

Grand Strand Chapter

Military Officers Association of America



Jan Feb 2021

The Coastal Tide

www.grandstrandmoaa.org



President's Letter by Jim Albert

As the pandemic winds down (yes, I'm an optimist) we are starting to see signs of life return to the Grand Strand. People are getting vaccinated, tourists are returning to hotels, golf courses, beaches

and restaurants, the weather finally stopped raining, temperatures are rising, and spring flowers are beginning to bloom. Certainly, we have months to go, but the trend is very positive and gaining momentum every week. And it won't be long before our biggest complaints will be about the pollen, traffic and crowds again.

Unfortunately, the negative impacts of unemployment and restrictions of the pandemic on the veteran community and their families continue to be unprecedented and we still see impacts on our ROTC and JROTC cadets. And many of our members are, rightly so, still minimizing interactions with people outside their immediate circle of family and friends. In response, we were able to secure tens of thousands of dollars of grants and donations to provide extra food, rent, utility payments, job training, clothing and more to impacted veterans. And we continue to support our 18 ROTC and JROTC units with grants, awards and scholarships.

I want to thank all our members for their continued vigilance and support and look forward to seeing more of you as your comfort level improves over the next year. In the meantime, we will continue to hold monthly luncheons or dinners and work with members who need help or advice. If anyone knows or hears about any member or veteran in the community that could use our help, please let us know. Take care and stay safe.

James R. Albert, LtCol, USAF (retired)

2021 Board of Directors

- President/Programs: Jim Albert
james.r.albert@att.net
203.509.8555
- 1st VP/Outreach: Truman Parmele
okomfan44@gmail.com
703.258.2708
- 2nd VP/Golf/Legislative: Jim Offutt
jhoffutt@gmail.com
703.627.8136
- Secretary/Spouses: Peggy DeVivo
madev93@gmail.com
843.907.1763
- Treasurer: Tony Prince
stephen.a.prince@gmail.com
703.304.7398
- Past-President.: Randy Dymond
randymond@aol.com
315.271.3069
- JROTC: Dean Brown
carradeanbrown@aol.com
843.318.6315
- ROTC: Greg Youngman
gyoungman@sc.rr.com
973.714.5073
- Scholarships: Hans Duerr
hduerr@sc.rr.com
703.899.1580
- Membership: Paul Williamson
thedude012000@yahoo.com
423.946.0105
- Career Advancement: Bill Stewart
hwilliam.stewart@gmail.com
609.432.4255
- SC Grd/CoC/MB: Jerry Terwilliger
gerald.terwilliger@gmail.com
607.331.1098
- Chaplain Greg Hill
ghill54808@aol.com
843.231.4507
- At Large: Rhonda Bridge
rlbridge@comcast.net
301.356.5380
- Fundraising: Michael Davison
msdjr@me.com
843.516.5400
- Publicity/Historian: Roger Pilcher
rogerpilcher35@gmail.com
843.957.4984
- Website/Facebk: Rufus Manning
2saltlife4me@gmail.com
703.501.4045
- Newsletter: Elisabeth Litvin
elisabeth.litvin@outlook.com
301.910.5286

Never Stop Serving

Mark Your Calendar

EDITORS NOTE: Any unanticipated schedule changes will be announced via email & Grand Strand MOAA website.

- Jan 1 New Years Day
- Jan 12 Chapter Dinner Meeting, Swear in new Officers; Speaker: Pres. Jim Albert, State of the Chapter
- Jan 18 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (observed)
- Jan 20 Presidential Inauguration
- Feb 9 Chapter Dinner Meeting, Speaker: Amy Brauner, American Red Cross
- Feb 14 Valentines Day
- Feb 15 President's Day
- Feb 16 Mardi Gras
- Feb 17 Ash Wednesday
- Feb 27 Major League Baseball Spring training begins
- Mar 9 Chapter Luncheon Meeting, Speaker: Bambi Bullard, Women in Military History
- Mar 17 St. Patrick's Day
- Apr 1 MLB Season scheduled to start
- Apr 13 Chapter Dinner Meeting, CCU Army ROTC Cadets Commissioning & Award Speaker: Buster Hatcher, Chief Waccamaw Tribe
- Apr 15 Tax Day
- May 5 Cinco de Mayo
- May 9 Mother's Day
- May 11 Chapter Dinner Meeting, Junior ROTC Scholarships At Pine Lakes CC
- May 31 Memorial Day
- Jun 8 Chapter Lunch Meeting, Kimbel's @ Wachesaw Plantation, Murrells Inlet



