

# The Coastal Tide

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

MAY JUN 2021



## Grand Strand Chapter

## Military Officers Association of America

### President's Letter

We are officially "off" for the summer after completing a flurry of Spring "congratulations" and "thank you" activities.

In May we recognized four impressive Junior ROTC scholarship winners, participated in several Myrtle Beach Memorial Day/Military Appreciation events, attended Junior ROTC end of school year awards programs and attended the Coastal Carolina University (CCU) Army ROTC commissioning ceremony for nine new Second Lieutenants.

We hosted our June luncheon to thank several outside veteran support organizations (VSOs) and individuals who spent the last year helping us support homeless and disadvantaged veterans, families and encouraging the next generation of military and community leader cadets in high school and college.

Now we look ahead to our annual Golf Tournament fundraiser, which will take place on the 20th anniversary of September 11th at Wild Wing Golf Course near CCU in Conway. This is our largest fundraiser to help high school and college JROTC and ROTC programs and cadets with scholarships and stipends for drill meets, commissioning, and more. Please help support this worthy cause by donating a Tee Sign (\$100) and/or golf with us on 9/11 to honor those who perished in the attacks 20 years ago and who have served to defend us since those attacks.

Registration and donation forms for this year's Golf Tournament are at the end of this newsletter or at our website ([www.grandstrandmoaa.org](http://www.grandstrandmoaa.org)) or Facebook ([Grand Strand MOAA](#)) pages. Or you can contact our Tournament Director, Jim Offutt, by email at [moaagolf@yahoo.com](mailto:moaagolf@yahoo.com) and he'll help you out.

Have a safe and sound – and fun - summer! I look forward to seeing everyone in the Fall when we start up our monthly dinners again and host a tour and luncheon at Brookgreen Gardens in Murrells Inlet, SC in October. Take care.



James R. Albert, LtCol, USAF (retired)

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Newsletter: VACANT

**Never Stop Serving**

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

**Sep 11- Golf Tournament, Wild Wing Golf Course, Conway, SC**

**Sep 14 Chapter Dinner—Pine Lakes CC: Jerry Rovner, CAPT USN(Ret) — 9/11 Historical Speaker**

**Oct 12— Chapter Meeting with invited speaker new President Michael Benson, Coastal Carolina University. Topic: future plans for CCU. Time & location to be determined.**

**Oct 19—Brookgreen Gardens tour and lunch Social—planning in progress. More to follow.**

**Nov 9—Chapter Meeting with invited speaker Paige Sawyer. Topic: History of Armistice Day/ WWI. Time and location TBD.**

**Dec 14— Holiday Concert—Pine Lakes CC, with Carolina Forest High School String Orchestra**



5-star Harris Communications Award Winner\*

\*6th Award

## Chaplain's Corner

### Refresh

Psalm 46:10. "Be still, and know that I am God."

"A broad margin of leisure is as beautiful in a person's life as it is in a book," said Henry David Thoreau.

"The principal thing in the world is to keep the soul aloft," said Flaubert.

One of the benefits I enjoy by living on the Grand Strand, rather than when going to school or being assigned in Washington D.C., is the permission I now give myself to refresh. Many people come here to vacation, take retreats, or retire. We are blessed with warm weather, the ocean and the benefits of a resort community. Do we take time to enjoy these things, especially as we have fewer COVID-19 restrictions?

We are entering the summer months. Please take time to get outside if you are able. Please take time to commune with God and enjoy one another. Refresh your soul.

Mark 6:31. "Come with me by yourselves and get some rest."

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



### Financial Report by Tony Prince

- We wrapped up all expenses for our ROTC and JROTC programs during May.

-We continue to receive donations for our golf tournament scheduled for September 2021 at Wild Wing Plantation.

-We received a grant from National MOAA for \$3750.00 to support our veterans and their families.

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

Operating Account Balance	\$ 11,184.75
Grants Accounts Balance	\$ 7,694.91
Reserve Account Balance	\$ 18,879.66

## May JROTC Scholarships Program

Our May dinner program was held at Pine Lakes Country Club in Myrtle Beach on Tuesday, May 11th and highlighted four deserving Junior ROTC cadets selected as this year's GS MOAA \$2,000 scholarship winners.

In addition, we recognized the service instructors at each of our region's 17 high school JROTC programs representing the Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force.

