

Grand Strand Chapter

Military Officers Association of America



Sept October 2020

The Coastal Tide

www.grandstrandmoaa.org



President's Message by Jim Albert

It looks like the pandemic is still with us, and likely will be for a while. I hope you are keeping safe, or if you have experienced the virus, I hope it is a mild case and you or your loved ones get back to full health soon.

We are finishing up a very busy end of Summer/early Fall, including a luncheon in September at Kimbel's Restaurant on Wachesaw Plantation in Murrells Inlet. We also completed another successful Golf Tournament to raise funds for high school and college ROTC cadet scholarships. We also conducted an annual Stand Down with the local VA to give out food, clothing and other necessities to homeless and needy vets. This year, because of Covid, we wore protective clothing and required veterans to remain in their vehicles while we handed them materials. In October and November we are taking the Stand Down "on the road" to support Waccamaw Indian Tribe veterans in Aynor, and needy veterans in Georgetown. It's not ideal, but it works.

The highlight of our month has been the dedication of a new Chapter Memorial Monument at Warbird Park in Myrtle Beach with Mayor Brenda Bethune as guest speaker, followed by a dinner at Prestwick Country Club in Surfside Beach to celebrate our chapter's 60th Anniversary, with LtGen Dana Atkins, President of national MOAA as guest speaker. Dozens of guests, along with press from three local TV stations, attended.

As fall moves into winter we've begun two new programs: the first is a free job training program with Horry-Georgetown Technical College to get veterans training and jobs in several technical training fields. Also, Chaplain COL Greg Hill got trained on the second initiative, which is to work with local coroners and funeral homes to claim unclaimed veteran remains and give them a proper burial at one of our national cemeteries. There are dozens of unclaimed veterans' ashes across our area and it is unconscionable to leave them sitting on shelves in funeral home closets and basements any longer.

Our next chapter meeting will be a luncheon at noon on Monday, November 9th at Maggi D's on Market Common to commemorate Veterans Day. I hope to see you there. In the meantime, please consider running for one of the Chapter officer positions. I especially need a new Secretary to take minutes at our monthly Board meetings. Please consider helping out.

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Never Stop Serving

Mark Your Calendar

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

- Oct 23 –Mobile Stand Down—
Chicora Native American
Tribe Properties Aynor,
10 am –Noon**
- Nov 1 Daylight Savings Time Ends**
Nov 3 - Election Day
**Nov 9 – Chapter Lunch Meeting
and Missing Man
Ceremony, Noon, Maggie
D’s Restaurant,**
Nov 10 - USMC Birthday
Nov 10-11 — Hannukkah
Nov 11 - Veterans Day
**Nov 14 --Mobile Stand Down,
Georgetown
10 a.m.—Noon**
Nov 26 - Thanksgiving Day
- Dec 7 Pearl Harbor Remem
brance**
**Dec 8 – Chapter Dinner Meeting
and Holiday Concert,
5:30PM, Prestwick Country
Club,
Toys for Tots Collection**
Dec 20 - US Space Force Birthday
Dec 25 - Christmas
- Jan 1 New Years Day**
**Jan 12 Chapter Dinner Meeting,
Details TBD**
Jan 20 Presidential Inauguration



Chaplain’s Corner by Greg Hill



In a few weeks, our nation will observe Thanksgiving 2020. This is a year to remember!

I’m reminded of the Jewish exiles who, in Psalm 137 asked, “How can we sing the Lord’s song in a foreign land?” Many folks have said to me that they have felt like an exile in a strange land since last March. Through it all, however, we know that we have each other, our families, friends, communities and a strong nation that still represents a beacon of hope for the world. So, despite the turmoil leading up to the upcoming elections, we do have much for which to be thankful! Keep on serving and you will be blessed.

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

Chapter Elections Coming Up

The annual election of Chapter officers for next year (2021) will take place in December. A nominating committee is currently developing a slate of members to serve as President, First Vice President, Second Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. This is an excellent opportunity for members to serve the Chapter. The term for each office is one year. There is a need for a new Chapter Secretary who takes minutes at the monthly Board of Directors meeting and who is the repository of Chapter records. If you are interested in serving in that position or any other aforementioned Chapter office, please contact Chapter President Jim Albert by November 5.

