



# Officers' Call

Newsletter of the Lake & Sumter Counties Chapter  
Military Officers Association of America  
May 2026

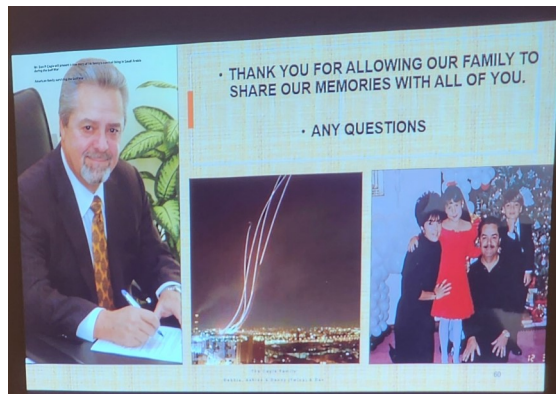


## Presidents Message

LTC Don Hansen, USA (Ret), Chapter President

Welcome to May 2026 the month of VE Day (8th (1945)), Mother's Day (10th), Armed Forces Day (16th), and Memorial Day (25th). We also celebrate the successful conclusion of our 18th Annual Military Charities Golf Tournament on April 10th. It resulted in our being able to raise over \$40,000 for our JROTC Scholarships and our donations to the eight local military oriented charities we support. More on that later.

Last month our speaker was our second Vice-President and Golf Committee Chairman, Dan Cagle who gave us a glimpse of what it was like to live in Saudi Arabia for 20+ years including being caught in the first gulf war (Desert Shield/Desert Storm) soon after arriving in SA. A very interesting presentation.



(Continues on next Page)

### OUR NEXT MEETING

**Wednesday  
May 13th  
11:30 a.m.**

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



### OUR MEAL

Our caterer will again be Mission BBQ who will be serving pulled pork and chopped brisket along with cheesy potatoes and green beans.

### 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 8th**

[Click Here](#)

or contact Marv Sherrill at [msherrill45@gmail.com](mailto:msherrill45@gmail.com) or 813-495-2894.



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

## Presidents Message Continued

This month our speaker will be LTC Jim Press, USAR (Ret), who will give an appropriate presentation on the Declaration of Independence and how it affected our nation and our leaders subsequent to the Revolutionary War.

Last month our Dine-To-Donate Day (April 21st) was at the Palmer Legends Country Club Restaurant. This month our D-T-D day is **Tuesday, May 19th**, at the **Havana Country Club Restaurant**. Please remember to write “**MOAA**” on the top of your bill before you pay it and Suleiman Family Restaurants will donate 20% of our food bill toward our JROTC Scholarship Fund. In addition, our JROTC Scholarship Jar will be on or near the check-in desk and if you donate \$5 in the Jar, the hostess will give you a \$10 gift card but do not use it that day or the JROTC Scholarship Fund won't get 20% of your food bill.



As part of our money raiser for the Military Charities Golf Tournament, as mentioned in our April Newsletter, the Suleiman Family Restaurants (SFR) gifted us a Certificate good for one free meal (up to \$25) a week for 52 weeks at the Havana Country Club Restaurant. We then raffled it off, selling 250 tickets for \$20 each. At our tournament dinner held at the Harbor Hills Golf and Country Club on April 10th we held the drawing of the raffle and it was won by Susan Hajjar, one of the tickets sold by Chris Paddock. On April 20th, Tom Lutes, our Public Information Officer, and I met at the Havana Restaurant with Jade Moore, SFR Corporate Operations Manager, Susan Hajjar, our winner, and Joseph Suleiman, SFR Partner, and Joseph presented Susan with the certificate. The start of many happy meals at the Havana Restaurant.



## Presidents Message Continued

Speaking of our April 10th 18th Annual MOAA Military Charities Golf Tournament, it was during the dinner and right before the awards presentation that I learned that National MOAA had emailed the chapters a communication listing the Levels of Excellence (LOE) and the Colonel Marvin J. Harris Communications (Harris Commo) Awards winners for 2025. I was happy to learn that our chapter had again been recognized as a 5-Star Winner of the LOE and 5-Star Winners of both the Newsletter and the Website Harris Commo awards. Congratulations chapter members once again.



