Category 4 storm. An unknown number of the 1.25 million residents in the area did not evacuate. For those who stayed and those who heeded the warnings or had the ability to evacuate, it may be weeks, if not months, before they can return to their homes.

Affected Florida Council of Chapters in the area include: Bay County Chapter (Panama City), Pensacola, Northwest Florida Military Officers Association (Shalimar/Ft. Walton Beach), Santa Rosa (Milton), and the Tallahassee chapters.

Numerous Navy, Air Force, Navy, US Coast Guard and NOAA units and facilities are in the impacted area, including Tyndall Air Force Base, where the storm came ashore, and major Navy facilities Pensacola and Whiting Field Naval Air Stations.

Below are links to reputable relief agencies in place to provide relief:

Red Cross: https://www.redcross.org/donate/hurricane-michael-donations.html/
Team Rubicon: https://teamrubiconusa.org/give/
Americares: https://www.americares.org/
Salvation Army: https://www.salvationarmyusa.org/usn/help-disaster-survivors/#ampFW
United Way: https://www.unitedway.org/get-involved/ways-to-give/donate
and for animals: https://www.americanhumane.org/
MOAA Report on Final Defense Spending Bill

In the October 4th MOAA Newsletter our HQs legislative staff reports on the specifics included in the final Defense spending bill (HR 6157) which was a “mini-bus” (meaning a consolidated appropriations bill that included funding for Health and Human Services, Education and Labor and a CR for several other government agencies). The article was written before the President signed the bill which occurred on October 2nd.

Click on this link to read the full article:

The final legislation did not address nor provide provisions to support the full expansion of concurrent receipt nor eliminate the dollar-for-dollar deduction of DoD’s Survivor Benefit Plan from the VA’s Dependency and Indemnity Compensation, better known as the widows’ tax - both top legislative priorities for MOAA. There have been lots of “feel good” press remarks issued by leadership of both the House & Senate Armed Forces Committees regarding support for this issue, but it turned out to be just words… again. DO NOT let this failure by our Congress to follow through on their verbal commitments go unnoticed when you select from the candidates running for the US Congress on election day.

How did the Florida Delegation Vote on the final Defense Spending Bill?

This Bill passed the House with 185 Democratic and 176 Republican votes with final tally of 361/61.

Florida Representatives voting NO were Ted Yoho (R- FL 3); Daniel Webster (R- FL 11) and Francis Rooney (R- FL 19). They joined the 53 other republicans who voted Nay including Jim Jordan and Mark Meadows, members of the ultra right wing House Freedom Caucus (formerly Tea Party).

You may recall that back in March there were 9 members of the House from Florida (8-Rs; 1-D), including these same three, who voted against the bi-Partisan Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (H.R. 1625)
which fully funded the government (including defense) for the remainder of FY 2018 – some six months LATE. Several of those who voted against it touted their support of the Military saying they supported the 2.1% pay raise in the NDAA. But the bottom line is after they voted for it, they voted against it when that overall spending bill came to a vote. And yet ….. it happened again

What’s Happening with TRICARE Fees?

MOAA recently got a glimpse at what beneficiaries might expect from next year's out-of-pocket TRICARE costs. This is important information as military families and retirees prepare for open season enrollment, coming up Nov. 12 through Dec. 10, 2018. Retirees on TRICARE for Life are not at all affected.

The good news is, the majority of existing TRICARE Prime and Select fees will not go up; the very few that do will be adjusted based on the retiree COLA (projected to be 2.8 percent as of August 2018).

The not-so-good news is, the current fee structure largely will remain in place. Most beneficiaries will recall the TRICARE fee structure changed Jan. 1, 2018, to require much higher cost shares.

MOAA will maintain pressure on the Defense Health Agency to recognize the impact these fee increases have had on beneficiaries - especially those who require specialty care such as physical therapy or mental health care.

The promise of providing health care coverage “sustained over the lifetime of the servicemember and their family” earned through years of service and sacrifice is in keeping with the social compact that our nation entered into with those who served and also serves as a positive example for those who might consider service.

