



MILITARY OFFICERS CALL
Sun City Center Chapter
Military Officers Association of America
P. O. Box 5693, Sun City Center, FL. 33571
Website: www.sccmoaa.org



Volume 40 Number 1

January 2024

President's Message

CDR Bill "Bullet" Kirkpatrick, USN (Ret)

We had an outstanding turnout for our December luncheon. The comradery, the good food (that was set up and served on time), and a Holiday atmosphere with seasonal music made for a very festive meeting. We didn't have a speaker in December due to the installation of our Officers and Directors. However, we will have an exceptional speaker in January. Our own Joe Muhlberger will be giving a presentation on his experiences climbing up the ranks from E-1 to O-5. Very few in the military have been able to do this. Joe is an accomplished presenter, and you will not want to miss his talk.

I'd like to thank those of you who contributed donations to the Veterans Holiday gift box. These donations will go to the Veterans who are under care at the James Haley Veterans Hospital in Tampa. Thank you again for your generosity.

Each month we will include a "Get to know your Board member" article in our newsletter. In this issue, you will learn a little bit about your new president. In February we will have an article about your new 1st Vice President.

I hope to see all of you at our next luncheon on January 3rd. Until then, Keep the shiny side up, keep your head on a swivel, and maintain a positive mental attitude.

January 2024 Program

Lt Col Joseph J. Muhlberger, USAF (Ret)

Following 36 years on continuous active duty with the US Air Force, having enlisted as an Airman First Class and retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel, Joe will share his select personal adventures on three continents and 38 countries as well as how his actions played a part in activities providing military assets, supporting scientific activities, and/or humanitarian aid to all seven continents.

Lt Col Muhlberger left his hometown of Schenectady, New York, and began his federal service through the United States Air Force in 1984. In that time, he earned a BS in Industrial Technology from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale and a MS in Aeronautics from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.

He spent 19 years assigned in Europe including England, Belgium, Germany, and Turkey. His 36-year career touched all seven continents whether for combat, humanitarian aid, or sustainment of operations missions. He held four commands, had five post-9/11 deployments including two tours in Iraq, taught German at our nation's Air Force Academy, and became a Joint Qualified Officer having served tours with NATO, special operations forces, and the Department of Defense. Since retiring from federal service in 2020, he works as a consultant for the United States Special Operations Command at MacDill Air Force Base, Tampa, Florida.



2023/2024 Chapter Officers

PRESIDENT

CDR Bill Kirkpatrick, USN (Ret).....(805) 506-3269
ualav8tor@yahoo.com

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2nd VP

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Membership Chair

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DIRECTOR

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Surviving Spouse Liaison

DIRECTOR

LTC Benny Blackshire, USA (Ret).....(813) 260-3105
bwblacks@aol.com

Chaplain

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

❖ CHAPTER MEMBERS:

- 157 Chapter Members
- 93 Regular LIFE members
- 23 Regular ANNUAL members
- 36 Regular BASIC members
- 26 Surviving Spouses
- 5 Honorary members

❖ WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

- ❖ Jaudon, James E., Captain, USN (Ret). Anne

❖ MEMBERS RECENTLY LOST

- ❖ None as of press time

❖ The Chapter reimburses \$100 to members who upgrade To LIFE when LIFE certificate is presented to the treasurer.

❖ *The Sun City Center MOAA Chapter is an IRS 501(c)(19) non-profit Charitable organization and therefore donations may be eligible for deduction on your federal Income tax.*

\$19.00 - 3 January LUNCHEON - \$19.00

To Register: 813-924-1983

Reservations no later than 6 p.m. Sunday, 31 December 2023

Florida Room, Atrium Building

945 North Course Lane , Sun City Center, FL 33573

Please give full names of members and guests, total number attending. Cost is \$19.00/person payable at the door (cash, check, or credit card). Social hour begins when you arrive, and the Business meeting starts at 11:00 followed by a speaker and lunch.

