THE COASTAL TIDE

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Grand Strand Chapter

Military Officers Association of America

Military Officers Association of America

CHAPTER MISSION/PURPOSE

To foster communications and mutual support among retired, active, reserve, National Guard, Public Health service, NOAA, and former officers of the uniformed services. Assist community organizations that support service member, patriotic and veteran organizations and their families; provide scholarship opportunities for area high school senior JROTC cadets; conduct fundraising events to support other service members and veterans' programs; conduct annual awards banquet and awards ceremony honoring local area's leading JROTC/ROTC cadets, senior JROTC Scholarship Recipients, and their guests; maintain a proactive chapter affairs program that supports members; promote the aims and objectives of The Military Officers Association of America; and the aims and objectives of the South Carolina Council of Chapters.

President's Message

Spring is almost upon us; hopefully, we can say good-bye to chilly weather here at the Beach. We can get outside, do our chores, and then socialize in the warmth. However, despite the upcoming season change,

the message from your President will basically remain the same. I will always start with "thank yous" where they belong; I know that all the Committee Chairs have worked tirelessly the last two months, but you would not be reading this were it not for the indefatigable Dave Townsend putting the Coastal Tide Newsletter together in such great fashion!

Then, I am going to always mention the melding of our Mission with the need for additional new members. We have been joined by two new



2024 GS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

February-March 2024

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members recently, Leon Jablow and Randy Rotte, and there are numerous prospective members interested in our chapter. This is just a start.

Our newest members were recruited through personal contact, either at a social event or, in one case, through church. I am convinced that personal contact, even by pure chance, is by far the most effective way of finding fellow officers in the area.

Our selling points, should you meet a fellow officer are clear and simple:

- We meet socially once a month, usually for dinner.
- We raise approximately \$20k a year through a well- established Golf Tournament.
- We support needy local veterans through our Outreach Program to the tune of \$10k.
- We award college scholarships on a merit basis to local JROTC graduating seniors.
- We support the graduating ROTC students from CCU with a Leadership Award and additional recognition.

The above should make our job of recruiting an easy sell, particularly when the first dinner meeting is always free, and Membership is a mere \$20/year. I urge each of you to circulate, sell our Mission and help grow our Chapter in size and charitable ability.

Lastly, I will always remind you that your Committee Chairs cannot complete their mission essential duties without your help. The Chairs are listed on the right side of

this article; please reach out and help share the burden. Thank you and hope to see you at our next dinner meeting with another great speaker on tap!

Never Stop Serving!

Inally



John Bradley, CDR, USN (Ret,) President

HEAR YE! HEAR YE! HEAR YE!

Increasing Membership is one of President Bradley's Main Goals for 2024. He has challenged all members to bring at least one potential member to lunch or dinner. The first meal is free to the prospective member and spouse.

FUTURE EVENTS

March 12 – Chapter Dinner Meeting, Pine Lakes Country Club: 5:30 Social Hour; 6 PM Dinner. Speaker: Captain Norm Henslee, USCG (RET)

April 5 – Opening Day Myrtle Beach Pelicans

April 9 – Chapter Dinner Meeting, Pine Lakes Country Club: 5:30 Social Hour; 6 PM Dinner. CCU ROTC Recognition Night. Speaker Paige Sawyer

VETERANS APPRECIATION MONTH - MAY

May 14 – Chapter Dinner Meeting, Pine Lakes Country Club: 5:30 Social Hour; 6 PM Dinner. JROTC recognition and Scholarship Awards. Speaker TBD

May 18 – Armed Forces Day

May 25 – Veterans Appreciation Month parade at 1000 in Market Common. Chapter Memorial Ceremony at Warbird Park 1600. A social will follow at Coastal Vino.

May 29 – MOAA Golf Tournament at Blackmoor Golf Club in Murrells Inlet. Shotgun Start at 0830.