Extracting “user-fees” that are not in line with compensation increases denigrates the value of that “lifetime benefit”.

You can read more by clicking on this link:

“Congressional Leaders Discuss the Importance of Military Advocacy”

Linked to the October 4th MOAA Newsletter was an interesting piece describing comments by the Maryland Congressional delegation at a meeting on Capitol Hill on the advocacy efforts of MOAA members in the state. This is a good read that is relatable to contacts with your congressperson(s).
What’s Next?
It’s Déjà Vu all over again.

As the end of this congressional session approaches there won’t be much happening affecting DoD and the people we serve. But there is much up in the air to be dealt with next year in the newly configured 116th Congress.

- By year’s end, DoD expects to launch its 13th Quadrennial Review of Military Compensation (QRMC), which will assess the pros and cons of converting servicemembers from traditional basic pay and tax-free allowances to a single, civilian-like salary system.
  (Translation: more benefits being paid from your pocketbook like what has been done to the military retirement system)
- The next President’s Budget Request to be submitted to Congress in February. This request will face additional challenges in Congress because there is no agreed to spending level for FY 2020 as was already in place in advance of deliberations for FY 2019 spending.
- MOAA’s and The Military Coalition’s unfilled legislative priorities from this year’s agenda will mostly be carried forward.

Final words for the upcoming election

- The vote is the most powerful instrument ever devised by man for breaking down injustice.
- Your vote is not a wasted vote if you vote with your heart and think about the future generations when you vote.
- If we don’t elect leaders who are committed to building a better future for our kids, other rights - our rights to clean air, clean water, health, and prosperity - are placed directly in harm's way.
- Nobody will ever deprive the American people of the right to vote except the American people themselves and the only way they could do this is by not voting.
  Franklin D. Roosevelt

Voting is not just a right, it is a responsibility.

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Florida’s 13 Amendments (minus Amendment 8, knocked off ballot)
The Florida general election ballot will have 13 Amendments to vote upon. Amendments 1, 2, and 5 are fiscal items impacting local and state government revenues and budget process and were put on the ballot by the state legislature. Amendments 3 and 4 are by citizen petition. Amendments 6-13 (number 8 has been struck off the ballot by the state Supreme Court) are the result of the every 20-year-convening Florida Constitution Revision Commission. If you haven’t made up your mind yet on how to vote on the Amendments, the non-partisan League of Women Voters has a website explaining the pros and cons of each amendment and sponsorship: https://www.lwvfl.org/amendments/. The Editor
In September, my wife, Diana, and I went north to join the Georgia Council of Chapters annual convention from 14-16 September in Carrollton, GA.

Council President Don Nau and his team did an excellent job in putting together an informative, useful, and entertaining event.

In the quaint surroundings of historic Carrollton, the group heard from senior leaders of MOAA National to include President and CEO Lt Gen Dana Atkins, CAPT Jim Carmen, and CAPT Erin Stone. Local dignitaries also participated in several of the activities, both social and business-related.

The event included a visit to a local horse farm where the horses are used as therapy animals for veterans with PTSD. The horse farm is operated by Stephanie Cirasa, a Carrollton chapter spouse.

The gala social was held in the historic Carrollton train depot and was enjoyed by all.

On the last morning, a memorial service was held for those members of Georgia chapters who had passed away in the last year.

Next year the Georgia Council of Chapters convention will be held in Atlanta.
Chaplain’s Message
Chaplain (Col) Charles Caudill, USAF, (Ret) Religious Activities

Journeys
October 2018

When my wife and I pray we always ask God to bless our journey. My Dad told me: “If you stay in God’s current He will guide you.” I have always tried to follow that advice and offer it to others. And now I must tell you about a new journey we will be taking. Jan and I will be moving back to Lexington, Virginia.

It is with sadness in our hearts that we leave our FCOC and Florida MOAA family. We have loved being with you for that last eight years, enjoying your company. You have become more than friends. The relationships we have made are not taken for granted nor will they be cast aside. You will be missed!!

