



Officers' Call

Newsletter of the Lake & Sumter Counties Chapter
Military Officers Association of America
May 2025



Presidents Message

LTC Don Hansen, USA (Ret), Chapter President

Here we are in the last month before our summer hiatus and the month of Cinco de Mayo, Mother's Day, Armed Forces Day, and Memorial Day. Additionally, we have some terrific news to relate. National MOAA has notified us of a number of important events. First of all, Bill Wojciechowski's 2025 Community Outreach Grant request to the MOAA Foundation on behalf of Ashley's House was granted for \$3,250. Great Job Bill! We are two for two on Grant Requests due to Bill's great work. Secondly, we have been awarded our **14th continuous 5-Star MOAA Level of Excellence Award for Chapter Performance in 2024**. This is in addition to being awarded our **ninth continuous 5-Star MOAA Col. Marvin J. Harris Communications Awards for 2024** for our website, "lakesumtermoaa.org," and for our newsletter, "Officer's Call." A tradition started by our past president, Paul Hauser.



To put an exclamation point on top of our 2024 achievements, **Bob Bienvenue** has been awarded the **2024 Col. Steve Strobridge Legislative Chair/Liaison Award**. This annual award recognizes an affiliate

(Continues on next Page)

OUR NEXT MEETING

**Wednesday
May 14th
11:30 a.m.**

Location
Eisenhower Recreation Center
3560 Buena Vista Blvd
Wildwood, FL 34785



OUR MEAL

Our luncheon will be caterer will be Mission BBQ who will have Sliced Brisket, Pulled Chicken, Maggie's Mac-N-Cheese, and Green Beans (no bacon) .

COST

Meals are **\$20.00/person** if you **register and pay** online. Meals are **\$20/person** following the deadline and **\$20/person** if you pay at the door.

RSVP

**No Later Than, 10:30
a.m. on Friday
May 9th**

[Click Here](#)

or contact Tim or Annette Balliett at tabal-liett46@gmail.com or 352-728-2945.



Check out the Florida Department of Veteran Affairs for Florida Veteran Legislation.

Presidents Message Continued

Legislative Chair or Liaison who has demonstrated superior service to their council/chapter and national MOAA in support of national and/or state legislation which affects service members, veterans, retirees, and their families. This award has certainly been earned by Bob for his many years of outstanding work as a Legislative Liaison for our chapter, for the Florida Council of Chapters, and for his work in New York for his chapter there and the New York Council before he and Barbara moved down to Florida. No one deserves this national award more than Bob. Congratulations for finally being recognized for the fantastic work you have put in year after year.



As you know, we had our 17th Annual Military Charities Golf Tournament on April 11th and it went exceedingly well. Read more about it in the article below.

Last month we had Stewart Dunaway speak to us about the Revolutionary War in the South, a subject most of us never learned about in school unless you were brought up in North Carolina or South Carolina. What most people still don't realize is that if the patriots had not won the campaign in the South against the British when they invaded the southern colonies in 1778 and 1780, the Siege of Yorktown would not have happened and it is very possible only the northern colonies would have been able to achieve their independence. Food for thought.

