

The Coastal Tide

www.grandstrandmoaa.org

MAR APR 2021



Grand Strand Chapter

Military Officers Association of America

President's Letter

As more people get vaccinated it is wonderful to see some familiar faces coming to our monthly dinners and luncheons again. Spring is the season we congratulate and award graduating ROTC and Junior ROTC cadets as well as thank key individuals and organizations who have helped us help others over the past year. And what a year it's been!

Despite the pandemic we were able to support several hundred veterans and their families with over \$25,000 of urgent assistance. We also have a "bumper crop" of 13 ROTC cadets graduating this spring and summer from the Army ROTC unit at Coastal Carolina University. And with your help we were able to provide four deserving Junior ROTC cadets with \$2,000 scholarships and a CCU ROTC cadet with a \$2,000 Colonel Robert T. Hawkins Leadership award.

The "good news" is that grant agencies more than tripled their support of our chapter last year due to the severe impact of the pandemic on area veterans and families. These funds went to help people impacted by the pandemic with emergency food, clothing, housing, transportation, utilities and vital services. As the pandemic subsides we are already seeing grant agencies pull back from their accelerated levels of funding, which is now challenging us to find new sources of money. What would life be without a few difficult challenges! But the show must go on and the need for our assistance is still very high.

Mark your calendars for our annual Golf Tournament scheduled this year on September 11th at Wild Wing Golf Club in Conway. This is the 20th anniversary of the attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon. In the meantime, stay safe and hope to see you all again soon.



James R. Albert, LtCol, USAF (retired)

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Never Stop Serving

Mark Your Calendar

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

- Jan 1 New Years Day
- Jan 12 Chapter Dinner Meeting, Swear in new Officers;
Speaker: Pres. Jim Albert, State of the Chapter
- Jan 18 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (observed)
- Jan 20 Presidential Inauguration
- Feb 9 Chapter Dinner Meeting, Speaker: Amy Brauner, American Red Cross
- Feb 14 Valentines Day
- Feb 15 President's Day
- Feb 16 Mardi Gras
- Feb 17 Ash Wednesday
- Feb 27 Major League Baseball Spring training begins
- Mar 9 Chapter Luncheon Meeting, Speaker: Bambi Bullard, Women in Military History
- Mar 17 St. Patrick's Day
- Apr 1 MLB Season scheduled to start
- Apr 13 Chapter Dinner Meeting, CCU Army ROTC Cadets Commissioning & Award Speaker: Buster Hatcher, Chief Waccamaw Tribe
- Apr 15 Tax Day
- May 5 Cinco de Mayo**
- May 9 Mother's Day**
- May 11 Chapter Dinner Meeting, Junior ROTC Scholarships At Pine Lakes CC**
- May 31 Memorial Day**
- Jun 8 Chapter Lunch Meeting, Kimbel's @ Wachesaw Plantation, Murrells Inlet**



5-star Harris Communications Award Winner

Chaplain's Corner

Realign

May 9 is Mother's Day this year. To all you mothers and those who filled that role for someone who was not your child, "Happy Mother's Day"! You deserve all the love and appreciation we can give.

During our journey together through COVID-19, and other turbulent events of the past two years, I've often thought that I would have been a better person if my mother was still around to encourage me to *realign* my thoughts, priorities and behavior. Did your mom or a mother figure in your life ever do that for you? I hope so. That's one way our moms honored us.

I pray that as individuals, families, communities and a nation, that we will be mindful of the mind of God and realign ourselves to God's will for our journey together. Thank you moms for showing us the way, and giving us the will to realign ourselves.



Contact information: Chaplain Greg Hill,
843.231.4507 or ghill54808@aol.com.



Financial Report by Tony Prince

March was a very active month as we awarded \$350.00 grants to each of our supported JROTC units for a total of \$5950.00.

