



COASTAL TIDE

Military Officers Association of America

Grand Strand Chapter

Myrtle Beach, South Carolina
www.grandstrandmoaa.com

From the President:



Finally, winter is behind us and with warmer weather comes a full schedule of

opportunities for MOAA activities. On the Grand Strand, MOAA is involved in the many veterans' activities held during Military Appreciation Days in May.

Our regular chapter dinner meeting is scheduled for Pine Lakes Country Club on Tuesday, May 9. During that meeting we will honor our high school senior JROTC scholarship winners from the 18 high schools we sponsor. Please come and show support for these young men and women. These scholarship awards are a major use of the funds we raise annually.

Later in the month, we tee up our MOAA Golf Tournament on Thursday, May 25, which is our major fund raising event of the year. If you do not play golf, Greg Youngman needs volunteers to work the course

March April 2017

during the event. Please contact him. Two days later, our chapter provides financial and volunteer support for a breakfast for visiting wounded and injured service members from 7 - 9:30 at the Sheraton Convention Center Hotel restaurant. Call Bob Hawkins or Randy Dymond if you can help. Later that day, we participate in the Military Days Parade. We will close out the Military Appreciation Days on May 29 by attending the Memorial Day Remembrance Ceremony held on the Plaza at the Myrtle Beach Conventions Center at 11:00 on May 29. I hope I see you there.

I cannot finish this column without thanking the speakers at our last two dinner meetings. In February, retired LTC Amy Johnston, whose 20 years service as an Army nurse included service in both the Vietnam War and Desert Shield/Desert Storm, laid out the ascension of women warriors from the Revolutionary War to the present. (*Continued on page 3*)



2017 MOAA Golf Tournament

May 25

Heritage Golf Club

**Sign up as a single,
twosome or
foursome by May 11**

**Visit our website for
more information
and registration
form**

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Chaplain's Corner by Greg Hill

This morning, I took my dog, Toby, for a walk on the beach. The sun was warm. Toby and kids up and down the beach enjoyed the water. Folks were walking on the beach like in the summer. Spring has sprung! Crepe Myrtles are budding. Indeed, Dogwood trees have already bloomed and lost their buds in this area.

As I write this article, Jews are celebrating Passover and Christians are in midst of Holy Week. Easter is this Sunday. HOPE is the message of this season. HOPE for new life, for new beginnings. For

example, as a Chapter, we recognized our CCU ROTC cadets who are to be commissioned as 2d LTs and enter Army active duty. As you read this article, our chapter will be presenting selected local high school Junior ROTC cadets the MOAA medal and certificate for demonstrated leadership potential and academic achievement. Just maybe we are encouraging new beginnings for these cadets.

As well, I pray that you will experience a living hope filled with joy, peace and love this spring season. May you experience a hope that encourages you to be in service to others.

From the President (con't from Page 1)

My wife Gale had the opportunity to talk to Amy and they shared their experiences in Saudi Arabia during Desert Storm.

In April, our speaker was Rod Gragg from the CresCom Bank Center for Military Veterans Studies at Coastal Carolina University. He was especially pleased to be there while our chapter honored seven CCU ROTC cadets on their forthcoming commissioning as First Lieutenants in the US Army. All are going to active duty. Professor Gragg spoke on five principles of leadership learned from the Greatest Generation. These principles are equally applicable to civilian as well as military pursuits.

So far being president of your chapter has been fun. The major reason for this is the welcoming membership and the work ethic and camaraderie of the individuals in leadership positions. If you have not tried it, please volunteer for one or more of the events in May, or see Rufus Manning to help in the standdown for homeless vets to be held in the Fall. I guarantee you will like it.

WHAT'S IN A NAME? by Hans Duerr

Here in the South, unless your name is Tom, Dick or Bubba, you are in trouble. Take my name (HANS) for instance. Most people have never heard of it (Hans-Christian Andersen and Mother Goose not withstanding), and do not know how to pronounce it. Here is an example of what I go through all the time:

I sat in a doctor's office waiting room one day when a nurse came out to look for the next patient. "Hanes, Mr. Hanes?" she called out. As no one got up, I said rather loudly: "You must mean me, my name is Hans." Then I added: "By the way, young lady, I do wear HANES!" There was appropriate laughter from fellow patients. Again, true story.

