



COASTAL TIDE

Military Officers Association of America

Grand Strand Chapter

Myrtle Beach, South Carolina

www.grandstrandmoaa.com

September 2017

From the President:



First, I want to offer our prayers to the victims of Hurricane Harvey and Irma. We have gone through a rough couple of weeks with so many suffering throughout our country. I anticipate that all of us as individuals have given some form of financial support to the Red Cross, Salvation Army or other organizations that are serving on the front lines.

Otherwise, I hope everyone had a fruitful summer. Your Board of Directors got the fall season rolling by holding their annual planning retreat at the Member's Club at Grande Dunes. For the first time, our new 2nd Vice President, John Bradley, joined the team. He will be taking over as Membership Chairman from Bob Hawkins who has served long and hard in this position. Thank you, Bob.

We have reason to celebrate. We are one of six MOAA chapters that has received a \$5000 grant under National MOAA's new Military Family Initiative Community Outreach program. We were also one of only four MOAA chapters to receive an additional \$1250 from the Homes for Heroes organization. This was made possible by Rufus Manning and Greg Hill who originated and submitted our successful applications for the grants. These awards will be used in Myrtle Beach's fall Stand Down for homeless veterans, and for Georgetown County military and family members whose incomes fall below the poverty level.

We do many good works, but this is not possible without you. As I have in the past, I want to emphasize the importance of member participation in the year ahead. Randy Dymond is seeking future speakers, Rufus

Manning leads our Veterans Outreach committee, John Bradley is in charge of Membership, Kelly Sharbel edits our Newsletter, Greg Youngman wants to increase our activity with the CCU ROTC, Dean Brown heads our JROTC program, and I will be taking on the Golf Tournament committee. Each of us could use volunteers to assist us in these important chapter functions. This will benefit the organization and you, too. So, if any of these areas interest you, please contact us to volunteer and share your time, talent and energy.

With the beginning of fall, our series of dinner meetings begin once again. Hope to see you all soon.

Next Meeting
Tuesday, October 10, 2017
Pine Lakes Country Club
Social Hour: 5:30 p.m.
Dinner: 6:00 p.m.

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Chaplain's Corner By Greg Hill

My hope and prayer is that you and yours had a relaxing, joyful and renewing summer.

That said, the hurricane season is upon us. We pray and weep for those adversely impacted by Hurricane Harvey and Hurricane Irma. We want to help our neighbors in Texas, Louisiana and Florida. Many religious institutions, Veterans Service Organizations like MOAA, and others like the American Red Cross are fine ways for us to help those in need.

As well, a new school year and a new program year is in progress. I urge each of you to participate as you can in our Grand Strand Chapter programs.

Finally, I urge each of you to pray for and support our leaders in government. Don't be afraid to make your

voice heard! If yours is not heard, then someone else's voice with another agenda will be heard.

Enjoy one another and our beautiful Grand Strand!

Grand Strand Gets Grant to Assist Homes for Heroes

The Grand Strand Chapter of MOAA has received a \$1,250 grant from the Homes Heroes Foundation to assist military personnel and veterans who have urgent financial assistance or housing needs. These funds are to be used for those families whose incomes fall below the poverty level. This grant is one of two Military Family Initiative Grants the Chapter received over the summer months. These funds must be used within 90 days. Our Chapter is collaborating with Friendship Place in Georgetown in this effort to assist eligible families in need.

New Vice-President, Membership



Commander John Bradley recently moved into the Grand Strand and has graciously agreed to take the position of 2nd Vice President and Membership. We are fortunate to have John join our team. He is a 1968 graduate of the University of

Notre Dame and a 1986 graduate of the U.S. Army War College. He served in the Navy for 23 years. Since leaving the Navy in 1991, he was the Manager of Hampden Township, Pennsylvania for 14 years, and was subsequently elected to a four-year term as Hampden Township Commissioner responsible for transportation, land planning, waste water and fire protection services. He relocated to Florida in the Tampa Bay area and worked as a consultant, public speaker and Senior Planner with Gannet Fleming, a worldwide engineering and planning firm until 2011. Now a resident of Myrtle Beach, he and his wife Gayla live in Grande Dunes. John has been working with Bob Hawkins and recently assumed the duties of Membership Chairman. Say “hello” to John the next time you see him.



