Officers' Call

Newsletter of the Lake & Sumter Counties Chapter
Military Officers Association of America
June 2020

Next Meeting

Wednesday, September 9th
11:30 AM, $20/person
Eisenhower Rec Center

Our meal will be Silver Lake Salad - The Villages most popular salad! Grilled chicken breast over mixed greens, onion, cucumber, tomato, hard-boiled egg and toasted almonds. Served in a crispy tortilla bowl with choice of two dressings. The **vegetarian option** will be the same salad without the grilled chicken.

The reservation deadline:
10:30 a.m. on Friday September 4th
Click Here

or contact Tim or Annette Balliett at taballiett@aol.com or 352-728-2945.

NOTE: When making a reservation, please state your **choice** of the regular luncheon item, or the vegetarian option. Meals are **$18/person** if you register and pay on the website. Meals are **$20/pers**on at the door.

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

President's Message

LTC Don Hansen, USA (Ret), Chapter President

Some loosening up is taking place and it's starting to look a little more like normal, even with the "social distancing." The drawback from this pandemic from our Chapter viewpoint, is the loss of the camaraderie that is felt and displayed at our Chapter luncheons. We missed two meetings this year and I for one really missed seeing and interacting with you at those meetings. Our next meeting will be September 9th and we will have a great speaker to help us "get back to normal."

Colonel Frederick J. Geier, USMC (Ret.), was born in Chicago, IL and received his B.S. in Industrial Technology from Western Illinois University in 1971. Upon graduation he entered the Marine Corps and graduated OCS as a new Lieutenant on 1 November 1971. From there he entered Naval Flight School and continued as a Marine aviator for 27 years, never having an idea that he would eventually be the President's Pilot for two different POTUSs (Reagan and Clinton). Colonel Geier relates that his career highlights were: being a Marine; being a Marine Aviator; Serving in the Marine Corps for 27 years; Commanding TWO Marine Corps Aviation Squadrons (HMM-262 and HMX-1); and Being the President's Helicopter Pilot of Marine One in two different assignments. He is the recipient of the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, two Meritorious Service Medals, and two Humanitarian Service Medals, in addition to many other awards and decorations, INCLUDING the Order of the Orange Nassau (Netherlands) for services as a helicopter pilot to Her Majesty the Queen of the Netherlands during her State Visit to the United States. After his retirement from the Marines in 1998, he worked for Sikorsky Aircraft

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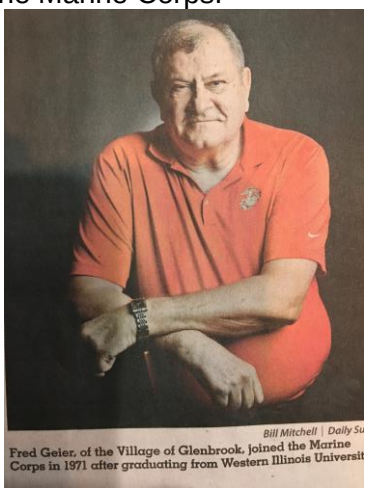
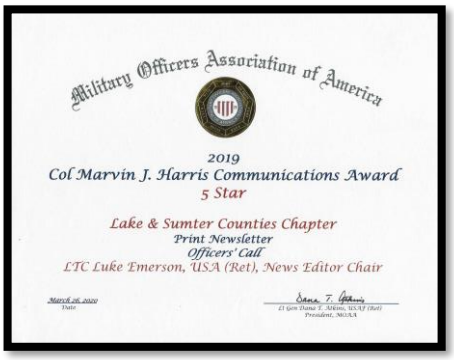
President's Message, Continued

Corporation (SAC) for 5 years including serving as the Program Manager for the Presidential Aircraft Program from 2000 to 2003. From 2003 through 2013 he worked as an Independent Consultant to SAC and CAE, Inc. Be prepared to hear his unique insights working as the Command Pilot for two POTUSs and a Queen and many other interesting and challenging assignment during his careers, both on and after active duty with the Marine Corps.