Remember, if you make a reservation and do not attend, you are expected to pay. Bring payment to next meeting or send check to:

*Military Officers Association of America
Post Office Box 5693
Sun City Center, FL 33571-5693*

Buffet Luncheon Menu

Garden Salad Bar with Dressing Assortment, Rolls & Butter

Entrees:

- Pulled BBQ Pork
- Fried Chicken
- Butter Crumb Cod with tartar sauce

Starch & Vegetable du Jour

Desserts: Chef's selected desserts

Beverages: Decaf Coffee, Iced Tea, and Ice Water

MOAA Installs 2024 Board for Sun City Center Chapter

Florida Council of Chapters Vice-President, Col Stephen Bond, USA swore in the 2024 Sun City Center Chapter Board of Directors at its monthly luncheon on December 6th. A special thanks to COL Bond for his time and effort, enduring a 5-hour round trip to Sun City Center.



New President- William Kirkpatrick, USN (Ret.)

New 1st Vice President/Programs Chair- Col Danny Melton, USMC (Ret.)

New 2nd VP/Membership Chair- Major Kirk Faryniasz, USAF (Ret.)

Treasurer- Lt Col Bill Patterson, USAF (Ret.)

Secretary- Ms. Harriett Jordan

Immediate Past President- COL Eunice Patxot, USA (Ret.)

Chaplain- Lt Col Benny Blackshire, USA (Ret.)

Newsletter Chair- CDR Cliff Korn, USNR (Ret.)

Universal Director- Lt Col Ferris Garrett, USAF (Ret.)

Director Legislative Affairs- Lt Col Jeff Camp, USA (Ret.)

Surviving Spouse Chair- Jean Stratis

Thank you to our new additions to the SCC Board, Col Danny Melton, Major Kirk Faryniasz, and Lt Col Jeff Camp. They stepped up when asked and embodied our motto-NEVER STOP SERVING.

The Chaplain's Corner

Benny Blackshire

Congratulations to our new board of officers and directors that were installed at the December luncheon/meeting. We are especially thankful for the new faces that have joined our chapter board. Others are encouraged to volunteer when asked to help. Our chapter motto is "NEVER STOP SERVING".

Several of your board members will be attending the Florida Council of Chapters (FCoC) Leadership Seminar to be held in Orlando, January 26-27, 2024. This is an excellent opportunity to meet with other chapter leaders and to share ideas and experiences. It is also a great learning experience as there will be instruction provided by the FCoC and representatives from MOAA National. The seminar is open to all chapter members and you can find all the details at moaaf.org.

Following is a New Year's Prayer from the "Book of Prayers for Military Chaplains" by Chaplain (Major) Thomas E. Cook, Jr., Fort Hood.

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father and Provider, we come before Your throne of Grace this day very much aware of our need for Your Providential care during this New Year.

We pray that You will provide for us as You have so graciously done in the year which is now past. Help us not to be bogged down by anything which has happened in the past year. For the sins we have committed, we pray that You will provide us with forgiveness. For the mistakes and failures of the past, we pray that You will renew us with hope and optimism for the future. For those who can't seem to let go of the past, we pray that You will break their hold and help them to look to what lies ahead. For those with broken hearts and tearful eyes, we pray that You will provide true friendship and bring back joyful smiles. For those with confused minds and endless problems, we pray that You will provide clear judgement and the strength to endure. For those with physical injuries or bad health, we pray that You will provide Divine comfort and speedy recovery. For those parents who need help in raising their children, we pray that You will fill them with love and understanding for each other. For those couples whose marriages are in trouble, we pray that You will help them to see the good in each other instead of the bad. For our soldiers who face danger in times of peace, as well as in times of war, we pray that You will provide safety and protection. For those in positions of power whose decisions effect the lives of others, we pray that You will provide wisdom from above. For our country which was founded on trust in You as our God, we pray for peace and a renewal of our faith. We give You thanks for our Lord Jesus Christ through whom we have the forgiveness of our sins and the gift of eternal life. Help us to move boldly into the future knowing that our Lord will be with us every step of the way, for it is in His precious name that we pray, Amen.

HAVE A HAPPY & HEALTHY NEW YEAR!

See our website for everything you ever wanted to know about our chapter!