It has been my great privilege and honor to be accepted as your Chaplain. I am grateful to have been able to hold services for those who lost loved ones. I have enjoyed representing the Sarasota Chapter and Florida Council and participating in the many local and veteran functions in Sarasota and the state of Florida.

This is my final column for the Chaplain’s Corner. Writing these articles from my heart has endeared you all to me. We will always have you in our prayers.

This move has come as quite a surprise for both of us. Several weeks ago, we were in Lexington talking to the curator of the Virginia Military Institute Museum. We were discussing archiving some of my VMI memorabilia. It made me uncomfortable to have this conversation because I’m not dead yet.

Leaving the museum, I went to the cemetery where my late wife of 46 years is interred. The headstone has both our names on it. This is the spot where I will be laid to rest and my funeral will be held at the VMI Cadet Chapel. I have known this since my wife died in 2002, but this was the first time it became a reality. After many prayers and listening to God’s response, I knew we should move back now.

When I told Jan, she agreed it was the timely thing to do. Therefore, we begin a new journey. This time we are leaving our Florida friends, and returning to our Virginia friends and family.

The scripture I would like to share with you is from Colossians 3:12-14: “Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness, and patience, forbearing one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.”

With all my heart I leave you with these words:

“The Lord bless you and keep you: the Lord make his face shine upon you, and be gracious unto you: the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.” Amen
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– CAPT & Mrs. Milton Miefert, USN(Ret), Residents

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SAVE THE DATES:
Florida Council of Chapter MOAA Convention
20-23 June 2019

Registration is now open!

The Tampa chapter will be hosting the 2019 annual convention 20-23 June 2019 at the Safety Harbor Resort & Spa. You are encouraged to support this event by registering and attending the convention. The Tampa chapter website (TampaMOAA.org) and council website (MOAAFL.org) have information about the convention and registration options.

While you can register on the MOAAFL.org website, we are encouraging you to mail in your registration to save the processing fees incurred when paying online. There are two ways to get the registration form; download it from the website or download it from the next page of the Communiqué.

Once you have filled out the registration form, just mail the form and check to the address on the registration form.

Contact me if you have any questions: vandykeRL@verizon.net
Lewis VanDyke, 2019 Convention Chair
20-23 JUNE 2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM
Venue: Safety Harbor Resort & SPA

__________________________________________________________________________

NAME                      Rank                      ADDRESS
__________________________________________________________________________

Phone #                      Service                      Email Address
__________________________________________________________________________

Name of Guest                      Chapter
__________________________________________________________________________

Resort Reservation Cost: Arrival Date ____________________ Departure Date ____________________

$ __________ = # Nights X $109.00       Bed preference: ___King ___2 Queen

Please indicate the number registering, shirts, and attending each event below

#                              Cost

___ X $30.00 = _______________  Registration: $30.00 Each Attendee

___ X $30.00 = _______________  Presidents Reception: $30.00 Each Attendee

___ X $30.00 = _______________  Breakfast: $30.00 Each Attendee

___ X $30.00 = _______________  Luncheon: $30.00 Each Attendee

___ # Attending Military Ball

Meal choices for Military Ball

___ X $50.00 = _____________  $50.00 each London Broil

___ X $50.00 = _____________  $50.00 each Chicken Marsala

___ X $55.00 = _____________  $55.00 each Grilled Salmon

Shirts

___ X $35.00 = _____________  Man: ___ Small ___ Med ___ Large ___ XLarge ___XXLarge

___ X $35.00 = _____________  Woman: ___ Small ___ Med ___ Large ___ XLarge ___XXLarge

__________ TOTAL COST (Check Payable to: Florida Council of Chapters)

____ Will Attend ___ Will Not Attend 20 June Operation Helping Hand Dinner
(No charge for meal. Transportation provided by James A Haley Veterans Hospital from Safety Harbor Spa and Resort for first 50 that sign up.)