Finally I want to acknowledge and thank Captain Joe Leonard, USN (Ret.) for being our Webmaster of our website, lakesumtermoaa.org, whose great work has allowed us to capture the MOAA 2019 Col Marvin J. Harris 5 Star Communications Award for Website for at least the third year in a row. Below are photos of our two 2019 Commo Awards.



(Commo Award - Website) (Commo Award - Newsletter)

Finally, I want to wish all of you a fantastic Summer Holiday Season and entreat all of you to join us for our Fall Kick-Off Luncheon on September 9th. Until then - Stay Safe and Never Stop Serving.

2019

Chaplain's Prayer

LTC Herbert Siegel, USA (Ret), Chaplain

LORD IN THIS TIME OF GREAT UPHEAVAL AND CONFUSION WE COME TO YOU AS THE SOURCE OF ALL HEALING AND HEALTH. O GOD, IN OUR HEARTS, WE NAME THOSE WHO ARE FACING ILLNESS AND PAIN. WE JOIN OUR PRAYERS WITH THE PRAYERS OF ALL WHO LOVE THEM. GIVE THEM RENEWED COMFORT AND COURAGE. STRENGTHEN IN THEM THE HEALING POWERS YOU HAVE PLACED WITHIN US ALL. GUIDE THE HANDS AND HEARTS OF THOSE WHO ARE ENTRUSTED WITH THEIR CARE. MAY THE KNOWLEDGE OF YOUR LOVE AND OURS GIVE ADDED HOPE TO THEM AND TO THEIR DEAR ONES. MAY THEY FIND EVEN GREATER STRENGTH BECAUSE OUR PRAYERS ARE LINKED WITH THEIRS. LORD, AS WE FACE THIS NEW KIND OF WAR IN WHICH WE FACE AN INVISIBLE VIRUS ENEMY WE ARE REMINDED OF THE BRAVE MEN AND WOMEN WHO PUT THEIR LIVES ON THE LINE DAILY FOR OUR NATION. THEY ARE LIVING OUT WHAT IT MEANS TO SERVE. PROTECT THEM AS THEY ARE PROTECTING US, FOR THEY ARE PUTTING US BEFORE THEMSELVES AND WE ARE THANKFUL FOR THEM AND THEIR FAMILIES AS WELL AS THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED IN THE PAST AS MANY IN THIS ORGANIZATION HAVE DONE. WE ASK THIS IN YOUR NAME, AND IN THE POWER OF YOUR MESSAGE. AMEN.

Membership and Recruiting

COL Al Arnold, USA (Ret), Membership Chairman

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

LTC James H. Place, USA, retired

National MOAA membership. I am very happy to report that 100% of the members of our Chapter are also National MOAA members. This entitles our Chapter to a $50. incentive bonus from National MOAA. Thanks to all of you for your continued support.

Most Chapter members are MOAA National Life members. However, we have 56 Premium (or annual) members and 16 are Basic members. Here's some information about the Premium and Life memberships.

- MOAA **Premium** membership gives you total access to everything MOAA has to offer, including the full spectrum of career and financial resources, MOAA-exclusive publications, college scholarships for dependents, and countless discounts on products and travel. You'll also receive the monthly MOAA magazine in the mail. The cost?? One year: $48.00; two years: $82.00 (save 15%); three years: $108.00 (save 25%)
- MOAA **Life** membership is the most elite membership category. As a MOAA Life member, you'll receive all of MOAA's Premium benefits - plus more - for life. Additional (continued on next column)
- (continued) benefits include waived initiation fees at the Army Navy Club of Washington, D.C., spouse protection, and direct access to MOAA staff experts on the dedicated MOAA Life member hotline. The cost varies by age; see the following website: https://www.moaa.org/content/join-moaa/why-join-moaa/
- If you're interested in upgrading your National membership and have questions or need additional information, just let me know.

