

The Coastal Tide

www.grandstrandmoaa.org

December 2022

Grand Strand Chapter Military Officers Association of America

President's Letter

It has been an eventful year. As we look back on 2022, we have accomplished so much and you all should take great credit for the outstanding contributions our Grand Strand Chapter made to the Lowcountry. From our support to the Coastal Carolina University ROTC program and the 17 area High School JROTC programs to our numerous Veteran Standdowns across three counties, we should be proud.

We have an outstanding chapter filled with dedicated, generous, and compassionate men and women who give of your time, talents, and resources to make the Grand Strand a better place for those in need.

As we look to 2023, let's try to forget the COVID filled months of dread and anxiety and prepare for a new year filled with hope, caring, and laughter.

We have many opportunities to continue our good works and I look forward to being there with you as we charge into a new year.

Leslie and I wish you a very Happy New Year!

Thanks for all you do.

"Never Stop Serving"

Tony



NEVER STOP SERVING!



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Mark Your Calendar

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

Jan 5—Board of Directors Meeting at 9:30am. Veterans Cafe

Jan 10—Chapter Dinner Meeting at Pine Lakes CC. Guest Speaker from National MOAA CAPT Frank J. Michael, USN. Also Maj Gen Mike Akey, USAF, Ret., SC MOAA Council President, will induct new Officers.

Jan 16—Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday

Feb 2—Groundhog Day

Feb 7—Chapter Lunch or Dinner (TBD location, time) LCOL Dave Roberts, US Army Ret.

Feb 14—Valentine's Day

Feb 20- Presidents' Day Holiday

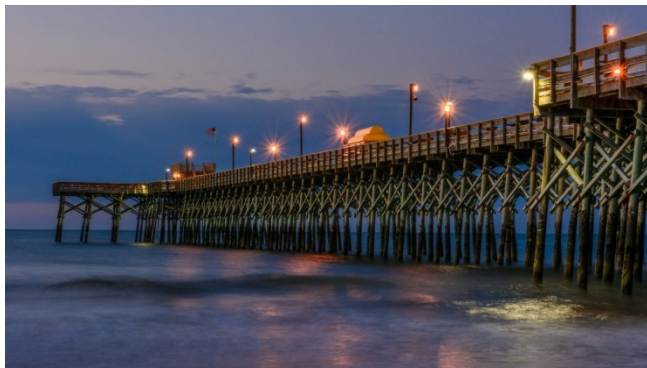


5-star Harris Communications Award Winner*
*7th Award



5-star Levels of Excellence Award Winner*
*11th Award

Chaplain's Corner



Len Kircher, Chaplain,
US Army, Retired

"For Christmas is tradition time. Traditions that recall the precious memories down the years, the sameness of them all." *Helen Marshall*. As many of us in MOAA, we've spent some holiday seasons away from home. We all tried to make the best of it by having some wonderful mess hall meals on paper plates. Or you may have had the turkey loaf C-ration or MREs. My fondest memory took place in Riyadh Saudi Arabia on Christmas Eve 1990 during Operation Desert Shield. We were blessed with that paper plate Christmas meal and later to watch the infamous Bob Hope and his wife put on a great show. He had his usual golf club and his wife sang "White Christmas" in a sandy desert as they were surrounded by hundreds of Soldiers and Airmen. A great memory! Remember your traditions this Christmas Season. Let your memories take you back to that special moment in time when you were with your Brothers and Sisters in arms. For me, little compares.

Prayers are for you and yours to have a very Blessed Holiday Season this year!



Financial Report

We ended the month of November with \$16,669.89 in the bank. That's a big change from the prior month when we had over \$28,000, but we have been supporting many good causes and fulfilling our budgeted obligations including the following:

Direct help to Vets via multiple stand downs, which include everything from new underwear to almost \$5,000 in grocery store food cards.
Direct assistance to individual vets facing difficult times, including \$700 to help a vet avoid eviction while he gets back on his feet.
\$8,500 of direct support to our 17 local JROTC programs.
\$500 donations to Freedom Fidos, Low Country Vets and Quilts of Valor.

These good works are made possible by the support you provide through our annual fund-raising golf tournament, cultivation of financial grants and sponsorships for our club, scholarship donations via the 50/50 raffle at our monthly meetings and the many times people simply open their wallets and give generously. Thank you so much! Merry Christmas and happy holidays.

Gale Fellowes

DINNER PROGRAMS

Upcoming Jan 10, 2022 Dinner and New Officer Swearing-In

Pine Lakes Country Club, Myrtle Beach

**Guests: CAPT Frank J. Michael, USN,
Ret. (MOAA National) and**

**MGen Michael Akey, USAF, Ret. (SC
MOAA Council of Chapters President)**

Semi-annually we have the pleasure of hearing current news from MOAA National. This year, MOAA Program Director of Council and Chapter Affairs will address the Chapter with processes that aid in assuring vibrancy, effectiveness, retention and enthusiasm at the local level.

