



Officers' Call

Newsletter of the Lake & Sumter Counties Chapter
Military Officers Association of America
July/August 2025



Presidents Message

LTC Don Hansen, USA (Ret), Chapter President

As we are now 2/3rds through our summer hiatus, I hope you are enjoying the summer, heat & all! I just received our 2024 5-star Certificates for our chapter's Newsletter, Website, and Level of Excellence, which continues the tradition of excellence our chapter has accomplished. Thank you all for your support and membership.

Our September 10th speaker will be Lt.Cdr. David F. Barden, USNR (Ret.), a Mount Dora attorney, now retired from active practice, who will give us a presentation on "Heads Up on Trusts, Wills, and Estates." As he will tell you, he is not accepting new clients and so is not trying to sell you his services. Rather, as a National MOAA member, his information is for your benefit only, so comes to our meeting and hear what he has to say as well as enjoy our camaraderie and a great lunch served by Mission BBQ.

In our June newsletter I mentioned that we were handing out scholarship checks and checks to the 8 military oriented charities we support in our local area. I have received a number of letters from the charities and I include a few at the end of this newsletter. I also have received a number of emails from our JROTC scholarship winners. The



(Continues on next Page)

OUR NEXT MEETING

**Wednesday
September 10th
11:30 a.m.**

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



OUR MEAL

Our luncheon will be catered by 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
September 5th**

[Click Here](#)

or contact Tim or Annette Balliett at taballiett46@gmail.com or 352-728-2945.



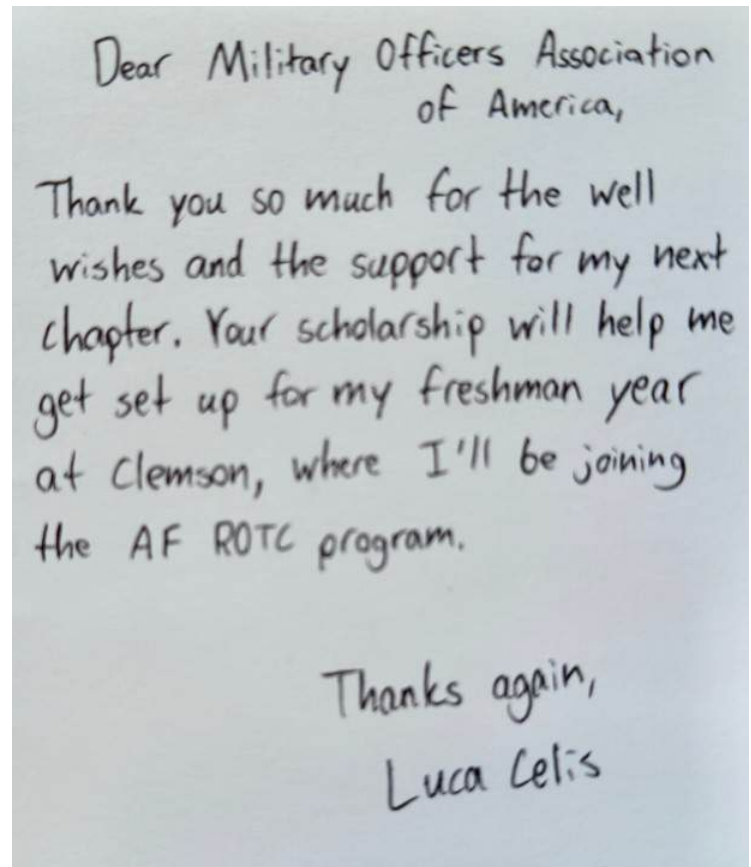
Check out the Florida Department of Veteran Affairs for Florida Veteran Legislation.

Presidents Message Continued

Thank You card I received in the mail the other day which was a pleasant surprise since I have noticed most of that generation only sends emails and texts. It was from our \$1,500 scholarship winner from the Mount Dora AFJROTC program, Luca Celis.

