

# The Coastal Tide

[www.grandstrandmoaa.org](http://www.grandstrandmoaa.org)

**January 2023**

## Grand Strand Chapter

### Military Officers Association of America

#### President's Letter

Happy New Year!

Our January Dinner Meeting at Pine Lakes Country Club was well attended. We were honored to have as our Guest Speaker CAPT Frank J. Michael, USN (ret). CAPT Michael is the Program Director, Council and Chapter Affairs for National MOAA. He brought us up to date on current initiatives at the National level and spent time discussing the challenges all chapters are facing today with recruitment and retention of members. Fortunately, Grand Strand MOAA is maintaining a stable membership level but, we are always looking for new members to join our ranks. Paul Williamson, our Membership Committee Chairman, is doing a great job but he can certainly use our help in finding new members. We are all recruiters and the best way we have found to attract new members is through word of mouth.

January was also when your new Executive Committee was sworn in for another year's service. Maj Gen Mike Akey, USAF (ret) President of the South Carolina Council of Chapters was on hand to lead the induction ceremony and swearing in of new officers. I'm proud to present this year's elected officers. I return as President, Truman Parmele will serve as 1st Vice President and Outreach Committee Chairman, John Bradley is our 2nd Vice Pres., Tracey Miller is our Secretary and Gale Fellowes Townsend will serve another year as Treasurer. As volunteers, we are committed to serve you and continue to lead this great organization that provides strong support to our Veterans, their families, & our JROTC/ROTC programs here in the Grand Strand.

Finally, we will have a special Valentine's Day celebration. So bring your Valentine and join us at Pine Lakes Country Club on Tuesday, February 14? We would love to see you!

Very respectfully,

Tony Prince



## NEVER STOP SERVING!

#### 2023 GS MOAA Board of Directors

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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 9—Board of Directors Meeting at 930AM. Veterans Café.**

**Feb 14—Valentine's Day and Chapter Dinner (Pine Lakes Country Club) LCOL Dave Roberts, US Army Ret.**

**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

Peter Brzezinski, Chaplain,

“Has this year left you feeling lost, exhausted, stressed and lonely? Pretty sure you're doing everything right and can't figure out why everything's going wrong? These things are nothing new.

Thousands of years ago, the people of Israel found themselves in a very difficult place after neglecting a close walk with God. The frustrating part for them was that they did everything right outwardly, or so they thought. But after years of going their own way and living for their own purposes, they found themselves in exile in a strange land.

It's easy to feel like you're in exile in a strange land while stationed on the other side of the world from family and friends who may need your help or care. Raising children, financial pressures, the logistics of frequent moves and balancing work and relationships takes a toll. All of these things can lead us away from relying on God, and we try to do more and more in our own strength. Likewise in retirement, we can feel adrift as we lose our military community, our mission, our sense of purpose and our feeling of usefulness.

During the time that Israel was in exile, God made sure that everyone who had ears to hear could hear Him speaking to the people thru the prophets. These people lived in a desert region and desperately needed a time of refreshing.

The prophets' promise still holds true for us today. When men and women return to God, He will be like a shelter from the wind and a refuge from the storm, like streams of water in the desert and the shadow of a great rock in a thirsty land.

It took the Israelites 200 years to return to their God. The choice is ours - do we wear ourselves out trying to find our own way and remain tired in the desert, or do we find the guidance and strength that we need by asking God to guide us through this New Year?

## Financial Report

Hello everyone. As of January 30th, our Business Checking account (total of both operating and grant dollars) is at \$18,387. Our Reserve account is at \$15,094

At this point, 4 months into fiscal year 2023, we have fulfilled many of our budgeted commitments such as Quilts of Valor, Low Country Vets, Freedom Fidos and our grants to local JROTC programs. Later this year we have budgeted \$2000 for the CCU Leadership Award and \$8000 for scholarship awards. Although we have sufficient funds to cover these obligations, we will soon have expenses associated with veteran stand-down events and as we have seen, unexpected requests for individual veteran assistance arise frequently.

So once again, thank you so much for your support and generosity. You all really do make a difference.

Gale Fellowes

# DINNER PROGRAMS

February 14th 2023

Dinner Celebration

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.

March 14th 2023

Pine Lakes Country Club,

Myrtle Beach

COL Dutch Lichtmann, MC,

US Army Retired

Colonel Manfred "Dutch" Lichtmann will share amazing highlights of his career in the Army as well as of his lifetime of service. Dutch had an illustrious and meritorious service career, having been awarded the Bronze Star and Legion of Merit.

We look forward to hearing Dutch tell us the details of meeting and treating former President Ronald Reagan during the time of the failed assassination attempt. Be sure to reserve your seats and invite your neighbors to our March meeting,

"You've Got to Give- Its your responsibility."



**ARE YOU ALREADY A NATIONAL MOAA MEMBER?**  
Please consider joining the largest and most effective advocacy group in Washington, DC. Help us support improved pay, benefits and quality of life issues for our active duty service members as well as former and retired veterans, their spouses and families.  
Check out the article about what MOAA has done to assist our surviving spouses just last year. These initiatives all deserve our enthusiastic support.

VISIT <https://moaa.org>



## 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 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 Tim 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 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.



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(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, 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 thanks to Paul Williamson: WebCares and Coastal Vinos hosted events that raised over \$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.

# Surviving Spouses and Spouses

Surviving spouses comprise approximately 13% of MOAA's membership — that is over 46,000 members, voices, voters, givers, and doers. The Surviving Spouse Advisory Council (SSAC) represents these 46,000 members by supporting surviving spouses and spouses and promoting MOAA's strategic priorities at every opportunity through education, encouragement, and engagement.