— Stay tuned!

February 7th 2023

Pine Lakes Country Club, Myrtle Beach

GUEST: LCOL Dave Roberts, US Army Retired, AYNOR JROTC Instructor and Director of the Horry Georgetown Civil Air Patrol will update us on current programs going on locally and how the Civil Air Patrol remains a vital educational opportunity for young and aspiring airmen.

Bring guests to hear this dynamic presentation and enjoy the fellowship of our Chapter.



**Our MOAA Chapter has a great impact in Horry
County through
Toys for Tots**

County Wide 2021 Statistics:

142,256

29,013

Toys distributed Children supported

Thank you for your Support in 2022!





Our Holiday Christmas Dinner held at the Pine Lakes Country Club ON December 13th was festive and truly enjoyable.

We all thoroughly enjoyed the music of the Carolinas Forest String Orchestra led by Director Stephen Williams. Our Toys for Tots campaign was a terrific success!





THESE ARE BUT A FEW
 Of the Christmas gifts
 gathered this year for
Toys for Tots. Kudos to
 all the team who drove
 throughout our area
 picking up and deliver-
 ing toys!



As we close out 2022 and look forward to a prosperous and healthy 2023 we hope to be able to involve more of our members in Chapter activities and service projects. Should you meet a new neighbor or friend who is one of our Comrades, Active, prior service or Spouse be sure to invite them to be part of the Grand Strand Chapter.

Reach out to Paul Williamson or any of the Directors for membership and volunteer opportunities.

The More~ The Merrier!



GRAND STRAND SUPPORTS OUR STUDENTS

JROTC FALL SEMESTER ENDS Dean Brown, CAPT, USN, Ret.

As the fall semester wound down with the approach of Christmas our 17 supported JROTC Units looked forward to their Christmas breaks. A full slate of competitive meets: drill, academic, rifle, orienteering as well as Service Area Manager Annual Inspections have kept the cadets jumping throughout our part of South Carolina. Additionally, many units put on excellent Veteran's Day programs that were moving tributes to America's veterans. St. James Army JROTC (LTC Scott Bartley) and Green Sea Floyds Army JROTC (COL Time Hauser) went out

of their way to invite Chapter MOAA members to attend their ceremonies. Those who were able to make it were impressed with the dignity and meaningful nature of these ceremonies. Throughout the fall we had excellent support for our dinner meeting opening ceremonies with Loris AJROTC, Carolina Forest NJROTC, and Myrtle Beach NJROTC all providing sharp looking cadet Color Guards. Other units have volunteered to help for our spring semester dinner meetings. Our support to the Units continues. Each Unit we support has already received the \$500 grant approved by the Chapter Board for this fiscal year. This money will help defray Unit costs not provided by their Services or School Districts for: field trips, leadership academy tuitions, trophies/medals/supplies to host competitive meets, summer camp costs etc.

We look forward to the spring semester accomplishments of our JROTC programs and the opportunity to award as many as four scholarships later this year..



(CPT Greg Youngman, USA (former), CCU ROTC Liaison)

The Army ROTC program at Coastal Carolina University commissioned 2 more Second Lieutenants in December. The program has grown to almost 70 students, a record for the school, with ten or more cadets due to graduate and get commissioned in the Spring. Graduating during off-cycle were:

2LT Sarah Greene, who will go on to Transportation BOLC training at Ft. Lee, VA and will be stationed at Ft. Campbell, KY. Also being commissioned was:

2LT Julia Romano who will be a Field Artillery officer after training at Ft. Sill, OK in January. Her final assignment post has not yet been received.

Veterans Outreach - Stand Downs



Our Chapter is full of ready and willing volunteers, but a few more hands can continue to make our Outreach to Veterans and community surpass our own expectations. This past year was truly a dynamic year for the Grand Strand Chapter and we finished with zeal in December at the new Low Country Veterans Group meeting hall in Georgetown. The LCVG gave us the opportunity to serve about 42 veterans that day, and also gave the Georgetown High School NROTC cadets an opportunity to serve and share. This multigenerational event allowed us through our grants efforts to get about 300 meals to our veteran family community there.

John Bradley, John Short, Jim Albert, Liz Litvin, Tracey Miller and a few other of our members assisted with this effort.

We have a few more colorful photos to share from the November Stand-Down with the Waccamaw Tribe at their Aynor Tribal Grounds. Next year, plan to take part in the tribe's annual Pau Wau ceremonies. MOAA makes a difference in Aynor where unemployment and food insecurity are serious issues for our indigenous. We provided backpacks, socks, blankets, underwear, coats, gloves, sleeping bags, boots, MREs and Food Lion gift cards to over 60 native American vets.



The Army Reserve Center on Market Common will be refurbishing their building. Our Chapter is moving its Stand Down gear and supplies to commercial storage. If you know anyone with storage capacity of about 10'X10' please notify Truman Parmele.