I have been extremely pleased with the fact that we have been able to raise the limits of our donations to scholarships and charities every year that I have been your president. The only exception for that yearly increase was 2020, my first year as president, when we had to cancel our golf tournament because of the pandemic but were still able to give out our scholarships but not to the charities. Our funds in the treasury were almost wiped out but we made it. When I joined in 2016 we were giving out \$6,000 in scholarships, \$1,000 to the top cadet from each school. In 2017 we raised that to \$9,000 by giving a scholarship to the top two cadets from each school (\$1,000 and \$500). In 2022 we raised that to \$15,000 by giving scholarships of \$1,500 and \$1,000. This year we were able to raise it once again, this time to \$21,000 by giving scholarships of \$2,000 and \$1,500. At the same time, we were able to increase our donations to the charities we support. I can only go back to the time I started as president, January 2020, but we have been able to slowly increase the total each year: 2020 = \$2,000 (Pandemic year); 2021 = \$9,000; 2022 = \$13,500; 2023 = \$15,500; 2024 = \$17,000; and this year, 2025, \$18,000. This is mainly all due to the money we raise by hosting the Military Charities Golf Tournament every year and the donations during the year by our membership. **THANK YOU ALL!**

COL Al Arnold, USA (Ret) joined the giving to charities by presenting to Honor Flight.



Presidents Message Continued

Here are photos of our latest (2024) 5-Star Awards.



Our monthly Dine-To-Donate partnership with Suleiman Family Restaurants has been a good fund raiser for us as we have raised over \$1,250 in just 10 months of enjoying great food from four different restaurants. Our next Dine-To-Donate date is August 19th at the Havana Country Club Restaurant. [Remember](#) - a \$5 donation in our JROTC Jar will get you a \$10 certificate from David Suleiman to be used at his restaurants. **HOWEVER**, don't use any of his certificates when paying the bill as that will keep us from receiving his 20% of your meal donation to our chapter. Use them at another visit [not connected to our chapter fund raising](#). Thank you.



Enough for now so enjoy the next few weeks before returning to our chapter meetings at the Eisenhower on September 10th. Be safe, be smart, and above all - **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:

Frank Bruning, LTC, USA, retired
Dolores Cook, LTC, USA, retired



We currently have 290 Chapter members. All Chapter members are also members of National MOAA!!

Welcome to the dog days of summer!!! The Old Farmer's Almanac lists the traditional timing of the dog days: the 40 days beginning July 3 and ending August 11, coinciding with the heliacal (at sunrise) rising of the Dog Star, Sirius. Here in Florida, it probably goes a couple weeks longer. It's normally a period of stagnation or inactivity. Again, not here in The Villages. Those of us still here are busy doing what we do, just in a cool environment (except for golf, pickleball, etc.). And except for your Board of Directors (BOD). Even though we do not have regular meetings in June, July, and August, your BOD is still busy planning events for the balance of this year and next year, including the annual golf tournament and obtaining new memberships and donations. Want to help? Just ask. **We have a few opportunities where we REALLY need help. Please call/email me if you'd like to help.**

Quick update on retiree ID cards. As you probably saw in the monthly DFAS newsletter, DoD has now announced that our old ID cards will expire December 31, 2025. Although I understand they retracted that date but I haven't seen that yet. I'd still go with that date. I won't bore you with all the details I have presented in the past, just some summary/updated information. You can get your new ID card three ways: in person or online. In person and online – use this website: <https://idco.dmdc.osd.mil/idco> and follow the prompts mentioned in previous newsletters. If you're currently elsewhere in the USA, you can use this website to make appointments close to where you are. There is a possibility of doing a mail-in request if you or someone you know is incapacitated and cannot travel to an ID card office. I'm working with Patrick AFB on getting this procedure in place and will let you know progress. But as of this writing, it's not in place yet.

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

Stay safe.



2024

Chapter Awards



2024

CHAPTER OFFICERS

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LTC Donald Hansen, USA (Ret)

Past President

CAPT Paul Hauser, USN (Ret)

First VP

Lt Col Bruce Hacker, USAF (Ret.)

Second VP

Pam Fillmon Sherrill

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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.)

Recruiting

MAJ Thomas Lutes, USA (Ret.)

Newsletter

LTC Luke Emerson, USA (Ret)

Web Site:

www.lakesumtermoaa.org

Information:

info@lakesumtermoaa.org

Follow us on Facebook

Mailing Address:

Lake & Sumter Counties Chapter – MOAA

P O Box 666

Lady Lake, FL 32158-0666

Chaplain's Corner

Maj Daryl DesJardin, USAF (Ret), Chaplain



Lessons from the Road

July proved to be a month of unexpected discoveries and profound reminders about the richness that retirement can offer. As retired military officers, we often find ourselves wondering how to channel the sense of purpose and adventure that defined our service years into this new chapter of life. Sometimes the answer comes not from grand plans or careful strategizing, but from simply saying "yes" to opportunities that present themselves. This past month, three very different journeys—each unfolding in its own unique way—reminded me that the qualities that served us well in uniform continue to serve us well as we explore new territories, both literal and figurative.