In addition, our chapter continued the tradition of presenting plaques to our major tournament sponsors by having LtCol Bob Bienvenue, USAF (Ret), present Dr. Craig Curtis, Owner of K2 Medical Research, with our Thank You Plaque.



# Presidents Message Continued

Our tournament did quite well this year through the continued support by our loyal and dedicated Hole Sponsors and by the addition of eight new sponsors this year. We are extremely pleased that **Dani Lynn Robison and Freedom Family Investments, Dr. Furqan Muhammad and American Urgent Care & Walk-In Clinics, Tri-County Women Veterans, Roxanne Theodoropoulos and Capstone Wealth LLC, Dan & Lisa Morio and Cruise Planners (www.GoNavyTravel.com), Langley Health Services, Dr. David Price and Sumter Landing Dental Care, and the Social Committee for the Village of Hawkins** joined us this year as Hole Sponsors in support of our Golf Tournament.

**Freedom**  
FAMILY INVESTMENTS  
HOLE SPONSOR

SIMPLE, STEADY INCOME  
BACKED BY REAL ESTATE  
FREEDOMFAMILYINVESTMENTS.COM  
1-844-877-0888  
INVEST SMART. LIVE HAPPY.



**AMERICAN URGENT CARE & WALK-IN CLINICS**  
HOLE SPONSOR

YOUR HEALTH IS OUR PRIORITY  
QUALITY CARE IS OUR GOAL  
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK & HOLIDAYS  
601 GRAY AVE, WILDWOOD, FL 34785  
WWW.AMERICAN-URGENTCARE.COM  
(352) 808-2666



**TRI-COUNTY WOMEN VETERANS, INC**  
HOLE SPONSOR

TRI-COUNTY WOMEN VETERANS  
2518 BURNSED BLVD STE 203  
THE VILLAGES, FLORIDA 32163  
PHONE: 757-560-8814  
WWW.TRICOUNTYWOMENVETERANS.ORG  
TRICOUNTYWOMENVETERANS@YAHOO.COM



**CAPSTONEWEALTH**  
HOLE SPONSOR

*Roxanne Theodoropoulos*  
CFP®, CWS®  
FOUNDER, CEO, ADVISOR  
PHONE: 813-763-5670  
FAX: 352-885-7579  
ROXANNE@MYCAPSTONEWEALTH.COM



**CRUISE PLANNERS®**  
YOUR LAND AND CRUISE EXPERTS  
HOLE SPONSOR

WWW.GONAVYTRAVEL.COM  
540-479-8317  
MMAA LIFE MEMBER  
SERVICE DISABLED VETERAN  
OWNED SMALL BUSINESS



**LHS Langley HEALTH SERVICES**  
HOLE SPONSOR

LANGLEY HEALTH SERVICES  
COMPREHENSIVE MEDICAL, DENTAL  
& BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES  
FOR VETERANS  
SERVING MARION, SUMTER  
AND CITRUS COUNTIES



**Sumter Landing DENTAL CARE**  
HOLE SPONSOR

DR. DAVID PRICE, D.D.S.  
1050 OLD CAMP ROAD #286  
LAKE SUMTER LANDING  
THE VILLAGES, FL 32162  
352-605-6065  
WWW.SUMTERLANDINGDENTALCARE.COM



HOLE SPONSOR

**VILLAGE OF HAWKINS**  
**THE VILLAGES**



Next month's newsletter will have a summary of our tournament results, Scholarship recipients, and our donations to the local military oriented charities we support. Be sure to check it out!!! **Until then be safe and NEVER STOP SERVING!**



# Membership and Recruiting

COL Al Arnold, USA (Ret), Membership Chairman

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

- James Bard, Capt, USAF, retired
- Patricia Bevis, surviving spouse
- James Bland, LT, USN, retired
- Timothy Cowles, CPT, USA, former officer
- William Davisson, COL, USA, retired
- John Johnson, LtCol, USAF, retired
- Harry Koerner, LtCol, USAF, retired
- Michael Lecuyer, Maj, USAF, retired
- David Montgomery, Maj, USAF, retired
- Michael Monis, LTC, USA, retired
- George O'Neil, Maj, USAF, retired
- Steven Parker, Capt, USAF, former officer
- Peter Stonebreaker, LTC, USA, retired



We currently have 293 Chapter members. All Chapter members are also members of National MOAA!!