<https://moaaf.org/chapters/SCCMOAA/>



Find us on
Facebook

Did you know we have a Facebook Page? We do! It's a great place to see what's happening in our chapter, and it allows you to express your opinions on our activities and keep in touch with other members. If you have a Facebook account, click the logo/link to "like" and follow our page. If you don't yet have a Facebook Account, Facebook makes it easy to establish one.

Like what you see in this newsletter? There's even more in the Florida Council of Chapter's newsletter at this link!

<https://moaaf.org/communique.aspx>

Sun City Chapter Honorary Member Bill Hodges has an award winning podcast that has information that will interest you. To listen to this Veteran's Corner Radio podcast, click on the link below.

<https://feeds.buzzsprout.com/952243.rss>

Your Sun City Center Board of Directors harvest multiple Leadership Awards

Several Leadership Awards were presented by Florida Council of Chapters Vice-President Col Stephen Bond, USA (Ret.). The award reads, in part. "Military Officer's Association of America is honored to recognize you with the prestigious MOAA Leadership Award for your service to the Sun City Center Chapter"

The Leadership Award is presented to those individuals who have had a great effect on the Sun City Chapter. Each award was personalized for the recipient.



Benny Blackshire was awarded the Leadership Award for his labor in multiple jobs in the Chapter. Benny has a wealth of knowledge garnered over more than 10 years in Chapter Leadership.



Walt Cawein was awarded the Outstanding Service Award for his tireless efforts as Membership Chair and his hard work on Veteran Affairs

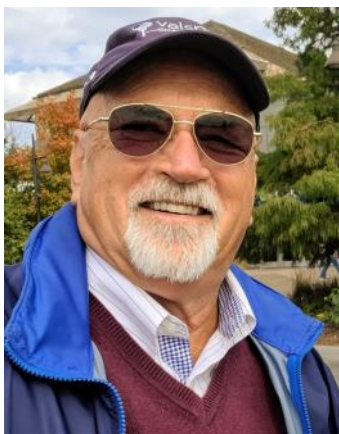


Jeannie Stratis was presented the Leadership Award for her extremely effective work on behalf of Surviving Spouses.

In addition to the Leadership Awards, COL Bond bestowed several pins of office.



Eunice was awarded the "Past President" pin for her exemplary job as president during the years 2022 and 2023.



Cliff Korn was not in attendance but will be presented with several awards. Cliff will be presented the Leadership Award for his work in multiple management positions that he has held in our chapter. He won the Col Marvin Harris Communications Award for his work as our Webmaster. He also won another Col Marvin Harris Communications Award for the superlative job as Newsletter Editor.



Bill Kirkpatrick was awarded the "President's" pin for duty in 2024.

Thank you everyone for your hard work. Well done and Bravo Zulu to all our Award winners!

IT'S THAT TIME OF THE YEAR AGAIN!



**YOUR 2024
MEMBERSHIP
DUES ARE
NOW PAYABLE**

CHAPTER 2024 ANNUAL DUES

- Officers: \$20.00
- Surviving Spouses: \$15.00
- Spouses: Free

HOW TO PAY YOUR DUES

1. Cash or check at our Luncheon
2. Mail your check to:
Sun City Center MOAA Chapter
P.O. Box 5693
Sun City Center, FL 33571-5693
3. Online
 - Go to moaa.org
 - Login if you have an ID and password. If not click on "Join" and create your account.
 - After you login click on "Chapters" Then Click on "Pay Dues Online" and follow the instructions.

When you pay your dues, please consider making a donation for one (or more) of the following Chapter advocacy programs:

- | | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | My Warrior's Place | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | JROTC | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Operation Warm Heart | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Scholarships | \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Surviving Spouses | \$ _____ |

Highlights from our December Meeting!



Our chapter donated much this year. Angela Reinhardt, Voluntary Service Specialist, James Haley Veterans' Hospital gratefully accepts them on behalf of the veterans who will receive them.



Eunice handing over all the goodies!