The first weekend of July found me in Boston, reuniting with three other retired military buddies for what turned out to be much more than a simple getaway. Our highlight was an afternoon at Fenway Park, where America's pastime provided the perfect backdrop for greater reflection. That afternoon at Fenway taught me something I had perhaps taken for granted—the bonds forged in military service don't fade with time or distance. Despite periods of separation, different career paths, and the natural changes that come with aging, we picked up conversations as if no time had passed. The shared language of service, the common understanding of sacrifice and duty, created an instant connection that transcended the decades.

For retired officers, this reminds us that our military family extends far beyond our immediate circles. In a world that can sometimes feel disconnected, we carry with us a network of brothers and sisters who understand our journey in ways that few others can. The lesson: don't let geography or time erode these precious relationships. Make effort to reconnect, to gather, to remember that the bonds of service are among life's most enduring gifts.

The very next weekend, I found myself in an entirely different setting—Raleigh, North Carolina, for the National Open Cribbage Tournament, the second-largest tournament of its kind in the United States. From the fellowship of old military friends to the competitive spirit of skilled card players, the contrast was striking yet somehow fitting.

The cribbage tournament in Raleigh presented a different kind of challenge—mental acuity, strategic thinking, and grace under pressure in an entirely civilian context. Watching skilled players from all walks of life compete with intensity and sportsmanship reminded me that the competitive spirit we honed in military service finds new outlets in retirement.

But more importantly, I observed how the principles we learned in uniform—preparation, focus, respect for opponents, and graciousness in both victory and defeat—translate beautifully to civilian pursuits. Whether it's cards, golf, community service, or any new endeavor, we bring with us a foundation of character that serves us well. The lesson: embrace new challenges with the same dedication and integrity that defined your service. The skills may be different, but the heart remains the same.

The third chapter of my July adventures took me even further afield—flying to Winnipeg for an epic road trip westward through the Canadian Rockies into British Columbia.

The journey through the Canadian Rockies and British Columbia offered something the other experiences couldn't—solitude with the Creator's handiwork. Mile after mile of breathtaking vistas, small villages where life moves at a different pace, and the humbling majesty of mountains that dwarf human concerns provided a different kind of renewal.

In the silence of those drives, I found myself reflecting on the privilege of this season of life. After decades of missions, responsibilities, and the weight of leadership, there's profound grace in being able to simply witness and appreciate the beauty around us. The lesson: retirement isn't just about what we leave behind, but about what we're free to discover. Sometimes the most important journey is the one that leads us to stillness, to wonder, and to gratitude for the simple gift of being alive to see another day.

Three experiences, three different lessons, but one common thread: the richness of life after military service comes not from replicating what we once had, but from remaining open to what God has in store for us next. Whether it's deepening friendships, embracing new challenges, or finding peace in His creation, our post-military years can be filled with purpose and joy if we approach them with the same courage and openness that marked our service.

As we navigate this chapter of our lives, may we remember that the best is yet to come—if we have the wisdom to recognize it and the courage to embrace it.

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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



MOAA President and CEO, Lt Gen Brian Kelly, USAF (ret) is encouraging members to reach out to our lawmakers to request an opportunity to meet and share who we are, who we represent and our Advocacy Priorities during the Summer Congressional recess, already underway. Your Chapter leaders are working to have that opportunity with Congressman Webster and/or his staff that handles military matters. If you are interested in participating please contact Bob Bienvenue, Chapter Legislative Liaison.



Although seeking a face-to-face meeting is very important when legislators may be back in their home districts, **MOAA Leadership also wants to see more participants in the online Legislative Action Center** www.moaa.org/takeaction ... where you can access draft messages (that are editable) to send directly to them. Please go to [MOAA | Action Center](#) to sign up if you haven't already done so.