I normally try to put this information in a newsletter at least once a year to assist all chapter members with recruiting. We all come into contact or know folks who might be interested in joining our chapter, so hope this helps. Remember, we can also get folks free National MOAA Basic memberships.

Suggest keeping a copy of this newsletter in your car's glove box. It not only has helpful information below, but also a membership application.

Why join MOAA and our local MOAA Chapter with everything else that's available to participate in? It's all a part of the mantra '**Never Stop Serving**'.

## CHAPTER OFFICERS

### ***President***

LTC Donald Hansen, USA (Ret)

### ***Past President***

CAPT Paul Hauser, USN (Ret)

### ***First VP***

Lt Col Bruce Hacker, USAF (Ret.)

### ***Second VP***

Capt. Danny Cagle, USMC (Former)

### ***Historian***

Pam Fillmon Sherrill

### ***Treasurer***

CWO3 Dennis Storey, USA (Ret)

### ***Secretary***

SMSGT Rhonda Storey, USAF (Ret)

### ***Chaplain***

Maj Daryl DesJardin, USAF (Ret)

### ***Legislative Liaison***

Lt Col Bob Bienvenue, USAF (Ret)

### ***State Legislative Liaison***

Col William Wojciechowski, USAF (Ret)

### ***Membership***

COL Al Arnold, USA (Ret)

### ***Personal Affairs***

LtCol James O'Hagan, USMC (Ret)

### ***Community Affairs***

Col Marcus Sherrill, USAF (Ret.)

### ***Surviving Spouse Liaison***

Cathie Stevens

### ***Provost***

COL Kevin Harvey, USA (Ret.)

### ***Public Information Officer***

MAJ Thomas Lutes, USA (Ret.)

### ***Newsletter***

LTC Luke Emerson, USA (Ret)

### ***Web Site:***

[www.lakeandsumtermoaa.org](http://www.lakeandsumtermoaa.org)

### ***Information:***

[info@lakeandsumtermoaa.org](mailto:info@lakeandsumtermoaa.org)

[Follow us on Facebook](#)

### ***Mailing Address:***

Lake & Sumter Counties Chapter –  
MOAA

P O Box 666

Lady Lake, FL 32158-0666

## Chapter Awards



**2025**



**2025**

# Membership and Recruiting Continued

MOAA has seven basic principles that guide its organization. They include:

- 1. Make Yourself Heard.** Our MOAA chapter provides critical grassroots support for MOAA's national legislative agenda. Veteran benefits are under attack, and MOAA is in the fight to preserve them. Chapter members let their legislators know what's on their minds and open doors for MOAA's legislative team in Washington, D.C.
- 2. Give Back to the Community.** Chapter members are MOAA's ambassadors in our community, supporting countless programs that make a difference in the lives of others. Our members continue their service and are giving back in the truest sense.
- 3. Expand Social Opportunities.** Our MOAA chapter sponsors interesting programs and opportunities to interact with civic, political, military, and business leaders on issues important to members.
- 4. Network With Fellow Officers.** Our chapter includes second-career members in the workforce and retired servicemembers who have contacts in our community where like-minded discussions can take place.
- 5. Stay Informed.** Our chapter newsletter, website, and meetings provide the latest information on local, state, and national issues and changes to military benefits.
- 6. Influence State Legislation.** Florida has a council of chapters that unites chapters in the state. This council lobbies for state-level legislation that affects military members and their families, such as increasing funding for state veterans' programs.
- 7. Find Camaraderie with a Purpose.** Our MOAA chapter unites active duty, former, and retired officers from every branch of service, including National Guard and Reserve, as well as surviving spouses. This camaraderie not only gives members a chance to connect with other members with similar backgrounds and interests but to also develop close and lasting friendships.

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

Stay safe.