Our chapter also donated \$400.00 to Freedom Fidos, a Georgia based organization that trains service dogs for veterans. A local veteran has been identified to receive a trained dog from Freedom Fidos.

Our chapter's Federal Returns were completed and filed and we renewed our 501(c)3 charitable status with the South Carolina Secretary of State who is responsible for registering and monitoring all charitable organizations in the state of South Carolina.

Thanks goes to Gassler and Associates, LLC who prepares and submits all required federal and state financial reports.

Our financial balances for the end of March 2021 are as follows:

Operating Account Balance	\$ 9,230.58
Grants Accounts Balance	\$ 4,594.91
Reserve Account Balance	\$15,055.10

April Dinner Program



GS MOAA hosted a dinner meeting at Pine Lakes Country Club in Myrtle Beach on April 13, 2021 to celebrate the upcoming commissioning of 13 Coastal Carolina University Army ROTC cadets who will become Army Second Lieutenants in May and August.

Over 60 members and guests attended to congratulate these impressive future leaders. Guest speaker was Chief Harold

“Buster” Hatcher, retired Army Chief Warrant Officer, Purple Heart recipient, 82nd Airborne and Vietnam War veteran and Chief of the Waccamaw Indian Tribe out of Aynor, SC. Chief Hatcher spoke about the importance of integrity and leadership to be able to direct others into battle.

In addition, GS MOAA presented one senior graduating cadet with a \$2,000 Colonel Robert T. Hawkins Leadership Award and a junior cadet with a Junior Leadership Certificate. This year’s graduating class is one of the largest in recent years.

Follow CCU ROTC on Facebook here;
[@ccuarmyrotc](https://www.facebook.com/ccuarmyrotc)

March Member Luncheon



President Albert thanks Bambi Bullard with a Chapter coin after she shared her amazing experience as a Marine Corps Gunnery Sergeant, Drill Instructor, and inaugural member of the [Paintball Hall of Fame](#) for

our March luncheon at Drunken Jack’s Inlet Affairs. Over 40 members attended to hear Bambi during this Women’s History Month luncheon and we learned Women Veterans still face challenges in their care from the VA.



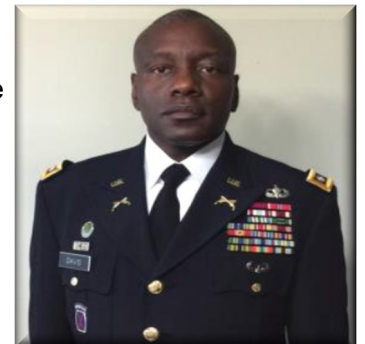
Chapter President Jim Albert and Past-President Greg Youngman present graduating CCU Army ROTC cadets with their 2LT Gold Bars

Upcoming May Program

On **May 11, 2021**, GS MOAA will present four graduating high school seniors in Junior ROTC with \$2,000 scholarships at a dinner at Pine Lakes Country Club in Myrtle Beach. In addition, the Chapter will recognize the Instructors who run the 17 high school JROTC programs across our region for their outstanding effort and leadership.

Guest speaker for this event will be LTC (retired) James “JD” Davis the Director of Army Instruction (JROTC) for Horry County Schools.

[Click here](#) or go to the following link to register for this can’t-miss event!!
<https://grandstrandmoaa.org/Upcoming-Events>



Upcoming June Program

GS MOAA will host a luncheon on **June 8, 2021** at Kimbels Restaurant on the scenic banks of the Waccamaw River at Wachesaw Plantation in Murrells Inlet, SC to thank key individuals and organizations who helped our Chapter meet the urgent needs of the veteran community across the Grand Strand during one of the most difficult years in our lifetime. Organizations we will recognize include: Veterans Administration (VA), Myrtle Beach Vets Center, Eastern Carolina Housing Organization (ECHO), Low Country Veterans Group, and more.