5-star Harris Communications Award Winner

Chaplain's Corner by Greg Hill



One thing we can say for sure: "The times, they are a changing". It is difficult to keep up with COVID-19 guideline changes, availability of COVID shots, changes in legislation at federal and state levels as well as Presidential Executive Orders. At times, it seems guidance from one leader differs from another. Yes, America has changed and will continue to do so. However, one thing has not changed: we are a free people. Never doubt it or let it slip away. But for what purpose are we free? I submit that we are free to love God and love one another. That should be our purpose as free people. My hope is that each of us will commit 2021 to be a year of sacred service to one another.

My contact information is: Chaplain Greg Hill, 843.231.4507 or ghill54808@aol.com.

JANUARY DINNER—Swearing in New Officers and State of Chapter.

New 2021 Executive Officers sworn in by (left to right) Past-President Roger Pilcher include: President Jim Albert, 1st Vice-Pres. Truman Parmele, 2nd Vice-Pres. Jim Offutt, Secretary Peggy DeVivo & Treasurer Tony Prince.



Pres. Albert then gave a brief State of the Chapter report. Membership rose to 133 in 2020, grants more than tripled to meet pandemic needs, started free job training for veterans with HGTC, Chapter ended year with a slight financial gain and golf tournament sold out with near record profit. All in all, the Chapter did well over the pandemic.



Financial Report by Tony Prince

Despite the pandemic, the Chapter is doing a great job financially. So far this fiscal year (Oct 1, 2020—Sept 30, 2021) we are slightly ahead in operating funds and spent about \$14,000 in grants to provide food and support to needy veterans and families impacted by Covid-19. Lastly, Board members Rufus Manning and Greg Youngman audited our books for the past year and found them to be in excellent shape.

Our financial balances as of end of February 2021 are as follows:

Operating Balance	\$15,211.99
Grants Balance	\$ 4,918.91
Reserve	\$15,053.18

FEBRUARY DINNER



President Albert thanks Amy Brauner with a Chapter medal for being guest speaker at our February dinner meeting at Pine Lakes Country Club. Ms. Brauner is Executive Director for the Eastern Carolina American Red Cross & spoke about the mission and great support provided by the Red Cross.

Upcoming March Program

March is Military Women History Month. To celebrate GS MOAA will host a lunch on **Tuesday March 9th** at noon at Inlet Affairs across the street from Drunken Jack's on the Marshwalk in Murrells Inlet, SC. Our guest speaker will be retired Marine NCO Bambi Bullard who leads a local Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) and started the local chapter of National Women Veterans of America.



Upcoming April Program

The Grand Strand Chapter of MOAA will celebrate the upcoming graduation and commissioning of 14 Coastal Carolina University (CCU) ROTC cadets at a dinner at Pine Lakes CC on **Tuesday April 13th**. We will give each cadet a set of gold 2LT bars and commissioning certificate and award one cadet with a \$2,000 Colonel Robert T. Hawkins award for Leadership. Come join us!

Toys for Tots



Past-President Roger Pilcher reported that GS MOAA Chapter members donated 150 toys to the 2020 Toys for Tots program. The Chapter also purchased Food Lion meals and food cards for distribution to those in need. Thanks to all who generously donated to this annual collection the Marine Reserves gave out 32,500 toys to needy children impacted by the pandemic, a tremendous jump over last year's record 8,500 toys.