This statistic that I often use in to inform our elected leaders of the type and count of their constituents here in Florida that we advocate, for can be repeated in your communications as well:

770,000 active duty military, their spouses and children, military retirees and their dependents, and surviving spouses and children of active or retired military that have died from illness, accidents, or injuries from their service who reside in Florida..

This is in addition to the 1.5 million veterans, plus their dependents, and surviving spouses in Florida who are receiving VA federal and state benefits.



Summer AIA Update

MOAA's 2025 Summer Advocacy-in Action campaign focus is still being "fleshed out" ... what we do know is that there are three issues MOAA suggests we act on now:

Visit [MOAA | Action Center](#) to read about these three "**Featured Advocacy Campaigns**" and to send messages on each:

Prenatal Care for Military Families Act (H.R. 4381)

The Veteran Caregiver Reeducation, Reemployment, and Retirement Act (HR2148)

The Major Richard Star Act (HR 2102/S-1032)

There are **two legislative approaches to advance the Star Act**.

An amendment to the Senate NDAA has been submitted to include the provisions S 1032. There would still be a long road to travel in getting this amendment approved to provide combat-injured veterans their full earned disability compensation and retirement pay. There are **31** Senate co-sponsors of the Amendment that is also endorsed by **68** military, veterans, and survivor organizations including MOAA – just maybe this approach will finally provide these military retirees who already sacrificed so much the benefits they need and have earned

There are **294** House cosponsors to HR 2102, but House leadership has never put this Bill up for a vote. This is more than enough support to finally bring a vote on Star Act and to assure passage. Lets keep the pressure on the House to act on this Bill which has been mired in the arcane rules of the House for over 6 years since it was first introduced by Rep Gus Bilirakis, (FL-11).

Legislative Update (Continued)

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

If either the stand-alone Bill in the House or the Senate Amendment to the NDAA passes, it would become part of the bill's conference process, where differences between the drafts are resolved before final votes in each chamber.

Will Congress Buck the Trend in Failing to Pass a Timely Budget Again This Year?

Since 1997, the record shows it's been too much to ask.

With much delayed action during this legislative session on the important authorization and appropriation Bills for FY 2026 the likelihood of being completed by the 30 September FY deadline is very remote.

For more than a quarter-century, Congress has relied on continuing resolutions (CRs) to keep the government running past the end-of-fiscal-year deadline.

*Lawmakers relied on a full-year CR for this Fiscal year ... the **fourth time** since FY 2007.*

For as long as Congress has struggled to meet its deadline, MOAA has worked to ensure lawmakers realize the [damage caused by these CRs](#):

- Servicemembers and families wondering whether a federal shutdown will disrupt pay and services or deepen the financial strain already felt by many junior members.
- DoD and VA officials – often operating with reduced staff – diverting their energy from day-to-day operations to develop shutdown contingency plans and managing project delays caused by unclear budget rules and misaligned funds.

Advocates seeking a path to secure the benefits for all who serve in a fiscally constrained environment ... only to see [billions wasted](#) every time a new CR passes.

The process has become so familiar that ***D.C.- centric news outlets have already begun [their shutdown coverage](#)***. And while there is some time before the start of the new fiscal year, not all of that time will involve a legislative session: The House left for its summer work period early, the only August meeting set for either chamber is an Aug. 1 Senate session, and after returning to Capitol Hill on Sept. 2, both chambers are scheduled to be in recess the fourth week of September.

Talk of a CR likely would begin in earnest around that time, as lawmakers look to extend government funding beyond the deadline for appropriations legislation. Extensions are common: *Congress has averaged nearly five CRs per year since FY 1998, and in that year, the single CR lasted 178 days.*

MOAA will continue engaging with lawmakers to ensure they realize budget brinkmanship has consequences – uncertainty for those who serve and have served, and wasted time, money, and effort for those seeking to ensure a ready, resilient, efficient total force.

Keep up with the latest on the budget and other MOAA priorities by signing up at the [Legislative Action Center](#).

Visit [MOAA | Action Center](#) to look-over the co-sponsorship status on the **23 current MOAA Supported Bills** and to take action on the **17 active Advocacy Campaigns**.

State Legislative Update

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



STATE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Governor's budget includes the following appropriations :

To ensure the continued support of Florida's veteran community, the budget invests:

- An additional **\$20.8 million** to support capital improvements for the State Veterans' Nursing Homes.
- A continued funding of **\$1 million** to provide for a Veteran's Dental Care Grant Program to enable deserving qualified Florida Veterans to receive no-cost dental care to improve their general health.