# Chaplain's Corner

Maj Daryl DesJardin, USAF (Ret), Chaplain



I'll confess something to you right up front. It would have been the easiest thing in the world to write this month's Chaplain's Corner about Memorial Day. I could have reached for the familiar cadences — the folded flags, the rows of white stones at Arlington, the bugle's lonely cry drifting across a morning field. And I assure you, had I done so, the Amens would have been abundant and well-earned. We are, after all, a room full of people who have stood at those graves, carried those flags, and in some cases, buried our own.

But Memorial Day will speak for itself, as it always does. It needs no amplification from me.

What I want to write about this May is something that has been quietly holding military families together for generations — something that wore no rank, signed no commission, and yet bore the full weight of service with a grace that most field manuals never thought to address. I want to talk about mothers.

There is a standing joke in military households — one that is only funny because it is so utterly true — that the real commander of any military family has always been the one who stayed home. "Household 6" managed the budget when allotments arrived late, attended parent-teacher conferences alone, and explained to a seven-year-old why Daddy missed the Christmas pageant again. She kept the whole enterprise running on faith, stubbornness, and an unshakeable belief that it would all, eventually, be worth it. She was her own commander, her own chaplain, and her own NCO. And she did it, in most cases, without complaint.

Proverbs 31 has been read at enough Mother's Day brunches that it risks becoming wallpaper. But read it again with military eyes and it lands differently. "She is clothed with strength and dignity, and she laughs without fear of the future." That is not a woman sitting passively by the window. That is someone who looked uncertainty full in the face and decided, quite deliberately, not to blink. Fear was a luxury she could not afford. There were lunches to pack, bills to pay, and children who needed to believe everything was going to be fine, even when the news from overseas was not reassuring. That kind of courage does not come with a ribbon or a decoration. But it is courage nonetheless.

I have sat in living rooms where the Gold Star was newly hung, the coffee was hot, and there were simply no adequate words — only presence. What struck me every time was not the grief, though the grief was enormous. It was the dignity. Military mothers carry themselves with a particular bearing — not the bearing of those who have been protected from hard things, but of those who walked directly through hard things and emerged, if not unscathed, then unbroken.

To the women in our chapter who wore the uniform: you carried a double burden and discharged it with honor. You navigated promotion boards and PTA meetings, maintained your bearing in the field and your warmth at home, and proved that a woman could be fierce in her duties and tender in her love — and that these things were never in contradiction.

To those who served as the anchor: your contribution to this nation's defense is not a footnote. It is the foundation. Service members do not deploy with clear heads and full hearts without knowing that someone capable and loving is holding things together at home. You were not waiting. You were working. And the difference matters.

Every officer in this chapter was shaped by a mother or — biological or chosen, living or departed. We carry them into every decision we make, every standard we hold, every moment of integrity when it would have been easier to look the other way. So here is my challenge: call her, write to her, visit her if you can. If she is no longer with us, speak her name to someone who never knew her. Honor her in whatever way is true to who she was and who she made you.

And if you are a mother yourself — if you have given years of your life, your sleep, and your worry to raising children and keeping a family intact through moves and deployments and the beautiful chaos of a military life — then let me say, on behalf of the officers and the grateful children who sometimes forget to say it clearly enough: Well done. Your service has always mattered. It matters still.

# SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS

Please Support our Golf Tournament Hole Sponsors

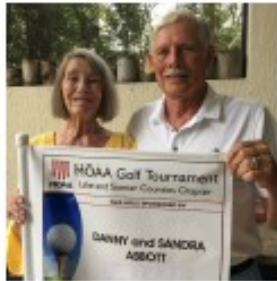


**BLACKSTON FINANCIAL ADVISORY GROUP**  
YOUR TOTAL ADVISORS

**David Blackston**



**Craig Curtis MD.com**  
Be Alzheimer's Aware



**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY**

**Unit 347**



**Edward Jones**

Luke Emerson, CFP®, AAMSTM<sup>®</sup>  
Financial Advisor  
1300 Page Pl  
Suite 200, Fort High Tower Center  
Fort Collins, CO 80526  
970.778.0224  
luke.emerson@edwardjones.com