SC Council of MOAA Chapters and MOAA National Updates

National and State MOAA continue to fight hard to pass major state and federal legislation to help needy veterans and their families during the ongoing pandemic. Priorities include: completing full exemption of military retirement pay from South Carolina income tax for retired military and their spouses; crediting life experience towards high school and college credit; allowing military spouse licensures to reciprocate across state boundaries; and more. In addition, the SC Council of MOAA Chapters formed a new Legislative Affairs Committee & invited GS MOAA member, Jim Offutt, to be an inaugural member. Congratulations Jim!

**Now and Always
We'll be There.**



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Grand Strand MOAA Veterans Outreach and Career Advancement

By Truman Parmelee, 1st Vice-President , Veterans Outreach
and Bill Stewart, Career Advancement Program Chair

Stand Downs - Two Stand Downs have been funded and approved by the VA for 2021: one in Myrtle Beach (Army Reserve Center at Market Common) and one in Aynor (Waccamaw Tribal Grounds). At present these are expected to be drive-through models like we held in 2020. Additional Stand Downs will be held as more funding and sponsors come forward.

Eastern Carolina Housing Organization (ECHO) -- GS MOAA provided 3 mailbox keys to ECHO veteran residents & 150 bus passes to be used by veterans seeking job interviews, or traveling to/from medical or legal appointments. In addition, ECHO installed GS MOAA furnished computer equipment to help veteran residents conduct job searches. GS MOAA members will meet with interested ECHO Veterans on a bi-weekly basis to provide guidance and conduct job search training seminars starting 8 March 2021.

MOAA Covid Emergency Family Grants - GS MOAA applicants received 8 additional MOAA Covid Grants during this period, bringing the total to 13 approved grants ranging from \$440 to \$1000 for veterans who suffered financial hardships directly related to COVID. Thanks to several GS MOAA members for their help with applicants to get these funds.

Food Cards - GS MOAA donated over \$5,000 in Food Lion Food Cards to the Myrtle Beach Veteran Center, Low Country Veterans Group (LCVG) and VA for Christmas. Individual Veterans received \$50 food cards and Veteran Families received \$100 food cards. A total of 125 veterans and family members were helped by these Food Cards.

MOAA Community Outreach 2021 Grant - GS MOAA completed a MOAA national grant application for \$5,000 along with a Press Release detailing our Outreach accomplishments in 2020. We should hear if our application was accepted in May 2021.

Veteran Employment/Training Currently five veterans found new jobs working with GS MOAA, Horry-Georgetown Technical College (HGTC) and Palmetto Goodwill. In addition, four veterans are currently in HGTC Vocational Training Classes. An additional four veterans have expressed interest in the next HGTC HVAC program, scheduled to begin in Aug 2021.

Chamber of Commerce Vocational Training Meeting - Thanks to Jerry Terwilliger, GS MOAA members met with Myrtle Beach Chamber of Commerce Business Development officials to explain our new vocational training/employment program with HGTC and others. The program was well received and the Chamber agreed to host a zoom meeting on 14 Mar with other Horry County Chambers for us to explain the program to each of them hoping to get the message out to businesses that may provide our veteran students with potential job interviews and offers.

Membership Updates

New Members:



Elisabeth Litvin, COL, USA (retired): recently retired from activity duty in late 2020 and moved to Pawley's Island with her husband Jeff. An avid golfer, Liz has since joined the Board of the Grand Strand Chapter and is also the South Carolina Ambassador to the Military Women's Memorial in Arlington, VA.



Charles Guerry, LTC, USA (retired): is a Career Field Artillery officer, commissioned through the US Army ROTC Program at Francis Marion University. Charlie served 27 years both CONUS and OCONUS in various Artillery units and TRADOC organizations and is Joint Qualified. He and his wife Caroline live in Pawley's Island, SC.