Renewing your annual chapter membership. I am *very* happy to report that mostly thanks to a significant phone effort from our President, Don Hansen, almost all of our members are now current with 2020 dues. We started with 49 members who needed to pay. We're waiting on checks from 9 chapter members to make this renewal drive a success!!

New members – reduced dues for the rest of 2020. Our members remain one of our best recruiting tools. If you know someone who is a member of MOAA but not our chapter, please refer them to me and I will provide them information on how to join us. Dues are only $10. for the rest of this year for regular members and $5. for surviving spouses. New members may also join by going to our website, www.lakesumtermoaa.org, and selecting JOIN above the calendar on the right side. As you know, all funds go directly to military-related organizations.

I look forward to seeing all of you in the fall. Stay safe.

13th Annual Military Charities Golf Tournament

Lt Col Bruce Hacker, USAF (Ret), Golf Committee Chairperson

As everyone hopefully knows the NEW date is FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19TH, 2020. All other details remain the same. The Golf committee has not met for a few months due to COVID-19 and trying to comply with all the "guidance." We plan on meeting June 16TH, and will get back to work. Still looking for players so if you know anyone or have a group please sign up as soon as possible so we may keep things going in the right direction. Hope everyone is safe and healthy and you all have a great summer.

Community Affairs

LTC William Gearing, USA (Ret), Community Affairs

The school year is now over. The schools are planning mostly outside graduations around June 11 or 12. We are still working with the JROTC instructors to honor cadets with the MOAA JROTC medal and certificate and our annual $1,000 and $500 scholarships for graduating seniors. Because of the virus and various travel and social distancing requirements, the JROTC units will not be going to various summer leadership, orienteering, or marksmanship courses. The process for reopening schools in the fall is still under review. Hopefully, we'll be able to see a few cadets at our Annual Golf Tournament in October.

The non-profit Save Our Soldiers (SOS) has renewed its food collecting project. There are drop-off points in The Villages Pack and Ship locations at the Palm Ridge Plaza (11962 County Road 101) and Bichara Plaza (1080 Bichara Blvd.) "We are accepting cash, checks (payable to Project SOS) or grocery store gift cards," says Gary Kadow, who heads the organization. If you need more info, you can contact Gary direct at 352-430-0567 or by email at gkadow@aol.com .

Support our Golf Tournament Sponsors!

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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

Op-Ed published in The Hill News written by MOAA Director

Read this compelling article by RADM, USN ret. on the impacts to Military Medicine if the planned cuts to MHS billets are enacted.
https://thehill.com/opinion/national-security/495759-congress-must-stop-the-attempt-to-dismantle-military-medicine

Take ACTION here to write your congressman and senators asking them to stop that change:
http://takeaction.moaa.org/app/write-a-letter?0&engagementId=507024

Status of NDAA

Despite the pressure on defense budgets from the trillions the government has already spent to combat the novel coronavirus pandemic, in early May Congressman Mac Thornberry, ranking member of the House Armed Services Committee said he foresees a pay raise in the range of the 3.1% next year "as a way to show people we value them."

Thornberry's remarks on the pay raise came after Defense Secretary Mark Esper warned of the potential of a flat budget, and raised the possibility of cuts to so-called "legacy" weapon systems because of the mounting national debt accumulated in the costly effort to combat the coronavirus and shore up a devastated economy.

While efforts are underway to draft a National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2021 and other bills – all of which also are competing with the pandemic's demands – there is little visible effort to date on the authorization and appropriation bills for the next fiscal year. There are only 38 days when both the House and Senate are in session between June 1 and the end of September, when funding runs out. There are five more House-only days and 16 Senate-only days. And the national party conventions (July 13-16 for the Democrats, Aug. 24-27 for the Republicans) will compete for time and attention beyond those scheduled sessions, not to mention a robust summer and fall campaign right up to the Nov. 3 elections.

