



Military Officers Association of America

Grand Strand Chapter

Spring 2015 Edition

Coastal Tide



MOAA Award Winning Newsletter

5 Star Chapter of Excellence



MOAA Award Winning Website
www.grandstrandmoaa.com



January Lunch Meeting Held at Kimbels Restaurant

The Grand Strand Chapter of MOAA entered the new year with our January luncheon at Kimbel's Restaurant in Wachesaw Plantation.



Chapter President
Youngman welcomes guest
Speaker, Captain Fears

More than 60 attendees enjoyed a sumptuous meal in a beautiful setting overlooking the magnificent Waccamaw River. Our guest speaker was Captain Douglas Fears, US Coast Guard. Captain Fears is the current Commanding Officer of USCGC Hamilton, the Coast Guard's newest National Security Cutter home ported in Charleston, SC. Captain Fears presented a very informative overview of the ship's capabilities and the future mission of our US National Security Cutter Program. Leslie Prince provided the audience with an overview of upcoming events of the Scents for Soldiers charity organization supporting Wounded Service Members and their families. Scents for Soldiers, headed by Christina Shealy, is one of the local charities MOAA supports. Tony and Leslie Prince and Karen Terwilliger serve as our liaisons between MOAA and the Scents for Soldiers organization.



U.S. Coast Guard Captain Douglas Fears,
explaining how his ship operates

Christina Shealy, is one of the local charities MOAA supports. Tony and Leslie Prince and Karen Terwilliger serve as our liaisons between MOAA and the Scents for Soldiers organization.

Dr. Gragg Provides an Outstanding Series of Stories About Leadership



President Greg Youngman
welcomes Dr. Rod Gragg to
the chapter meeting

In February, the Grand Strand Chapter of MOAA returned to Pine Lakes Country Club for an evening meeting where our guest speaker was Dr. Rod Gragg. A former television news director and anchorman, Gragg is now director of the CresCom Bank Center for Military & Veterans Studies at Coastal Carolina University, where he also lectures as an adjunct professor of history. He hosts a regional television program, "Military Memoirs," which features interviews with American military veterans. Dr. Gragg's presentation entitled, "*Lessons in Leadership from the Greatest Generation*" was thoroughly enjoyed by all attendees and generated much discussion around the positive leadership qualities of some of our past Military heroes. Rufus Manning provided an update from our Personal Affairs Committee and Jimmy Jacobs discussed current legislative proposals of interest to all Veterans and retired Federal Employees in SC. All ladies were presented a red rose upon departure in recognition of Valentine's Day.



Dr. Gragg signs his book
for Barbara Swanson

MOAA will celebrate "Women in the Military" during our March dinner meeting. Chaplain Karen Diefendorf, LTC, US Army, retired, will be our special guest speaker.

**Next Dinner Meeting:
Tuesday March 10 6:00 PM
Pine Lakes Country Club**

From the President's Desk

The MOAA Grand Strand Chapter is off to an excellent start in 2015. Record numbers of you are attending regular monthly meetings and actively participating in veteran events sponsored or supported by our chapter in the greater Myrtle Beach area. We are currently in our 54th year of existence with an enrollment of 148 members- a record number for the chapter. That includes eight new members already registered this year.



We also have new and expanded initiatives in 2015 including our partnership with AARP and the Veterans Stand Down benefiting homeless veterans, a survivors assistance program, outreach activities sponsored with our ROTC program at Coastal Carolina University and the various 18 area high schools that offer JROTC programs, Military Appreciation Days, and finally our annual Golf Tournament happening on the 25th of May (Memorial Day).

Our meeting agendas remain focused on informing our membership of our Chapter's progress and outreach activities with various veteran organizations in the greater Grand Strand area. If you have not attended a meeting recently, you should attend! For the rest of the year, we have notable guest speakers and activities that focus on celebrating Women in the Military in March, recognizing our senior ROTC cadets and awarding of their Gold Bar and Leadership awards in April, celebrating our senior JROTC scholarship winners and recognizing the cadre of officers who lead their programs in the various 18 area high schools in May, and updating legislative affairs of interest to veterans at the June meeting.

I also would be remiss in not mentioning our Golf Tournament fund raising activities. This is an annual event that provides our chapter with the funds necessary to continue our local high school scholarships and increase our initiatives with veteran organizations along the Grand Strand. The MOAA Golf Tournament is the culminating activity of Military Appreciation Days and falls on Memorial Day – May 25. In recognition of this hallowed day, we are planning a formal ceremony to recognize the sacrifices of our fellow servicemen and servicewomen.