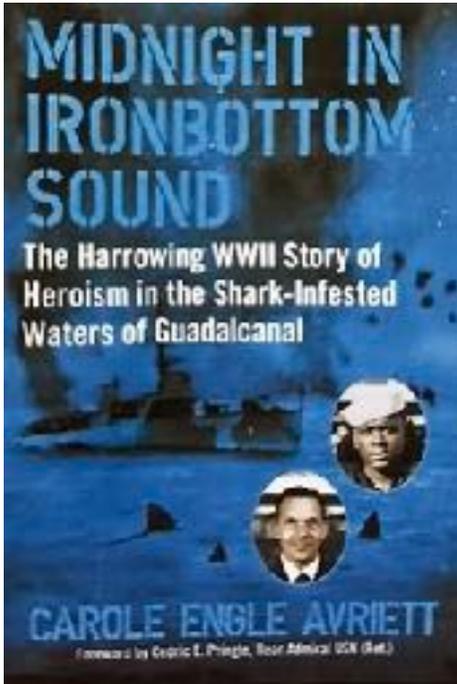


This month we will be visited again by author Carole Engle Avriett who will discuss her latest book "Midnight in Ironbottom Sound" which tells about the harrowing story of heroism in the shark-infested waters of Guadalcanal. She will be joined by RAdm Cedric E. Pringle, USN (Ret.) who wrote the forward to her book. They both spoke at the WWII History Book Club a couple of months back and were very well received. Both are good speakers and the story is amazing.



Cedric E. Pringle Bio

Cedric Pringle is a retired rear admiral following a 34-and-a-half-year career in the U.S. Navy. His service culminated as the 31st commandant of National War College at National Defense University. During his distinguished career, he led joint, combined, multinational, and interagency organizations, both at sea and



ashore, across all aspects of defense, including full spectrum operations, strategic planning, crisis management, and congressional affairs. Among his numerous assignments, he commanded Expeditionary Strike Group 3, the Navy's largest Strike Group, that is composed of 15 ships, 31 subordinate commands, and 15,000 Sailors and Marines. Prior to his selection as a flag officer, he commanded the Navy's first hybrid propulsion drive ship, USS Makin Island (LHD 8), earning multiple awards for operational and leadership excellence, as well as the President's Volunteer Service Award for community outreach. Additionally, he served as Director of the Navy's Senate Liaison office where he facilitated enduring relationships between Department of Navy leaders, U.S. Senators, and key Senate staff members. A proven leader during crisis responses, he commanded the USS Whidbey Island (LSD 41) during Hurricane Katrina Disaster Relief in 2005 and served as the commander of Joint Task Force Matthew, leading relief and recovery efforts in Haiti following Hurricane Matthew, in 2016. Admiral Pringle earned a B.S. in Economics from the University of South Carolina, an M.S. in Financial Management from the Naval Postgraduate School, and an M.A. in National Security Strategy from the Naval War

College. He serves as the 25th President of the National Naval Officers Association (NNOA), an organization founded in 1972 to support the Sea Services in recruiting, professional development, and retention of a diverse officer corps that reflects the demographics of our nation.

We will be catered by [Mission BBQ](#) so come hungry. Their portions are great and they always have seconds.

Our Dine-To-Donate day at Havana Country Club Restaurant on April 15th went well and we raised \$190 from the meals and donations, which was the second best outing since we started in October 2024. Our next outing will be at the [PRIMA Italian Steakhouse in Brownwood on May 20th](#). Join us any time during the day and be sure to write **MOAA** on the top of the bill you are presented with after the meal.

That's about all for now so hope to see you all at our May 14 meeting. Stay safe, be smart, and above all:

“NEVER STOP SERVING!”

2025 17th Annual Military Charities Golf Tournament



Our 17th annual tournament is now behind us and we can finally slow down a little. The tournament went well and we had a number of twists and turns this year which is basically what I have come to expect when putting on a tournament like ours. As you already know if you have been faithfully reading the newsletter, we hope to raise \$30,000 from the tournament each year in order to fund the scholarships (\$15,000) we give each year (\$1,500 and \$1,000 to the top two senior cadets from each of the six high school JROTC units in our two county catchment area) and an equal amount (\$15,000) to donate to the eight area military oriented charities we support. Last year we did quite well and earned \$33,000 from the tournament and so we were able to increase the amount of donations to the charities. This year was even better. Although the final figures are not finalized, it looks like we raised \$36,000 this year and so we anticipate raising the scholarships to \$2,000 and \$1,500. Our Board of Directors will make the final decision on May 6th. There are a number of reasons for our success this year but the main reason was the largess of the **Blackston Financial Advisory Group** who became our main corporate sponsor for the tournament. We were also very fortunate to have the Suleiman Family Restaurants give us a certificate for one free meal a week for 52 weeks worth \$1,300. We put the certificate in a raffle and raised \$5,000 for the tournament. Although we lost a handful of Hole Sponsors (\$500 or more) from last year, our Golf Committee did a great job in locating other Hole Sponsors to take their place. Altogether, we had 24 Hole/Major Sponsors and received a total of \$22,700 from our sponsors. We raised \$1325 from our Remembrance Signs and \$1550 from our Club and Commercial signage. The tournament itself raised \$5,030 (after expenses) from the golfers, mulligans, putting contest, 50-50, silent auction and live auction. To top it off, a number of our winners donated their winnings (\$982) back for use in scholarships and charity donations. Really outstanding contributions. What follows are a few photos from the tournament and of our winning players.