Stayed tuned as to how this pans out. In the meantime TAKE ACTION NOW: **Ask Your Lawmaker to Ensure Full Funding for FY 2021** .

This Change in Law Would Prevent Some Military Families from Going Hungry

I wrote about this issue back in mid 2018 in an article for the FCoC Communique which I titled *"A Sad but True Story of Congress's Failure to Keep Our Nation's Solemn Obligations to the Well-being of Our Uniformed Servicemembers and to Their Families Who Also Sacrifice in Service Everyday"*. You can read it here on page 5:

https://moaafl.org/Communique/Issues/Apr2018.pdf

Legislative Update (Continued)

MOAA along with 16 other MSOs/VSOs sent a letter to Congressional leadership asking them to *" immediately amend Section 403(k), Title 37 of the United States Code to exclude the Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) from being counted as income when calculating eligibility for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and other federal nutrition assistance benefits … Addressing this barrier, which many military families face in accessing food assistance, would help those struggling to make ends meet during this unprecedented pandemic, and would boost the financial resiliency of those military families during the economic downturn."*

CALL your Congressperson and Senators reiterating this request that would reduce food insecurity, eliminating unnecessary stress and anxiety for the service member, and thereby contributing to optimal mission readiness.

Personal Affairs

LCDR Rick Woolf, USNR (Fmr), Personal Affairs Chairman

This brief, but helpful article is from the recent ARMY ECHOES Issue: Feb-May 2020 by Patty Cruz, Army Survivor Benefit Plan Program Manager:

> **"Changes on the way for the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) offset by Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC)"**

You may have already heard about the changes on the way for SBP offset by DIC but in case you have not, here's the scoop. The National Defense Authorization Act of fiscal year 2020 includes a change in the law that will phase-out the current offset of SBP by DIC over the course of the next 3 years. The biggest thing to note is that nothing will change in 2020. Surviving spouses who have the offset will see a change in their annuity check starting Feb. 1, 2021.

The DoD SBP Advisory Group will provide guidance on the implementation of this new law. If you think you will be affected by this new law, make sure you keep your annuity account information up to date with your correct mailing address and email address. If you are using my Pay.

You will receive more information from DFAS and from the Army. We will also make sure to provide updates in future issues of Army Echoes. Stay tuned. "

Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA): COLA is 1.6% and applies to most retired pay, SBP annuities and Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance (SSIA)

2020 LSCC-MOAA High School JROTC Awardees

As of this date, we know the names of the recipients of the above JROTC Medal and scholarships for three of the six High School JROTC programs we support. They are:

Umatilla HS Army JROTC Program

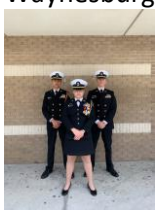
- MOAA JROTC Medal and Certificate- Cadet Ashton Frosch
- (No Photo)
- $1,000 Scholarship - Cadet Major Lindsay Sigler, daughter of Michael and Misty Sigler. Plans on attending Santa Fe College and then transferring to UF. Wants to be a Florida State Park Ranger.

- $500 Scholarship - Cadet Lieutenant Colonel Electra Pumphrey, daughter of Keith Moore and Sanya Pumphrey. Plans on attending Lake Sumter College and wants to become an EMT.

South Lake HS Navy JROTC Program

- MOAA JROTC Medal and Certificate - Cadet Lieutenant Junior Grade Xavier Vasquez, son of Alberto and Kelly Vasquez.

- $1,000 Scholarship - Cadet Lieutenant Jalexie Roman, daughter of Alex and Jacqueline Roman. Plans of attending Waynesburg University, Waynesburg, PA.



South Lake HS Navy JROTC Program (Continued)

- $500 Scholarship - Cadet Commander Brettland Coolidge, son of Michael and Heather Kay. Plans on attending the University of North Carolina at Chapel-Hill, NC.