June 18 – Sponsor Recognition Dinner. Lunch at Pine Lakes Country Club. Speaker: Congressman Russell Fry

JANUARY DINNER PROGRAM



For our January dinner program, we were truly fortunate to have Mike Carra as our speaker. An aviation and WWII historian, Mike has been pursuing the goal of locating the site where Amelia Earhart's around-the-world flight ended. Unlike other historians that have appeared before

our Chapter, Mike is reporting on his personal adventures, and he showed videos of him and his crew hacking their way through the jungles of New Guinea and wading through shallow water infested with deadly snakes and other creatures. He explained that Amelia was the Taylor Swift of her time in that woman world-



wide copied her fashion, and followed her every move as she broke one aviation record after another. That is why there is avid interest in her even to this day. During his search, Mike came across a record recorded by a WWII Marine fighting in this area who reports that he found a plane in the jungle that had no camouflage, just like the plane pictured above. Mike is organizing another trip to New Guinea to try one more time to locate her resting place.

FEBRUARY DINNER PROGRAM



The Air Force to the rescue! Early on the date of our dinner, Vice President Brown was informed by the scheduled speaker that he had evaluated positive for Covid. Calls were made and one of our chapter members, retired Colonel Denny Yount volunteered to fill in for the event. There is much written in today's newspapers on the F-35, F-16, and F-22, but one of our most successful battle- tested planes, the A-10 Warthog, is invisible. Denny served on this plane for 18 years and related his firsthand experiences through assignments during Desert Storm, Bosnia, and the Middle East.

The A-10 was designed specifically for close air support of ground forces. The A-10 is very maneuverable at low speeds and low altitudes to ensure accurate weapon delivery, and it carries the systems and armor needed to survive in this environment. It is intended for use against all ground targets but is particularly effective against tanks and other armored vehicles. The Thunderbolt II's great endurance gives it a large combat radius and long loiter time in a battle area. Its short takeoff and landing capability allows operation from airstrips close to the front lines.



Developed during the Cold War to tear through Soviet tanks trying to make their way through the Fulda Gap between East and West Germany, the A-10 was a vital part of the AirLand Battle doctrine. The idea was to maintain the balance of forces, use technology to overcome the Warsaw Pact's numerical superiority and be an effective deterrent to aggression.

Even before the plane's design really began, planners built the A-10 Thunderbolt II around its main armament, the <u>GAU-8 Avenger</u>. The Avenger is a powerful seven-barrel, hydraulic-driven gatling gun that fires PGU-14/B Incendiary rounds with a depleted uranium armor piercing core or PGU-13/B High Explosive Incendiary rounds, each longer than 11 inches. It fires the projectiles at a rate of 2,100 to 4,200 rounds per minute. The Air Force argues that such a slow-moving and single-role aircraft is not necessary for today's battlefields. The A-10 wasn't built to fly <u>against</u> today's air superiority fighters like China's J-20. The Air Force would much prefer to free up the funds used to maintain 45-year-old fighters like the A-10 to use on its newer aircraft, airframes it believes have a much bigger role in the long run.

It is still in service today because of its popularity with our Marines and Army Infantry. With its unique cannon, the A-10 is a lethal partner that is unmatched in our current military arsenal.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Congressman Russell Fry will be our guest speaker at our June 18 Luncheon



Member in the SPOTLIGHT LCDR KARL JORDAN, USN (Ret.)



Lieutenant Commander Jordan enlisted in the Navy, September 1980, and reported to San Diego Recruit Training Command, San Diego, California. After boot camp he attended Quartermaster "A" school. His first assignment was part of the pre-commissioning crew of the USS Flatley (FFG-21). He participated in various exercises and deployed to the Mediterranean Sea in June 1983. He advanced to Petty Officer First Class while on the USS Mount Whitney (LCC-20) and then reported to

