



MOAA Award Winning Web Site
www.grandstrandmoaa.com

Grand Strand Chapter

Spring 2016

**MOAA Award Winning Newsletter
5 Star Chapter of Excellence**

Coastal Tide



LTG Vollrath provides updates on National Legislative Issues

National MOAA recently provided all Chapter leaders with a listing of the “Top 10 Legislative Goals for 2016”; and, this list has been shared with our Grand Strand Chapter members. Based on his recent experience as Co-Chairman of the Army Chief of Staff’s Retiree Council, Chapter Member, LTG Fred Vollrath, USA (retired), provided our March dinner meeting attendees with his insights related to 4 topics of primary interest: prevention of disproportional TRICARE fee increases; block erosion of compensation and commissary benefits; protection of military retirement/COLAs; and, ending disabled/survivor financial penalties. Additional information is available in the Chapter summary, and on the National MOAA web site (www.moaa.org).

CPT Katherine Jenerette, USA

The theme for the March meeting was Women in the Military. Our keynote speaker for the March dinner- CPT Katherine Jenerette - an Army Reservist currently on active duty - provided chapter members with an update on issues impacting on women in the military as well as the impact on national security .



Roger Pilcher, Past President, presents Chapter President Greg Youngman, with a certificate of outstanding support for the “Toys for Tots” Program.

MOAA Monthly Dinner

Tuesday, April 12, 2016. Pine Lakes Country Club, 1730-2000.

Guest Speaker: TBA
Topic: Leadership
Color Guard: Carolina Forest High School Navy JROTC



LTG Vollrath's presentation on MOAA National Legislative Issues



CPT Katherine Jenerette Speaks on Women in the Military

Toys for Tots

Our Grand Strand chapter continued its long tradition of collecting “Toys for Tots” again this year. Past President Pilcher has spearheaded the chapter’s collection effort for several years; and members have always been very generous. We received approximately 90 toys and a \$20 donation from a member who forgot to bring a toy. The Horry County Coordinator told Roger that we had the largest donation so far. We know that the children who receive these presents have a much merrier Christmas. Roger represented the Chapter and received a recognition award on behalf of the Chapter from the United States Marine Corps Reserve in January.



MOAA's Legislative Update

<http://www.moaa.org/take action>

From the President's Desk

As President of the Grand Strand Chapter of MOAA, I am often asked to comment upon the Chapter. My message is always the same. The MOAA Grand Strand Chapter is a leading Chapter in the State of South Carolina and nationally! The dedication of our Chapter members enables us to continuously support local veterans, veterans' organizations, and future officers along the Grand Strand.

The Grand Strand Chapter recently submitted its application for its 5th consecutive MOAA Levels of Excellence (LOE) Award! Each member of the Chapter should be proud of the programs and accomplishments that enable us to compete—much less win four consecutive LOE 5-star awards! We are what we are because of you—our members!

This year, the Grand Strand Chapter continues on the path of excellence and service to our Community. At our *March* meeting, we recognized the contributions of women in the modern military. In *April*, we will honor the four outstanding Coastal Carolina University ROTC cadets who will receive their commission and MOAA Gold Bars in the US Army! *May* welcomes Military Appreciation Days with its many planned community events throughout the month.

At the *May* Chapter meeting, we will recognize the three high school JROTC cadets who have won our 2016 Grand Strand Chapter scholarships and celebrate with their families. We also will recognize JROTC officers and their wives from the 18 local high schools along the Grand Strand whose JROTC cadets are eligible to compete for scholarships and who serve as our Honor Guards throughout the year. Also in May, the MOAA Grand Strand Chapter hosts its Third Annual Golf Fundraising Tournament on Thursday, May 26th. This year, the Tournament will be held at The Heritage Club in Pawleys Island under the leadership of John Short and our Golf Planning Committee. Please support our Chapter by supporting the Tournament in any way that you can!

Finally, in *June* the Grand Strand Chapter will recognize the many individuals and companies that supported our Chapter programs benefitting veterans and future officers over the past year.