May 20 is Armed Forces Day

Now and Always
We'll be There.



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Membership

Welcome New Members

Dennis Yount

Thanks to Our Renewals

William "Sonny" Edens	Donald Gugel
William "Bill Doc" Hughes	Glenn "Lefty" Lewis
Helen Mulligan	Robert Salva
Melody Wages	Gordon Robinson
Barbara Swanson	Charles Parente
R.A.Hair	Marshall Ivey
Ken Spenser	Richard Trout
David Honeycutt	Harry Roper
Carol Snyder	

**It is not too late to pay
your 2017 Dues.
Annual Dues are still \$20**

**If you have not paid already,
please do so as soon as possible.
Membership Chairman Jerry
Eubank will be happy to hear
from you.
If you have already renewed
your membership, THANK
YOU!!**

Golf Tournament



By Greg Youngman

May is upon us and that means so is our annual MOAA Golf Tournament. This is our major fundraising event of the year and we need the entire chapter to be involved in our efforts. As President Townsend mentioned in his message, if you are not a golfer, we can use your help on tournament day May 25. There will be a great need that day for volunteers to serve as greeters, registration, raffle and silent auction, hole-in-one, as well as set-up and clean-up volunteers. If you are interested, contact me at gyoungman@sc.rr.com.

For all of you golfers, we need you too. Our goal is to register 144 golfers for the day, so get your friends out and register to play before the May 11 deadline. The slots are filling-up quickly, so I encourage you to register soon.

One of our major initiatives this year was to raise more corporate sponsors to ensure that our tournament sustains itself in the years to come. We are excited to

have acquired Monarch Roofing as our major sponsor, so their name will be posted along with MOAA for this tournament. We are deeply grateful for their commitment and generosity in supporting our chapter and the many veterans and JROTC and ROTC cadets we support. Monarch Roofing has been and continues to be a great supporter of our military personnel and veterans and we look forward to a long relationship with them as we continue our programs in the future. Additionally, one of our members has generously and anonymously made a significant monetary contribution. We are also still seeking hole sponsors from throughout the community, and silent auction items are still being solicited. Hole sponsors are an excellent way to honor the memory of a loved one during this solemn Memorial Day season.

I have said many times that this event cannot be successful without the entire chapter's involvement. That involvement is critical now as we approach the May 11 deadline for registering golfers and organizing our efforts to make this one of the most memorable tournaments. Our golf committee has worked diligently to get us this far but we need your help to get us over the finish line.

I and my colleagues on the golf committee hope you will give us something that we know is

valuable – your time -- to make this tournament the best ever. The tournament is always a fun day and we know you will find participating in it as a supporter or as a golfer an enjoyable and rewarding a day as we do.

We look forward to seeing you at the tournament on May 25!

Financial Report



Balance brought forward from February: **\$15,582.66**

March Deposits: **\$8,750.14**

March Expenses: **\$2,354.57**

March Ending Balance:
\$21,978.23



**May 8 is the 72nd
Anniversary of V-E
Day**

Chapter Update

MOAA MEMBER AMY JOHNSTON FEATURED SPEAKER IN MARCH

One of the Grand Strand Chapter's distinguished members, Amy Johnston, LTC USA (Retired) honored us as our featured speaker at the March dinner meeting at Pine Lakes Country Club. LTC Johnston retired after 20 years of active service that included war zone assignments in Vietnam and Desert Shield/Desert Storm. She served in a variety of supervisory positions, including Assistant Chief Nurse, 28th Combat Hospital, Desert Shield/Desert Storm.

In post-retirement life, she has served as President of the Army Nurse Corps Association (2012-2014), was the first female Chaplain of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 10804, in North Myrtle Beach, treasurer on the Board of Directors for the North Myrtle Beach Humane Society for several years, and is on the Board of Directors for The Veterans Welcome Home and Resource Center, Little River, SC

Her remarks at our dinner meeting focused on the progression of women's service in the military since colonial days when women had to receive permission to serve as cooks, laundresses, and nurses in the Continental Army to present day when they are integrated into the force. She pointed out that women made significant advances in the period 1974-1990. The Army appointed its first female Brigadier General in 1970 and the first female four star was appointed in 2008.