edwardjones.com | Member SFC



**REAL SOLUTIONS REAL ESTATE, LLC**



**Lynne K. Boykin  
Bill Wojciechowski**

**Al & Phyllis Arnold  
Janet Arnett  
Emory & Susan Deason**

**Dennis & Rhonda Storey  
Bruce & Nancy Hacker**

## 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



### Star Act Advocacy Doubles Down on the Hill

The same day as MOAA AiA visits to Capitol Hill on April 15th, the **Veterans Justice Alliance** hosted a bipartisan press conference on Capitol Hill to shine a brighter spotlight on the Major Richard Star Act – a bill with the support of more than 390 lawmakers ... *but one that has yet to receive a vote by either the full House or Senate.*



Rep. Gus Bilirakis (R-Fla.), who introduced the House version of the bill, called passing this bill an issue of **“fundamental fairness”**....

*“Quite simply, these brave men and women are penalized for being wounded in service to our nation .... Fiscal responsibility should never come at the expense of the men and women who have already sacrificed their health, their careers, in many ways their future earning potential, in defense of our freedom.”*

Supporters working to end the “wounded veteran tax” faced by these combat-injured retirees came together from across the military advocacy community. Along with MOAA’s work through our Advocacy in Action campaign, the association was a founding member of [the Star Act Alliance](#), a group of nonprofits including Veterans of Foreign Wars, Wounded Warrior Project, Blue Star Families, and more groups working together to move the bill forward.

Both our Florida Senators and local Congressman Daniel Webster (District 11) are co-sponsors of this legislation. **However, it is clear from the failure to even move for these bills for a vote during this session (and in previous sessions) that signing on to support the bill hasn’t been enough to get final approval.**

As congressman Bilirakis said, this is an issue of *“fundamental fairness”* **and MOAA is asking us to again do our part in keeping it at the top of the mind of those we send to Capitol Hill.**

Click here to send your message today [MOAA | Stand with Our Wounded Warriors: Advocate for the Major Richard Star Act](#)

## **Advocacy in Action 2026: MOAA Members Take the Hill** **By: Kevin Lilley MOAA Staff April 15, 2026**

MOAA members brought the organization’s top priorities to Capitol Hill on April 15, visiting about 300 congressional offices; interacting with lawmakers and staff members around conference tables, in hallways, and over coffee; and *carrying forward the mission of preserving service-earned benefits for all who serve and have served, their families, and their survivors.*

## Legislative Update (Continued)

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

Lt. Gen. Brian T. Kelly, USAF (Ret), MOAA's president and CEO, said

*“Advocacy in Action demonstrates the power of our grassroots advocacy, the power of our members and our mission, and the power of our democracy. We’ve made great strides on these issues by connecting our members with their lawmakers on the Hill, but our work is far from over.”*

### Answering the Call

MOAA members from across the nation visited offices in support of four pieces of bipartisan legislation:

The Major Richard Star Act, which would end an unfair pay offset faced by tens of thousands of combat-injured veterans.

The Shutdown Fairness Act, which would ensure continued, timely pay for the armed services during federal funding lapses.

The GUARD VA Benefits Act, which would allow veterans to keep the benefits they’ve earned by protecting them from unaccredited for-profit “claim sharks.”

The Military CARE Act, which would create a system to provide military treatment facility patients with the tools they need to combat access-to-care issues, and gather data on those issues to improve accountability and oversight.

### Supporting All Who Serve

MOAA's priorities cover a range of programs and people ... **not just for the 8 unformed service members of all ranks but their families, retirees, and surviving spouses.**

### Local Advocacy

In addition to the 130 MOAA members who visited the Congressional Offices on Capitol Hill, our Chapter Legislative Liaison, Bob Bienvenue, met virtually with Caleb Miller, a Legislative Communications Assistant in Congressman Webster's DC office to discuss the same Legislative Priorities Agenda.

As Mr. Miller is newly assigned staffer, Bob presented background on MOAA's mission and presence throughout the country and in particular in Florida. He reported on the 770,000 (est) count of military retirees, their dependents, active duty military and their families who are assigned in the state, and surviving spouses whom we consider our constituents and are the focus in our Advocacy efforts.