Financial Report by Tony Prince

Our successful golf tournament has again provided us the revenues to continue our previous years program of support for veterans and the ROTC and JROTC programs in our area. In addition we will be able to keep dues at \$20 per year or \$50 for a three year renewal. Our fiscal



year started October 1, and we begin that year with

the following balances in our bank accounts:

| | |
|-------------------|-------------|
| Operating Account | \$34,193.88 |
| Memorial Account | \$ 188.83 |
| Reserve Account | \$15,043.86 |

NOTE: Completion of the memorial and the payment of final costs associated with it will eliminate the need for the Memorial Account.

Revised Stand Down Major Success by Truman Parmele



Out reach Chairman Truman Parmele and President Jim Albert join with chapter member J.D. Davis to deliver service to veterans at Stand Down

The 7th Annual Myrtle Beach Veteran "Drive Thru" Stand Down was a very successful. Due to the Covid 19 The SC Health Department and Regional Veteran's Administration required additional protection measures which provided the highest degree of protection for both veterans and volunteers, rather than the normal Stand Down where Veterans came to the Army Reserve Center at Market Common. These measures included full PPE equipment and protection for volunteers and no contact when handling the veteran supplies and food. Veterans never left their vehicles. Walk-in veterans were provided masks and were

escorted through the registration and provided pre-loaded backpacks with supplies and food, all while maintaining social distancing. The Stand Down was the only one held by VA/MOAA organizations in VA Region 7 (SC, GA, and AL) this year. Sixty eight veterans including 7 homeless veterans were served. The Drive Thru Stand Down Model takes the Stand Down to the Veterans instead of Bring the Veterans to the Stand Down.

Additional Veteran Drive Thru Stand Downs are scheduled for October 23, 2020 at the Chicora Native American Tribe Properties in Aynor SC from 10AM-Noon, and in Georgetown SC for area Veterans on November 14, 2020, at the Presbyterian Church Parking Lot from 10AM-Noon, bringing mobile veteran support to Veterans during the COVID 19 Pandemic. We hope to return to our normal Veteran Stand Down in Myrtle Beach in 2021 conditions allowing. Thanks to all MOAA members who participated. Anyone wishing to assist

NOTE: If you would like to support the Oct 23 or Nov 14 Stand Down events, contact Truman Parmele at m_parmele@hotmail.com or by calling 703-258-2708.

NEW INITIATIVE: Grand Strand MOAA Outreach Oversight Council member Bill Stuart has initiated a new Veteran Transition and Education program with several local support agencies and organizations including Housing and Urban Development/ Veteran's Administration Services and Housing (HUD/VASH), Palmetto Goodwill, East Carolina Housing Association (ECHO), and Horry Georgetown Technical College. The goal is to provide job related services for veterans. Under this initiative, veterans can receive assistance in attaining education and training for job placement including GED, college, vocational/technical education, certification programs, mentoring, resume preparation, and interview training. Additionally, our chapter is supporting Waccamaw Native American veterans and their dependents with continuing education and technical courses, resulting in successfully placing Tribe members in career vocational training courses. The Chapter has also assisted Waccamaw tribe members with transportation services.



Veterans who sought assistance at Stand Down were provided items to support their needs in backpacks.



Veterans drove through the parking lot to receive needed support.

60 Years: A Dedication



Carolina Forest High School Navy JROTC cadets provided color guard duties at the memorial dedication

Myrtle Beach Mayor Brenda Bethune was the guest speaker at the memorial dedication



Coastal Carolina University Army ROTC cadets prepare to unveil the memorial monu-

Chapter President Jim Albert presided over the memorial dedication ceremony

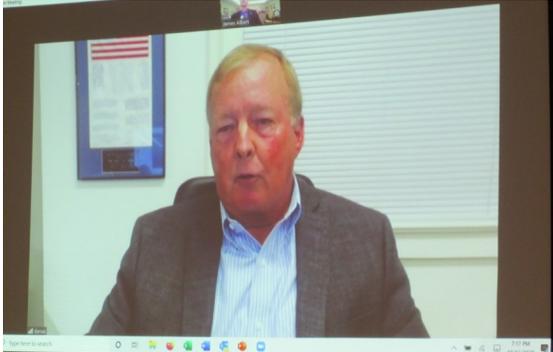


Serving Country



Serving Community

...A Celebration



National MOAA President Lieutenant General Dana Atkins, (USAF, Retired) spoke to the 60th anniversary dinner assembly via ZOOM



Chapter President Jim Albert presided over the social hour and dinner. Carolina Forest High School Navy JROTC provided the color guard .