Jim Albert reported that in 2022 we received GRANT funds from two additional Golf Tournaments: WebCares and Coastal

Vinos hosted events that raised \$7,000 for MOAA!

CAREER ADVANCEMENT PROGRAM

GS MOAA continues to assist homeless, unemployed and under-employed veterans find jobs & receive free training, as well as assist employers find workers across our veteran community. We have 3 people enrolled at Horry-Georgetown Tech College (HGTC) working to a degree or certificate. Additionally, 21 veterans from our recent Stand Downs indicated interest in training. One is in cybersecurity, two are interested in the HGTC February Heavy Equipment Operator course and two are reviewing the online HGTC course catalog to see which courses and programs they would like to pursue.

HOSPITALITY AND CHAPTER SOCIAL EVENTS

(Peggy DeVivo, Surviving Spouse Liaison and Social Chairman)

Now we are looking forward to a dynamic new year with a variety of social and networking occasions. Our Chapter is excited to be one of the strongest Chapters in the Carolinas and we look forward to sharing good times with you. As events are identified, you will be updated through emails.

Be sure to check out our website now being managed by Bill Stewart. This resource always has great MOAA information.

In the meantime, feel free to suggest any social activities you think may be of interest to our members. Email Peggy DeVivo at mbdev16@gmail.com



Reminder New ID cards

**Next Generation Uniformed Service Identification Card is here!
DoD plans on phasing out legacy identification cards in 2026.
There is no DoD mandate to replace existing unexpired identification cards.**

Legacy cards are identified by form number and color, for example:

DD Form 2 Retired is Blue,

DD Form 1173 for dependents is tan or

DD Form 2 for Reserve Retired is red.

The legacy identification cards remain valid as long as they are not expired.

Expired identification cards are now upgraded to the new Next Generation Uniformed Service Identification located at the website www.cac.mil.

Also available at all DoD/Uniformed Servicing locations. Find your nearest location here <https://idco.dmdc.osd.mil/idco/#/>

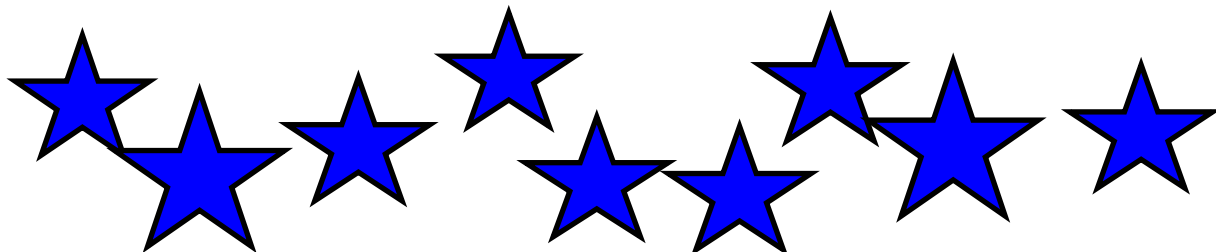
(Courtesy of DEERS)

**Happy New Year,
Peggy DiVivo**

National MOAA Update

Go to moaa.org to see more about MOAA National and Veteran Issues and Benefits
(Jim Offutt, CDR, USN (retired), Legislative Liaison)

- [Star Act Support: More Lawmakers Join the Fight for Concurrent Receipt](#)—ending unjust offset for more than 48,000 combat-injured servicemembers
- [Congress Approves Space for Global War on Terrorism Memorial on National Mall](#) —more steps needed to make this a reality
- [Seven things to Know about the Secure ACT](#)—Important year end budget information can affect retirement plans.
- Many more news and articles on taxes, healthcare, benefits, etc. at moaa.org





GRAND STRAND CHAPTER
OF THE
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



www.grandstrandmoaa.org

ONE POWERFUL VOICE

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)

Make check payable to: "Grand Strand MOAA". Mail to: MOAA Grand Strand Chapter, P.O. Box 15842, Surfside Beach, SC 29587

Last name _____ First name _____ MI _____

DOB _____ Rank _____ Service _____ Spouse's name _____

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home phone _____ Cell phone _____

Email address (please print clearly !!) _____

Are you a member of National MOAA? _____ If yes, please provide membership number: _____

Status: ___ Retired ___ Active ___ Reserve ___ National Guard ___ State Guard ___ Former Officer ___ Auxiliary ___ ROTC ___ JROTC

{My signature below verifies that the above information may be shared in a Members Only Directory and that I am eligible for MOAA Chapter membership.}

Amount: \$ _____ Check _____ Cash _____ For year(s) _____ Signature _____

Additional amount (donation) for this year's scholarship awards: \$ _____

Current employment (optional): _____

Professional skills (optional): _____

• If Auxiliary member or applicant, please indicate 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 & 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; and, the aims and objectives of the SC MOAA Council of Chapters. MOAA and its affiliated Chapters and Councils are non-partisan.