### Next to come: AiA Summer Campaign

With the release of the president's budget, the **National Defense Authorization Act** process has begun in earnest, and MOAA is engaged at every level.

During the August Congressional recess, when the 119th Congress enters its final stretch, MOAA will re-energize its face-to-face Advocacy by asking the **grassroots** MOAA community to conduct visits to both staff and our elected representatives in their Congressional Districts. Be informed to support this other annual effort to finalize the legislative agenda into passed law by subscribing to MOAA's Monthly Legislative Newsletter and sending the messages in the Legislative Action Center [MOAA | Action Center](#)

# State Legislative Update

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



## STATE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

# Nothing to report this period.

## 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.

Nothing

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 19 consecutive 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 to all the amazing moms and mother figures out there. Your strength, patience, and unconditional love shape lives in ways words can say. Every sacrifice you make, and every lesson you teach creates a lasting impact that reaches far beyond your special day. You are appreciated for what you do and who you are. Wishing you a day filled with love, recognition, and the same care you so generously give to others every day.



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-NC](#)

## Chapter Shirts & Name Tags



3451 Wedgewood Lane

The Villages, F: 32162

Tel 352-750-1600



## 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!



## The Army Officer Candidate School Database: Preserving the Legacy of Commissioned Leaders



The Army Officer Candidate School (OCS) Database stands as a landmark resource for OCS graduates, their families, and historians. Built to honor more than eight decades of service and sacrifice, the database is dedicated to preserving the lineage and accomplishments of those who earned their commissions through the U.S. Army's OCS programs.

For over 80 years, Army Officer Candidate Schools have transformed prior-service enlisted Soldiers and qualified civilians into commissioned leaders. From the battlefields of World War II to modern operations around the globe, OCS-commissioned officers have played pivotal roles in shaping American military history. The creation and expansion of the Army OCS Database represents a major milestone in capturing that heritage with accuracy, dignity, and permanence.

For the first time, graduates, families, researchers, and veterans can explore a growing historical archive documenting the men and women who received their commissions through every Army branch school dating back to 1941. This living, continually expanding database currently includes more than **282,500 graduates**, with additional entries added as new records are discovered, digitized, and verified.

More than a directory, the Army OCS Database is a tribute—ensuring that the leadership, commitment, and stories of OCS-trained officers are never lost to time. It serves as a bridge between generations of Soldiers and a foundation for future historical research, education, and remembrance.

[www.armyocsdatabase.com](http://www.armyocsdatabase.com)

# Do You Know Why May is Called **Military Appreciation Month**?

Military Appreciation Month, established by Congress in 1999, is a month-long of observances to honor the men and women who serve – and have served – in the United States Armed Forces, along with their families and the communities that support them. *May was chosen because it has many individual days marked to note our military's achievements and contributions to our nation.*

**Americanization Day** was established on May 1<sup>st</sup> in 1921. President Dwight Eisenhower proclaimed May 1<sup>st</sup> as **Loyalty Day** ... a day for declaring loyalty to the United States of America and to acknowledge American history

**Victory in Europe (VE) Day** June 8th commemorates the end of WWII in Europe in 1945,

**May 13** was selected to observe **Children of Fallen Patriots Day** due to being the day Arlington National Cemetery was established in 1864. The *Children of Fallen Patriots Foundation* established this date in 2014 as a day to both honor these children and raise awareness of the sacrifices and struggles they must endure in the wake of their parents' death.

**Military Spouses Day**, on the Friday in May before Mother's Day, was first recognized by President Ronald Reagan in 1984.

President Truman established **Armed Forces Day**, on the third Saturday in May, to mark the first demonstration by America's joint defense team under the National Security Act toward the goal of combined readiness for any eventuality.