Lieutenant Colonel (Ret) Johnston holds a BSN degree from Incarnate Word College, San Antonio, TX; a MN from Louisiana State University School of Nursing and a MAHRM from Pepperdine University, Fort Jackson, SC. She is the recipient of The Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, 2 Army Achievement Medals, 2 Meritorious Unit Commendations and 2 Superior Unit Awards and was awarded the "A" specialty designator for professional excellence. She was also awarded the Military Medical Merit medal.

April Meeting Recognizes Coastal Carolina ROTC



Soon to be commissioned cadets from the Coastal Carolina University ROTC detachment and their Professor of Military Science

Major Chad Hodkins were recognized and honored at the April dinner meeting at Pine Lakes Country Club. The senior cadets, who will all enter active duty upon commissioning, include John Altman, Jeremy Carroll, Joshua Collins, Michael Jones, Darryl Kelly, Joshua Salter, and DeJuan Singletary. The chapter provided rank insignia and certificates



to each of the cadets. In addition, author and historian Rod Gragg, director of the CresCom Bank Center for Military and Veterans Studies

at CCU was the evenings featured speaker. Mr.



Gragg offered a summary of lessons in leadership he had learned from his years of studying and interviewing veterans and military leaders. Using anecdotes from history, he listed five characteristics of real leaders, each of which still applies to leaders of today.

Next Chapter Meeting
**The Grand Strand Chapter honors
JROTC scholarship winners and JROTC
instructors**

Tuesday May 9, 2017
Cocktails: 5:30 pm

RSVP to Treasurer Tony Prince by phone at
703-304-7398 or email
Stephen.A.Prince@gmail.com

Legislative Affairs Update



Bills introduced to exempt veterans from the Presidential hiring freeze

Rep. Stephen Lynch (D-MA) has introduced HR 1001 to exempt veterans from the federal hiring freeze established by President Trump's executive order. Congressman Lynch believes that veterans have earned their hiring preference and the hiring freeze will disproportionately affect veterans. He noted that federal agencies hired approximately 6,000 more veterans in FY2015 than in the previous year. Of the total 71,000 veterans hired in 2015, 31,616 were disabled veterans.

VA hopes to replace the Choice Card by Fall

Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary David Shulkin hopes to submit to Congress a replacement for the controversial Choice Card by this fall. The Choice Card was established by Congress in 2014 after it was discovered that veterans were facing lengthy waiting periods for appointments or travel to VA health facilities. It was approved as a way of increasing health care for veterans. However, patients have reported encountering difficulty in navigating the rules and processes associated with accessing care outside the VA. Secretary Shulkin said that the Department is seeking to submit to Congress a proposal to reauthorize the program and make it more efficient and effective.

VA National Cemetery Pre-Enrollment

Veterans interested in pre-enrolling for VA National Cemetery Interment must complete VA Form 40-10007 with their DD Form 214 to the VA National Cemetery Scheduling Office. The form can be sent by toll free fax to 1-855-840-8299 or emailed to Eligibility.PreNeed@va.gov or by regular mail to National Cemetery Scheduling Office, P.O. Box 50543, St. Louis, MO 63151.

JROTC Updates

By Dean Brown CAPT, USN (Ret)

The Grand Strand MOAA Chapter remains active with the 18 area high school Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps units we support. The Board authorized a new JROTC support initiative for calendar year 2017. This new program allocates \$1,000 to fund grants up to \$200 to units to help them defray costs for leadership/citizenship summer program cadet tuitions, costs associated with hosting interschool competitive events, and educational trips. We have awarded 5 grants to different schools.

Our scholarship program application season is well underway and Hans Duerr soon will again lead a selection committee in picking the best recipients for our three \$2,000 scholarships for graduating senior cadets. Units are submitting cadet candidates for MOAA JROTC medal/certificates which recognize one outstanding cadet at each school at their end of year awards ceremony.

