

Grand Strand Chapter

Military Officers Association of America



The Coastal Tide

May 2019

www.grandstrandmoaa.org

President's Message by Randy Dymond



Greetings and welcome to Military Appreciation Days! As of this writing, the Chapter has already been involved in the many activities associated with Military Appreciation Days and continues to prepare for a few more. We recently held our annual Scholarship Awards and JROTC Instructor Recognition Dinner in which we honored four outstanding area cadets with \$2,000 scholarships and thanked many instructors for jobs well-done. Still to come this month are Grand Strand MOAA's 6th Annual Golf Tournament and our participation in the Memorial Parade in Market Common. These three events embody who we are as a Chapter and are truly representative of our mission. Speaking of mission, I am proud to share that our Chapter has been selected to receive the MOAA Foundation Community Outreach Grant for the third year in a row, and the \$5,000 award will go a long way in helping support our local veterans in need. Well, our June 12th luncheon meeting at Kimbel's in Wachesaw Plantation will close out our general membership meetings until September, so please plan to attend to hear COL (Ret) Charles Thrash talk about the history of the Myrtle Beach Air Force Base. We will also be recognizing many of our generous donors throughout the year during that meeting, so come out and give them a huge "Thanks!"



Never Stop Serving



Board of Directors

President: Randy Dymond
randymond@aol.com
315.271.3069

1stVP/Membership: John Bradley
jebradjr46@gmail.com
727.771.3712

2ndVP/Veterans Outreach: Mike Freeman
m.dean.freeman@gmail.com
803.371.5972

Secretary: Jim Albert
james.r.albert@att.net
203.509.8555

Treasurer: Tony Prince
stephen.a.prince@gmail.com
703.304.7398

Past Pres.: Dave Townsend
davemoaa@gmail.com
843.907.1763

JROTC: Dean Brown
carradeanbrown@aol.com
843.520.4753

ROTC: Greg Youngman
gyoungman@sc.rr.com
843.314.0079

Scholarships: Hans Duerr
hduerr@sc.rr.com
843.692.9029

Legislative Affairs: Jimmy Jacobs
jjacobs26@sccoast.net
843.839.0359

CAP: Bill Stewart
hwilliamstewart@gmail.com
843.808.8172

Social Director: Jerry Terwilliger
gerald.terwilliger@gmail.com
843.90.4047

Chaplain Greg Hill
ghill54808@aol.com
843.231.4507

Historian: Vacant

Surviving spouses: Melody Wages
Melodywages@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor: Kelly Sharbel
ksharbel1948@gmail.com
703.216.3818

At-Large: Rufus Manning
2saltlife4me@gmail.com
703.501.4045

Fundraising: Michael Davison
msdjr@me.com
301.346.8728

Webmaster: John Bradley
Veterans Outreach: Mike Freeman
Public Affairs: Jim Albert

JROTC INSTRUCTORS RECOGNIZED

Mark Your Calendars

Military Appreciation Days Events

May 23

- Grand Strand Chapter Golf Tournament, Heritage GC – 12 noon check in
- USAF Blue Aces Concert

May 24

- VA Vet Center veterans information/picnic event – May 24, 12 noon, 21st Ave

May 25

- Military Appreciation Days Parade –10:30 start, Market Common
- Family Picnic, Exhibits, etc., Keni Thomas {and more}, after parade

May 27

- Memorial Day Veterans March & Battlefield Cross Ceremony 9 am
 - Memorial Day Remembrance Ceremony 11 am
 - Memorial Day tribute film 1 pm
- For more information visit:
www.militaryappreciationdays.com

June 12 — MOAA Lunch Meeting Kimbels, Noon, Recognition of Chapter Supporters and Guest Speaker COL Charles Thrash, USAF (Ret)

PLEASE NOTE: JUNE 12 IS A WEDNESDAY.