____ Will ___ Will not need transportation from Spa

Mail Form and Check to: Lewis VanDyke
1151 Shipwatch Circle
Tampa, FL 33602-5786

NOTE: Send questions or special accommodation needs to: vandykeRL@verizon.net.
Provide any comments you may have on the back of this form.
Construction begins on new Ardie H. Copas State Veterans’ Nursing Home in St. Lucie County

PORT ST. LUCIE, Fla. – Progress continues on the new 120-bed Ardie R. Copas State Veterans’ Nursing Home in St. Lucie County following the March 20, 2018 groundbreaking ceremony.

“We're finishing the leveling and drainage of the 28-acre property and are preparing to pour the foundation in anticipation of construction,” said Steve Murray, spokesperson for the Florida Department of Veterans’ Affairs. “We hope to complete the home in late 2019 and open to residents in early 2020.”

The veterans’ home is named in honor of a Medal of Honor recipient from the Vietnam War — Fort Pierce and St. Lucie County native Sgt. Ardie R. Copas, who was killed in Cambodia in May 1970.

The veterans' home will feature a total of 120 beds in two neighborhoods each consisting of three houses of 20 beds. One neighborhood of 60 beds will be devoted to residents with Alzheimer's/Dementia. Most residences are two-person semi-private rooms, with separate living areas and a shared bathroom. Included in the overall design are six bariatric rooms and six private rooms.

Once opened, approximately 175 health care, food service, maintenance and administrative staff will oversee the skilled nursing facility. Information on hiring of staff and admission of residents will be released in the months leading to the opening.

Veterans License Plate & State I.D. News

As a result of the 2018 Florida Legislative Session, veterans are no longer charged a fee to have the word “Veteran” displayed in blue on the newly designed driver license or identification card issued by the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles. More than 400,000 Florida veterans currently have the veteran designation on their driver license or state ID card. For more information, visit https://www.flhsmv.gov/military/ or call (850) 617-2000.
ORLANDO – The former VA Community Living Center on the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Campus at Lake Baldwin in Orange County is being converted to a 114-bed state veterans’ home. Transferred from the VA to the state in 2016, the Florida Department of Veterans’ Affairs accepted title of the facility in August 2018 and is preparing a nine-month refurbishment to prepare the facility for residents.

The building, dedicated in 1999, was converted to clinical and office use by the VA approximately six years ago, when a newer community living center was opened at the VA’s new Lake Nona campus.

“No timeline has been set for reopening the Lake Baldwin facility to local area veterans, as inspections, federal and state budgeting and upcoming renovations must be considered,” said Steve Murray, spokesperson for the Florida Department of Veterans’ Affairs. “The new home will eventually be renamed for an eligible Florida Medal of Honor recipient, as with other facilities in our network of state veterans’ homes.”

Save the Dates

Inauguration of the new Florida Governor is Tuesday, Jan. 8, 2019 in Tallahassee.

The 2019 Florida Legislative Session will begin on March 5, 2019 and conclude on May 3, 2019.
Kingdom of the Sun
By Arlo Janssen, LTC, USA (Ret), Editor, Sunbeams, KOS/MOAA

Veteran Services Fair

A Veteran Services Fair, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, North Florida/South Georgia Veterans Health System was held in Ocala, FL, on Thursday, August 23, 2018. The KOS Chapter manned a table at the fair. Ed Kelly, a member of our KOS chapter and his wife Joan Kelly, attended the Veteran Services Fair and were featured with a picture of Ed on his scooter in the Ocala Star-Banner on Friday, August 24, 2018.

Governor’s Veterans Services Award

Gov. Rick Scott visited Ocala, FL, on Wednesday, August 29, 2018, to present the Governor’s Veterans Service Award. Among the 219 veterans at the National Guard Armory ceremony were three KOS Chapter members - Arlo Janssen, Phil Johnson, and Ken Puckett. They were presented a Veterans Service Award medal hanging from a red and white ribbon by Gov. Scott. They shared a brief conversation and posed for pictures with the Governor.