2018 Golf Tournament Planning Underway

The 2017 Grand Strand MOAA Golf Tournament was a rousing success, financially and otherwise, and discussions about next year’s tournament have already begun. 2017 Committee Chairman Greg Youngman and his entire committee did an excellent job of planning, acquiring new financial supporters, and executing this year’s tournament. A big part of our current discussions includes recruiting new committee members. We need your participation. You don’t have to be a golfer, just willing to work on this important annual project. If you are interested in being a part of this vital work, contact President Dave Townsend. He will be happy to hear from you.

Grand Strand Chapter Auxiliary Collecting Funds for Wreaths Across America

By Peggy DeVivo

“A person dies twice: once when they take their final breath, and later, the last time their name is spoken.” -- Banksy

Again, this year the Chapter Auxiliary will be collecting funds at our dinner meetings from September to November for the Wreaths Across America annual event December 16, 2017 during which wreaths will be placed on the graves of veterans at all the national cemeteries across the nation.

This year’s theme ‘I’m an American’ focuses on the celebration of differences, seeking to build bridges.

Donations collected at our dinner meetings will be sent to the Blue Star Mothers of Coastal Carolina. All wreaths cost \$15.00. Every two wreaths we donate will be matched by a third wreath. Please be generous so every veteran’s grave has a wreath. The deadline for ordering the two wreaths to get a third is TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2017

More information can be found at the following websites:

www.wreathscrossamerica.org

http://bluestarmothersofcoastalcarolina.com/wreathscross_america

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MEMBERSHIP

By John Bradley

I am writing this installment of our Membership News on 9/11, having just watched the Memorial Ceremonies at the three sites hit on that fateful day. I know I'm not alone when I tremble, pondering what happened that fateful day. I'm sure ALL of our members have strong emotions when memories of that day are invoked.

Allow me to introduce myself: John Bradley, Cdr, USN (Ret). Yes, another squid ! I have the dubious task of filling the shoes of Bob Hawkins, one of the most dedicated officers I have ever met. I cannot do this job of bringing in new members alone. I need the assistance of each and every one of you to recruit new and maintain current members. We will grow and have a strong Chapter with everyone's help.

2017 so far has been an outstanding year for gaining new members; we added a total of 15 new members – bringing our total membership to 161 members. However, too many of our members have yet to pay their 2017 dues, which were due January 1 and considered delinquent Jun 1. Our dues are VERY reasonable, only \$20 a year. So, please, if you haven't paid yet, please drop a check, payable to Grand Strand Chapter MOAA, in the mail to our post office box or, if you prefer, you can pay in cash at our next dinner meeting.

Most Chapter members are NATIONAL MOAA members; however, an increasing number have not yet joined. Our Chapter needs to maintain at least 95% National membership to compete for the coveted Levels of Excellence (5-star) recognition. We currently are proud to be recognized as one of the few 5-star Chapters; you may have noticed the 5-star banner on our logo for this year. We seriously want to maintain our status, so, please, double check your National MOAA Membership status to ensure it is up to date. If you are not a member you may log on to their website (www.MOAA.org); it is simple, even this sailor succeeded. Should you need more

information, don't hesitate to talk to our President, myself or any other National member.

I look forward to meeting each and every one of you over the coming months. I will be ensuring the accuracy of our contact information and hope to have, with your permission, a members-only Membership Directory available on the Chapter website soon.

With help from all and with President Dave at the helm, I am sure our Chapter can continue its growth and even increase its prominence on the Grand Strand and surrounding coastal communities.

Welcome New Members

Commander James H. Offutt (USN, Ret)
Captain Steve Sides (USNR, Ret)

Colonel Jed H. Klingensmith Passes

We are profoundly saddened to report that Colonel Jed Harvey Klingensmith USAF (Ret), passed away on May 23, 2017. He was 81 and a long-time member of the Grand Strand Chapter.