Volunteer MOAA presenters are signing up to represent MOAA at awards ceremonies held at area high schools throughout the month of May. If you are interested in attending one of these ceremonies on behalf of our chapter, contact me or Greg Youngman. The ceremonies extend through the month of May and are usually held in the late afternoon or early evening. It is heartening to attend these ceremonies along with representatives of other veteran and patriotic organizations and see in person the many outstanding cadets in our communities. We have been fortunate to obtain JROTC and ROTC color guards to open our evening dinner meetings. CCU Army ROTC cadets opened the April meeting. Georgetown HS Navy JROTC cadets will be with us in May

All the senior JROTC instructors and their spouses are invited to the May 9 meeting for recognition and to express our gratitude for their efforts. We will also award three of their students with scholarships. Our own LTC J. D. Davis who is the Horry County School District JROTC director will be our guest speaker giving us some insight into the role and importance of the JROTC program to both cadets and the community.

The Grand Strand Chapter of MOAA is proud of our association with the JROTC programs that exist in so many of our area high schools. We look forward to continuing our relationship with these units and developing even closer ties with each school.

Military Appreciation Days Has a Full Slate of Activities in May

The City of Myrtle Beach, PGBA, and the Myrtle Beach Chamber of Commerce have again joined forces to schedule an extensive month-long series of events to thank our dedicated military personnel and their families. The Grand Strand Chapter of MOAA is proud to participate in these events along with other veterans' groups.

Activities for this event kick off on **May 6** when Horry County will host a JROTC drill meet at TicketReturn.com Field, home of the Myrtle Beach Pelicans. In conjunction with the drill meet, the Blue Star mothers will host a military family members event in the stadium picnic area at noon. One week later, **May 13**, the Myrtle Beach Pelicans will honor military families at their 7:05 game. "Vocal Editions" will present a free concert on **May 20** at 6:00 p.m., at the Valor Memorial Garden in Market Common.

Events will increase in number in the week leading up to Memorial Day. A Military Appreciation Dinner Dance is scheduled for **May 25** in the ballroom of the Sheraton Myrtle Beach Convention Center Hotel. Tickets are \$30 per person. The MOAA annual golf tournament will tee off that day at 2 p.m. at the Heritage Golf Club.

During the Memorial Day weekend, MOAA will host a breakfast at the Sheraton for wounded warriors on Saturday, **May 27**. That event is followed by a Military Appreciation Days parade on Farrow Parkway in Market Common. MOAA will have floats and cars carrying our scholarship winners in that parade. The Grand Marshall for the parade is National Guard Specialist Alex Skarlatos who received the Army Soldiers Medal and the French Legion of Honor for his decisive and heroic action on a Paris bound train in 2015. The parade will be followed a family picnic at Valor Memorial Garden in Market Common.

Military Appreciation Days will continue on Memorial Day May 29 with a 9 a.m. Veterans March starting at 16th Avenue North and ending at the Pavilion site at 9th Avenue North. Military Appreciation Days will conclude at 11 a.m. with the Memorial Day Remembrance Ceremony on the Plaza at the Myrtle Beach Convention Center.

All events are open to the public. Plan on attending as many of them as possible to commemorate those who made the supreme sacrifice in service to our country and to honor those who serve today to defend our nation against our enemies.



(l to r) Karen and Gerry Terwilliger, Dave Townsend, and Bob Hawkins represent MOAA at the Myrtle Beach Chamber of Commerce annual dinner. Our

Chapter was nominated for the Best Non-Profit of 2016 Award.

Toys for Tots Gets Local Business Support

The Grand Strand Chapter's Roger Pilcher has been a local advocate and coordinator for the U.S. Marine



Corps Reserve's annual Toys For Tots program for many years. Never one to rest on his laurels, Roger recently visited

South State Bank to present certificates of appreciation for the firm's support of Toys for Tots and the MOAA golf tournament and obtained the bank's agreement to allow collection boxes to be placed in 11 of its branch offices. This generous support of the Toys for Tots program will certainly contribute to making 2017 even better than the successes it has experienced on the Grand Strand for years. Thank you, South State, and great job, Roger.



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.