USS Hermitage (LSD-34). In 1988, he reported to Special Boat Unit TWENTY as a patrol boat captain of a 65-foot patrol boat in the Persian Gulf as part of TF-160. He transferred to the USS South Carolina (CGN-37) as Chief Quartermaster and participated in joint Navy and Coast Guard drug interdiction and Desert Shield/Storm. Chief Jordan was selected to be commissioned an Ensign through the Limited Duty Officer program in 1992. Upon commissioning, he reported to USS Pensacola (LSD-38) as the ship's Bosn' overseeing deck amphibious operations. He then reported to Amphibious Construction Battalion TWO and served as the Assistant Operations Officer. Lieutenant Jordan participated in the first NATO exercise conducted in





the former Soviet Republic of Estonia. Lieutenant Jordan transferred to USS Ponce (LPD-15) to serve as Deck Department Head and participated in Operation Allied Force and Joint Guardian. Upon completion of that assignment he then transferred to Chinghai, Korea as Port Service Officer for the South Korean peninsula. LCDR's final tour was Training Officer for Fleet Composite Squadron Six. In 2003, Lieutenant Commander Jordan started the West Lincoln High school NJROTC unit in North Carolina. The unit earned the Unit Achievement and Distinguished Unit awards. He then transferred to Bartlett Yancey High School where the unit earned the Unit Achievement award. LCDR Jordan moved to North Myrtle Beach High School and led their NJROTC unit, retiring from teaching in

2019. Now fully retired, Karl enjoys sailing and racing his sailboat. Karl is on our Board of Directors as the JROTC liaison and Scholarship Director. His wife, Cherie, is running the 50/50 booth at our dinner meetings.

MOAA®

WHAT IS MOAA?

MOAA is a nonprofit, nonpartisan association of officers from America's uniformed military services and the Commissioned Corps of the U.S. Public Service Health and National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration. We are active duty, retired, former, and National Guard and Reserve officers, and surviving spouses, supporting all ranks and branches who serve or have served, as well as family MOAA advocates members. with Congress, DoD, the VA, and other departments to preserve and protect commitments made on behalf of a grateful nation to those who have served and those who continue to serve our country, fulfilling MOAA's promise to "Never Stop Serving."

Military Officers Association of America

201 N Washington St.

Alexandria, VA 22314

MEET OUR NEW MEMBER

Leon Jablow



Leon R. Jablow IV, PhD recently joined the chapter after relocating to the Myrtle Beach area. A U.S. Naval Academy graduate, he retired from the U.S. Navy in 2012 after 22 years of service as a Surface Warfare Officer and Expeditionary Officer. Leon served as Engineer Officer

on USS COMTE DE GRASSE (DD-974), USS DEYO (DD-989), and COWPENS (CG-63) and as Commanding Officer of USS Robin (MHC-54). He also served as the Chief of Naval Operations Briefer, an Associate Fellow with the CNO Strategic Studies Group Future Operations Officer, Director of the Coordination Planning Group in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and Strategy, Operations and Training Officer (N3/N5/N7) -for the Maritime Civil Affairs and Security Force Assistance Group. Associate Fellow - Chief of Naval Operations Strategic Studies Group - Nov 2002-Nov 2003. In his civilian career, he has served as Vice President. and Operations for Strategy TigerSwan, Inc and PiTech, Inc and as a consultant for several large consulting firms. He

is currently President of IV Consulting Tims. He is currently President of IV Consulting Group, an Adjunct Professor with Trident University International, and special projects consultant for Lukos, LLC. He has been married to his wife, Lisa, for 30 years, and they have two children.



By Chaplain Colonel Pete Brzezinski, U.S. Army Ret.