Member Spotlight

Sun City Center Chapter President, Commander William “Bullet” Kirkpatrick, USN (Ret)

Bill Kirkpatrick graduated from Tufts University with a B.S. in Electrical Engineering in 1973. He was commissioned an Ensign in the U.S. Navy and his first duty assignment was for Navy flight training at NAS Pensacola, FL. After winning his Navy “Wings of Gold” in early 1976, Bill started flying the Navy’s newest fighter airplane, the F-14 Tomcat.

One of the highlights of his military career was being selected for the Navy Fighter Weapons School (Top Gun) in April 1979.

Bill had a career of 21 years in the Navy, where he accumulated over 3,500 flight hours in the Tomcat.

Within several months, after retiring from the Navy, Bill was hired by United Airlines. During his 22 years with United, he flew every Boeing aircraft from the B-727 through the B-747 and B-777.

Quote: What I like the most about MOAA is the comradery provided at our monthly luncheons and the ability to keep serving my community and country.

Bill is a member of several veterans’ organizations, including MOAA, MOWW, Bob’s Vets, and the Veterans’ Council of Hillsborough County.

Unattributed quote and Bill’s favorite “To many people, the sky is the limit. To aviators, the sky is home”.



Surviving Spouse Corner

Jeannie Stratis

Happy New Year to all of our MOAA members! The surviving spouses are going on a field trip this month and details will be emailed to our surviving spouses soon. If you are a surviving spouse and are not receiving emails at this time, please email jeanbennett.stratis@gmail.com and let us know.

How many of you have decided on a New Year's Resolution? Most of us set ones that we can achieve, however, can be hard to maintain. Let's focus on January and getting through the "January Blues" by putting "self-care" as our New Year's resolution. Some of the simplest things will have a huge impact on our lives.

1. Sleep – Make sure you are getting the sleep your mind and body needs. Simple changes such as a darkened room, an eye mask, and constant background noise such as a fan or ocean sounds, can help you get a good night's sleep. If you are still having trouble going to or staying asleep, start a sleep journal and note when you are going to sleep, and waking up, and then backtrack to see what you did during the day is having an impact.

2. Exercise – Go for a walk, golf, swimming, or yoga. Anything that will get your body moving, which in turn will help you get a good night's sleep.

3. Preventative health care – Schedule those doctor and dentist appointments you've been putting off. How about a massage? Massages release toxins in your body that you can then flush a lot out with water.

4. Make healthy meal choices most of the time, but have those treats every once in a while!

5. Comfort – Warm, fuzzy socks and blankets, scented candles, music.

6. Drink water! It's so easy and mostly free but it's a struggle for many to drink enough throughout the day.

7. Travel/Socialize – Plan a trip with a loved one or a friend. There are plenty of day trips in the area for a change of scenery and some fresh air. Go out to dinner or see a movie with a friend. Invite a friend to join MOAA and bring them to a luncheon meeting.

8. Learn a sport or a language – Take some golf lessons or take on the pickleball craze. Or learn a new word in a different language each day.

Try one or all of these things in January and change it up. Self-care is so very important to all of us! I am putting this list on our Facebook page. Go to [MOAA SCC FL 42](#) and comment on the post and let us know which one of these steps you are taking this month.

Submitting Articles and Pictures for Military Officers Call

Articles can be attached to an email. Microsoft Word works best (Arial or Calibri 12). You can also type your information into the body of an email where it can be copied and pasted into the newsletter.

Pictures should have a .jpg or .png extension. If you are sending pictures, please include the activity and the names of those in the picture. A few words on what the event is about will help interest the readers. Please ensure that you have the permission of the persons in the photos for publishing.

If you have questions about your submission, contact Cliff Korn newsletter@sccmoaa.org.



SATURDAY, JANUARY 6, 2024

6 o'clock p.m.

Sunseeker Resort

4949 Tamiami Trail | Charlotte Harbor, Florida | 33980

An Inspirational Patriotic Themed Evening Featuring

Presentation of the Museum's Wall of Warriors Honoree

Lieutenant Colonel Daniel V. O'Leary

Chief of Medicine and Medical Director of the Emergency Department, ShorePoint Health Port Charlotte

Distinguished Civilian Award Recipient

David M. Klein M.D.

