

Grand Strand Chapter

Military Officers Association of America

The Coastal Tide

www.grandstrandmoaa.org

President's Message by Jim Albert



2020 is off and running and so is the Grand Strand Chapter of MOAA! We continue to help veterans and their families in severe need of home repairs, utilities, transportation, clothing, food and a Post Office Box address for job interviews. And plans are in the works to increase our outreach to low income and homeless veterans across the Grand Strand through the VA Veterans Center in Myrtle Beach and Low Country Veterans group in Georgetown. We also sent honorarium grants to each of our 17 high school Junior ROTC programs and have begun our annual JROTC scholarship application process.

We completed a successful fundraising campaign to build and install a Chapter Memorial at Warbird Park on the old Myrtle Beach Air Force Base in honor of the 60 years of Chapter members contributing significant time, talent and treasure to veterans all across the northeastern corner of South Carolina. And it's only February! A big thank you to Lieutenant General (ret) Mike Davison, Past-President Greg Youngman, and the entire Memorial Committee for their tremendous efforts managing and moving this project along. And thank you to all our Chapter members and corporate partners who donated to this effort.

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Next up: our Golf Tournament on 21 May at Heritage Golf Club in Pawley's Island. This is our largest fundraiser of the year and we need everyone's help to make it a success. If you golf, please sign up. If you don't golf, please consider donating a Tee Sign and/or raffle prize to the tournament. Enough said. I wish each of you, and your family, a great new year ahead and our Chapter another award-winning year of service to those who served our country by putting themselves in harm's way. Mark your calendars for our next Chapter dinner meeting on 10 March at Pine Lakes Country Club.



Jan-Feb 2020

Board of Directors

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

1st VP/Veterans Outreach: Truman Parmele
m_parmele@hotmail.com
703.258.2708

2nd VP/Membership: Peggy De Vivo
mgdev93@gmail.com

Secretary: Dave Townsend
davemoaa@gmail.com
843.907.1763

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

Past Pres.: Randy Dymond
randymond@aol.com
315.271.3069

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
jjacob26@scccoast.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: Jim Albert
Public Affairs: Jim Albert

Mark Your Calendar

March 10 — Chapter Dinner meeting, Pine Lakes Country Club; 5:30 Social Hour; 6 p.m. dinner

March 26, Major League Baseball Opening Day

April 8-16 — Passover

April 12 — Easter Sunday

April 14— Chapter Dinner meeting, Pine Lakes Country Club; 5:30 Social Hour; 6 p.m. dinner. CCU ROTC Recognition Night

MAY MILITARY APPRECIATION MONTH (FULL SCHEDULE PENDING)

May 12 — Chapter Dinner meeting, Pine Lakes Country Club; 5:30 Social Hour; 6 p.m. dinner. JROTC Recognition Night

May 14 — Armed Forces Day

May 21 — MOAA Golf Tournament, Heritage Golf Club

May 25 — Memorial Day

June 8 — Chapter Dinner meeting, Pine Lakes Country Club; 5:30 Social Hour; 6 p.m. dinner;



Chapter Programs Off and Running in 2020

Our January Program included a Change of Command as President Randy Dymond (left) passed the gavel to new Chapter President Jim Albert (right). President Albert thanked Past-President Dymond with a Certificate of Appreciation and a MOAA Past-President's pin.



In addition, COL Bill Koehler (USA ret), 2nd Vice-President of the South Carolina Council of Chapters (left) swore in the new Chapter Officers. From left to right: President Jim Albert; 1st



Vice-President/ Outreach Chairman, Truman Parmele; 2nd Vice-President/ Membership Chairman, Peggy DeVivo; Treasurer, Tony Prince; and,

Secretary, Dave Townsend.

In February, new President Jim Albert presented a “State of the Chapter” address to members and a visiting Color Guard team from Loris High School Army Junior ROTC. See Page 3 for his presentation. Jim noted that many chapter members are unaware of the exceptional number and breadth of programs and efforts our Grand Strand Chapter of MOAA provides to veterans and cadets across our area. Over the past 60 years, President Albert estimates our Chapter has contributed over \$1 million to the local community and millions of hours of volunteer service. Our priorities are to support homeless veterans, distressed veterans and their families, ROTC and JROTC cadets, and our own members’ needs for a continued life of service.