KOS Chapter Coin to Concord Print Shop

On September 14, 2018, Arlo Janssen presented a new KOS coin to Bill Marren, the owner of the Concord Print Shop which prints Sunbeams, the KOS Chapter Newsletter, six times a year.
Piloting the Panama Canal

The "Welcome Back" KOS September luncheon was held at the Elks Club on Thursday, September 6, 2018. Ken Puckett, a KOS member, gave a presentation on his experiences of working on the Panama Canal for 16 years as a pilot helping ships to cross the Panama Canal. His talk included a number of excellent slides.

KOS initiates Legislative Office Visit

Three members of KOS met with Craig Deatherage, Military and Veteran Affairs Liaison for Congressman Neal Dunn from the Second District of Florida, on September 10, 2018, in Dunnellon, FL. Phil Johnson, Legislative Chairman of the KOS Chapter, had prepared briefing material for the meeting that covered a number of MOAA issues. Other KOS members attending this meeting were Robert Schlegel, current President of the KOS Chapter, and Arlo Janssen, Immediate Past President, of the chapter. Phil Johnson, also met with Florida State Senator, Dennis Baxley on September 20, 2018, at the OTOW Veterans Club meeting. Other KOS Chapter members attending this meeting were Arlo Janssen and Kenneth Puckett.
First Coast High School JROTC Parents Day

The Historic Mayport Chapter Navy Programs Team visited the Parents Day Program of the First Coast High School Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) outside Jacksonville on 29 September. Over 10% of the total student body -- an astonishing 220 students -- are cadets in the JROTC Program.

The JROTC Program is expertly run by LCDR Suzanne Bolden, USN (Ret) with the assistance of Navy Chief Petty Officer Thayer Mack, USN (Ret) and Gunnery Sargent Christopher Glocke, USMC (Ret).

LCDR Bolden outlined the activities of the unit which include team competitions such as “Brain Brawl,” a Jeopardy on steroids. The Gunny runs air rifle and Orienteering competitions and there are also athletic competitions, armed and unarmed drill teams, and the color guard. The cadets also provide community service by helping community organizations with events and road clean-ups. Four times each year the cadets can take the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) to understand their proficiency in both inherent and learned skills that correlate to military occupational specialties.

The cadet corp is broken into training groups. Chief Mack works to instill personal responsibility, accountability, and attention to detail in the beginning corp cadets. Gunny works with the students on fitness, survival, teamwork, and setting and accomplishing goals. LCDR Bolden concentrates on general military science and leadership.

The cadets have a full schedule training with their teams in preparation for competitions, training, and service events on the road. For example, the Gunny will take a group of thirty NS-1s to USMC Recruit Depot, Parris Island, for one week to experience chow halls, drilling, marches, field exercises, demonstrations, and parts of the “crucible.”

LCDR Bolden left a civilian career in banking to help young adults succeed in life and in their careers, be it in the military services or civilian life. She is the only female JROTC Senior Military Instructor in the state of Florida.

Chapter representatives RADM Venlet and CDR Kleuver were very impressed by the First Coast High School’s JROTC Program and the energy and commitment of their fine instructors. The Mayport Historic Chapter is committed to working with LCDR Bolden and her program to succeed in their goal to guide and encourage the First Coast High School JROTC cadets. Stay tuned for updates on our support efforts to this Program throughout the year.
September Meeting Features MOAA’s VP of Government Relations

The Sarasota chapter was honored to host Col Dan Merry USAF(Ret), MOAA Vice President of Government Relations, as their September multi-chapter luncheon speaker. Dan missed the last September meeting due to Hurricane Irma, which inconveniently blew through Sarasota during their 2017 scheduled luncheon. Dan made up for this missed opportunity by updating over 100 attendees on the plethora of legislative initiatives with passion, a command of the details and firsthand knowledge of the challenges the MOAA legislative team face in persuading our legislative representatives - to see it our way.

Dan made it clear that there are no slam dunks in getting Congress to focus on MOAA’s priorities. Reversing the constant erosion of veteran, family and survivor rights and benefits requires a Herculean effort. Dan emphasized the importance of MOAA’s leadership of the Military Coalition, a group of 32 military, veteran and uniformed service organizations that represent a combined 5.5 million service members, veterans and family members.