In closing, we remain a professional organization recognized in the Grand Strand for its wholehearted belief in our military organizations and those individuals who have so freely served and sacrificed for this great country. With your continued support and involvement we will remain a chapter whose efforts will make a difference in the lives in our fellow veterans.

Greg Youngman

President

Laying the Wreath



President Greg Youngman and 2VP Bob Hawkins were honored to represent Auxiliary Coordinator, Joan Perry, as they laid the Wreath on the grave of her husband, Nathan Perry. Attending the wreath-laying at the "Wreaths Across America" ceremony at the Florence National Cemetery in Florence, SC on December 13th, 2014, was a very special and solemn experience. With donations from MOAA members, the Auxiliary was listed as a sponsor on the program – an honor in and of itself.

2nd Chapter Fund Raising Golf Tournament Planned for May 25, 2015

On Monday, May 25, 2015, the Grand Strand Chapter of MOAA will host the second annual fund raising golf tournament at the Heathlands Golf Course at the Legends Resort in Myrtle Beach. As you will probably recall, Greg Youngman and Jerry Terwilliger kicked off the first MOAA Tournament with great success, raising nearly \$6,000 for the MOAA JROTC Scholarship Fund, Scents for Soldiers (for wounded warrior visits), and the Veteran's Welcome Home and Resource Center in Little River (for the reintegration house).

This year Tournament Co-chairs Gerry Sherwin and Jerry Terwilliger expect to do even better. For that to happen, we need the active participation of as many MOAA members, spouses, significant others, and Auxiliary members as possible.

What's different this year? First, the Tournament will be held on Memorial Day, a fitting end to Military Appreciation Days in Myrtle Beach. Second, the City of Myrtle Beach will include the Tournament in all of its planning and marketing of Military Appreciation Days. And, we now have a base of players and sponsors upon which we can build, making this an opportunity to take a quantum leap forward.

The Golf Tournament Committee began the process of building our tournament with the first full meeting in January; and the Committee will continue to meet regularly as plans progress. If you have any questions – or wish to participate actively with the planning process – please contact either Gerry Sherwin gerrysherwin@sc.rr.com or Jerry Terwilliger gerald.terwilliger@yahoo.com.



Chapter Supports ROTC at Coastal Carolina University

Tom Minton

The Grand Strand Chapter continues to foster its relationship with Coastal Carolina University's (CCU) Army ROTC unit. On 12 February, President Youngman, 1st VP Tony Prince and 2nd VP Bob Hawkins met with seven senior ROTC cadets eligible for the free basic MOAA National membership. The cadets were apprised of the many Chapter outreach activities in the greater MB area, as well as the importance of joining the brotherhood of commissioned officers and the resultant development of lifelong relationships. President Youngman touched upon a number of national concerns such as sequestration and downsizing, stressing the need to become familiar with issues affecting their first assignments as commissioned officers. Five cadets are scheduled to finish in May and the other two are scheduled to graduate in August.

ROTC Night will be held in conjunction with the April 14th meeting at Pine Lakes Country Club. The five eligible seniors graduating in May will be our guests. The CCU ROTC Color Guard will be in attendance to present the Colors. At the meeting, the Chapter will host a special awards ceremony to present the MOAA National Gold Bar Awards. In addition, the top leadership cadet in their class will be honored. As in the past, the chapter will recognize their commissioning ceremony as Second Lieutenants at graduation in May.

As part of the curriculum, cadets are required to prepare and present briefings on their analysis of a significant historic battle. The cadre's commander, MAJ Chad Hodkins, invited our chapter to participate. Accordingly, the chapter will form two Senior Officer Academic Review Teams to assist the cadets in the preparation of historic battle analyses. Chapter members are also invited to sit in on the briefings and the follow-on Q & A session.

A new joint initiative is under development, ROTC College Day. The concept is for ROTC cadets to host the region's 18 high school JROTC programs in a Field Day. The event will include fun competitions, learning exercises, and of course, food. September is the target month. Further information will be provided as plans firm up.

MOAA Stand Down 2015 Partnership with AARP

Rufus T. Manning, Sr. (703.501.4045 --Cell)

MOAA Grand Strand Chapter has sought to expand our personal affairs mission with the greater Myrtle Beach and Grand Strand community as it relates to eliminating homelessness among military veterans. This effort is an outcome of our October 2014 chapter meeting, round table strategy sessions for the new 2015 operational year. This year's MOAA outreach effort includes a partnership with the South Carolina, AARP Outreach Division, under the leadership of Ms. Doris Gleason, AARP Outreach Director. Through the efforts and inputs from the MOAA Personal Affairs Committee (Rufus T. Manning, Greg Hill, Harry Dubose and Sonny Edens), the President of the MOAA Chapter, and the MOAA Board of Directors (BOD), a series of meetings with various veteran organizations, and the AARP Outreach Director, led to the formal agreement as of the February 2015 BOD session, and subsequent presentation at the February MOAA Chapter meeting.