In March, Colonel Tom Robillard, (USAF, ret), Vice-President for Legislative for the South Carolina Council of Chapters will update us on recent significant legislative wins to improve the lives and benefits of veterans, retirees, surviving spouses and active duty military, both from the State House in Columbia, SC as well as the Congress in Washington, DC. Please mark your calendars for this very informative program: 10 March, at Pine Lakes Country Club. The meeting starts at 1800, dinner at 1820, and program at 1900.



STATE OF THE GRAND STRAND CHAPTER

Presented by Jim Albert, Chapter President



Budget and Fundraising

- Grand Strand Chapter raises over \$50,000 per year: half from golf tournament and half from dues, meetings, events, donations and grants
- Half goes to needy veterans and veteran families and half to ROTC/JROTC cadets – split mostly between Horry & Georgetown Counties, and including 17 High Schools in the geographic area we support.
- Adding more focus on corporate donations (golf and direct) and Chapter Memorial at Warbird Park
- Raised nearly \$18,000 to cover cost of monument and expenses; goal is to install in May '20

Membership

- Holding steady between 130-150 members: 1-year and 3-year options; separate from national MOAA membership; discussing new member incentives
- Eligible: uniformed officers (commissioned & warrant, past & present) from all military services, Reserves, Guard, NOAA, Public Health, Surviving Spouses
- Monthly dinner meetings and programs (except July and August); looking to add more lunch meetings
- Several event and program committees depending on desires of members to serve veteran community

Communications

- Monthly/Bi-monthly Newsletter (email/on-line)
- Chapter website: (www.grandstrandmoaa.org)
- Chapter Facebook: gsmoaa (like us!!)
- Email notifications of events, meetings and opportunities to serve
- MOAA Harris Communications Award winner 5 years in a row – so far! (plus 5-star Level of Excellence)

ROTC and JROTC Support

- JROTC at 17 High Schools:
- Scholarships (5 @ \$2,000 each —started in 2007)
- Grants, Honoraria and Other Support (\$10,000)
- Leadership Awards to rising Juniors
- Provide Speakers and Event Participation (Color Guard)

Veteran Outreach

- Focus on: Homeless Veterans, Veterans in dire need and Distressed Veteran Families
- Horry County: Stand Down with VA and other organizations: provides medical and basic needs
- Georgetown County: veteran and family support with Low Country Veterans Group
- Form Chapter Outreach Council to oversee funding priorities, distribution and tracking: looking for volunteers and more outreach
- Grants to multiple other vet support orgs:



NEVER STOP SERVING



Chaplain's Corner by Greg Hill



As we celebrate Valentine's Day this month, I want us to not only consider love of a significant other, but also the love our chapter and our chapter partners show through our Veteran Outreach efforts.

For example, today is February 12, 2020. This morning, Commander Rutledge and I picked up two chairs, a lift chair and a Lazy Boy chair, from a home in Surfside Beach. The lift chair will go to a Veteran in need of one. The Lazy Boy will go into the Transition House which the Low Country Veterans Group (LCVG) manages. LCVG, a chapter partner, identifies a Veteran or a Veteran and Family to reside in 30 day increments in the transition house until a permanent home can be found normally using HUD-VASH and ECHO financial assistance. LCVG is responsible to furnish the transition house. The Veteran can take with him or her any items they need as they move into a permanent home. Today, we family will move from living in their car into the transition house!

Also, today, LCVH finished installing a window and door in the home of a Veteran in Socastee using Home for Heroes Grant monies managed by our chapter.

As well, today we applied for more Home for Heroes Hero Grant funds for 2020.

Lastly, we are also applying for a MOAA Foundation Community Grant for the third year in a row. The program is only three years old! This grant assists local Veterans and their Families in many emergency situations.

We ask you remember and support the efforts of our Veterans Outreach Committee led by Truman Parmelee.

Financial Report by Tony Prince

At the end of January, the balances in our banks accounts have remained healthy as we completed the fundraising for the memorial, continued to receive and expend funds from our normal operating activities, and began receiving and disbursing funds associated with the annual golf tournament. You can find more information on the memorial fundraising on page 7. The golf tournament, held annually in May, is our Chapter's most significant fund raiser. Therefore, we can expect more financial activity in the coming months as preparations for the tournament pick up.