On behalf of Grand Strand Chapter Executive Officers and the Board of Directors, *THANK YOU* to all Chapter members who contributed their time, expertise, and financial support to Chapter efforts this year!

The MOAA Grand Strand Chapter is ‘on track’ for another highly successful year! Our outreach efforts, partnerships, participation, membership, and accomplishments are at an all-time high. Your individual dedication enables our collective contributions to veterans, veterans' and community organizations, and future officers along the Grand Strand! *THANK YOU!*

President
Geg Youngman



VA Announces Additional Steps to Reduce Veteran Suicides

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced new steps being taken to reduce Veteran suicide. The steps follow a February 2 Summit, “[Preventing Veteran Suicide – A Call to Action](#),” that brought together stakeholders and thought leaders to discuss current research, approaches and best practices to address this important subject. “We know that every day, approximately 22 Veterans take their lives and that is too many,” said VA Under Secretary for Health, Dr. David Shulkin. “We take this issue seriously. While no one knows the subject of Veteran suicide better than VA, we also realize that caring for our Veterans is a shared responsibility. We all have an obligation to help Veterans suffering from the invisible wounds of military service that lead them to think suicide is their only option. We *must* and *will* do more, and this Summit, coupled with recent announcements about improvements to enhance and accelerate progress at the Veterans Crisis Line, shows that our work and commitment must continue.”

Upcoming Veterans Events

Bob Hawkins

The following veteran's events are scheduled in the Myrtle Beach and surrounding areas during March and April.

March 29th: NSDAR Wreath Laying in Honor of Vietnam Veterans and families. 11:00 a.m., NMB Veterans Plaza (150 Citizens Circle, Little River)

March 29th: VA Vet Center Commemoration of 50th Anniversary of Vietnam War/Welcome Home. 1:00 p.m., Vet Center (2024 Corporate Dr., MB)

April 8th: Merchant Marine Monument unveiling ceremony. 10:30 a.m., Warbird Park, Farrow Parkway, Market Common (MB)

April 17th: Fund-raiser/cookout to benefit Quilts of Valor, 12 noon, Veterans Café (3544 Northgate Dr., MB/near the back gate of the old Myrtle Beach AFB

Quilt of Valor presented to LTC Tom Middleton, USA (retired)

Bob Hawkins

LTC Tom Middleton, USA (retired), was nominated by Chapter Secretary Jerry Terwilliger, and approved by the Chapter's Board of Directors, to be recommended to the Quilts of Valor Foundation for award of a Quilt of Valor. Following the Foundation's approval, their local Longarm Coordinators, Joan and Jim Wobbleton, presented Tom with an individually hand-crafted Quilt of Valor, at the February Chapter dinner meeting, at Pine Lakes Country



Club. Presentation of a Quilt symbolizes the gratitude of the community, state and country, for the Veterans' exceptional service and sacrifice. It is intended to provide an extra measure of comfort and tribute. We are honored to have Tom as a member of the Grand Strand Chapter; and, we, too, pay tribute to Tom and his family for their many contributions to the success of our 5-star Chapter.

Chapter Food and Clothing Drive

In addition to spearheading the Chapter food drive (November, December, January and February), Chaplain and Mrs. Hill volunteered to coordinate a coat and sweatshirt drive (February and March); they will ensure donated items are delivered to area Salvation Army offices and food banks for further distribution to Veterans (and others) who need them during the winter. With the recent flooding (Fall/Winter of 2015) and colder temperatures this winter, several area Veterans (and others) are in need of warmer clothing and more food.



Grand Strand Chapter Membership

Bob Hawkins

2015 was another outstanding year !! We added a total of 27 new members. After adjusting for unavoidable losses at year end, we had 152 chapter members on December 31st. We also attained our goal of 5 new Life members of National. Thanks to Greg Youngman, Tony Prince, Jerry Terwilliger, Rufus Manning, and Tom Middleton, we will be receiving a \$200 incentive payment from National soon. Our 2016 membership kick-off drive on January 12th, at the luncheon at Kimbel's restaurant, Wachesaw Plantation, was both enjoyable and productive. MG (retired) James Livingston, SC Medal of Honor recipient, was our special keynote speaker at the luncheon; and seven (7) new members have joined our 5-star Chapter, thus far in 2016.