As a prior year activity, the Myrtle Beach Stand Down 2014 event, resulted in a very successful outreach to our homeless veteran community, and provided another platform to position MOAA as an active Myrtle Beach organization supporting community issues. As an official Co-Sponsor for this year's 2015 event, we will expand our role by organizing and partnering with a variety of local and State level organizations in support of this very worthy cause.

The specific calendar of events, to include pre-planning meetings, is well underway. Stand Down 2015 is set for September 18, 2015, at the Market Common Army Reserve Center. This year's list of partners were notified as of Jan 2, 2014. A second notice will sent by early March 2015. A team meeting is tentatively scheduled for April 2015. A second team meeting is set for August 2015, followed by the actual Stand Down in September of 2015. Questions about how the MOAA membership can get involved will be addressed at our regularly scheduled monthly meetings or you can directly contact our Personal Affairs Committee members.

Legislative Tidbits

Jimmy Jacobs

The key Legislative item the Chapter currently is supporting through a *Call-To-Action* is "South Carolina Giving Back to Our Veterans Act". At our recent dinner meeting, I highlighted the details of this particular legislation which would exempt military retirement pay from South Carolina taxation. As should be expected, chapter members (and others) tend to mobilize and support initiatives that potentially affect them, and as in this case, their pocketbooks directly. From the calls and requests for copies of the petition provided at the meeting and by subsequent email, I am optimistic our Chapter will garner more than our target of 1,000 support signatures. As of February 22nd, more than 150 have been given to me. Thanks to those of you that worked for these and those that are still working to get signatures by the March 10th target date.



The legislation in its current form would reduce military retirement pay taxes by 33.33% for tax year 2015, in tax year 2016 by 66.67%, and be tax free for tax year 2017. As stated in the petition, this legislation would be a major step toward South Carolina achieving Veteran-Friendly status, thus benefiting the state financially by attracting more military retirees, which 2013 data reports as being over 57,500.

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Chaplain's Corner

Chaplain Greg Hill

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As individual members of our chapter, each of us is like a puzzle piece-a vital, living, necessary part of the overall picture of our chapter. If you are missing, or if we do not know some positive or negative event has happened in your life, our picture is incomplete.

Our chapter now has two chaplains, Alex Barron and Greg Hill. We hope to be available to you to assist if you have a desire to call upon us.

Soon, our chapter website will have a method to contact us if you enter your information and request a chaplain. In the meantime, feel free to contact me directly and either Chaplain Barron or I will get with you as soon as possible.

In the meantime, our website - www.grandstrandmoaa.com - contains helpful information that I encourage you to peruse.



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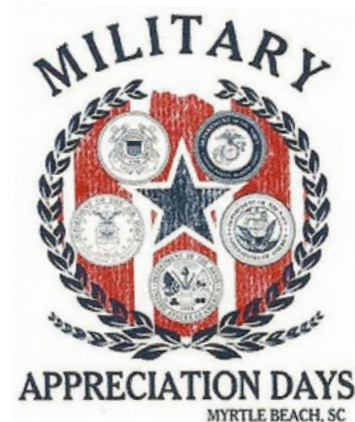
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Biggest and Best Military Appreciation Days This Year

Notwithstanding controversy resulting from a date change, this promises to be the biggest and best Military Appreciation Days since the tribute month was initiated in Myrtle Beach in 2008.

Military Appreciation Days begin Saturday, May 2, with the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans Tribute, sponsored by Rolling Thunder SC3. Everyone's invited to welcome home these men and women and thank them for their service during this informal event, at 12:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall at St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church, 33rd Avenue North.

For 2015, Military Appreciation Days recognizes our Vietnam veterans on the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War. Myrtle Beach is working with Chapter 925 Grand Strand, Vietnam Veterans of America, to thank these vets for their service. Exhibits include the Agent Orange Quilt of Tears and traveling mini Vietnam Memorial Wall, both of which will be on display Thursday, Friday and Saturday, May 14-16, on Ocean Boulevard, between Eighth and Ninth Avenues North.



- Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans Tribute – May 2
- Veterans and Friends Golf Outing – May 14
- Myrtle Beach Pelicans Baseball Game – May 14
- Vietnam-Era Education Sessions for Students – May 15
- Military Appreciation Days Dinner Dance – May 16
- Agent Orange Quilt of Tears and Vietnam Memorial Wall – May 14-16
- Military Appreciation Days Parade – May 16
- Family Picnic, Exhibits, Music, J. R. Martinez and more – May 16
- Memorial Day Remembrance Ceremony – May 25
- M.O.A.A. Grand Strand Golf Tournament – May 25

There will be a need for some Chapter volunteers again this year; and more information will be provided in our next chapter newsletter. Website - www.militaryappreciationdays.com

Obituaries

Richard Henry Driessnack

Richard H. Driessnack, 89, an active Grand Strand Chapter member, died Sunday, December 14, 2014. He was born in Younkers, New York, and graduated from Valparaiso University with a BSCE, BA in 1952. He was a US Navy Veteran, serving as 2nd & 3rd Mate in the US Merchant Marine for two years. He retired as a Lt. Commander with the US Naval Reserve after 25 years of service. Surviving are his wife of 63 years, Lorraine Driessnack of Myrtle Beach; three sons, four daughters, 26 grandchildren, and 16 great grandchildren.

Sofia C. Stone

Mrs. Sofia Stone, an active Grand Strand Chapter member, passed away on Tuesday, January 20, 2015 at the age of 76. She had many titles during her life: WAC, Army Wife, Teacher, Coach, Counselor, Mom, and Friend; she lived in numerous places in the States and Italy; allowing many people to experience her quiet strength and wisdom. She is survived by her loving husband of 54 years, Gordon Stone; 4 children and 13 grandchildren.

Grand Strand Chapter Membership

Bob Hawkins

2015 is going to be another great growth year !! We currently have 148 members on our roster. Sixty-seven (67) have already paid their 2015 dues; and most others will soon. And, we already have 8 new regular members; and 7 CCU ROTC cadets have also joined our Chapter.

Our goal is to recruit another 25 new regular members this year – while increasing the number of Grand Strand members who are also Premium or Life members of National.

Challenging ? Yes. We need your help. If you are one of our 2014 members who have not renewed, please do so soon. And, if you know of any other eligible officers who could benefit by joining our 5-star Chapter of Excellence, please encourage them to attend a meeting and join.

If any questions, please do contact me (765-479-7577; rhawkins21@sc.rr.com).

New 2015 Members (since last newsletter):

David Townsend, CAPT (ret), USN
Liz Crotty, CDR (active) Navy, NG
Joseph McGarry, LTC (ret), USA
Chad Hodkins, MAJ (active) USA

Dave Richards, CPT(former), USAF
Gary Schaal, CPT (former), USAF
Charles (C.J.) Parente, 1LT (former), USA
Joseph Markey, WO1, SC State Guard

2015 Calendar of Programs and Events

March 10, 2015 – Pine Lakes Country Club

Guest Speaker: Chaplain Karen Diefendorf, LTC, US Army, ret.
Topic: “Women in the Military” and ROTC Recognition Night
Color Guard: St. James High School JROTC

April 14, 2015 – Pine Lakes Country Club

Guest Speakers: Mark Kruea, Public Information Officer, City of Myrtle Beach
Christina Shealy (Scents for Soldiers), Bob Hawkins (Military Appreciation Days)
Topic: Military Appreciation Days and ROTC Recognition Ceremony
Color Guard: Army ROTC Coastal Carolina University

May 12, 2015 – Pine Lakes Country Club

Guest Speaker: National MOAA Rep
Topic: Scholarship Night and JROTC Recognition Night
Color Guard: TBD

June 9, 2015 – Luncheon Dunes Golf Club

Guest Speaker: Alan Clemmons (has been invited)
Topic: The State of Legislative Affairs and Impacts to South Carolina
Color Guard: None

July 14, 2015 – Barefoot Princess Dinner Cruise

Guest Speaker: TBD
Topic:
Color Guard:

August 11, 2015 – Luncheon: Austin’s Oceans One, Litchfield Inn.

Guest Speaker: MG James E. Livingston, USMC retired (Invited)
Topic: Medal of Honor Museum
Color Guard:



ONE POWERFUL VOICE

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

Chapter dues: \$15.00 a year for regular membership. Auxiliary: \$15 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 ___ Auxiliary ___ ROTC ___ JROTC
Dues for year(s) _____ Amount: \$ _____ Signature _____



MISSION/Purposes:

- Foster fraternal relations among retired, active duty, and former officers of the uniformed services and their National Guard and Reserve component counterparts, ROTC Cadets, and their families and survivors;
Assist community organizations that support service members and veterans and their families;
Raise funds to provide 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), subject to resource constraints;
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 – and provide useful services for family survivors.
Support National MOAA's programs to protect the rights and interests of active duty, retired, National Guard and Reserve personnel of the uniformed services and their families and survivors and ROTC Cadets;
Promote the aims and objectives of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA);
Promote the aims and objectives of the SC MOAA Council of Chapters.