Chapter President, Jim Albert, presents Cadet Stacey Tirrell Shaw II of Sumter, SC with the \$2,000 Colonel Robert T. Hawkins Leadership Award

Chapter President, Jim Albert, presents Cadet Neive Skerry of North Kingstown, RI with the Junior Leadership Award



Membership Updates

Welcome!

LTC Thomas “Tom” German, USA (retired). Lives in Pawleys Island with wife Karen. Retired US Army, LTC, Signal Corps. Retired in 1993 and spent the next 20 years working in Intel Community in Northern Virginia. Graduated from University of Dayton ROTC Program in 1971 and have an advanced degree from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, where he taught ROTC.

- GC MOAA has 135 members.
- Actively recruiting additional members.
- All active members play a role in recruiting for your MOAA.
- Stay tuned for how you can help!

SC Council of MOAA Chapters Update

[Click here](#) to see what MOAA is doing at the National Level

The ten MOAA Chapters that comprise the South Carolina Council of MOAA Chapters have undertaken several new legislative initiatives to promote issues of significance to veterans and their families. The top three federal legislative initiatives supported by SC MOAA are:

Parity for Tricare Young Adults: to ensure military families have the same health care protections for their young adult children as civilians covered by Obamacare or commercial plans. For example, Tricare stops covering adult children of veterans at age 23 instead of age 26 under Obamacare. After age 23, military families are required to pay a substantial monthly premium to keep their adult children covered. Tricare affordability and accessibility should be on par with other plans.

Comprehensive Toxic Exposure Reform: currently veterans must go through different processes to seek compensation for toxic exposure during their service. Each type of exposure has a different process, forms, approval rules, contacts, etc. This bill seeks to combine all exposure cases to one office and one process.

Basic Needs Allowance (BNA): this perennial legislation would provide an extra \$400 per month food allowance to junior enlisted families that live at or below 130% of the U.S. poverty line.

GS MOAA Memorial Maintenance Volunteers



Request volunteers to help maintain our Chapter memorial monument at Warbird Park in Myrtle Beach, SC.

Volunteers will be assigned one month during the year and will be expected to wash/wipe the monument once or twice during that month, as well as clear any debris from around the monument.

The Chapter can provide detergent to volunteers. This should only take a half hour twice a month. If you can volunteer to take a month, please let President Albert know via email at james.r.albert@att.net.
Thank you.

GS MOAA Golf Tournament

This year's Grand Strand MOAA JROTC Scholarship Fundraiser Golf Tournament will be held on September 11, 2021 at Wild Wing Plantation Golf Club off Route 501 near Coastal Carolina University in Conway, SC. The tournament will also commemorate the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks on the country.

As in prior years, the cost for this year's tournament will be \$90 per golfer or \$350 per foursome team. Plus, we are offering a \$5 discount for every veteran player.

A flyer (front and back page) with more information is provided later in this newsletter. As this is a fundraiser for our scholarship fund, we are looking for hole sponsors, major sponsors and auction item sponsors. Please consider being one of our sponsors. It really helps a group of future leader high school cadets go on to college.

Community Outreach Update

- GS MOAA received \$3750 in two grants from MOAA for 2021 (\$2500 for veteran outreach and \$1250 for COVID relief)
- **Computer labs update.** *ECHO lab is up and running.* Veterans prepare resumes, conduct job searches and attend on-line HGTC classes. Working with Cmdr Rutledge, LCVG, to find a suitable location where Georgetown and surrounding area veterans can use the center. Previous location was at Georgetown High School, but veterans could not utilize due to COVID. Working to have center up and running by 15 June.
 - The Waccamaw Tribe location in Aynor is awaiting completion by Tribe to complete renovations on empty trailer for adding HVAC, plumbing and electricity. Once completed we will install IT equipment for veterans and other Native Americans to use. ECD TBD.
 - Also working with the Veterans Welcome Home Center in Little River to establish a Veteran Computer center similar to ECHO.
- Working with VA for to plan for upcoming Stand Downs (SDs) scheduled for MB and Aynor (Waccamaw Tribe) with expected Sept and October dates (TBD). GS MOAA reps will conduct inventory of our equipment and VA equipment for distribution to vets at the SDs and establish priorities for equipment to be procured or ordered.
- Outreach team to work with Georgetown JROTC cadets entering their senior year at the start of the 2021-2022 school year providing alternatives to those not attending a 4 year college. Will begin work with Myrtle Beach JROTC officials to provide graduating cadets with the GS MOAA Veteran Training and Employment program for those cadets graduating who are not attending a 4 -year college.