Players collecting their goodie bags.



Players signing in.



2025 17th Annual Military Charities Golf Tournament (Continued)

David Blackston of Blackston Financial Advisory Group, our Major Sponsor.



Our Silent Auction Table.



At the Ninth Hole sponsored by Tim and Annette Balliett.



Our Tournament Trophy.

The leader board.



This Hole sponsored by Dr. Craig Curtis.

2025 17th Annual Military Charities Golf Tournament (Continued)

Our Winning Players!



Russ Luke accepting for Closest to Pin.
Russ Donated the \$50 back to MOAA.



Club Pro Tom Leimberger accepting for Mark Latimore for Closest to the Pin and for his Team for being the Winning Men's team. Mark donated the \$50 back to MOAA as did the team donate their \$200 team prize back to MOAA. In addition to Tom & Mark, the Men's Team also included C. Richardson and D. White.



Melanie Turner receiving her \$50 prize for being closest to the pin. She then donated it back to MOAA.



Jacqui DiRenzo receiving her \$50 prize for being closest to the pin.

2025 17th Annual Military Charities Golf Tournament (Continued)



Winning Mixed Team of Jon Roudabush, Jennifer Marsh, Dale Richter, and Mark Madjeski receive their \$200 Team prize and then donated it back to MOAA.



Winning Ladies Team of Julie Cerra, Linda Chitwood, Judy King and Sue Wolf receive their \$200 Team prize.



Chris Hansen donated his \$370 50-50 winnings back to MOAA.



Linda Chitwood receives her \$220 50-50 winnings.



Mike Zucker receives his \$145 50-50 winnings.

In addition, Al Knobel donated his \$62 for winning the Putting Contest back to MOAA.



Jim O'Hagan spent some of his hard earned Marine Corps retirement to win the Golden Ocala Four-some Package and he seems extremely happy.

2025 17th Annual Military Charities Golf Tournament (Continued)

A few of our Hole Sponsors.



Membership and Recruiting

COL Al Arnold, USA (Ret), Membership Chairman



A **heartly welcome** to the following members who recently joined our Chapter:

Sandra Cooper, Surviving Spouse
Glenn McAlister, Capt, USAF, retired

We currently have 286 Chapter members. All Chapter members are also members of National MOAA!!

Thought I'd resend information about expiring DoD ID cards in case some of you might be traveling away from The Villages and need/want to visit an ID card facility at/close to your destination. This may help.

As you know, I checked with the DMDC folks. Our old blue retiree ID cards are of two types, one with a social security number and one with a DoD ID number. Both will expire in 2026. No specific date/month was provided, so I'd assume 31 December 2025 for the time being.

There are two ways to renew/replace your ID card: **in person** and **online**.

- (This first way may be helpful to those of you that may be traveling.) For **in person** service, the best way is to make an appointment. You can do this online at: <https://idco.dmdc.osd.mil/idco>. Click on "ID Card Office Locator & Appointments", put in your zip code of where you are/will be, select 100-mile radius. You can select appointments, walk-ins or both. Then click on "Search". This will bring up a map with multiple places along with addresses and phone numbers. Select the location you desire and follow the prompts.
- For **online service**, go to the above website and then select "Family ID Cards". Your picture in DEERS must not be older than 12 years. You will need a DS LOGON account. If you do not have one, select "Create New Account" and follow the prompts. You will need to know your unique email address in DEERS. Once logged in, follow the prompts to get your new ID card mailed to you.