**June 14 — Flag Day
Birthday of the US Army**

July 4 — Independence Day

Sept. 10 —Chapter Dinner Meeting, Details TBD

In addition to awarding scholarships to four outstanding JROTC students, the Chapter's May dinner meeting is also the occasion to recognize and honor the JROTC instructors from throughout the Grand Strand and Pee Dee areas. These retired officers have continued their careers of service by teaching in area high schools' JROTC programs, bringing with them a lifetime of personal achievement and distinction. Like their civilian colleagues, their work hours don't start and



LTC James Davis, USA Retired, Director of Army Instructions, Horry County Schools

end with their respective schools' bell schedule. They must prepare for class, grade their students, and even use personal weekend time to support their units' activities. Their reward, in the words of LTC James Davis, USA, Retired, they get to watch their work pay off as their JROTC students grow into

leaders. Captain Kevin Boyle, USN Retired, noted in his after dinner remarks that the students respond to the message of accountability and shared leadership, but JROTC instructors have to be honest with their students and remain committed to their role. In the end, he said that the hard work is worth the effort and the kids are worth every second that is spent on them.

Instructors from all 17 high schools supported by the Grand Strand Chapter were invited to attend the dinner meeting. Scheduling conflicts and school activities prevented many from attending, but the Chapter was pleased to honor six

CAPT Kevin Boyle, JROTC Instructor, Carolina Forest High School



instructors as well as LTC Davis. Those attending from left to right are CDR Mark McDowell (Conway), CAPT Kevin Boyle (Carolina Forest), SFC David Jones (Aynor), LCDR Karl Jordan (North Myrtle Beach), LTC Davis, CDR David

Kaiser (Myrtle Beach,) and COL Tim Houser (Dillon)

Thanks for a job well done also goes to LCDR Karl Jordan, USN, Retired, for his years of service teaching in Horry County schools. He has opted to retire from teaching at the end of this school year. Congratulations and best wishes for a long and happy retirement.

JROTC Cadets Earn Grand Strand MOAA Scholarships

The Grand Strand Chapter awarded scholarships to four JROTC students from area during the May dinner meeting. Their brief biographies are below.



Cadet Ensign Elizabeth A. Boyd is a senior at Myrtle Beach High School. Ms. Boyd has proven herself academically with a 3.3 cumulative grade point average and an ACT score of 27. She was inducted into several honor societies and the Beta Club. She has held several senior leadership positions in the school's Navy JROTC program, including Marksmanship Team Commander and Supply Officer. In the latter capacity her efforts resulted in an "outstanding" rating during a recent Navy inspection. Cadet Boyd will attend the University of South Carolina.



Cadet LTC La Taurean T. Brigman is an honor roll student at Dillon High School. She has served as the JROTC Battalion Commander for the past two years. She is also a Private in the South Carolina Army National Guard and has demonstrated a strong commitment to the seven Army values, where "personal courage" stands out in particular. Following completion of her advanced individual training in Fort Lee, Virginia, Cadet Brigman will enter Francis Marion University.



Cadet LTJG Dawson G. Muckelroy has gathered multiple academic honors as a student and cadet at Carolina Forest High School. He has given generously of his time to community projects. In the JROTC program he demonstrated extraordinary initiative and leadership skills in mentoring and training new freshmen cadets and the Drill Team. His future goals are to obtain a degree in mechanical engineering at the University of South Carolina.



Cadet Major Kaeleigh E. York is the embodiment of scholar, athlete and leader at Aynor High School. She is the Executive Officer of her JROTC unit, captain of the Drill Team and member of the Women's Varsity Soccer Club, all while managing a challenging academic load of Honors Courses. Her PMS describes her as highly intelligent, ambitious and tenacious, qualities which will undoubtedly serve her well when she attends Coastal Carolina University this Fall.

Chaplain's Corner by Greg Hill



On May 11, 2019, I had the privilege of sharing the stage with LTG Michael S. Davison, Jr., USA, Retired, at the CCU Army ROTC Commission-

ing Ceremony. This is the benediction I wrote for that event:

"Our God: We are taught to ask, and it will be given us; seek, and we will find; knock, and it will be opened to us."

This generation has only known our nation as one at war. During their time in service, may our nation find ways to peace and justice. Grant these Lieutenants wisdom, strength and direction, guiding them in all their ways. Amen."