...and reasons for both



Golf Chairman Dave Townsend instructs golfers at the tournament



President Jim Albert unloads materials for Stand Down



Scholarship Winners



Rev. Rutledge Addresses Lunch Meeting

2020 Golf Tournament – Final Report By Dave Townsend



Above: Grand Chapter volunteers greeted golfers at the front door.

Below: Golfers bid on silent auction items at the tent on the back lawn



Golfers enjoyed their box lunch on the back patio.

Congratulations to all who participated in our golf tournament as players, tournament committee members, volunteers, hole sponsors, donors, etc. Despite the obstacles of the coronavirus and threatening weather, we hung together and put on a successful event that resulted in net proceeds of over \$26,200.

Planning for this event was going smoothly until March when the pandemic reached our shores. Luckily, we had completed most of the solicitations for golf courses and donors by then. However, there were a couple of past major donors that could not help us this year because of the COVID-19's economic impact on their businesses. Fortunately, at the same time, while Mike Davison was pursuing fundraising for the memorial at Warbird Park, he was able to also elicit interest in our golf tournament fundraiser from such organizations as Tidelands Health, and Burroughs & Chapin. Their donations came at the right time. Also, the country began closing and we had to reschedule our tournament to later in the year, September 10. New adjustments had to be made as we learned about taking temperatures of all participants, having waivers signed, social distancing, face masks, hand sanitizer, changes in golf rules, etc. To keep things safe as possible, we decided to hold our pre-play events outside. Lunch was served in the form of box lunches. Masks were required except when eating or when playing golf. Table and chairs were rented for the 148 players showing up that day. No longer using the inside of the club house as in years past, we created a sort of carnival atmosphere outside comprised of canopies and tents. We had the same free Bloody Mary Bar as last year and added a Under Armour tent where each player received a free golf glove. We had ice cream, chocolate chip cookies and soda/water by the Tiki Bar when the players returned. New this year were water stations placed at the longest drive competition and at the 13th hole. Despite the hurdles, everyone had an enjoyable day.

Financial Results

| | | | |
|-------------|------------------|-------------|------------------|
| 2017 | \$ 23,500 | 2019 | \$ 26,718 |
| 2018 | \$ 21,245 | 2020 | \$ 26,203 |

Faced with the onslaught of the COVID-19 virus, our Golf Committee survived a difficult challenge. We came through this adversity with flying colors and this could not have been accomplished without the dedication and commitment from our committee members. During my three-year tour as the tournament chairman I have been blessed with exceptional partners in the pursuit of raising funds to

support youth programs and scholarships, active duty personnel and needy veterans. I thank you all. BZ! (Navy term meaning "Job Well Done!").

My Heroes (Golf Committee)

John Bradley
John Short
Mike Davison

Dave Fischer
Frank Esposito
Kelly Sharbel

Bill Stewart
CJ Parent

Tony Prince
Jim Offutt

Jerry Terwilliger
Cliff Tall

Jim Albert
Truman Parmele

60 Years: Where did it go? By Kelly Sharbel, Editor

Sixty years ago, this writer was 12 years old and, like most kids, had few worries. President Eisenhower was in his last year of office. The average price of a new house in the US was \$16,500. At 49 cents a gallon, milk cost more than gasoline which averaged 31 cents a gallon. The Dow Jones industrial average of stocks hit a high of 685 that year and the US population was 180,671,158. The US Naval Academy's Joe Bellino won the Heisman Trophy, and the Pittsburgh Pirates defeated the New York Yankees in the World Series. The Soviet Union downed a US U-2 aircraft, and *To Kill a Mockingbird* won a Pulitzer Prize in literature for the late Harper Lee.

As all of that and more was unfolding, a band of 29 retired military officers organized the Grand Strand Chapter of the-then Retired Officers Association. Recently acquired correspondence shows the effort was led by C.M. Breedlove, (AUS, Ret), along with several other retired officers. They received their charter at the September 13, 1960 meeting, held then as now on the second Tuesday of the month. Regrettably, history of the chapter's early activities are lost to time, but it has been described by some as essentially an opportunity for its members to socialize and stay in touch with one another and others they had served with across the country. National MOAA records reflect that the chapter unfortunately fell into distress around the turn of the century before seeking a "rescue" effort from the national office. The Chapter regained its viability in 2006 and began a steady climb to its current stature of prominence in the Grand Strand area.