A continued **\$2 million** investment to assist veterans in securing meaningful skills-based employment, provide employers a skilled talent pipeline, and to assist veterans in creating and operating a small business.

Other key bills made into law which are effective July 1 include:

House Bill 797 streamlines access to long-term care for veterans and their spouses by removing bureaucratic obstacles like Certificate of Needs processes. It also facilitates better utilization of skilled nursing facilities across the state by allowing them to designate specific beds for veterans and their spouses. The bill empowers FDVA to approve these designations, so long as facilities meet rigorous standards for care and admission.

Senate Bill 116 provides a comprehensive overhaul of how Florida supports its veterans by expanding suicide prevention programs to include early recognition of mental health conditions and not just emergency intervention. The bill also directs the creation of a statewide plan for adult health care centers dedicated to veterans.

Senate Bill 910 protects veterans from predatory practices by cracking down on bad actors who seek to exploit veterans navigating the benefits process. This legislation creates strong new protections for veterans by placing clear limits on unaccredited benefits advisors, qualifying payment contingent upon securing a real increase on benefits for the veteran, and capping payouts. It also bans referral kickbacks, prohibits misleading guarantees, and mandates that anyone offering paid benefits must pass a high-level background check. Violators will face stricter penalties under the Florida Deceptive and Unfair Trade Practices Act.

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

Nothing to report this month.



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



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 Communique

Florida Council of Chapters
Military Officers Association of America

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





8360 E Highway 25
Bellevue, FL 34420
352-307-6723

June 2, 2025

To: The Lake & Sumter Counties Chapter
Of The Military Officers Association of America
P.O. Box 666
Lady Lake, FL 32158

Thank you for your generous donation to Operation Shoebox in support of our troops.

As you know there are still thousands of U.S. military men and women deployed all over the world serving in harms way. Your donation allows us to continue sending them the items that they are requesting and/or are not available to them. Each care package reminds them that they are thought of and cared about and that we appreciate them for the job they do.

Date of Donation: May 19, 2025

Amount of Donation: \$2,000.00

Respectfully,

Sandra DeChristofaro
Director, Operation Shoebox

No goods or services were given in return for this donation.

Operation Shoebox is a 501 c 3 nonprofit.



June 4, 2025

**Military Officers Association of America
(Lake & Sumter Counties)
PO Box 666
Lady Lake, FL 32158**

Dear Military Officers Association of America (Lake & Sumter Counties),

On behalf of Combat Veterans to Careers, I would like to thank you for your contribution of \$1,500.00. Every dollar we raise goes directly to our Veterans, your charitable donation will clearly assist in supporting a Combat Veteran on his or her journey to make a successful transition to civilian life.

With contributions like yours, we can help our Veterans, and their families transition back into civilian life.

Thank you again for your contribution of \$1,500.00. No benefit was bestowed upon this donor in exchange for this contribution.... Other than the joy of giving to an organization that supports Veteran programs at Combat Veterans to Careers. We are a Tax-Exempt organization as described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code; EIN# 45-5187087.

Please feel free to contact me at any time if you have further questions.

Our Sincere Thanks,

**David Booth
President, CEO, Founder
Combat Veterans to Careers**

COMBAT VETERANS TO CAREERS

400 E. Gulf Atlantic Highway, Wildwood, Florida 34785 Phone: (352) 775-4008



Villages Honor Flight, Inc.

P.O. Box 490

Lady Lake, Florida 32158-0490

352-432-1382

www.villageshonorflight.org

June 11, 2025

Lake & Sumter Counties Chapter
of the Military Officers Association of America
PO Box 666
Lady Lake, FL 32158

Dear Lake & Sumter Counties Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America,

Thank you for your generous donation of \$3,000.00, to Villages Honor Flight, Inc., check #1397, dated 6/5/2025. Your donation supports our efforts to take veterans to visit Washington D.C. and the war memorials. Because of the generous support of people like you and the local community, we will be able to make this trip happen for those who have given us the freedoms we have today.

Villages Honor Flight, Inc. is a non-profit organization dedicated to transporting United States military veterans to see the Washington D.C. memorials, at no cost to the veterans. The current focus is on taking our most senior veterans, and any veteran with a terminal illness, to see the memorials.