New 2016 Members (since last newsletter):

WELCOME !!!

Claude Davis, III, COL (retired), US Army

Richard Koethe, COL (retired), US Army

Paul Turcotte, COL (retired), US Army

Shawn Studley, MAJ (retired), US Marine Corps

Scott Gobbi, CPT (former), US Air Force

Norman Ward, CPT (retired), US Army

Kirby Winstead, CPT, SC State Guard

Golf Tournament Update

John Short

The 3rd Annual Grand Strand MOAA Golf Tournament will be Thursday, May 26th, at the Heritage Golf Course in Pawleys Island. The tournament is open to all (men and women) with no handicap needed. There are prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places, closest to the pin, and longest drive. There are hole-in-one prizes for all Par 3s, compliments of Tidelands Ford. We have an extensive number of silent-auction items and raffle prizes. The net proceeds from the tournament go towards \$2,000 scholarships for local JROTC high school seniors -- helping defray their future college expenses. In recent years we have gone from three \$1,000 scholarships to four \$2,000 scholarships. Entry fee is \$80 per individual or \$300 per team with a \$5 discount for veterans. MOAA members can also help by sponsoring a hole or cart for \$100 or \$25, respectively. We hope to realize our goal of \$10,000 profit for the tournament.

Change of key Grand Strand Chapter committee/program volunteers

We express our profound appreciation to past chapter leaders/contributors. Bill Walsh and Peggy DeVivo are stepping down as Newsletter Editor and Webmaster for the past four years; and Clay Barker, our Historian, has relocated. Bill became the first editor of the "Coastal Tide" newsletter in 2012 after recommending that we establish a more comprehensive and timely communication outlet. Under his leadership and innovativeness, it has become one of our outstanding trademarks, garnering 1st runner-up for the MOAA COL Marvin J Harris Communication Award in 2013 & 14. Replacing Bill will be Richard (Rick) Koethe, a retired Colonel (USA), who also recently retired from his second career, as Human Resource Director for the F35 Joint Strike Fighter Program. Rick has had previous experience publishing a competitive and informative newsletter. Rick is an excellent replacement and no doubt will make a substantial contribution to the Chapter and our efforts to more effectively communicate with our membership. Peggy as our first Chapter webmaster, also recognized the need to modernize the Chapter's communications tools and processes. With her many talents and initiatives, she volunteered to design the Chapter's first website, while also serving as secretary and several other Chapter membership responsibilities. Under her management, our website was also awarded a runner-up COL Marvin J. Harris Communications Award in 2013. She did additional redesigns and further enhanced our site this year. Replacing Peggy will be Tom Minton, LCDR, USN (retired). Tom has been involved with the Chapter for the past few years, working with the CCU ROTC program on campus, while pursuing his masters in Journalism. Tom's expertise and enthusiasm will be appreciated as we continue to build on Peggy's legacy. In addition, our Chapter Historian, CW3 Clay Barker, USA (retired), has relocated to Anderson, SC, after serving several years as the Chapter's Historian. Replacing him will be CAPT Bill Warner, USN (retired), who brings many years of legal and teaching experience to the Chapter, along with enthusiasm for further defining and preserving the Chapter's proud history.



2016 Military Appreciation Days Bob Hawkins

2016 promises to be the biggest and best Military Appreciation Days since the tribute month was initiated in Myrtle Beach in 2008. Main events (to include the parade, displays, exhibits, and family picnic) will take place on the Market Common this year (rather than downtown Myrtle beach, at the old Pavilion site); and, those main events will be on May 28th (Memorial Day weekend again), this year.

Noah Galloway, a career soldier, until he experienced a life-changing IED attack in Iraq, will be the 2016 Grand Marshall for the Military Appreciation Days parade.

