



Officers Call

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



President's Message

LTC Don Hansen, USA (Ret), Chapter President

Welcome to August where we observe: the founding of the U.S. Coast Guard (1790) on the 4th; the Atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima (WWII 1945) on the 6th; Purple Heart Day on the 7th; the Atomic bomb dropped on Nagasaki (WWII 1945) on the 9th; Hirohito announces Japanese surrender (WWII 1945) on the 15th; and the Liberation of Paris (WWII 1944) on the 25th.

Last month a number of our members enjoyed participating in the America 250 Independence Gala at the Savannah Center in The Villages on July 3rd and the Welcome to the America 250 Celebration and Parade, also at the Savannah Center on the 4th of July. Great fun was had by all and we all looked great in our patriot's outfits.



Next month we will start our meetings again at Eisenhower RRC at 11:30 on September 9th, after a long three month hiatus. Our speaker will be Scott Merritt who will give us a quick overview of the war with Japan in the Pacific during WWII. Scott is President of the Nevada Leadership Group, a consulting firm that works with small business owners.



(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

OUR NEXT MEETING

**Wednesday
Sep 9th
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
Sep 4th**

[Click Here](#)

or contact Marv Sherrill at
msherrill45@gmail.com or
813-495-2894.



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

President's Message Continued

In the 1990s Scott was CEO & CFO of a scuba resort enterprise located on the Jaluit Atoll, a former Japanese sea plane base, which is part of the Marshall Islands. Throughout the 1990s Scott visited islands throughout Micronesia, including 11 islands that saw combat during WWII. This experience fueled Scott's interest in the Pacific Theater of Operations in WWII and he currently teaches about this subject at The Villages Enrichment Academy. Scott has previously given us talks about the WWII battles of Peleliu and Saipan. Scott and Harriet, his wife of 36 years, live in The Villages with their dog Lucy.

Our monthly Dine-To-Donate Day will be at the [Arnold Palmer Legends Country Club Restaurant](#) on **August 18th**. Please plan to have a meal there on that day and the Suleiman Family Restaurants will provide our JROTC Scholarship Fund 20% of your meal price. Just write MOAA on the top of the bill you are presented with and they will do the rest. By participating in this monthly DTD Day, the Suleiman's provide us with a Certificate good for a meal a week (up to \$25) for 52 weeks which we then raffle off to raise money for our JROTC Scholarships and Charity Donations. We have thus earned \$5,000 from this raffle each of the last two years which is a major addition to our Golf Tournament earnings allowing us make the donations we do each year. Also, donate \$5 in the JROTC Jar at the front desk and you will receive a \$10 Suleiman voucher for you to use at the restaurant at a later date.



Our caterer for our September luncheon will again be Mission BBQ. They have done so much for our veterans and first responders here in The Villages area and we happily support them as well as enjoy great BBQ lunches.

That's about it for now so continue to enjoy your summer here in The Villages or on your travels and above all - **NEVER STOP SERVING!**

Membership and Recruiting

COL Al Arnold, USA (Ret), Membership Chairman

A hearty welcome to the following member who recently joined our Chapter:

Albert Martine, Maj, USAR/ARNG

We currently have 301 Chapter members. All Chapter members are also members of National MOAA!!

Did you notice the popup when you first access our Chapter website? I know, it's hard to miss as it covers most of the middle of the screen and you must "x" out of it to access the website data. Patrick Space Force Base is now accepting ID card renewal applications by mail for those who are: 1. physically handicapped, 2. have no means of transportation, 3. are hospitalized or too sick to come into an ID card office, or 4. are bedridden. As a service to our entire community and the Military Retiree Activities Office, we have posted the requirements and procedures to process an ID card renewal by mail to our website. This not only helps our membership and the entire community, but it also provides some publicity for our Chapter and highlights one of the things we do for our military family. If you know of someone who might need this information, please let them know they can find the detailed procedures on our website under the "Local Interest" item in the banner on our Home Page.

A few spots left, but they're going fast. The Retired Military Family Group (RMFG) hosts an annual Military Ball every November 11th. This is a formal event where many attendees wear their formal military attire. Others wear tuxedos and formal evening dress. The cost is \$90/person and includes dinner and dancing. The menu: Grilled Chicken Marsala, Grilled Salmon Piccata, or Pot Roast, Mashed Potatoes, Garlic Butter Green Beans, Garden Salad w/Ranch or Italian Dressing, Rolls and Butter, Military Ball Cake. A cash bar will be available. The Ball goes from 5:30 pm to 10:00 pm at the Savannah Center on November 11. For more information and to obtain a reservation form, please email Jo Weber at jo1weber@aol.com.

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

Stay safe.



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Lake & Sumter Counties Chapter –
MOAA

P O Box 666

Lady Lake, FL 32158-0666

Legislative Update

**LtCol Bob Bienvenue, USAF (Ret),
Legislative Liaison**

MOAA Legislative Update:
[LEGISLATIVE ACTION CENTER](#)



MOAA's Advocacy in Action Campaign— Status Update



Just last week, after the House announced it was scheduling a vote on the Take Care of America's Veterans Act (TCAVA), MOAA sent out an URGENT CALL TO ACTION July 15th, urging us to contact our elected officials, while there is still time to make a difference on the outcome. More than 60 provisions in TCAVA address veterans benefits, health care, education, transition assistance, caregiver support, and survivor benefits.

That vote did not happen — lawmakers announced the vote would be postponed to a later date, possibly when they reconvene in September after the August recess (which lasts until after Labor Day).

However, September is shaping up to be one of the most crowded legislative windows in recent memory. Lawmakers will be returning while midterm campaigning intensifies, and when the FY 2027 budget deadline and work on the National Defense Authorization Act is unfinished.

All of this turmoil is delaying MOAA decisions and work on putting together a package for the Summer AiA campaign's direction.

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 it's 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.



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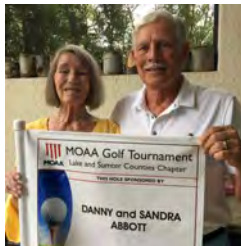
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IMPORTANT MESSAGE

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 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

Chapter Shirts & Name Tags



3451 Wedgewood Lane The
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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



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



**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 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 90 years of age and over become Chapter Life Members with no dues.

First name: _____ **Middle initial:** ____ **Last name:** _____ **Suffix:** ____

Type membership: ____ Regular ____ Surviving spouse

Service status: (circle one) Active duty Retired Former officer Date of birth: _____

Branch of service: _____ **Rank:** _____ **Spouse's name:** _____

Mailing address: _____ **City:** _____ **State:** ____ **Zip:** _____

Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

Annual Dues Fee: (circle one) Regular Member: \$20 Surviving Spouse Member: \$10

__ **I am a current MOAA Member.** Member #: _____ **(circle one)** Life Premium Basic

__ **I wish to join National MOAA.** Please contact me with information.

This is an application for: (circle one) New membership or Chapter 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:** \$ _____

We are always looking for members to help on various committees within the Chapter; if you would like more information about 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 _____

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

Membership application may also be submitted at <https://lakeandsumtermoaa.org/memberships>

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