I have been a MOAA member for over 10yrs, I know I am just a babe, some in our chapter have over 40vrs! One thing I have come to admire is the proud heritage of advocacy that MOAA contributes at the corporate, regional/local level. At the corporate or national level MOAA is routinely advocating for all services with the DOD on issues such as Tricare for Life by petitioning the CBO to stop proposed cuts to coverage, raising fees and cost shares and deductibles. MOAA is sounding the alarm on the pervasive housing issues affecting Active-Duty Soldiers and their families, fighting the BAH cuts hurting our JR enlisted the most and it continues its' battle to end concurrent receipt effecting our Veterans. At the local level our chapter has won a non-profit award from the city of Myrtle Beach, hosted the Vietnam traveling wall, held a Christmas dinner and toy drive, was awarded the 5star Level of excellence Award 11th consecutive time, the Marvin Harris Communication Award 7th consecutive time, raised over \$30,000 for vet support grants, hosted the MOAA SC district convention, held a golf tournament, completed four regional standdowns, and supported 18 JROTC/ROTC student scholarships. These are just some of the highlights!



There is another all-important level that the national and local advocacy work are firmly based on, the personal advocacy of each one of us. We just entered the Lenten season. Lent is a season of 40 days not counting Sundays, which began on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. Lent comes from the Anglo-Saxon word "Lenten," which means, "Spring." It originally was the start of a period of fasting in preparation for baptism and since has become a time of penance for those from the Christian tradition. During this season we are expected to fast for the purpose of focusing on our own spiritual connection to God and give up something as a spiritual discipline. Lent is also a time of intentional giving to help those in need that God brings to us, and prayer where we reconnect and rework our heart to the Ultimate gift giver. These are the true foundations that make our corporate and local levels flourish and successful. It is my prayer that we continue the amazing works of service at the corporate, local, and personal levels! After all, we are those that keep on serving even after a career or serving, or time of service, to a cause much bigger than ourselves. This is the true spirit of advocacy that continues to bless all those who serve and have served our great nation. May the Lord continue to strengthen you and all of us to **Keep on** Serving!



Surviving Spouse Corner

Good News for Surviving Spouses

For years, survivors of deceased military members had to forfeit part or all their purchased Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) annuity when awarded the VA's Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC). The loss of any portion of the SBP annuity was known as the "Widows Tax." The Fiscal 2020 National Defense Appropriations Act changes this provision, for the benefit of more than 65,000 military survivors, with a fix that will be phased in over a three-year span.

The decision to eliminate the "widow's tax" was a "huge win" and "the right thing to do," Mark Belinsky, director of currently serving/retired affairs for the Military Officers Association of America and an <u>Army</u> retiree, said in a phone interview. The SBP is a "very good plan," he added.

Chaplain Len Kircher

Grand Strand MOAA Surviving Spouses Representative

JROTC PROGRAMS

by Karl Jordan

For this scholastic year, we expect to award four \$3000 scholarships to JROTC seniors who are students in one of the 17 high schools that we support. The applications have been sent to the military science instructors to distribute to deserving cadets who meet the scholarship requirements. A selection committee will be convened in April. Scholarship winners will be introduced at the May dinner meeting.



At the end of each scholastic year, our Chapter awards a MOAA medal to the outstanding junior cadet in each unit. It is always more

impressive if a member of our Chapter is present to make the award. So far, today I have 9 award dates out of 15 schools. Open dates for schools that could use some one to present

are: Socastee AF (24 Apr 1400), Green Sea (27 Apr 1700), St James Army (22 May 1800). Please contact me if you are willing to take part in this rewarding event.







Golf Tournament Director

This year's Grand Strand MOAA charity Golf Tournament will be held at **Blackmoor Golf Club** off Rte 707 (6100 Longwood Dr.) in Murrells Inlet on **Wednesday**, **May 29**, **2024**. Registration and breakfast opens at 7AM with a shotgun start at 830AM. Last year we lost a good friend and chapter member, Frank Esposito. Frank was a golf committee member and significant donor from the inception, and the tournament is now named in his memory. Below is a link to the tournament webpage and flyer with additional information about the event plus a mail in form for Player/Team registration and Sponsorship Opportunities.