Operating Account	\$ 5,827.80
Memorial Account	\$ 8,296.68
Reserve Account	\$15,017.99

Legislative Affairs Report (courtesy of MOAA National Government Relations)

As the 116th Congress began its second session, MOAA continues to stay focused on our mission. Our Government Relations staff identified the following objectives for 2020:

- Protect Your Health Care Benefit: MOAA is working to prevent disproportional TRICARE fee increases, stand down efforts to cut military medical billets and efforts to dismantle the military health service, and stop cuts to the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, which provides education to uniformed health professionals, scientists, and leaders
- Keep Military Pay and Benefits Strong: Achieving this goal requires that pay raises match the annual ECI index increase, protect housing allowances from programmatic changes that penalize military-to-military married couples and those with children, improving the quality and timeliness of support and reduce existing backlog in services, protect commissary and exchange benefits and dividends which support military quality-of-life programs, and approve flexible spending accounts for service members that are in line with civilian employer programs.
- Support Military Families: Our goal is to improve comprehensive housing reform and accountability, improve accountability of contract movers and claims during PCS moves, create incentives to increase quality child care provider accessibility and capacity options, include military spouses as a target group for the Work Opportunity Tax Credit and improve occupational licensure transitions, and preserve Parole in Place and improve paths to citizenship for servicemembers and families
- Concurrent Receipt for All Retirees: End concurrent receipt penalties for military retirees. We are continuing our effort to urge Congress to approve concurrent receipt for Chapter 61 retirees and for service-connected disabled retirees rated 40% and below
- Support the Total Force: Achieve equity of benefits, protections, and administrative support for Guard/Reserve members consistent with their active duty counterparts. Eliminate Guard/Reserve retirement pay processing delays, ensure timely health care benefit for Guard/Reserve retirees, expand Military Lending Act protections and support, and expand GI Bill parity for their service
- Better, Faster DoD/VA Services: Ensure timely access to service-earned benefits, and resist proposals to erode foundational services delivered through the VA and DoD. Enhance suicide prevention programs and access to behavioral health care, assure appropriate health care and benefits for service-connected exposures, strengthen and preserve support services for servicewomen and women veterans, improve wounded warrior and caregiver programs, implement the VA MISSION Act and identify legislative improvements, preserve earned military-veteran burial benefits.
- Strengthen and Support All Uniformed Services: Sustain continuous and timely appropriations for whole of government, ensure the continuity of pay and benefits during lapses in appropriations, ensure authorizations and appropriations for the Coast Guard, Public Health Service, and NOAA Corps to meet expanding mission needs, ensure implementation of sexual harassment and assault reporting programs through expanded protection of the safe to report program, and strengthen deterrence measures for sexual harassment prevention through command administrative actions for substantiated sexual harassment investigations.



For more information go to [www.http://takeaction.moaa.org](http://takeaction.moaa.org)

2020 Outreach Program Goals and Objectives by Truman Parmele

Our major goal for this year is to establish a concrete “cradle to grave” support for veterans focusing on the homeless and near homeless veterans, their dependents, and surviving spouses. To oversee this support we have established an chapter Outreach Oversight Council (OOC) to provide the lifecycle coordination, priorities, ensure adequate funding and resources, and monitor progress of each approved project to its successful completion. Our primary focus is on our existing projects including Stand Down, Low Country Veterans Group, East Carolina Homelessness (ECHO), and others. Additional new projects will focus on expanding our cradle to grave concept to new programs with Native American Veterans, and local Veteran Administration (VA) initiatives will be designed to improve veteran conditions.

We continue to be one of the major sponsors of the annual Stand Down, which will be held again in September. As usual we will need volunteers for that event. As plans become more firm, we will keep the chapter informed and seek volunteers. Thanks to all of you for your support and involvement.