The resurrection of the Chapter began with the late Captain Ross Word (USN, Ret) spearheading its reconstitution and reinvigorating it with increased membership. Much of his effort and those of his compatriots was spent laying the foundation for an organization that would stand the test of time. Three years later, Lieutenant Colonel Roger Pilcher (USMC, Ret) took the reins of leadership and guided the Chapter to its next level of success. Among achievements during his 4 1/2 year tenure, the Chapter membership grew from 37 to 121. The Chapter won its first 5-Star Level of Excellence Award and followed that with two more. It captured its first 4-star MOAA communications award, began its involvement in the Myrtle Beach Military Appreciation Days, hosted the second South Carolina Council of Chapters conference, increased the size and number of scholarships for high school JROTC cadets, and held its first annual golf tournament. Other initiatives were undertaken to support veterans throughout the Grand Strand and beyond.

In the ensuing 5 1/2 years, the Chapter has grown its support for JROTC, ROTC, and veterans assistance. It has been a major sponsor of the annual Stand Down and provides financial support for ROTC cadets at Coastal Carolina University and JROTC units at 17 area high schools including scholarships and leadership awards. Scholarship Chairman Hans Duerr reports that the Chapter has awarded 43 scholarships worth \$66,750 since that program started in 2007.

More recently, the Chapter expanded its activities to partner with groups such as the Low Country Veterans Group, Toys for Tots, and other area veteran support organizations to assist homeless and near-homeless veterans and their families. Establishment this year of a Veterans Outreach Council and an effort by Chaplain Greg Hill to identify and inter the unclaimed remains of deceased veterans have added new programs to the Chapter's agenda.

These accomplishments have been achieved through exceptional leadership and the hard work and unselfish support of a Chapter membership devoted to supporting those who share the experience of military service in the past and those who will serve in the future.



Toys for Tots Need Toys and YOU

Past President Roger Pilcher is once again heading up the Toys for Tots annual Christmas toy drive for the area. He reports that 7,000 toys were collected and distributed in 2019 and the sponsoring Marine Corps Reserve expects upwards of 12,000 this year. He needs two things: 1) toys, of course; and 2) assistance in collecting them. The coronavirus pandemic has complicated the effort to establish toy pick-up sites and the subsequent collection of the toys. If you can assist, contact Roger directly. He can be reached at rogerpilcher35@gmail.com or 843.957.4984

Changes to Arlington National Cemetery Eligibility Open for Public Comment

Now more than ever, your voice matters in the debate over proposed eligibility changes to Arlington National Cemetery. On Sept. 22, the Arlington National Cemetery Advisory Council (ANCAC) convened to review the changes to ANC and discuss the Federal Register public comment period currently underway.

MOAA and The Military Coalition (TMC) – a group of organizations representing more than 5.5 million members of the uniformed services past and present, families, and survivors – submitted written statements in support of grandfathering those currently eligible and conducting non-contiguous expansion to ensure ANC operations with full military honors can continue well into the future. Unfortunately, the ANCAC, which reviews proposals and makes recommendations to the Secretary of the Army, dismissed these requests. The public comment period opened Sept. 15 and will close Nov. 16. MOAA will continue to encourage our members and others to comment. Click this link to go directly to the comment page. Or, you can read the full proposed rule at this link and make your comments there by clicking the “SUBMIT A FORMAL COMMENT” button in the upper right corner.

Ask Your Lawmaker to Help Expand Benefits for Tens of Thousands of Vietnam Veterans

The Senate version of the FY 2021 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) would expand VA benefits available to Vietnam veterans exposed to herbicides such as Agent Orange, adding conditions scientifically linked to such exposure.

Show your support for this NDAA provision (S. 4049 Section 1090B), by signing the conferee letter to add life-threatening bladder cancer, hypothyroidism, and Parkinson’s-like symptoms to the list of veterans’ diseases associated with Agent Orange.

For more information on issues the MOAA staff is working on go to :

<https://takeaction.moaa.org/moaa/>

(Provided by National MOAA)

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We'll be There.



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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.