The month of May is one filled with opportunities for gratitude. As a chapter, we show gratitude to the CCU Army ROTC Cadre and Faculty for their outstanding work with their students. We give thanks for the JROTC units we sponsor: the cadre and students. We give thanks for mothers or those who were mothers to us.

Yet, in a unique way, we as veterans, spouses of Veterans, or Survivors of Veterans, pause during this month during Armed Forces Day, Military Appreciation Day, but especially Memorial Day, to remember those who have died while serving in the military of our great Nation.

We must carry their march for freedom so that they may not have died in vain. On Memorial Day, you may wear or see others wear a red poppy as a reminder of the sacrifice of those who have fallen.



Financial Report

by Tony Prince

Most of the Chapter's revenues and expenditures during the past several weeks have been related to the upcoming golf tournament. At the end of March, our bank account balance was \$25,042.79. Since then, deposits have been made from dinner meeting receipts and golf tournament revenue. Likewise, our expenditures have been related to dinner meeting expenses, JROTC support and scholarships, and

ROTC support. In addition, we have continued to assist veterans through the funds received from the Homes for Heroes grant. Consequently, the balances below reflect the aforementioned revenues and expenditures.

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| Balance March 31, | \$25,042.79 |
| Deposits in April | \$16,017.87 |
| Expenditures in April | \$ 6,905.41 |
| Balance April 30 | \$34,155.25 |

Support Our Supporters

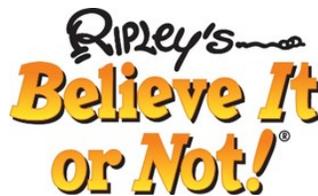
By the time this newsletter appears in your inbox, the annual MOAA Golf Tournament will be upon us. Below are the logos of the major financial supporters of our tournament. When you are in the marketplace for products or services they sell, consider using them to fill your needs. Their support is critical to our ability to serve our veterans, ROTC cadets, and JROTC units.

6TH ANNUAL MOAA GRAND STRAND GOLF TOURNAMENT



CORPORATE

SPONSORS



PLATINUM SPONSORS



GREAT YEAR OF MOAA SUPPORT TO AREA JROTC UNITS

By Dean Brown

As another year of Grand Strand Chapter MOAA activities draws to a close we have strengthened our bonds with the 17 JROTC Units whom we support throughout northeastern South Carolina. In support of their many cadet activities such as competitive meets, field trips, summer camps and leadership training opportunities for which they receive very little service or school district funds we again provided a \$250 grant to each

Unit. In February our JROTC Coordinator participated on the panel of judges selecting the JROTC Ball Queen for the county wide JROTC Ball all nine Horry County JROTC Units conduct annually.

Our scholarship selection committee led by Hans Duerr selected four outstanding graduating senior cadets from different schools for our \$2,000 scholarships to aid finance their continuing education. All seventeen units were provided end of year JROTC Leadership medals and certificates to recognize superior performance by one of their cadets, normally a rising senior. Chapter members stepped up to volunteer to personally present the MOAA medals and certificates at 13 of the 14 Units that held public awards ceremonies. Schedule conflicts with our JROTC Instructor and Scholarship Winner Recognition dinner meeting on 12 May prevented attending one school's ceremony. At that 3rd Annual Recognition JROTC Recognition Dinner six units were represented by their senior instructors, receiving accolades from our membership for the invaluable

work they do with the young people in our communities and all four scholarship winners, several with their parents, attended and were presented their scholarship certificates before our appreciative membership. All four cadets will participate with our chapter in the Military Appreciation Days Memorial Day parade in Myrtle Beach showcasing both MOAA and JROTC to the community. LTC James Davis, USA (Ret) – the Horry County School District JROTC Director - and CAPT Kevin Boyle, USN (Ret) – the Senior Naval Science Instructor at Carolina Forest HS NJROTC – were our guest speakers providing insights into the rewards and challenges of running these demanding, dynamic programs