Military Appreciation Days **scheduled events:**

- Letters from Home musical – May 1
- Horry County JROTC Drill competition – May 7
- Military Appreciation Days Dinner Dance – May 14
- Military Family information and Exhibits – May 15
- Myrtle Beach Pelicans Baseball Game – May 21
- MOAA Grand Strand Chapter Golf Tournament – May 26
- Military Appreciation Days Parade – May 28
- Family Picnic, Exhibits, Music, Noah Galloway and more – May 28
- Veterans March (on Ocean Blvd.) – May 30
- Memorial Day Remembrance Ceremony – May 30
- Memorial Day tribute film – May 30

Detailed information is available on the web site: www.militaryappreciationdays.com .

There will be a need for some Chapter volunteers again this year; and more information will be provided at the April dinner meeting, and in separate email messages to Chapter members.

Installation of 2016 Chapter Officers

Bob Hawkins

In addition to presenting the Chapter with its 4th 5-star Levels of Excellence streamer (for the Chapter flag), recently elected South Carolina Council of Chapters President, COL David Lobb, USA (retired), presided over the installation of the Grand Strand Chapter's 2016 elected officers. Officers taking the oath included Greg Youngman, President; Tony Prince, 1st Vice President; Bob Hawkins, 2nd Vice President; and, Jerry Terwilliger, Secretary. These elected officers, and the Chapter's appointed Board members are dedicated to maintaining the Chapter's past legacy of excellence, while expanding and enhancing programs and services during the coming year. With the continued proactive, impassioned involvement of current and new Chapter members, their lofty goals will be met (and potentially exceeded).



Board of Directors

President: Greg Youngman,
gyoungman@sc.rr.com

1st Vice President & Program Chairman: Tony Prince,
stephen.a.prince@gmail.com
703-304-7398

2nd Vice President & Membership Chairman: Bob Hawkins,
rjhawkins21@sc.rr.com

Treasurer: Vacant

Secretary: Jerry Terwilliger,
gerald.terwilliger@gmail.com

Chaplain: Greg Hill,
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T.O.P.S.: Bill Stewart,
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ROTC/JROTC: Dean Brown
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Fund Raising: Gerry Sherwin
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Legislative Affairs: Jimmy Jacobs,
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Historian: Bill Warner
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Chair/Scholarship Committee:
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Personal Affairs/Out Reach:
Rufus Manning, Sr.
2saltlife4me@gmail.com

Editorial Policy: "The *Coastal Tide* Newsletter is published by the Grand Strand Chapter, which is an affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA). MOAA and its affiliated chapters and councils are nonpartisan."

The advertisements that appear in this publication/website do not reflect an endorsement by MOAA affiliates.

Chaplain's Corner

Chaplain Greg Hill

Once you read this article we will be back on Daylight Saving Time (did you remember to Spring forward?), Spring will have officially arrived, and Easter Day will have been celebrated by most Christians around the world. Members of the Jewish faith will have celebrated Purim. April 23-30 will be Pesach (Passover).

What is the common theme running through all of these? Change! New life! A new beginning! In our front yard daffodils have bloomed. The blue birds are back in the bird houses. The azaleas are blooming. The air is getting warmer. Graduation plans are taking place as are June weddings! As we watch the debates take place, we wonder about our future, do we not? Yet, in the midst of all that noise, American Legion Posts are interviewing rising senior boys and girls for Boys and Girls State attendance this summer. Having participated on an interviewing team, I can tell you that the future is bright! The boys I interviewed were positive about our country, well informed, academically strong, leaders in their junior class, from various economic backgrounds and family backgrounds, and want to participate in our democracy. We should be proud! We should feel good about our future. Army Captain Kathrine Jenerette spoke at our March dinner meeting. One thing I took from the meeting was that our military is changing. Our military members are dedicated to the mission and I see a bright future ahead with officers like her in the ranks. I want to challenge each of us to look into our futures with confidence and hope. Take the time to be grateful. Take the time to say "thank you" to those who serve you each and every day. There are so many!