A native of New Castle, PA, Colonel Klingensmith served in the United States Air Force for thirty years (1957 to 1987.) During his distinguished career, he was awarded the Purple Heart, Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal (4 oak leaf clusters) and the Meritorious Service Medal (2 oak leaf clusters) as well as other awards. After leaving the Air Force Jed served as a manager with Hughes Aircraft-Raytheon.

We extend our sympathies to his surviving sons and their families.

Personal Affairs

To be placed on our prayer list and/or arrange for visitation, transportation, or assistance, contact our Chaplain, Greg Hill: ghill54808@aol.com or by phone at 843.231.4507

Grand Strand Chapter Honors

The Grand Strand Chapter has been recently honored both individually and collectively.



LTC (retired) Amy Johnston, USA, was awarded a coveted Quilt of Valor, at a special ceremony at the Veterans' Café, on August 25th.

LTC Johnston was recognized for her distinguished military career, with specific focus on her role as an 8-year volunteer and Board member of the Veterans Welcome Home and Resource Center. Pictured with LTC Johnston were (l to r) Donna King, Ron Wilson, Keith Bacon and Doug Wing.



LTC (retired) Ed Turek, USA, was awarded a coveted Quilt of Valor, at a special ceremony in Conway, on September 8th.

LTC Turek was recognized for his distinguished military career, with specific focus on his 25 ¾ years of active duty, including 12 years of overseas service, including service in the Pacific during WW II. Marie Huddleston nominated Ed and “wrapped” him in the presentation ceremony.

Our Chapter was only one of six MOAA chapters nationally to receive a National MOAA Military Family Initiative grant of \$5,000. Begun in the spring, 2017, these grants are awarded to Chapters to support military personnel and veterans. Our Chapter sought funding to support the Myrtle Beach



Stand Down and to support Georgetown County military and veterans' family members whose incomes fall

below the federal poverty line for job placement, training and coaching and to assist in temporary housing needs or financial assistance. In addition, the Chapter received a second grant from the Homes for Heroes Foundation (see page 2).

Our thanks to Community Outreach Chair, Rufus Manning and Chaplain Greg Hill who worked hard to complete the grant applications on time and who are serving as the project officers to oversee the use of this grant.



We are proud to announce that we have been officially notified by MOAA National that our chapter is a recipient of the 2017 MOAA Five-Star Levels of Excellence Award. Kudos to all of our wonderful members in making this award a reality, but special thanks go to Tony Prince who put together the package submitted to National documenting the extraordinary Chapter programs we have undertaken to earn this distinction.

| Financial Report | |
|------------------|-------------|
| August Expenses | \$ 4,930.27 |
| Balance | |
| CresCom Bank | \$ 1,636.80 |
| South State Bank | \$26,520.47 |

New Member Jim Offutt Reminds Us of Maritime Defense Needs

New member Jim Offutt reminded the Chapter of the nation’s critical maritime requirements for national security at the dinner meeting on September 19 at Pine Lakes Country Club. A retired US Navy Commander and former national President of the Navy League, Jim has remained deeply involved in helping develop mission requirements and explaining those requirements of the maritime services to national policymakers.

He noted that the United States must maintain adequate naval forces to defend two coastlines. Currently, the Navy has identified the need for 355 ships of all types, and the Coast Guard too needs to be fully funded to meet its requirements



First Vice-President Randy Dymond presents a MOAA coin to Jim Offutt at the October dinner meeting.

Jim noted that filling national security requirements requires tough budget decisions at the national level. He enumerated the Chief of Naval

Operations priority list headed by the repeal of sequestration, funding of Columbia class ships, modernizing the US Marine Corps and Coast Guard, developing strategic deterrence assets, and ensuring sufficient military and civilian maritime resources to support the national security strategy.