Throughout the year, JROTC Units in turn participated and supported our chapter providing impressive color guards to open seven of our ten monthly dinner meetings and remain as our dinner guests. The chapter provides a small honorarium to each unit. (The other three MOAA monthly meetings are supported by either the SC State Guard or Coastal Carolina University Army ROTC color guards.) Every JROTC Unit has a demanding schedule and merits our praise for their accomplishments. As examples of their dedication to excellence two of our supported Units have received national recognition. Myrtle Beach HS Navy JROTC qualified for and then took first place in the Navy Area SIX Drill meet. They represented all 65 South and North Carolina NJROTC Units at the national competition in Pensacola, Florida in April. Our Grand Strand Chapter provided some financial assistance for this prestigious, but expensive trip. Georgetown HS Navy JROTC was selected as the 2018-2019 Best Unit overall among the 65 Navy Units in both the Carolinas. This designation took into account the entire program: academics, competitive records, community service efforts, personnel inspections, financial and supply management as well as evaluation of other performance areas.



Rufus Manning presents one of the Chapter Leadership Awards to Cadet Vanessa Silva at Conway High School's Awards Ceremony.



Dean Brown presents a Chapter Leadership Award to Cadet LTJG Madison Lin at the Georgetown High School Awards ceremony.



Membership by John Bradley

As we finally welcome a long awaited Spring also please welcome our newest members:

Michael Conway, LTC (Ret), USA
Jerry Shuffler, LTC (Ret), USA
LaMesha Craft, CW3 (Ret), USA

With Michael, Jerry and LaMesha now on board our Membership total rose to 147, having one member, Don Terrill, inform us of his move to Virginia and a Surviving Spouse, Jessie Kreidler, no longer participating.

| | |
|-------------------|----------|
| Annual | 83 |
| Surviving Spouses | 13 |
| Three Year | 48 |
| Two Year | 2 |
| <u>Honorary</u> | <u>1</u> |
| Total | 147 |

Additionally, we have 9 Prospective Members, people who have either expressed interest in joining the Chapter in the past or who have informed National MOAA that they are willing to receive emails from their local Chapter. I am trying to politely remain on their radar

We have a number of months left to reach our self-imposed goal of 160 members by the end of the year. I need your assistance to reach out and find prospective members: your friends, acquaintances, neighbors. Please do not be shy; feel free to give any prospective member my email address.

While this subject may not be exactly under Membership, I want to make a plug for our new website (www.grandstrandmoaa.org) and ask that if anyone has a picture, article or announcement that would be Website or Facebook worthy, please send them to me or bring them to my attention. I need to keep both sites current and viable. One more item: please notice that you can now use your credit card to pay for Dinner Meeting fees. This service was tested for the April and May Dinners and worked smoothly. I encourage you to use this ability in order to reduce both accounting and waiting time at Dinner registration and also, hopefully, to make your experience a bit easier. Soon you will also be able to pay with a credit card on-site at the Dinner venue. Great thanks to Tony Prince, our indefatigable Treasurer.

I thank you all for your encouragement and support in our mutual attempt to grow and modernize our Chapter.

South Carolina Legislative Update by Jimmy Jacobs



Our retiree military pay exemption (S.179) is not going to make it out of the state legislature 's finance committee this year. The bills have a 2 year life cycle so we will have another shot next year. They will start up where they left off next year. Overall we lost nothing as we are in the 4th year of a 5 year partial exemption. Goal for the future is still FULL EXEMPTION for all categories for the future.

Other veterans/retirees legislation still pending :

H. 3789: Veterans Designation on Driver's License and Other Driver's License Matters (House Education and Public Works)

This bill outlines who is eligible to apply to have "Veteran" designation on a driver's license and other licensing matters. (

S.179 and H.135 (Workforce Enhancement and Military Recognition Act (Senate Finance)

This bill amends Act 272 of 2016 to continue the phase-in of the military retirement exemption through tax year 2020, and then converts to a full military retirement income exemption commencing in tax year 2021. (See comments above)

H. 3130 Pension Increase for Certain Members of the National Guard of South Carolina (House Ways & Means)

This bill provides for increases of retirement pay from the National Guard Retirement System for certain retirees having served at least 20 years creditable service, including National Guard, reserve and active duty.