Dan’s interesting and insightful overview of the political process was both enlightening and daunting. He highlighted the importance of MOAA’s efforts as the largest military lobbyist in DC but stressed the importance of constituent connectivity (that means you and me). Success requires us to convince our legislators to get off the fence and support and vote for our priorities. How do we help? By using MOAA’s Take-Action Network to motivate our legislators. Dan clearly knew his subject matter, answering all our questions in detail. You will find it well worth your time to tune into Dan’s “On-Watch” articles posted at http://www.moaa.org/Content/Take-Action/On-Watch-Listing.aspx.

“John Denver Coming Home” Veterans Day Show

The Pops Orchestra 2018-19 season kicks off in November with our annual salute to veterans featuring tribute artist Tom Becker in “John Denver Coming Home”. Come hear Tom sing all of your favorite John Denver songs and wear your red, white, and blue as the Pops honors every veteran with God Bless The USA, Salute to the Armed Forces and many more. General reserved discounted tickets are available to veterans and their families for this concert. Turing this concert the Pops is again partnering with the Military Officers Association of Sarasota to support the MOAS Scholarship fund. This fund is used to provide financial aid to returning veterans who are enrolled in a college or vocational training program to assist in books, transportation and incidentals related to their educational goals. The Pops will donate concert profits to this program and individual donations may be made at the door or when purchasing your tickets. https://thepopsorchestra.org/john-denver-coming-home/
Citrus County Chapter
By COL Mark Bodenheim USAR (Ret),
President, Citrus County Chapter

Pictured from left to right are: Chapter President COL Mark Bodenheim (Ret) USAR; COL Curt Ebitz (Ret), USA, vice president Veterans Foundation; Tom O’Brien, Mission United Coordinator; and Kimberly Stibbs Menster, Citrus County Veterans Service Officer (VSO). Not pictured is Richard Floyd, president Veterans Coalition. Photo by L. Dombrowski

September Panel Discussion
The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) Citrus County chapter presented a panel discussion program at their September 13th chapter meeting. The panel highlighted the new communication protocol by three major county nonprofit Veterans organizations and the county Veterans Service Officer (VSO) to coordinate non-VA assistance benefits to eligible Veterans. The Citrus County Veterans Foundation, the Veterans Coalition, and Mission United of United Way, now coordinate their assistance which efficiently spends donated funds. The MOAA Citrus County Chapter is a local service organization open to currently serving, former and retired commissioned or warrant officers and officer surviving spouses. Chapter meetings are held at the Crystal River Golf Club. For information on meetings and membership, visit the chapter website online at www.moaafl.org/Chapters/CitrusCounty/ or contact the membership chairperson, CAPT Terri Harrison, USN (Ret) at 352-410-9215.

FREE
LAKELAND CONCERT

COL Mark Bodenheim, USAR (Ret), left, met with Steven Koncar, right, the legislative director for Congressman Daniel Webster of the 11th Florida District. The August congressional recess meeting covered a variety of topics affecting all ranks of active, reserve and retired service members to include spouses and surviving spouses.
Cape Canaveral Chapter
By Marilyn Sanford, MOAACC Public Relations

MOAACC Good Deeds Foundation
The Good Deeds Foundation of the Military Officers Association of America Cape Canaveral Chapter (MOAACC) recently distributed 20 grant checks of $350 to each JROTC Unit, Sea Cadets Division, and Civil Air Patrol Squadron in Brevard County. The money will support each group’s activities during the 2018-2019 school year.

MOAACC’s Student Affairs Chairman, Dan McIntyre, who organized the ceremonies at each school, was assisted at the presentations by more than 20 MOAACC members. The checks were presented in classrooms, at auditorium ceremonies, in a museum, and at two football games with a combined 1600 fans in the stands. The grants, which totaled $7,000, represented the most substantial contribution to these groups that MOAACC has ever made, according to GDF President Donn Weaver. The Foundation raises money by reaching out to MOAACC members, the local business community, and others who wish to contribute to the high impact causes they support.
Col. John E. McLaughlin, USA (Ret), was the featured speaker at the September Military Officers of America Association (MOAA) monthly luncheon, which was held at the Sun City Center.