Your support of Villages Honor Flight is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Terry Zablonski

Terry Zablonski
Volunteer, Villages Honor Flight

Wayne Grunewald

Wayne Grunewald
CFO and Treasurer, Villages Honor Flight
352-391-9707

VHFTreasurer@villageshonorflight.org

*Thank you so much
for your continuing
support of VHF!!*

*This donation
pays for another
5 Vets to D.C.!*

Villages Honor Flight, Inc is a 501©3 nonprofit organization, Federal Tax ID# 45-5560376.

No goods or services were received in consideration of this gift. The Villages Honor Flight name, logo or images may not be used without our written consent. The National Honor Flight logo is a registered trademark and may not be used without written permission. To request permission, please contact us.



Project SOS - Support Our Soldiers, Inc.

2412 Due West Drive
The Villages, FL 32162-2605
(352) 430-0567
www.projectsosusa.org



May 16, 2025

Lake & Sumter Counties Chapter
Of The Military Officers Association of America
P. O. Box 666
Lady Lake, FL 33162

Dear Officers and Members,

I am writing this letter to say thank you for the very generous donation of \$2,000 that you recently made to Project SOS-Support Our Soldiers, Inc. I can't thank you enough for the generosity and love you have given to our Veteran families in need. .

Ninety-eight cents of every dollar we receive goes directly to help those we serve, and nobody in our organization is ever paid or reimbursed for their time or expenses. Within our tri-county area there are children in need of nutritious food, decent clothing, proper medical and dental care, and an opportunity for a better education. Our mission is to care for our US military and their families here at home, and nobody in need is ever turned away. It's that simply, and you have helped us to do just that.

During this time of uncertainty and economic crisis in our nation, the needs of our Veteran families are greater than ever before. Many of their children no longer getting the free breakfasts and lunches that they are used to having from our schools, and many of our Veterans that had finally found employment have now been affected by layoffs for indefinite periods of time. Our goal is to help them get through this time of crisis by giving them a hand up, and not a hand out. By helping provide for their basic needs of food, clothing, and a safe place to live, we are changing their living condition, and making them self-sufficient. Your donation will help us meet those needs and much more.

Project SOS – Support Our Soldiers, Inc., often works quietly in the background carrying out our mission with little fanfare or publicity, however, every once in a while, someone like you learns about us and steps forward to lend a much needed hand. The gift you have given us not only inspires us to continue our work, it also literally saves lives. Every day in this nation an average of 24 US Military Veterans sadly take their own lives out of a feeling of desperation and hopelessness. Your very generous gift is helping to change that. Once again thank you for thinking of our veterans and their special needs.

Sincerely yours,

Rev. Gary H. Kadow, OSL +

Rev. Gary H. Kadow, OSL+
Founder & Executive Director
Project SOS – Support Our Soldiers, Inc.



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June 20, 2025

Dear Scholarship Donor (Lake and Sumter Counties Chapter of MOAA):

Thank you for your contribution toward the education of tomorrow's leaders. The charitable donations, given by men and women like you, make college degrees possible for our students. Your gift is greatly appreciated by Asbury University, and by the student who received your generous donation. The funds you provided have been processed and will be applied to the student you support: Wesley Gantz, \$1500.00. Please keep this letter as your receipt. Please let our office know if we can assist you with any additional documentation.

Thank you again for your generosity to our students!

Blessings,

Kirsten J Meadows

Kirsten Meadows
Financial Aid Assistant

**TRI-COUNTY
WOMEN
★ ★ ★
VETERANS**



**Fender Stratocaster Guitar
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Autographed by Mick Jagger,
Keith Richards, Charlie Watts &
Ronnie Wood.**



\$25 per ticket or 5 tickets for \$100

Winning Ticket to be drawn on

January 23, 2026 at

TCWV Trivia Night at Colony Recreation Center

Do not need to be present to win.

**Funds to benefit Tri-County Women Veterans -
Women Veterans Honor Retreat**

Tri-County Women Veterans, Inc.
2518 Burnsed Blvd Ste 203, The Villages, Florida 32163
501(c) (3) non-profit - EIN #88-1552498
tricountywomenveterans.org - tricountywomenveterans@yahoo.com



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



Toll-Free: **1-800-211-5107**

Email: mail@moaavacations.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 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

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 1-20-25