As always, if you have questions or need more information, call or email me.

Stay safe.

CHAPTER OFFICERS

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Newsletter

LTC Luke Emerson, USA (Ret)

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MOAA

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2024

Chapter Awards



2024

Chaplain's Corner

Maj Daryl DesJardin, USAF (Ret), Chaplain



As we approach Memorial Day, we pause to honor those who gave everything in service to our nation. Beyond the solemn ceremonies and quiet moments of remembrance, we carry with us profound lessons learned through military service that continue to shape our lives long after we've hung up our uniforms.

Our years in uniform taught us that true strength comes not from individual achievement but from collective commitment to something greater than ourselves. We learned that leadership means taking responsibility not just for missions, but for people – their welfare, their growth, and their futures. These principles continue to guide us as we navigate civilian life, reminding us that our obligation to serve extends far beyond active duty.

Through deployments, relocations, and separations, military families discovered reserves of resilience many never knew they possessed. Our spouses demonstrated that strength isn't always measured in physical prowess or tactical skill, but in the quiet courage to maintain homes, raise children, and build communities while their loved ones served far from home. Their unwavering support made our service possible, and their example continues to inspire us.

The fallen have taught us perhaps the most profound lesson of all – that life is precious, time is finite, and our purpose must be worthy of the days we're given. Their sacrifice reminds us to live deliberately, to value each moment with those we love, and to continue serving causes larger than our individual desires. When we honor their memory through purposeful living, we ensure their sacrifice continues to have meaning.

As MOAA members, we understand that our responsibility to exemplify the highest standards of leadership, integrity, and service remains unchanged by retirement or separation. The lessons forged in military service – discipline, adaptability, commitment to mission, and unwavering loyalty to our teams – provide us with unique perspectives and capabilities to contribute to our communities and nation.

As we gather with family and friends this Memorial Day, let us recommit ourselves to living these lessons daily. May we approach each challenge with the same determination, each opportunity with the same sense of duty, and each relationship with the same fidelity that characterized our military service. In doing so, we honor not only those we've lost but also the values they defended with their lives.

With profound respect and gratitude for your continued service and our brotherhood...

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Please Support our Golf Tournament Hole Sponsors



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BALLIETT**



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at the
Nancy Lopez
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**DENNIS & RHONDA STOREY
JIM & EILEEN GOULETTE
CAPT JANET ARNETT, USN (Ret)**

Legislative Update

Bob Bienvenue, Lt Col, USAF (Ret), Legislative Liaison

MOAA Legislative Update:

<http://www.moaa.org/takeaction/?tab=Legislative-Action-Center#Legislative-Action-Center>



MOAA's Advocacy in Action Campaign— Status Update



On April 9th, MOAA staff, Board members and more than 150 volunteers from Chapters and Councils took to Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., for Advocacy in Action 2025, meeting with over 330 targeted congressional offices. Together, they delivered a unified message: ***Congress must do all that it can to protect service-earned pay and benefits.***

Incentivize Military Spouse Hiring: Actions to combat stagnant, high rates of unemployment among military spouses must include measures to incentivize their hiring. Cosponsor the Military Spouse Hiring Act to add a military spouse target group to the Work Opportunity Tax Credit program.

Unaccompanied Housing Improvements: Transparency is key to supporting lawmaker oversight of this ongoing issue and addressing a \$137 billion maintenance backlog. Ask Congress to require DoD to make reports on unaccompanied housing installation conditions publicly available.

Ending the Wait for Toxic-Exposed Veterans: Pass legislation to shorten how long millions of veterans must wait before receiving service-earned care and benefits.

Support Veteran Caregivers: Champion/cosponsor the passage of the Veteran Caregiver Reeducation, Reemployment, and Retirement Act.