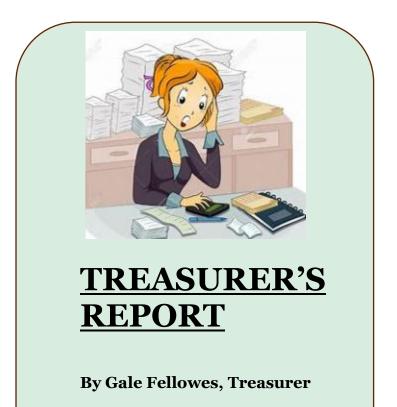
https://grandstrandmoaa.org/page-18089

Or, if you prefer to sign up and pay by credit or debit card you can go directly to our on-line tournament registration page through the following link:

https://grandstrandmoaa.org/event-5631420/Registration

This is our 11th year hosting a charity golf tournament with proceeds going to support well over 1,000 high school and college ROTC cadets as well as hundreds of veterans and their families in need across the Grand Strand region. As active duty, former and retired military officers and spouses we continue to serve our country and community by providing area cadets, veterans and veteran families with food, clothing, emergency funds, scholarships and other critical items and services. To meet these needs I am asking you to consider a donation, small. toward large or our charity tournament. Anything from a Tee Sign for \$100, or a foursome of golfers, or simply a donation of cash and/or raffle/auction prize will help greatly. As a 501c(3) charity, your donation may be tax deductible.

Please take a look at the link above, or flyer in this newsletter, and let us know how you can help us help our brothers and sisters in arms. Lastly, we need a few more volunteers to help with registration, raffle ticket sales, etc. on the day of the tournament. Let me know if you can help. As the song says: "All gave some and some gave all". Thank you.



We ended the month with a checking account balance of \$35,670 (\$26,896 operations and \$8,774 grants). A few highlights:

- Our chapter's professional liability (directors and officers) insurance premium has been paid for the period 3/28/24 - 3/28/25
- Golf income is gearing up; to date our total deposits are \$5305 with expenses \$468 for a net of \$4,836.



LEGISLATIVE CORNER

MOAA-Supported Legislation

MOAA's experts in Washington are constantly reviewing and assessing any and all legislation that may impact the earned pay, benefits, and support programs of the uniformed services and veteran communities. The organization's endorsement process is deliberative; MOAA will not support or oppose any legislation without a thorough review of its potential effects, positive or negative.

With the start of a new Congress, this means that the list of bills will be blank at the start of the 118th Congress; any bill that was not signed into law before the end of the 117th Congress will need to be re-introduced. MOAA will need time to assess new and old legislation as it is introduced by lawmakers. Check back in soon to see what bills MOAA supports in the 118th Congress.

Here is a look at MOAA's priorities, in support of the 50th anniversary of our all-volunteer force and to address the challenges facing our uniformed community. Note: Our advocacy team remains active on many other issues not listed here; our priorities will be shaped throughout the year depending on concurrent successes or emerging issues that warrant an all-hands approach. Additionally, we share many interests with The Military Coalition and other stakeholder groups, and leverage those relationships to expand our reach on Capitol Hill.

- Compensation and Service-Earned Benefits
- Military Housing
- Health Care for Currently Serving and Retirees
- Health Care and Benefits for Veterans
- Service Families
- Survivors
- Guard and Reserve



	GRAND STRAND CHAPTER OF THE MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION	
Application Form	www.grandstrandmoaa.org	ONE POWERFUL VOICE
Grand Strand Chapter M	OAA: Application/Renewal Change of	of address /contact info
For NEW MEMBERS:	er Annual dues: \$20.00 for regular membership or <i>\$50 For 3 year me</i> \$20 1 st Quarter; \$15, 2 nd Quarter; \$10, 3 rd Quarter; \$20, 4 th Quarter (and Strand MOAA". Mail to: MOAA Grand Strand Chapter, P.O. Box	Good for Following Year).
Last name	First name	MI
DOB Ra	nk Service Spouse's name	
Street	City	State Zip
Home phone	Cell phone	
Email address (please print	clearly !!)	
Are you a member of Nation	nal MOAA? If yes, please provide membership numbe	r:
Status: Retired Active	e ReserveNational Guard State Guard Former Officer	Auxiliary ROTC JROTC
{My signature below verifies th Chapter membership.}	nat the above information may be shared in a Members Only Directory	and that I am eligible for MOAA
	ck Cash For year(s) Signature	
Additional amount (donation	on) for this year's scholarship awards: \$	
	nal):	
Professional skills (optional)	:	
 If Auxiliary member or a status: 	applicant, please indicate your spouse's full name, military servic	e affiliation, rank, and current
Interested in a Chapter	leadership/committee position? If yes, what?	(continue on reverse)