THE ULTIMATE DRIVING MACHINE

Hans Duerr

During my three tours in Germany I came to appreciate the German roads and cars. In fact, I consider myself "Autobahn bred," and loved to suck up those legendary highways under the hood of a Porsche or BMW. I have owned "the ultimate driving machine" ever since. Recently, while waiting in the BMW dealer service lounge, a lady sat down beside me. She informed me that she had never owned a BMW before, but had recently bought a new 70i, in for the first service. Then she asked me: "What does it (BMW) stand for, anyway?" Without hesitation I replied: "BMW stands for Bavarian Manure Wagon." "Why" she said in her Southern drawl, "Ah never knew that!" Right about then I thought to myself: "Lady, you might be able to afford your car, but you certainly don't deserve it."

JROTC Updates

Dean Brown

Our Grand Strand MOAA Chapter has continued an initiative begun last year to strengthen our ties to the 18 area High School Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps we support. Our scholarship program is attracting more applicants from a wider variety of units this year and Hans Duer soon will again lead the selection committee in picking the best recipients. Units are already submitting cadet names to Ross Word who coordinates the chapter efforts to provide MOAA JROTC medal/certificates to recognize one outstanding cadet at each school at their end of year awards ceremony. Please bring your personal calendar to the April and May dinner meetings so you are prepared to sign up for the presentation dates with Ross. Most units should have provided the date of their ceremony by then. 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 successful in obtaining the services of JROTC unit color guards to open our evening dinner meetings each month except when a traffic jam resulting from a late afternoon accident on Route 17 prevented the unit from arriving and one other month where several members of the unit color guard went home ill during the day. (We are grateful also for the efforts of Jerry Terwilliger for arranging SC State Guard color guard support for our luncheon monthly meetings which students are unable to attend during the school day.)

Greg Youngman requested we make a concerted effort to personally visit each of the JROTC units we support from Georgetown County in the south, through Horry County, Williamsburg County, and all the way up through Marion and northwest to Marlboro County. He and I have been quite successful in scheduling a visit to almost all of the schools over the last seven weeks and hope to complete this "cross country" driving program shortly! At these sessions with the Senior Instructor at each unit, we have discussed the above program as well as a proposed college visit/field day with cadets from all the high school units next fall to the CCU Army ROTC campus and encouraging the JROTC senior instructors to join our chapter (several have done so!). We are also promoting what will be our second JROTC instructor recognition night this May when we invite all the senior instructors and their spouses to attend our dinner meeting as guests to receive our thanks for their efforts and witness the awarding of our three scholarships. We are also encouraging them to solicit their friends to participate in our golf tournament (the instructors themselves will regrettably still be in school on 26 May).

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 and we look forward to continuing our relationship with these units and developing even closer ties with each school.

2015 Levels of Excellence Award

Bob Hawkins

Recently elected South Carolina Council of Chapters President, COL David Lobb, USA (retired), attended the February dinner meeting; and, we were honored to have him present our Grand Strand Chapter with the National MOAA 5-star Levels of Excellence (LOE) streamer for our Chapter flag. Each year, approximately 200 competitive councils and chapters request to be recognized for one of two National MOAA Levels of Excellence awards. On the National web site, it is stated: "The very, very best councils or chapters receive a five-star award; and above-average councils or chapters receive a four-star award." For the 4th consecutive year, our Grand Strand Chapter earned the 5-star LOE recognition; and, our Chapter was the only one in South Carolina to achieve this coveted recognition in 2015. All members who contributed to this accomplishment can be rightly proud of their Chapter membership and involvement.



"The Alliance" Team Meeting

Rufus Manning

The revitalization of the Veteran Organizations Gathered in a United Effort (VOGUE) forum is now called "The Alliance." Its purpose is to act as an umbrella forum to help improve communications amongst the many and varied veteran and non-veteran support organizations in the greater Myrtle Beach (MB) area. Two key initial objects have been identified as a starting point:

1. Create an updated, electronic "Resource Guide" that all local organizations can use as a quick reference to find those local agencies/organizations that provide the kind of support needed within our community for homeless and near homeless citizens (Trello: electronic App). Initial focus is on the veteran community, but we look to expand it to include non-veteran citizens as well. (Key team members include, SC Thrive, Little River Medical Center, Operation Welcome Home Center, MOAA Grand Strand Chapter, and Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association (CVMA)).
2. Evaluate and execute a Florence, SC, First-Friday Event, similar to the model sponsored by Lighthouse Ministries of Florence. Consider holding a twice a year event (Mini-Stand Down), not in competition with the Annual MB Stand Down here in the Grand Strand area, but in addition to. The first Spring event is tentatively planned for May 6, 2016, in the Little River, NMB section of the Grand Strand. A late Fall event is being considered for South MB, (Murrels Inlet/Pawleys Island/Georgetown) area. Next Alliance team meeting is set for Friday, March 18, 2016. More info to be released via monthly MOAA Board of Directors meetings, and chapter dinners.

Myrtle Beach Stand Down 2016:

Rufus Manning

"MARK YOUR CALENDARS".... The Myrtle Beach Stand Down 2016 is tentatively set for Friday, September 23, 2016. Location will again be at the Myrtle Beach Army Reserve Center in Market Common. We are planning to have the initial "all hands," vendor support team meeting on Thurs, April 21, 2016. A "Save the date" announcement will be shared via email prior to and publicly at our April 2016 MOAA Chapter meeting. Our committee is reviewing ways to improve management and use of those who volunteer and improve vendor access and floor plan layout. We look forward to continued support from our Chapter, and its members, by way of volunteering of time, and financial support.

Grand Strand MOAA Chapter Presents Certificate of Merit

Bob Hawkins

Mr. D.G. Schumacher, Senior Editorial Writer, Editorial Board, *The Sun News* (Myrtle Beach), was presented with a Grand Strand MOAA Chapter Certificate of Merit, at the February dinner meeting. Mr. Schumacher, a Navy Veteran, has written several positive articles in support of several coastal community Veterans organizations, resulting in notably enhanced support for area service members, veterans and family members. In particular, he has proactively supported our Grand Strand MOAA Chapter for the past 5 years (writing at least 4 very positive editorials, highlighting the achievements of our Grand editorials have contributed significantly to our our "expanded presence" in the Myrtle Beach and surrounding communities.



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LCDR Billy Hall Updates Members on India, Iraq and Afghanistan

Bob Hawkins



LCDR Billy Hall, Senior Naval Science Instructor, Navy JROTC, Myrtle Beach High School, was the Chapter's special guest speaker in February. He provided extensive insights regarding what he learned about the military and historic cultures of India, Iraq and Afghanistan, while serving in key State Department positions, in recent years. His experiences and perceptions enhanced our understanding of the current complex situations that compound our diplomatic missions and military operations in these countries.

Chamber of Commerce activities and recognition

Jerry Terwilliger

As you are probably aware, the Grand Strand MOAA Chapter is a member of the Myrtle Beach Chamber of Commerce; and, our members can go online to the Chamber website:

<http://www.myrtlebeachareachamber.com/>, and register for any of the Chamber events. In particular, members should watch for the upcoming night at the TicketReturn.com (Pelican baseball field). Date is pending; we plan to use that event as a social night for our chapter.

In addition, we are proud to announce that the Grand Strand MOAA Chapter is one of three finalists for the Myrtle Beach Area Chamber of Commerce community service annual award. Winners will be announced at the annual dinner on April 26th.