The 119th Congress is just getting started, and our lawmakers need to keep hearing from their constituents on the issues that matter to the military community. The work our Florida team did on Capitol Hill must be reinforced by advocates in the chapters back home. The campaign is far from over, and likely will be contentious. The pressures on service-earned pay and benefits aren't going away.

We need every voice and every advocate to remind Congress that the greatest asset to our nation's security and prosperity is not a weapon system — ***it's the men and women in uniform and their families.***

MOAA is asking each of us to “*Reach out with Tailored Communication*” to emphasize the need for congressional legislative action.

“An effective approach — particularly for issues that impact you personally or you feel especially passionate about — is to **send a more personalized message to your representatives.**”

A well-crafted email providing background on your service, highlighting MOAA advocacy priorities, and offering your perspective as a constituent can make a significant impact. **Personal engagement sends a strong message that military issues matter to voters in the district.**

To connect with your lawmakers, visit their website and click the “contact” tab. You can also call MOAA's toll-free line to the U.S. Capitol switchboard at (866) 272-MOAA (6622) and to speak with the lawmaker's office.”

Here are links for the MOAA Issue Papers you would find useful in crafting your personal messages on each of the 5 priorities that are the foundation of this year's **Advocacy-in-Action** campaign.

[incentivizemilitaryspousehiring issuepaper as of 03.27.pdf](#)
[unaccompaniedhousingimprovements issuepaper as of 03.27.pdf](#)
[veteranscaregiving issuepaper as of 03.27.pdf](#)
[mhs-access issuepaper as of 03.27.pdf](#)
[endingthewait issuepaper as of 03.27.pdf](#)

You can also find links to MOAA drafted messages to send on these issues here:
Legislative Action Center [MOAA | Action Center](#)

Legislative Update (Continued)

Bob Bienvenue, Lt Col, USAF (Ret), Legislative Liaison

Major Richard Star Act Re-Introduced in the 119th Congress

For the fourth time in the past seven years the Major Richard Start Act has been re-introduced to authorize combat-injured veterans to receive their earned DoD retirement pay for years of service and their VA disability compensation for lifelong injury. Currently, these combat-injured (and often seriously disabled) veterans are subject to a cost-saving offset where their retirement pay is reduced for every dollar of VA disability received. To reduce earned retirement pay because of a combat disability is an injustice; the compensation for these injured veterans is not the place to achieve savings.

Already 14 Florida representatives have signed on as co-sponsors. Check here to see who is on the list

[Cosponsors - H.R.2102 - 119th Congress \(2025-2026\): Major Richard Star Act | Congress.gov | Library of Congress](#)

Notwithstanding the high level of support in previous congresses the bill has never been called up for a vote.

State Legislative Update

William Wojciechowski, Col, USAF (Ret), State Legislative Liaison



STATE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The Florida legislative session is at the halfway point with many bills awaiting consideration. The following bills are in addition to those reported in the last newsletter. The property tax exemption bills have shown little progress.

***SB 0290 Property Tax Exemption for Surviving Spouses of Veterans. Property Tax Exemption for Surviving Spouses of Veterans; . Effective Date: 7/1/2025

Referred to Community Affairs; Finance and Tax; Appropriations

***HB 0313 Toll Exemptions for Purple Heart Medal Recipients .Toll Exemptions for Purple Heart Medal Recipients: Revises eligibility for toll exemptions to include

operators displaying Purple Heart specialty license plate or Purple Heart special motorcycle license plate. Effective Date: July 1, 2025

***HB 0821 Business Development Incentives for Veterans and Military Spouses.

Requires DOS to waive specified fees for certain businesses established by veteran or military spouse; provides eligibility & registration requirements; Effective Date: July 1, 2025

***SB 0402 . Unlawful Use of Uniforms, Medals, or Insignia; Prohibiting persons from wearing the uniform of or any medal or insignia authorized for use by members or veterans of the Space Force, etc. Effective Date: 10/1/2025

***SB 1016 Increased Homestead Property Exemptions; Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution to increase the homestead exemption from \$25,000 to \$75,000, for all levies, with annual adjustments for inflation, deleting the exemption for school district levies, etc.