MOAA Mission/Purpose: To foster fraternal relations (and mutual support) among retired, active duty, and former officers of the uniformed services and their National Guard and Reserve counterparts, ROTC cadets, their families and survivors; Assist community organizations that support service members and veterans and their families; to provide funds for college scholarships for area high school seniors (normally JROTC students); conduct fund-raising to support other service member and veterans' programs (e.g. Wounded Warrior visits); provide annual MOAA leadership awards to graduating cadets in all area high school approved/active JROTC programs; participate, collaboratively, in coastal community events and activities, as priorities and resources permit; Maintain a proactive chapter affairs program that supports members during health and other family emergencies; promote the aims and objectives of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA); and, the aims and objectives of the SC MOAA Council of Chapters. MOAA and its affiliated Chapters and Councils are non-partisan.

USE TO RENEW AND/OR SIGN UP A NEW MEMBER



11th Annual Golf Tournament

Wednesday, May 29, 2024 BLACKMOOR GOLF CLUB - MURRELLS INLET, SC

Registration Deadline May 22, 2024 Registration & Breakfast: 7AM-830AM Shotgun Start @ 830AM

Lunch, Auction and Awards to follow golf

PROCEEDS - JROTC College Scholarships SUPPORT: - At Risk Veterans & Families

\$100/person \$380/Team (foursome) \$10 Discount for Each Vet Team Low Score (Top 3) Closest to the Pin Longest Drive (Men & Women)

Sponsorship Opportunities (see reverse) Contact Jim Albert: email: <u>moaagolf@yahoo.com</u> cell/text: (203) 509-8555

More information & on-line registration go to: https://grandstrandmoaa.com

PLAYER REGISTRATION - Deadline May 20, 2024				
\$100 per person, \$380 per foursome + \$10 discount for vets. To sign up, please complete this form and submit with a check payable to "Grand Strand MOAA".				
Team Capt	Phone	_Email		
Player #2	Phone	_Email		
Player #3	Phone	_Email		
Player #4	Phone	_Email		
(check all that apply) SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES				
 TOURNAMENT SPONSO Two Team Foursomes Prominent recognition in Tour Full Color Name/Logo banner PLATINUM SPONSOR: \$ One Team Foursome Prominent recognition in Tour Name/Logo displayed at Regis GOLD SPONSOR: \$750 Three Player Entry Fees Prominent recognition in Tour Name/Logo displayed at Regis SILVER SPONSOR: \$500 Two Player Entry Fees Recognition in Tournament Bromet Statement S	nament Brochure and displayed at club entra 51,000 nament Brochure and tration & on cart signa nament Brochure and tration & on cart signa ochure, on Chapter we DR: \$100 (ADDIT ochure and on Chapte onation (prize, aucti	ance & on cart signage on Chapter website age on Chapter website age ebsite and at Registration TIONAL TEE SIGNS: \$75 @) er website ion item, gift card, cash, etc.)		
COMPANY				
ADDRESS				
PHONEEMAILEMAILEMAIL				
Mail form to: GS MOAA, PO Box 15842, Surfside Beach, SC 29587 Or GS MOAA Contact: Questions: contact Jim Albert: (203) 509-8555, email: moaagolf@gmail.com				