GOLF TOURNAMENT NOTES

By Dave Townsend, Golf Committee Chairman

Our Golf Committee is continuing to plan for what we hope will be the best tournament ever. Committee members are fanning out throughout the Grand Stand to solicit support from area businesses. During the next six weeks, we will be trying to complete soliciting support from golf courses, who usually donate a free round or two. We will begin seeking raffle prizes from other local businesses and request hole sponsorships. Other administrative and logistical tasks will be completed as well. John Bradley will again lead our efforts to recruit volunteers and put those volunteers to work on tournament day. Consider devoting a few hours to support the tournament. Contact John for additional information. The golf flyer and information on contribu-



tions can be found on pages 8 & 9 of this newsletter. At our March chapter meeting we will be providing all our members more detailed information about how each of you can participate, even if you are not a golfer. If you cannot attend that meeting, stay tuned for that information to be disseminated through this newsletter and on the website. Remember the date May 21.

Now and Always
We'll be There.



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Memorial Monument Fund Raising Update

By Michael Davison

The fund raising campaign that began last October for the memorial monument is now complete effective 31 January 2020. The Chapter effort achieved 98% of our goal of \$18,000. In addition to Chapter member donations, we received donations from three corporate entities and two non-member individual donors. While slightly below the goal, we raised sufficient funds for purchase of the monument, and to cover the expenses incurred during the fundraising campaign. In late January the Chapter made a \$8000 progress payment to Low Country Monuments. The work to cut and polish the tablet and base has begun. Concurrently, the Memorial Committee met with Myrtle Beach City Works principals and Low Country Monuments' representatives on the planned site in Warbird Park in The Market Common. This coordination meeting confirmed the site location and discussed the city's plan and schedule to prepare the site and install the asphalt walkway and concrete plaza for the Chapter Memorial. The City's project officer and Low Country Monuments are directly sharing their respective work schedules and progress with each other and the Memorial Committee. The Chapter and City have agreed upon a Warbird Park installation ceremony on a Friday in May. Specific date and time is TBD and depends upon the work progress of the City and Low Country Monuments.



Awards and Grants

The Grand Strand Chapter continues its longstanding reputation as one of the most award-winning chapters across MOAA. We recently submitted an application for a 6th MOAA Harris Communications Award recognizing our outstanding Coastal Tide Newsletter and our robust website, email notification process, informative dinner meetings and growing Facebook social media presence.

We also applied for another MOAA Foundation Community Grant and Homes 4 Heroes Grant. These funds, if approved, will be used to support several Veterans Outreach initiatives in Horry and Georgetown counties helping homeless and low income veterans and their families with health and wellness services, transportation, basic necessities of life, utilities and other critical assistance to help keep them in their homes.

The Chapter also continues to seek corporate donations and grants for both Veterans Outreach and ROTC/JROTC support. Under the leadership of our fundraising chairman, LTG (ret) Mike Davison, we have added several new corporate donors to our Chapter, providing thousands of dollars to our most pressing programs.



Military Officers Association of America
Grand Strand Chapter

7th Annual Golf Tournament

Honorary Sponsor: Myrtle Beach Military Appreciation Days



Thursday, May 21, 2020

HERITAGE GOLF CLUB - PAWLEY'S ISLAND, SC

Registration Deadline May 7, 2020

PROCEEDS

SUPPORT:

- JROTC College Scholarships
- Homeless Veterans Needs
- Distressed Veteran Families

Registration & Lunch: 12pm – 2pm | Shotgun Start @ 2PM

\$95/person
\$350/Team (foursome)
\$5 Discount for Each Vet

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

Sponsorship Opportunities (see reverse)

Contact: Dave Townsend: email: davemoaa@gmail.com

cell: (843) 907-1763

More information at: grandstrandmoaa.org

PLAYER REGISTRATION

\$95 per person*, \$350 per team*. To sign up, please complete this form and submit with a check payable to "Grand Strand MOAA". Questions: call/text Dave Townsend at (843) 907-1763 or email davemoaa@gmail.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 Dave Townsend, 9253 Venezia Circle, Myrtle Beach, SC 29579

***\$5 Discount for Each Veteran! Registration Deadline – May 7, 2020**

(check all that apply)

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

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 Dave Townsend, 9253 Venezia Circle, Myrtle Beach, SC 29579

501(c)(3) Receipt Available Upon Request



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

{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.