***SB 1172 Preferences for Veterans and Military Spouses; Requiring the state and its political subdivisions to give preference in appointment and retention in positions of employment to the spouses of war-time veterans, veterans, members of any reserve component of the United States Armed Forces or the Florida National Guard,

***HB 555 Exempts veterans from paying the \$75 fee for a medical marijuana card.

State Legislative Update (Continued)

William Wojciechowski, Col, USAF (Ret), State Legislative Liaison

VILLAGERS FOR VETERANS (V4V) UPDATE

Villagers for Veterans (V4V) and our MOAA chapter are documented community outreach partners which means V4V carries a high priority philanthropic relationship with MOAA. Browsing the V4V website, villagersforveterans.org, you will note the services provided by this organization of volunteers--many of them MOAA members. These services include the following:

housing, service dogs, medical and mental health, job placement and career support, adaptive equipment and home modifications and women veterans. In addition to donations and MOAA support, funds are raised through a continuing list of entertainment events as noted below.

April 15---Dueling Pianos

April 24---Elvis Tribute Show

April 26---Juanita Lolita Comedy show

May 6---Kentucky Derby Party

Detailed information, ticket prices and ticket purchases can be made online through the website link noted above, Volunteer assistance is always welcomed and appreciated.

IMPORTANT MESSAGE

MOAA's status as a tax-exempt veterans organization precludes it from participating in political activities, which are defined as intervening directly or indirectly in any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office. We all need to be particularly attentive to this *non-partisanship restriction* during this very active political campaign season, when we are wearing our MOAA hat either individually or on behalf of our Chapters.

MOAA is a registered **lobbyist** with Congress. This legal designation pertains to the nature of communications with elected officials and staff. Maybe a better term to describe their effort is **advocacy**:

the association does play an active role in the field of military personnel matters and especially proposed legislation affecting the career force, the retired community, and veterans of the uniformed services and advocates for a strong national defense it does not, as an association, become involved in matters pertaining to military strategy or individual weapons systems of the various services. The association believes that such decisions can be made only by those who have all of the facts available to them: today's actively serving military leadership.

MOAA has been recognized for the past 18 years by **The Hill News** as a TOP Lobbying Organization based on its effective advocacy on the issues defined in its governing documents and resolutions, presenting and supporting legislative proposals that provide for the fair and equitable treatment of members of the Armed Forces, including the National Guard and Reserves, military retirees, family members, survivors, and veterans as defined in its federal Charter in 36 USC, chapter 1404.

The Editorial Policy of this Newsletter is consistent with the discussion above.

Surviving Spouses Corner

Cathie Stevens, Surviving Spouse Liaison



Happy Mother's Day

I was recently given this inspirational message and loved it so much I thought I would pass it on. Enjoy.

As the pace and fullness of modern life serve to isolate us from one another, the contact we do share becomes vastly more significant. We unconsciously absorb each other's energy, adopting the temperament of those with whom we share close quarters, and we find ourselves changed after the briefest encounters. Everything we do or say has the potential to affect not only the individuals we live, work, and play with, but also those we've just met. Though we may never know the impact we have had or the scope of our influence, accepting and understanding that our attitudes and choices will affect others can help us remember to always conduct ourselves with grace. When we seek to always be friendly, helpful, and responsive, we effortlessly create an atmosphere around ourselves that is both uplifting and inspiring.

Most people rarely give thought to the effect they have had or will have on others. When we take a few moments to contemplate how our individual modes of being affect the people we spend time with each day, we come one step closer to seeing ourselves through the eyes of others. By asking ourselves whether those we encounter walk away feeling appreciated, respected, and liked, we can heighten our awareness of the effect we ultimately have. Something as simple as a smile given freely can temporarily brighten a person's entire world. Our value-driven conduct may inspire others to consider whether their own lives are reflective of their values. A word of advice can help others see life in an entirely new fashion. And small gestures of kindness can prove to those embittered by the world that goodness still exists. By simply being ourselves, we influence other's lives in both subtle and life-altering ways.