In 2022, surviving spouses led MOAA chapters as president, secretary, treasurer, newsletter editor, program director, and legislative chair and created and managed community programs. We conducted five surviving spouse liaison trainings for over 100 surviving spouse liaisons, spoke at more than two dozen chapter meetings, wrote 12 articles, contributed to more than 100 Advocacy In Action sessions, and participated in 12 virtual meetings with over 500 total participants. We also organized and participated in a surviving spouse/spouse summit that attracted more than 80 participants.

**[MOAA SURVIVING SPOUSES & FRIENDS FACEBOOK GROUP](#)**: This group has over 750 members and provides updated information on important surviving spouse issues, especially regarding the Survivor Benefit Plan/Dependency and Indemnity Compensation offset. Nancy Strout administers the group along with Katy Thorpe and Nancy Mullens.

**Community Involvement:** In addition to direct MOAA involvement, SSAC members participated in caregiving and Gold Star Family organizations, Veterans Day and Memorial Day events, and with local veterans' service organizations such as the VFW, American Legion, and Disabled American Veterans.

The council's goals for 2023 include increasing surviving spouse membership in national MOAA, local chapters, and the virtual chapter; developing a webinar on surviving spouse and spouse issues; and organizing the next Spouse/Surviving Spouse Summit. Improving training guidelines and support materials will also be at the top of our to-do list this year. We look forward to a very productive and exciting year as we never stop serving!

~Gail Joyce

Chair of the Surviving Spouse  
Advocacy Council



## ROTC SPOTLIGHT

### Meet Matthew R. West, CPT, US Army Assistant Professor of Military Science Coastal Carolina University

Captain Matthew R. West was born 21 May 1991 in Lexington, Nebraska. CPT West graduated from Elm Creek High School in May 2009. He entered the Army National Guard and graduated from Basic Training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri and then Advanced Individual Training at Fort Sam Houston, Texas for MOS 68W, Combat Medic Specialist. He attended the University of Nebraska at Kearney while participating in the Reserve Officer Training Corps. CPT West graduated with a major in Exercise Science and a minor in Military Science as well as his commission in December 2013. He completed his initial military training at the Field Artillery Basic Officer Leaders Course in Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

Captain West's previous assignments included: Troop Fire Support Officer for Charlie Troop, 2-3 CAV, 1st Armored Division, Fort Bliss, Texas; Fire Direction Officer for 2nd Platoon, Alpha Battery, 2-29 FA; Battery Executive Officer for Alpha Battery where he deployed to Kuwait and Iraq in support of Operation Spartan Shield and Operation Inherent Resolve; Platoon Leader for 2nd Platoon, Alpha Battery; Battalion Fire Support Officer for 4-6 IN; Brigade Fire Control Officer for 3ABCT, 1st Armored Division; Brigade Fire Control Officer for 2ABCT, 1st Infantry Division, Fort Riley, Kansas; Squadron Fire Support Officer for 5-4 CAV, 1st Infantry Division. He most recently served as the Assistant Battalion Operations Officer for 1-7 FA, 1st Infantry Division where he completed a rotation to the Republic of Korea.

Captain West's military education includes Common Faculty Development-Instructor Course (2022), Company Commander/First Sergeant Course (2020), Joint Firepower Course (2019), Cavalry Leader's Course (2019), Field Artillery Captain's Career Course (2019), Air Assault School (2018), Collateral Damage Estimation Course (2014), Weaponing Course (2014), Joint Fires Observer Course (2014), Field Artillery Basic Officer Leader's Course (2014), and Combatives Level I Instructor Course (2010).

Captain West's awards and decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal (1 OLC), Army Achievement Medal (1 OLC), Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Inherent Resolve Campaign Medal (1 bronze star), Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Korea Defense Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, and Air Assault Badge. Captain West has been married for nine years to Hope West, daughter of Kerry and JoHanna Scott. Together they have two children, Lincoln West (7) and Claire West (3). Captain West is the son of Robert and Camie West.

## **National MOAA Update**

Go to [moaa.org](http://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.
- [QUICK ACCESS to Discounts for Veterans](#)
- Many more news and articles on taxes, healthcare, benefits, etc. at [moaa.org](http://moaa.org)

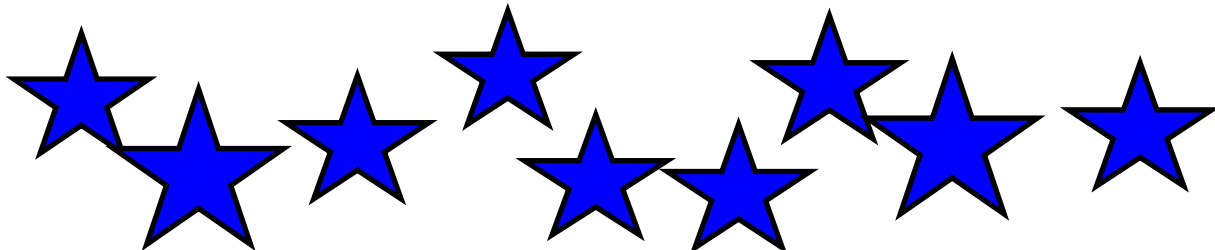
### **Reminder New ID cards**

**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](http://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)







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



[www.grandstrandmoaa.org](http://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 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter; \$15, 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter; \$10, 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter; \$20, 4<sup>th</sup> 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.