Mount Dora HS Air Force JROTC Program

- MOAA JROTC Medal and Certificate - Cadet Isabella Cegarra, daughter of Paul Adamo and Katherina Cegarra.

- $1,000 Scholarship - Cadet Mia Terkos, daughter of Michael and Denise Terkos. Plans on attending one of three colleges but final decision is yet to be made.

- $500 Scholarship - Cadet Mateo Moscoso, son of Cristian Pellissa and Maria Chicaiza-Mayorga. Plans to attend college but may have to attend boot camp prior to entering college.

HONORING OUR VETERANS COLUMN

Major Peter Anthony Mattli, Jr., USAF (Ret.)

Born in Ithaca, New York, on May 2, 1926, and raised there, he attended Ithaca High School and entered the Navy in 1944, immediately after graduation. He was trained as a Navy Corpsman and was eventually assigned to the Fleet Marine Force Pacific. On August 27, 1946, he was honorably discharged from the Navy, having served two years, four months and 6 days on active duty. He then entered Cornell University and studied pre-med between 1946 and 1950. In June of 1951, he enlisted in the United States Air Force and trained to be a Navigator. He was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in July 1953. During his Air Force Career, he was stationed in Guam; Moody AFB, Valdosta, GA; Columbus AFB, Columbus, MS; Goose Bay, Labrador; and ended his career at McConnell AFB in Kansas where he retired. He was able to fly in the B-17G, the B-25B, and the B-29 while on active duty. It was while he was stationed at the Columbus AFB that he met and married his wife Louise. On August 14th, this year, they will have been married 56 years. They have two daughters, Tracy Wade in Clermont, FL, and Shelley Holcombe in West Point, MS.

After his retirement, Pete entered Memphis State University where he studied Pre-Dental and in 1971, he entered Dental School at the University of Tennessee. He graduated from Dental School in 1974 and worked at a Hospital in Fort Myers, FL, while waiting to take his Florida Boards. On February 23, 1975 he began his second career as a Dentist in Private Practice in Fort Myers, FL, where he practiced until his retirement in 1994. Pete and Louise moved to Clermont, FL, to be near their daughter, Tracy, in 2001 and they continue to live there today.

Throughout his adult life, Pete was an avid Scuba Diver and was able to practice that craft in the Florida Keys, the Western Pacific, the Yucatan Peninsula, Cozumel, the Mediterranean Sea, the Sea of Japan, off the coast of North Africa, and along the Atlantic coast.

An interesting piece of history is present in Pete's picture (above) that was taken in 1964. You notice he is wearing the Army Good Conduct Medal but he was never in the Army, only the Navy and the Air Force. He received that medal and ribbon from the Air Force before he was commissioned as he qualified for the GCM during his enlisted training after only one year in the USAF while during a war (the Korean Conflict was considered a war from June 25, 1950 through July 27, 1953). He received the Army GCM because that is what the USAF issued up to 1963 when the AFGCM was created. So there you have it! Happy 94th Birthday Pete and our best wishes for many, many more.

World War II Bricks Contribution

Based upon a unanimous decision by the Board of Directors we have decided to donate $500 toward the sponsoring of memorial bricks for each WWII veteran who has lived in or is living in The Villages to be unveiled at a special ceremony at the Veterans' Memorial Park of The Villages on Pearl harbor Day, December 7, 2020. The estimated cost of the effort is $15,000. If you are aware of any of our Chapter Members who qualify for such a brick, please bring his/her name to my attention by calling Don Hansen at (352) 461-0624 or emailing me at karen.donhansen@gmail.com. I hope you all were able to read the May 2020 MOAA Magazine as there are some extremely interesting stories of veterans who served during World War II.

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 seven 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: Luke Emerson at luke.e.emerson@gmail.com.

The Council Communiqué
Florida Council of Chapters
Military Officers Association of America

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