H. 3136 (Amend Special Needs Tax Credit (Ways & Means) This bill amends the Special Needs Tax Credit to raise the amount of the fund from \$12M to \$20M and add a further provision to allow the increase of the amount of such credits if needed to accommodate any special needs child of a member of the armed forces killed in the line of duty.

National MOAA active on a number of issues in Congress

National MOAA representatives are working with Members of Congress on a number of issues important to active duty and retired military as well as veterans. Those issues include protection of military and retiree pay, concurrent receipt for disabled retirees, and maintenance of health care benefits and capabilities. For more information on the issues National MOAA has identified and to learn how you can assist in their efforts go to

[www.http://takeaction.moaa.org](http://takeaction.moaa.org)



Application Form

www.grandstrandmoaa.org

ONE POWERFUL VOICE

Grand Strand Chapter MOAA: ___ Application/Renewal ___ Change of address /contact info
Chapter Annual dues: \$20.00 for regular membership or \$50 For 3 year membership. For NEW MEMBERS: \$20 1st Quarter; \$15, 2nd Quarter; \$10, 3rd Quarter; \$20, 4th Quarter (Good for Following Year). Make check payable to: "Grand Strand MOAA". Mail to: MOAA Grand Strand Chapter, P.O. Box 15842, Surfside Beach, SC 29587.

Last name ___ First name ___ MI ___

DOB ___ Rank ___ Service ___ Spouse's name ___

Street ___ City ___ State ___ Zip ___

Home phone ___ Cell phone ___

Email address (please print clearly !!) _____

Are you a member of National MOAA? ___ If yes, please provide membership number: _____

Status: ___ Retired ___ Active ___ Reserve ___ National Guard ___ State Guard ___ Former Officer ___ Auxiliary ___ ROTC ___ JROTC

{My signature below verifies that the above information may be shared in a Members Only Directory and that I am eligible for MOAA Chapter membership.}

Amount: \$ ___ Check ___ Cash ___ For year(s)) ___ Signature _____

Additional amount (donation) for this year's scholarship awards: \$ _____

Current employment (optional): _____

Professional skills (optional): _____

If Auxiliary member or applicant, please indicate your spouse's full name, military service affiliation, rank, and current status: _____

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.

Editor's Note: The following article was submitted by LTG Michael Davison, USA, Retired, a member of the Grand Strand Chapter and guest speaker at our March, 2019 dinner meeting. Mike delivered a powerful and emotional recollection of the events described in greater detail in the printed words below. As we celebrate Military Appreciation Days in general and Memorial Day in particular, it is appropriate to share this article to remind us and all the people we know of the great sacrifices our men and women in uniform have made and continue to make in defense of our freedom. Thank you, General Davison, for taking the time to share your experiences with us.



Mo Where are You?

After breakfast that January morning the company commander sent two of his understrength rifle platoons in different directions down into Que Son Valley's palette of green thickets bordering the rice paddies they saw from the high hill of his company base. The valley ran back west, narrowing into the dark blue-green mountains marking the Ho Chi Minh Trail area, and Laos beyond. He had only been on that hilltop since yesterday afternoon's air assault. When he had done the recon of his area of operations (AO) with the battalion commander in the command and control Huey, Long had only said, "set your base on that hill and check out these areas" which LTC Long had marked on the map. No real intel on what was there. But he himself knew these were "probable enemy locations", despite LTC Long being silent on size, type, and source of info. It was always like that. Having operated on the valley floor further east from here, he knew the eerie feeling of seeing so few people around in the small rice farms. Just women, kids, and old men. A Viet Cong dominated area, perfect for support to NVA forces coming in from the Trail. Often when he sent out platoon patrols, he and his two radio operators (RTOs) would go with one of the platoons. But that day he stayed on the hill with his RTOs, forward observer (FO), first sergeant, mortar platoon, and his third rifle platoon securing the base. He sent LT Golden's 1st Platoon on one route along with 28 other troopers including Dean Davison, Bill Port, and Jimmy Castaldi, and Mo. He gave LT Kibbon's 2nd Platoon another route and AO.