State and VA COVID-19 Vaccine Guidance Veterans Administration COVID Vaccination Guidance

All South Carolinians aged 16 and up are eligible for COVID-19 vaccines. Make an appointment by visiting scdhec.gov/vaxlocator. If you need help, call [1-866-365-8110](tel:1-866-365-8110).

**ALL SOUTH CAROLINIANS
16+ ARE ELIGIBLE**

THE COVID-19 **VACCINE**



Military Officers Association of America
Grand Strand Chapter

8th Annual Golf Tournament



Saturday, Sept. 11, 2021

WILD WING GOLF CLUB - CONWAY, SC

(with 20th Anniversary Ceremony of 9/11)

Registration & Breakfast: 8 – 9:15AM

Shotgun Start @ 9:30AM

Lunch & Auction to follow golf

PROCEEDS - JROTC/ROTC Scholarships & Awards
- Homeless Veteran Needs
SUPPORT: - At-Risk Veteran Families

\$90/person
\$350/Team (foursome)
\$5 Discount for Each Vet

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

Contact: Jim Offutt: email: moaagolf@yahoo.com

call/text: (703) 627-8136

More information at: <https://grandstrandmoaa.org>

PLAYER REGISTRATION – Deadline Sept 1, 2021

\$90 per person, \$350 per team, \$5 discount for vets. To sign up, please complete this form and submit with a check payable to "Grand Strand MOAA".

Questions: call/text Jim Offutt at (703) 627-8136 or email moagolf@yahoo.com

Team Capt _____ Phone _____ Email _____ PD _____

Player #2 _____ Phone _____ Email _____ PD _____

Player #3 _____ Phone _____ Email _____ PD _____

Player #4 _____ Phone _____ Email _____ PD _____

Mail to: MOAA, c/o Jim Offutt, 4803 Bucks Bluff Dr., North Myrtle Beach, SC 29582

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

(check all that apply)

501(c)(3) Receipt Available Upon Request

CORPORATE SPONSOR: \$1,000+

- One Team Foursome
- Prominent recognition in Tournament Brochure and on Chapter website
- Full Color Name/Logo banner at club entrance & cart sign

PLATINUM SPONSOR: \$600

- Three Player Entry Fees
- Prominent recognition in Tournament Brochure and on Chapter website
- Full Color Name/Logo 2'x3' sign displayed at Registration & cart sign

GOLD SPONSOR: \$400

- Two Player Entry Fees
- Recognition in Tournament Brochure and on Chapter website
- Full Color Name/Logo 2'x3' sign displayed at Registration

HOLE SPONSOR: \$100 (EACH ADDITIONAL SIGN: \$75)

- Customized 18" x 24" Sign
- Recognition in Tournament Brochure

AUCTION SPONSOR: Donation (cash, gift card and/or item of value)

- Raffle Prizes, Auction Items, Checks, Cash, Gift Cards, etc.
- Major donations will be prominently recognized in Tournament Brochure

COMPANY _____ CONTACT _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

DONATION _____

Mail to: MOAA, c/o Jim Offutt, 4803 Bucks Bluff Dr., North Myrtle Beach, SC 29582

or contact: _____



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 _ Other

My signature below verifies that the above information may be shared in a Members-Only Directory & 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 pro-active 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.