In Memorium



Suzan Albright, Surviving Spouse: Long time Grand Strand MOAA Chapter member, Suzie Albright, passed away in Feb 2021 in Fredericksburg, VA surrounded by family. She was the surviving spouse of Navy CAPT (ret) Richard Albright & lived in Pawley's Island. Suzie always had a very big smile & will be sorely missed. RIP Suzie!



Nancy Roper, Spouse of BGen Harry Roper Jr. Brig. Gen, Harry Roper Jr, Army (ret) lost his beloved wife, Nancy, on 12 Jan 21, just 3 days after her 92nd birthday. The Ropers lived in N. Myrtle Beach and were longtime members of our Chapter.

JROTC Scholarships

This year we continue our Junior ROTC Scholarship program by awarding \$2,000 scholarships to four (4) highly qualified cadets. We have contacted all 17 schools and provided applications to each military instructor. The application deadline is 16 April and we will invite all awardees, their families and instructors to a celebratory lunch on May 11th (location TBD). As in previous years, donations to the scholarship fund are always welcome and are tax deductible. If you wish to make a donation, you may do so at any of our dinner or lunch meetings, or send a check to the GS MOAA mailing address: PO Box 15842, Surfside Beach, SC 29587 with a note to apply it to the Scholarship Fund. In addition to providing scholarships to deserving cadets, GS MOAA supports each unit with a \$350 stipend to help with transportation and other program costs over the year.

Junior ROTC (JROTC) Units



The past year has been very difficult for the 17 JROTC Units GS MOAA supports. Since last spring all schools have held distance learning only schedules & little progress was made toward in-person classes until very recently. JROTC Units were not allowed to hold in-school or extracurricular activities. No competitions, no community service projects, no field trips, and no color guards at our monthly meetings. Limited normalcy is now returning. In-person classes are being held, some Unit activities have resumed and we hope JROTC Units will be allowed to provide Color Guards by our May and June meetings. We wish the best to all our area JROTC Instructors and cadets.

Warbird Park Gets New Upgrades

The City of Myrtle Beach, with a grant from the Airport Authority, is installing new pavilions with picnic tables, seating and other amenities at Warbird Park off Rte 17 Business just inside the old Main Gate of the Myrtle Beach Air Force Base (now Market Common). The City also plans to place flowers, mulch and other landscaping around our GS MOAA monument as the weather improves. If you haven't checked out Warbird Park and the many veteran-related monuments placed throughout the Park, we encourage you to do so. It's an inspiration and a fitting memorial to the many contributions made by our past and present members as well as other Veteran Support Organizations we work closely with.



GS MOAA Golf Tournament

This year's Grand Strand MOAA JROTC Scholarship Fundraiser Golf Tournament will be held on September 11, 2021 at Wild Wing Plantation Golf Club off Route 501 near Coastal Carolina University in Conway, SC. The tournament will also commemorate the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks on the country.