Col. McLaughlin currently serves as a consultant and keynote speaker on strategic, operational and tactical C4I and cyber security. Prior to this role, he most recently served as the Director of C4 Operations, United States Special Operations Command at MacDill Air Force Base, Florida. There, his responsibilities included providing operating and defending the Special Operation Forces (SOF) Information Environment (SIE) and all SOF Networks in support of global SOF operations.

Throughout his career, John has served in several key leadership and staff positions. Overseas assignments included Iraq, Afghanistan, Haiti, Korea and Panama. CONUS assignments included 75th Ranger Regiment, Hunter Army Airfield, Savannah, GA; Brigade S6, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, NC; Regimental Signal Officer, 75th Ranger Regiment, Fort Benning, GA; Battalion Commander, 112th Signal Battalion, United States Army Special Operations Command, Fort Bragg, NC; Battalion Commander, Joint Communications Unit, Fort Bragg, NC; and Brigade Commander, DISA Global, Scott AFB IL.

Since retiring in late 2017, John has established his own independent consulting and keynote speaking firm, IPR Consulting LLC, specializing in Enterprise Operations and defense, Cyber Security, Satellite Operations, NETOPS and other C4I related areas. He currently serves as the AFCEA Tam-pa/St Petersburg Chapter President, where he leads efforts to establish Tampa as a Cybersecurity Center of Excellence.

He discussed DoD’s defensive posture including its existing cyber security, the DoD network and the new developments in Cyber and Space. He stressed the effectiveness and importance of drone warfare.
St. Petersburg Chapter
By LTC Pauline Mallory, USA (Ret)

St Petersburg Area Chapter of MOAA receives a MOAA Military Family Initiative Community Outreach Grant

“The MOAA Military Family Initiative (MOAA MFI) offers grants to MOAA, its councils and its chapters in support of career development and community outreach programs and services. The MOAA MFI supports successful programs and services that enable veterans of all ranks and their families to maintain a quality of life reflective of their selfless service to America.”

Thanks to the efforts of COL Roger Popham (Ret) and LTC Carol Barkalow (Ret), the St Petersburg Area Chapter-MOAA was awarded a MOAA Military Family Initiative grant for the Heaven On Earth for Veterans Organization (HOEV). Carol and SPCA-MOAA member Sheila Mustacio co-founded this organization in 2013 to provide safe, affordable, furnished living quarters to military veterans in need of housing.

Veterans lease private bedrooms and share the common living areas. The cost of renting a bedroom ranges from $400 to $600 per month. All utilities are included as well as cable and internet access in the common area. In addition, common areas within the homes are cleaned by a cleaning service biweekly.

The money from this grant will be used to buy sorely needed new windows for the work in progress ninth house. This house has three bedrooms, one bath, kitchen, and living room. Once completed, the house will be rented to USF/St Pete veteran students. Many hands have helped to get this home renovated including the donations of a kitchen granite countertop by Stonework’s, a new roof from Volunteers of America FL and the helping hands of Jim Fitton (SPAC member) working every Thursday with Carol.
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

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

ADVERTISING ORDER FORM

Per Issue Placement  Annual (6 issues)

Quarter Page (4" H x 3.5" W)  $  75  $ 300 / SAVE $150

Half Page (8" H x 3.5" W)  or (4" H x 7.5 W)  $150  $ 600 / SAVE $300

Full Page (9.625" x 7.5" W)  $300  $1,200 / SAVE $600

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: __________________________________________________________

Address: __________________________________________________________________

City: _______________________________ State: ________ Zip: _________

Business Contact: ___________________________ Email: _________________________

Tel/Cell #:________________________ Fax #: ___________________________

- 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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The Council Communiqué is the newsletter of the Florida Council of Chapters (FCOC), Military Officers Association of America, and is published bimonthly: February, April, June, August, October, and December. MOAA, its Councils and Chapters are non-partisan organizations. The Communiqué is intended for wide distribution within the FCOC including Chapter Leaders and all Chapter Members in Florida.

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