Stand Down 2017 Report

Stand Down 2017 took place September 22 at the Myrtle Beach Army Reserve Center and your Grand Strand Chapter was on hand supporting veterans in need. Outreach Chairman Rufus Manning and Norm and Jan Ward worked hard to provide needed resources to homeless or near homeless veterans. Thanks to them and all those who volunteered their time to ensure MOAA’s efforts were useful and successful.



Government Affairs



By Jimmy Jacobs

(Note: Written by Col. Dan Merry, USAF Ret, Vice-President, Government Affairs at MOAA National).

Trading Set to Begin On Key TRICARE Issues

As the House and Senate Armed Service Committees prepare to meet to hash out their respective positions on the FY2018 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), it is more urgent than ever for you to alert your legislators to these key issues of importance to every TRICARE beneficiary:

TRICARE enrollment fees, as well as other fees, would be hit with significant increases according to the Senate's proposed bill. The Senate is looking for ways to plow savings back into readiness and other unspecified projects, and it wants to do this by repealing the grandfathering clause for TRICARE fees contained in last year's law, which shielded current TRICARE beneficiaries from new fees. The proposed fee structure, which could start immediately depending on the negotiations, would result in the doubling of fees for many beneficiaries.

Raising TRICARE pharmacy cost shares, as proposed in the Senate's NDAA version, would impact TRICARE For Life beneficiaries the most. These increases are especially appealing to the Senate because the pharmacy benefit consists of mandatory spending for beneficiaries over the age of 65. The Senate's plan proposes that the savings resulting from these fee hikes could then be used to fund other accounts and programs- programs like the Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance (SSIA) to remedy the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP)/Dependency Indemnity Compensation (DIC) offset, also known as the "widows' tax," which

offsets a military survivor's monthly SBP annuity by any DIC they receive. MOAA has a longstanding record of advocating for a permanent fix for the widows' tax/SSIA situation. However, taxing beneficiaries' earned benefits is not the way to do it. Keep in mind, too, that many of those affected by the widows' tax use the pharmacy benefit as well.

The Senate's proposal to tie all TRICARE fees to a national health care index would increase the cost of your health insurance. Premiums, copayments, deductibles, and catastrophic caps would rise annually based on increases in health care costs as measured by per capita growth in the National Health Expenditures (NHE). Currently, TRICARE fees and applicable cost shares are tied to the annual rise in COLA. Swapping this index for an arbitrarily selected index, the NHE, would result in beneficiaries paying substantially more for health care over time. A beneficiary's fees would have increased more than 48 percent over the past 10 years if fee increases were linked to the NHE. Compare this to only 18 percent for the same period as currently indexed to COLA.

Please send your legislators the following MOAA suggested message to prevent these hefty fee increases from negatively impacting servicemembers:

"We do not think raising TRICARE fees through the repeal of last year's grandfathering, using the pharmacy program as a money source, and tying fees to anything but COLA is in any way fair to beneficiaries," says Capt. Kathy Beasley, USN (Ret), MOAA's Government Relations Director for Health Affairs. "The House saw fit to keep what is in the current law, to include the existing grandfathered fee structure, and to maintain focus on the implementation of the current TRICARE reform efforts. MOAA strongly agrees with the House."

For more information about MOAA's work with Congress and the Executive Branch, go to www.moaa.org



ONE POWERFUL VOICE

Application/ANNUAL RENEWAL FORM

Grand Strand Chapter MOAA: (Check one.) Membership Application Renewal Change of address

Chapter dues: \$20.00 a year for regular membership. Auxiliary: \$20 per year. Multiple year dues are encouraged to reduce costs.

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 _____
Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Home phone _____ Cell phone _____
Email address _____

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

Status: Retired Active Reserve National Guard Former Officer Surviving Spouse ROTC JROTC

{My signature verifies that the above information is accurate and that I am eligible for MOAA Chapter membership.}

Dues for year(s) _____ Amount: \$ _____ Signature _____

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

Current employment (optional): _____

Professional skills (optional): _____

- ROTC cadet membership is available at no cost for students.

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.