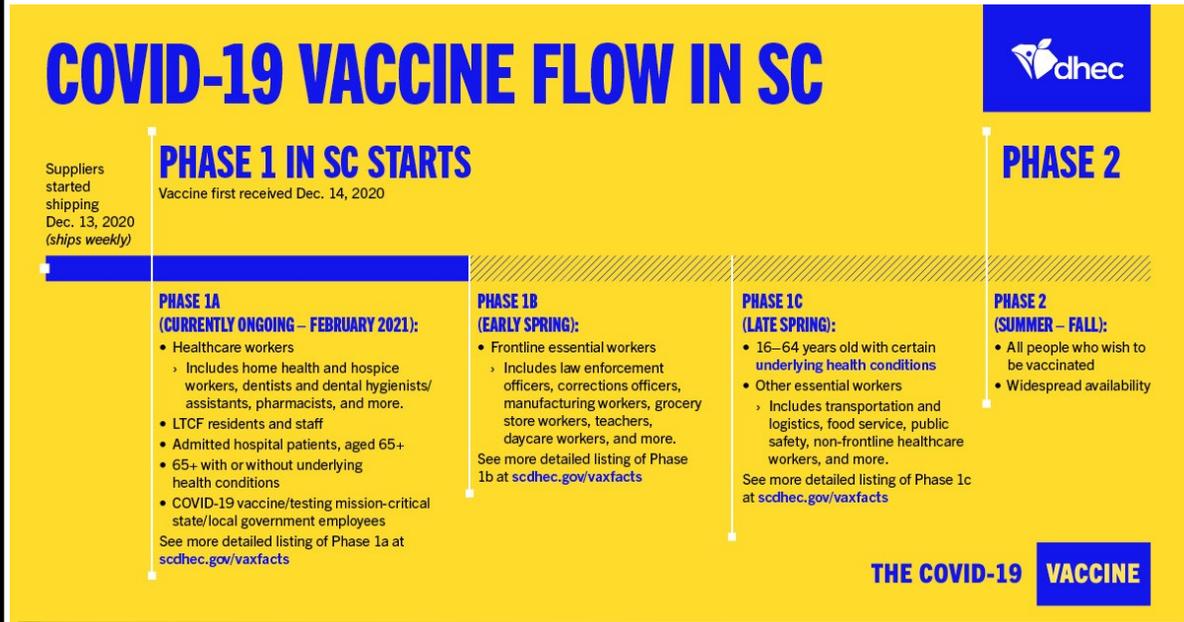
As in prior years, the cost for this year's tournament will be \$90 per golfer or \$350 per foursome team. Plus, we are offering a \$5 discount for every veteran player. A flyer (front and back page) with more information is provided later in this newsletter. As this is a fundraiser for our scholarship fund, we are looking for hole sponsors, major sponsors and auction item sponsors. Please consider being one of our sponsors. It really helps a group of future leader high school cadets go on to college.

CCU Army ROTC Update

Mark your calendars to attend our April 13th dinner program at Pine Lakes CC to help congratulate and celebrate the upcoming graduation and commissioning of this year's class of Army ROTC cadets from Coastal Carolina University (CCU). This year will see a large increase in graduates as we will congratulate eleven (11) cadets graduating in the spring and another three (3) due to graduate over the summer.

Grand Strand MOAA provides each soon-to-be commissioned Second Lieutenant with their first set of gold bars, camouflage epaulets, a certificate of achievement, a Chapter medallion, a free year of membership in our Chapter & one cadet will receive a \$2,000 Colonel Robert T. Hawkins Leadership award. The CCU Unit will also provide a Color Guard to post the colors for our meeting. Don't miss it!

State and VA COVID-19 Vaccine Guidance



Veterans Administration COVID Vaccination Guidance

Many VA health facilities offer COVID-19 vaccines to veterans who already receive care at VA, **and** are at least 75 years old or has health problems that increase risk for severe illness from COVID-19. Some facilities also offer vaccines to Veterans 65 years and older.

If you're a Veteran who already receives care at VA, your facility will contact you when you can get a vaccine. To learn about your facility's current plan, [find the facility's website](#). Once you're on the site, go to **Health care services**, then **COVID-19** in the menu.

Some designated family caregivers may also be able to get a COVID-19 vaccine at VA. For a caregiver to be eligible for a vaccine, the caregiver must be enrolled in our Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC), **and** the Veteran they care for must be currently eligible for a vaccine based on VA and CDC risk criteria. If you're an eligible caregiver, we'll tell you if you can get a vaccine when we invite the Veteran to get one.

Please wait for us to contact you about getting a COVID-19 vaccine. You don't need to call us or come to a VA health facility to reserve or request a vaccine. You'll need to wait at least 14 days between getting a COVID-19 vaccine and any other vaccine. **Your VA health facility may invite you to get a COVID-19 vaccine at a large vaccination event or by appointment.** You may receive an invite by phone, email, or text message. If you're eligible and you want a vaccine, we encourage you to respond. But make sure the phone call, email, or text is really from VA before you provide any personal information or click on any links. Text messages will always come from **53079**. Emails will always come from a **va.gov** email address.