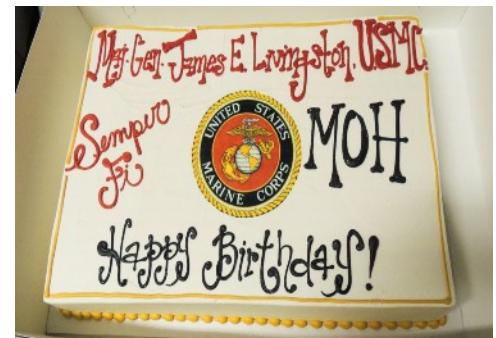
January 2016 Luncheon

Tony Prince

Our chapter was honored to host Congressional Medal of Honor recipient Major General James E. Livingston, USMC (ret) at our January luncheon at Kimbel's Restaurant in the beautiful Wachesaw Plantation. General Livingston served as our luncheon keynote speaker and discussed the current fundraising campaign for the National Medal of Honor Museum, a project with which Major General Livingston is deeply involved. General Livingston entertained our membership with a lively presentation which included visual representations of the future Medal of Honor Museum which will be located at Patriots Point in Mount Pleasant, SC. He also showed a brief film highlighting activities some current Medal of Honor recipients are engaged in. Our chapter has subsequently agreed to make a donation to the National Medal of Honor Museum Fundraising Campaign. The Chapter membership also joined in celebrating MG Livingston's birthday.



MG (Ret) Livingston with MOAA
Grand Strand Chapter Pres.
Greg Youngman



Legislative Affairs and Updates

Jimmy Jacobs

Note the Associated Post story below from Tuesday, March 15th. This is great news for our efforts towards gaining SC Exemption of Military Retirement Pay from state taxation. This amended legislation still needs to move through the full finance committee, then the full State Senate, then to House/Senate Reconciliation Committee, and then to the Governor for signature.

"COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) - South Carolina lawmakers have approved legislation to sharply increase state income tax exemptions for military retirees. A Senate Finance subcommittee sent to the full panel Tuesday legislation to increase a current tax exemption on retirement income for veterans 64 and under from \$3,000 to \$15,000 every year.

The panel also approved increasing tax exemptions for veterans over 65 from \$15,000 to \$30,000 annually. The exemptions would take effect in the current tax year.

The panel amended legislation that had called for a three-year, phased-in plan to exempt all income taxes for retirees who had served 20 years.

William Bethea, chairman of the state's Military Base Task Force, said he was elated. Bethea has worked for three years to increase veterans' tax exemptions."

What can you do to help?

- As you have meetings/discussions with local legislators and staff, city officials and veterans oriented organizations, remind them that the military presence in South Carolina currently has an economic impact of \$19.3 Billion.
- To attract military retirees, South Carolina must compete with other desirable retirement destinations. South Carolina is currently not competitive with many of our neighbors and other attractive retirement destinations....26 states currently do not tax military pensions.
- Military retirees who have been good servicemembers for 20+ years will make good citizens in our communities.
- Practically all military retirees (especially those with less than 30 years) and many spouses and family members will pursue second careers and create significant other taxable income as well as create other positive economic impact.
- To a large extent the most significant aspect of adopting this legislation is psychological---**the outstretched hand of respect and gratitude on the part of the people of South Carolina.**

Upcoming Events

Tony Prince

Tuesday, May 10, 2016. Monthly Dinner. Pine Lakes Country Club, 1730 – 2000.

Guest Speaker: TBA

Topic: Leadership

Color Guard: Georgetown High School Navy JROTC

Thursday, May 26, 2016. Annual MOAA Golf Tournament. Heritage Golf Club, Pawleys Island, SC. Shotgun start -1400.

Chapter Application

ONE POWERFUL VOICE



Grand Strand Chapter MOAA: Membership Application Renewal

Change of address Check one.

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 Auxiliary 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 _____



MOAA MISSION/Purpose:

Foster fraternal relations (and mutual support) 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;

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);

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.



Danny Isaac

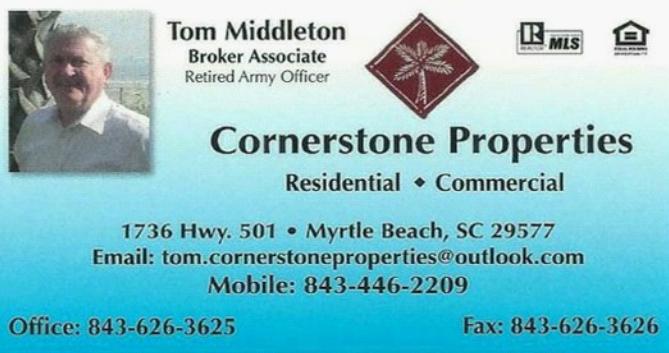
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