By 1:30PM Golden's platoon was in heavy contact. He later surmised that Golden had walked into an NVA battalion or regimental command post in a rest area on their way to Hue City for the 1968 Tet Offensive. He didn't have good radio contact with Golden, but knew Golden was wounded in the chaos on the valley floor. It got worse as the hours passed. Fifty percent casualties as the platoon tried to hold the NVA from overrunning them. He gathered his two RTOs, and FO and moved to a lower, closer hill with a better view to see and control the air support, mortars and artillery he was directing to save the surrounded 1st Platoon. He had already called Kibbon and told him to bring 2nd Platoon to the contact area. It took a while for 2nd to get there now that the enemy was riled up. A linkup was made just at dark amidst air support strikes. He bought in a medevac that carried out Golden, two of the four KIAs and seven other wounded troopers. Then he climbed back up to the base with Kibbon's platoon, and the remnants of Golden's guys. First Sergeant Carfora was at the wire checking noses back into the perimeter. He told Carfora that he couldn't get Port's and Castaldi's bodies out that night. He had left his fallen. In the morning he went back with 2nd and 3rd Platoons. Only Castaldi's body could be found. Where was Port? Did the NVA bury him as one of theirs?

Castaldi and Port had been close friends and manned the platoon's M-60 machine gun. In the battle that day, Port was wounded and crawled in for aid at the platoon CP. Then a grenade landed. Port rolled on it to protect the other wounded. He was believed dead by Golden and the medic by the time the platoon pulled out. Castaldi continued to man the M-60 until he was out of ammo and was killed. Port, "presumed KIA and also missing", was the report he had made to battalion while he and First Sergeant Carfora began the paperwork for Port's ultimate award of the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Two days after the battle the company was on the move again. By February the Tet Offensive had started. His battalion and brigade were sent further north to help out the Marines in the big battle for Hue City. They never had a stand down and had stayed out in the bush since he had taken command of the company in October. It was that way until he turned over the company and rotated home in April. Troopers were coming as replacements, or going...going home and wanting to forget, flying out on a medevac, or flying out in a coffin. His personal notes and paperwork were a mess. He had over-relied on Carfora and the executive officer to handle personnel matters, while he led the company in the field. Events of yesterday or the week before were stuck into the back corners of his mind while he tried to manage today, and prepare for tomorrow.

In 1973 after the US POWs were released by the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and were debriefed, he was stunned to learn later that Port had been captured alive on that long-ago January battlefield and moved to a small POW camp in South Vietnam. In November 1968 Port had died in the arms of a fellow POW, an Army flight surgeon who had tried to give him aid under most horrific conditions. By 1984 the US recovered Port's remains and confirmed identification. Again he tried to lock this horror away.

Then in the early 2000s Golden reached out to him. It was a blessing. They had not spoken to each other since that January when he had sent Golden's platoon down to the valley. There was more to that bad day. He learned from Golden how the trooper Dean Davison took action to rally the platoon and lead them out to link with Kibbon's platoon; how Castaldi held his ground and fought to the last bullet of machine gun and pistol, until he was killed by a satchel charge; how Mo was everywhere in the platoon position covering gaps, and moving ammo around under heavy enemy fire. So he began the painful revisiting and piecing together of what happened; tracking down other living troopers who were eye-witnesses; finding some that just didn't want this re-visiting after so long and finding other troopers who remembered and would help; then preparing award recommendations for Castaldi and Davison; getting Congressional support; and finally obtaining Army approval in 2015 for valor awards to Davison, and to Castaldi's kin.



But what about Mo? Many remembered their black brother Mo in the pictures he showed them. But "Mo" was a nickname. They thought maybe he was from Detroit (Mo-Town). A good guy who always did his job, no matter what. That was it; all he had to go on.

He tried to find him or his kin and learn his full name; but Mo was gone home, living a life someplace like we all do once it's over. No traces that he could find. He had let too many years go by.