For ongoing updates on our COVID-19 vaccine plan, [sign up for email updates](#). For more details on your local VA health facility's current plan, [find your facility's website](#). Once you're on the facility's website, go to **Health care services**, then **COVID-19** in the menu. For answers to general questions about getting a vaccine at VA, [read our FAQs below](#) or [use our coronavirus chatbot](#). If you don't find your answer there, call our MyVA411 main information line at [800-698-2411](tel:800-698-2411) (TTY: [711](tel:711)).

For more information about how your personal risk for COVID-19 will determine when you can get a vaccine, [send a secure message to your VA health care provider](#). If you don't receive care at VA, contact your primary health care provider.



Military Officers Association of America
Grand Strand Chapter

8th Annual Golf Tournament



Saturday, Sept. 11, 2021

WILD WING GOLF CLUB - CONWAY, SC

(with 20th Anniversary Ceremony of 9/11)

Registration & Breakfast: 8 – 9:15AM

Shotgun Start @ 9:30AM

Lunch & Auction to follow golf

PROCEEDS

- JROTC/ROTC Scholarships & Awards

- Homeless Veteran Needs

SUPPORT:

- At-Risk Veteran Families

**\$90/person
\$350/Team (foursome)
\$5 Discount for Each Vet**

**Team Low Score (Top 3)
Hole-in-One Opportunities
Longest Drive (Men & Women)**

Contact: Jim Offutt:

email: moaagolf@yahoo.com

call/text: (703) 627-8136

More information at: <https://grandstrandmoaa.org>

PLAYER REGISTRATION – Deadline Sept 1, 2021

\$90 per person, \$350 per team, \$5 discount for vets. To sign up, please complete this form and submit with a check payable to "Grand Strand MOAA".

Questions: call/text Jim Offutt at (703) 627-8136 or email moagolf@yahoo.com

Team Capt _____ Phone _____ Email _____ PD _____

Player #2 _____ Phone _____ Email _____ PD _____

Player #3 _____ Phone _____ Email _____ PD _____

Player #4 _____ Phone _____ Email _____ PD _____

Mail to: MOAA, c/o Jim Offutt, 4803 Bucks Bluff Dr., North Myrtle Beach, SC 29582

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

(check all that apply)

501(c)(3) Receipt Available Upon Request

- CORPORATE SPONSOR: \$1,000+**
 - One Team Foursome
 - Prominent recognition in Tournament Brochure and on Chapter website
 - Full Color Name/Logo banner at club entrance & cart sign
- PLATINUM SPONSOR: \$600**
 - Three Player Entry Fees
 - Prominent recognition in Tournament Brochure and on Chapter website
 - Full Color Name/Logo 2'x3' sign displayed at Registration & cart sign
- GOLD SPONSOR: \$400**
 - Two Player Entry Fees
 - Recognition in Tournament Brochure and on Chapter website
 - Full Color Name/Logo 2'x3' sign displayed at Registration
- HOLE SPONSOR: \$100 (EACH ADDITIONAL SIGN: \$75)**
 - Customized 18" x 24" Sign
 - Recognition in Tournament Brochure
- AUCTION SPONSOR: Donation (cash, gift card and/or item of value)**
 - Raffle Prizes, Auction Items, Checks, Cash, Gift Cards, etc.
 - Major donations will be prominently recognized in Tournament Brochure

COMPANY _____ CONTACT _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

DONATION _____

Mail to: MOAA, c/o Jim Offutt, 4803 Bucks Bluff Dr., North Myrtle Beach, SC 29582

or contact: _____



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).

You may pay by credit card on line at www.grandstrandmoaa.org

Otherwise, please 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 _ Other

My signature below verifies that the above information may be shared in a Members-Only Directory & 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 pro-active 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.