To ensure that the effect we have is positive, we must strive to stay true to ourselves while realizing that it is the demeanor we project and not the quality of our wondrous inner landscapes that people see. Thus, as we interact with others, how we behave can be as important as who we are. If we project our warmth, our tolerance, and our passion for life in our facial features, voice, and choice of words, every person who enters our circle of influence will leave our presence feeling at peace with themselves and with us. You never know whose life you are affecting, big or small. Try to remember this as you go out into the world each day.

Cathie

Chapter Shirts & Name Tags

Custom Apparel & Gifts

3451 Wedgewood Lane

The Villages, F: 32162

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Editorial Policy

MOAA is the nation's largest and most influential association of military officers. It is an independent, nonprofit, politically nonpartisan organization. It is our Chapter responsibility to adhere to MOAA standards in all regards. Membership is open to anyone who has served as a commissioned or warrant officer in any of the eight military services, or is the surviving spouse of an individual who was a member or was eligible to be a member of MOAA.

This newsletter is a publication of the Lake and Sumter Counties Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America. It is intended for wide distribution to all MOAA members in Lake, Sumter and Marion Counties, Florida.

Input for **Officers' Call**, including text and pictures, can be emailed to the editor:



The Council Communiqué

Florida Council of Chapters
Military Officers Association of America

Click above to see what's going on in the state!



May is Military Appreciation Month

May 1: Loyalty Day

Loyalty Day is as simple as it sounds: a day set aside for U.S. citizens to reaffirm their loyalty to their country and to remember their heritage. It was started in 1921 and a few communities still celebrate with parades and other ceremonies. It is a legal holiday, but not federal in nature.

May 5 – May 11: Public Service Recognition Week

Traditionally celebrated during the first full week of May, Public Service Recognition Week honors the individuals who serve as federal, state, country, and local government employees. It is not commonly celebrated, but it is sometimes used to educate the public about the contribution of government workers.

May 8: Victory in Europe Day

The unconditional surrender of Germany in World War II came on May 8th, 1945. Sweeping celebrations seized Chicago, Los Angeles, Miami, and New York City.

May 12: Military Spouse Appreciation Day

Celebrated the Friday before Mother's Day, [Military Spouse Appreciation Day](#) celebrates the sacrifice and support of military spouses. The holiday began in 1984 under Ronald Reagan, and subsequent presidents have begun the day with speeches or proclamations. "They also serve who only stand and wait" – the last line of Sonnet XIX, John Milton, 1652

May 20: Armed Forces Day

Celebrated on the third Saturday of every May, [Armed Forces Day](#) honors Americans serving in the military. It was originally designed to replace the days celebrating each individual service, but those days are still observed. The longest running celebration sponsored by a city is held in Bremerton, Washington. 2012 marked its 64th celebration with a parade.

May 30: Memorial Day

Landing on the final Monday of May, [Memorial Day](#) is the most widely recognized holiday out of the May military-themed observances. It began after the Civil War to remember the soldiers who fell on both sides during the war, but grew to commemorate all Americans who died serving in the military

Veterans Memorial Park Honor Guard *Announces 2025 Summer Ceremony Schedule*

All Ceremonies are at The Veterans Memorial Park 10:00 AM, Paige Place between Spanish Springs Town Square and Morse Blvd.

- * Armed Forces Day, May 17th
- * Memorial Day, May 25th
- * Flag Day, June 14th
- * Independence Day, July 4th
- * National Korean War Armistice Day, July 27th





MOAA Vacations Advertising Program

MOAA Vacations is pleased to announce the NEW MOAA Vacations Council and Chapter Advertising Program. MOAA councils and chapters can receive a \$100.00, one-time, annual payment for placing both a MOAA Vacations digital print advertisement in at least one edition of your newsletter AND a banner ad on your website.