Member - Museum Board of Directors, Community Philanthropist

Honorary Co-Chairmen

Major General Richard E. Carr, U.S. Air Force (Retired)

Brigadier General Fredric N. Buckingham, U.S. Air Force (Retired)

Keynote Speaker

U.S. Congressman Greg Steube, Operation Iraqi Freedom Veteran

Featured Speaker

Major General Gregg F. Martin, PhD, U.S. Army (Retired)

Combat Veteran, Bipolar Survivor, Airborne-Ranger-Engineer qualified soldier, and Army Strategist

Distinguished Military Guest

Rear Admiral Lawrence "Larry" Chambers U.S. Navy

First African American to command a U.S. Navy aircraft carrier (USS Midway) and the first African American graduate of the Naval Academy to reach flag rank.



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- Service Dogs for veterans with PTSD and other traumatic injuries

- Homeless Prevention for Women Veterans: help with rent, child care and licensing training

- Operation Warm Heart, administered by the 1st Sergeants Group at MacDill AFB, who provide commissary vouchers for soldiers in need

- Scholarships and Leadership Programs for students from military families

- Operation Helping Hand: monthly support for military families of wounded servicemen and women at the James A. Haley VA Hospital in Tampa



For more information, call 813/634-4675 or log onto our website at mfst.us

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Member Spotlight

Are you involved in a community event, activity, or service? Send us a picture and a description of 'you' in action and we will highlight you in the chapter newsletter!

Newsletter Editor: Cliff Korn
cliff@kornhouse.net

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This program captures through a video interview, firsthand account of Veterans who served in any branch of the US military in any capacity, from World War I through the present, and are no longer serving. Civilians who served in support of a US war effort in a professional capacity are also welcome to participate.

**3rd Wednesday of
Each Month
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
By Appointment Only**

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Veterans who would like to
share their stories, schedule
your appointment now.**

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Website: sccmoaa.org

Sun City Center Membership Application

(PLEASE PRINT CAREFULLY)

Date _____

Name _____

Rank _____ Branch of Service _____

Active Retired Former Reserve National Guard Surviving Spouse

Spouse Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____


Date of Birth (M/Y) _____ Phone _____

Email _____

Are you a member of MOAA National? YES NO UNKNOWN If Yes, MOAA number _____

Do you want a name tag at \$10? YES NO If Yes, what name? _____

Do you want a name tag for your spouse at \$10.00? If Yes, what name? _____

Not a MOAA national member yet? Check here to receive a BASIC Membership at no cost to you. 

And, you can upgrade to **PREMIUM** membership, giving you immediate access to a full spectrum of career and financial resources, exclusive publications, college scholarships for dependents, and countless discounts on products and travel.

How did you hear about MOAA Chapter involvement? _____

Are you a member of any other Chapter(s)? Yes NO If yes, which one(s)? _____

To complete enrollment:

- Print this application, fill it out and mail it with your check made payable to "SCC MOAA Chapter" to the Chapter's address above.
- For additional information please email waltcawein@gmail.com

Other:

- Chapter annual dues for officers are \$20.00, and \$15.00 for Surviving Spouses. Spouses and significant others are welcome and free.
- Chapter luncheons/meetings are held the 1st Wednesday of the month except July and August. Guest speakers on multiple topics during each luncheon.

(Your Signature)



Sun City Center Chapter
Military Officers Association of America
P.O. Box 5693
Sun City Center, FL. 33571-5693

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Mike Beltran

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Legislative Assistant - James Jacobs

Florida Senate District 20

Jim Boyd

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Tallahassee 32399-1100

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Legislative Assistant:

Amanda Romant
romant.amanda@flsenate.gov

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Vern Buchanan

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U.S. Senators

Marco Rubio

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Taylor Sanchez

Rick Scott

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Washington, DC 20510

Tel. Local – 813-225-7040
DC - 202-224-5274

Legislative assistant:

Kyle Joshua Hill

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MOAA Take Action link: <http://takeaction.moaa.org/?1>