**Memorial Day**, previously known as **Decoration Day**, was officially proclaimed to honor Civil War dead for **the first national observance, May 30, 1864**, at Arlington National Cemetery. It is now observed on the last Monday in May as [Memorial Day](#) to remember the sacrifice and service of those who gave all,

*Waterloo, New York, was declared the **official birthplace** in 1966 by President Lyndon B. Johnson for its community-wide, annual observances going back the end of the Civil War.*

*Military Appreciation Month plays a crucial role in fostering awareness and understanding of the challenges faced by the military community.*

*It provides a platform for education and dialogue about the experiences of service members, veterans, and their families.*

The Veterans Memorial Park Honor Guard will be conducting Military Ceremonies on both Armed Forces Day and Memorial Day at 10:00am in the Spanish Springs park.

**All are welcome – bring a chair for comfortable seating.**



John Bartram Chapter, NSDAR   Tri-County Women Veterans   The Villages SAR   Puc Puggy Chapter, NSDAR

---

**SAVE THE DATE   SAVE THE DATE   SAVE THE DATE   SAVE THE DATE**

---

On July 4th 2026, we are celebrating America's 250th Birthday inside the Savannah Center.

The day begins with a "March Through American History" parade at 12:00 noon. We would like to recognize your group and hope that you will accept this invitation to join us.

Please RSVP using the form below.

**Will your organization join us?**

Note: Due to temperatures in July, all events will be held inside.

***Please reply to this email or return to the person you received it from ASAP to let us know your organization will be there.***

***Please include your information in the blanks below:***

**Org Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact Person & Cell Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Do you have an organization flag?:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Estimated # of marchers from your group:** \_\_\_\_\_

**In costume/uniform?:** \_\_\_\_\_

Should you have any questions, please reach out to me via email.

A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE (800-435-7352) WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE. THE AMERICA 250 REGISTRATION NUMBER IS CH780378.



## *What is America 250?*

Dear Potential Sponsor,

We are excited to invite you to join us in celebrating America's 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on July 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026, at the Savannah Center in The Villages.

The Villages America 250 Committee is comprised of two Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Chapters (John Bartram and Puc Puggy), the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) and Tri-County Women's Veterans. This committee is established to commemorate the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Also called America's Semi-quincentennial Celebration!

The primary purpose of our DAR Chapters the Villages SAR, and the Tri-County Women's Veterans is to honor, remember, and celebrate our 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary through Education, Historical Preservation, and Patriotism!



*America 250 Independence Gala*  
*July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026, 5:30 p.m.*  
*Savannah Center*

General George Washington and his Lady, 'Martha Dear,' invite you to this celebration, with joy and cheer.

In the spirit of our forefathers, we humbly request, your presence at our Gala, as our honored guest. Return to the year 1776, where elegance and history, in grandeur, mix.

### *Highlights of the evening:*

- \* Traditional Colonial Music and Dance
- \* Historical Reenactments
- \* Authentic Colonial Cuisine
- \* A Costume Contest
- \* Dress as a Patriot, Redcoat or Dame  
If you prefer, Evening Wear.

*We eagerly await your presence so fine,  
For an evening of revelry, divine.*



*Tribute to Our Patriots and  
Veterans - July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026*

*Veterans Memorial Park*  
**10:00 July 4<sup>th</sup> Ceremony**

*America 250 Celebration*  
*Savannah Center*

**11:00 Food Trucks Set-up**  
**11:30 Doors Open**  
**12:00 Opening Ceremony**  
**Posting of the Color**  
**Indoor Parade**

*"March Through American History"*

**1:30 to 4:30 Speakers, Entertainment,  
Demonstrations, & Children's  
Activities Center**  
**5:00 Villages Band Patriotic Concert**  
**FIREWORKS FINALE!**  
**Retire the Colors**

*Villages ID Card and/or Villages Guest  
ID Required for July 4<sup>th</sup> Activities*



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 eight 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

\_\_\_ 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 or Renewal Chapter membership.  
(circle one)

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

*We are always looking for members to help out on various committees within the Chapter; if you would like more information about serving on a committee please check the box of the ones you might be interested in learning more about*

- MEMBERSHIP  FINANCE/TREASURER  GOLF TOURNAMENT  MEETING LOGISTICS  
 AWARDS  LEGISLATIVE  SURVIVING SPOUSE SUPPORT  NEWSLETTER  
 SOCIAL MEDIA/PUBLIC RELATIONS  WEB SITE MONITORING  OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

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

Rev 10-10-25