Once your enrollment has been approved by MOAA Vacations, you will receive an email confirmation with an embedded link for authorized digital and print advertisements. The enrollment confirmation email you receive will also have a link where you can submit links, URLs, and/or printed copies, and request reimbursement.

The annual \$100.00 payment is in addition to the 1% rebate chapters can receive from MOAA Vacations when chapter members identify their chapters upon booking with MOAA Vacations. Enrollment in the 2025 Chapter Advertising Program is limited to the first 100 chapters to enroll, so please act fast. We expect to expand the program in 2026, depending upon the success in 2025.

Chapter & Council Groups

As an alternative to the stock materials available online, your chapter or council can also advertise MOAA Chapter and Council group departures in your Newsletter and online. Once the group is confirmed we will provide a custom newsletter ad for your use. Advertising a Chapter or council group ad in your newsletter fulfills the Newsletter Ad requirement for the \$100.00, one-time, annual payment.

Please note chapter and council groups provide additional revenue share opportunities typically in the range of \$50 to \$200 per room or cabin sold. Please contact Jon Brenneman for more information about arranging a custom group for your members.

THE NAME YOU CAN TRUST FOR YOUR NEXT VACATION



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With Tom Gourley



BYOB and Snacks

Saturday, June 7, 2025

At American Legion Post 18

401 E Gulf Atlantic Hwy, Wildwood, FL

6 pm - 7 pm (doors open @ 5:30 pm)

\$10 Per Person or \$55 for a party of 6

For Tickets Visit:

www.TriCountyWomenVeterans.org

It's Easy, No Buzzer, Each Team Answers Each Question, You Keep Track of your Score and the Team with the Most Points Wins! FUN!



Proceeds to Benefit - SHEROES Warriors on Water, Inc. is an official 501(c)(3) veteran, non-profit organization based in Crystal River, Florida. As a female, veteran organization, we hope to make an impact on other female warriors and their families by providing opportunities to experience a day on the water whether it be fishing, swimming with manatees or an amazing Eco boat tour.

<https://sheroeswow.org>

Tri-County Women Veterans, Inc.

2518 Burnsed Blvd Ste 203, The Villages, Florida 32163

501(c) (3) non-profit - EIN #88-1552498

tricitywomenveterans.org - tricitywomenveterans@yahoo.com



**LAKE & SUMTER COUNTIES CHAPTER
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION
OF
AMERICA**

**P.O. BOX 666
Lady Lake, FL 32158-0666**

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Today's Date: ___/___/___

Membership is open to those who have served duty as a commissioned or warrant officer in any of the seven uniformed services of the USA, and who are members of national MOAA. Chapter membership is separate from national membership and carries its own dues. Members age 90 and over become Chapter Life Members with no dues.

First Name: _____ Middle Initial: _____
Last Name: _____ Suffix: _____
Type Membership: ___ Regular ___ Surviving Spouse
Status: ___ Active Duty ___ Retired ___ Former Officer
Rank: _____ Service: _____
Date of Birth: ___/___/___ Spouse's Name: _____
Mailing Address: _____
City: _____ St: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____ Email: _____

___ I am a current MOAA Member. Member#: _____ Life Annual Basic
___ I wish to join National MOAA. Please contact me with information. (circle one)

Annual Dues Fee: Regular Member: \$20 Surviving Spouse Member: \$10

This is an application for: a new Chapter member or Renewal

We are a 501(c)(19) tax deductible organization. We welcome voluntary donations to our Junior ROTC Scholarship Fund, which may be included with your dues.

Dues: _____
JROTC Donation: _____
Total Submitted: _____

Make Check Payable to: MOAA Mail to: MOAA, PO Box 666, Lady Lake, FL 32158

Membership application may also be submitted at <http://www.lakesumtermoaa.org/Join?showall=0>

Need more info? Contact COL Albert (Al) E. Arnold, III, USA (Ret), Membership Chairman, 703-470-3886