This year's scholarship winners are as follows (right to left in photo):

**Cadet Ryan Bilock**, Army JROTC, Aynor High School, will attend the Citadel

**Cadet Mason Marlowe**, Army JROTC, St. James High School, will attend the University of South Carolina

**Cadet Kamryn Peebles**, Navy JROTC, Carolina Forest High School will attend the Citadel

**Cadet Shawn Richardson**, Army JROTC, Green Sea Floyds High School, college yet to be determined



## June Appreciation Luncheon – Inlet Affairs, Murrells Inlet

The Grand Strand Chapter of MOAA hosted a luncheon on June 8th to thank over two dozen veteran support organizations (VSOs), companies and individuals who went above and beyond to help our chapter mission of assisting homeless and disadvantaged veterans and their families as well as train the next generation of high school and college ROTC cadet leaders. Our combined resources and efforts provided food, clothing, housing, transportation, job training, employment and critical services like medical and dental appointments to hundreds of needy veterans and families across the region & assisted over 1,000 cadets learn about leadership and citizenship.

At the same time, Chapter President Jim Albert recognized several chapter and Board members who spent countless hours supporting our key mission areas, from Membership Development to Communications. President Albert presented Truman Parmele, Col, USAF (retired) with the chapter Member of the Year. Colonel Parmele serves as the chapter 1st Vice President and Veteran Outreach Chairman & greatly increased our outreach efforts this past year in response to the significant negative impacts of the Covid pandemic.



President Jim Albert thanks key VSOs and donors for their assistance to help area veterans



## Memorial Day Military Appreciation Events

Grand Strand MOAA members participated (and in many cases, led) several events over the long Memorial Day 2021 weekend. These included the annual Myrtle Beach Military Appreciation Parade and Picnic at The Market Common, a Wreath Laying at the GS MOAA memorial monument at Warbird Park, a Veterans March down Ocean Boulevard, and a Memorial Day Military Appreciation ceremony at the Myrtle Beach Convention Center.

The Grand Strand area has a long history of military presence and serves a large and growing veteran population. GS MOAA continues to foster that longstanding relationship as our members sit on various area committees and commissions such as the Military Appreciation Committee sponsored by the City of Myrtle Beach. This affords us greater visibility and opportunities to help coordinate and direct multiple support organizations to assist our veteran population.



Jef Litvin (left) drives JROTC scholarship winners, Cadets Marlowe and Peebles in Military Appreciation Day Parade, while President Jim Albert and Golf Chair Jim Offutt drive Cadet Bilock.



Thanks, again, to Buddy Satterfield for donating this year's GS MOAA float in the Parade.



## Memorial Day Military Appreciation Events



GS MOAA Wreath Laying at the GS MOAA Memorial Monument at Warbird Park. Left to right are President Jim Albert, Hans Duerr, Tom Satterfield, Greg Youngman & Chaplain Greg Hill.



Past-President Roger Pilcher, LTC, USMC (retired) right, drove World War II veteran Jack Platt in a restored 1952 Jeep during the Veterans' March on Ocean Boulevard in Myrtle Beach

## Surviving Spouses

We have added a few new members to “Surviving Spouses” recently:

**Winnie Milan**  
**Betty Matthews**  
**Carolyn Hills**

Please give them a warm welcome the next time you see them at a meeting and be sure to include them in any projects and social events you may have on your calendars.

I received an e-mail from DFAS which I thought may be of interest to all members. Particularly to pass on to anyone you may know, since I know not all surviving spouses are members of the chapter, who has been affected by the SBP-DIC reduction in pay over the years.

## DFAS Retired & Annuitant Pay

The second issue of the “Survivor SBP Newsletter” is now available online.

It contains helpful information about the SBP-DIC Offset Phased Elimination, news about an exciting new initiative on status notifications, and an outline of the changes to simplify the eligibility verification requirements for annuitants.

Also included is information about “The Survivor Link”, the brand-new newsletter from Army Survivor Outreach Services.

To access the newsletter, please either click on the link below or copy and paste to your internet browser. You will find a list of topics in the newsletter with a brief description of each article. Each article is a link, click on the link for the article you want to read, and the full text will appear.

<https://www.dfas.mil/survivornews>

A downloadable PDF of the newsletter is available to share with other survivors.

Have a safe and happy summer.

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the DFAS (Defense Finance and Accounting Service) website. The page is titled "DFAS Survivor SBP Newsletter" and is part of the "Survivor SBP Newsletter" section. The navigation menu includes "MILITARY MEMBER", "RETIRED MILITARY & ANNUITANT", "CIVILIAN EMPLOYEE", and "CONTRACTOR & VENDOR". The main content area features a "DFAS Survivor SBP Newsletter" heading, a "Customer Service" section with contact information (800-321-1080, M-F, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET, AskDFAS), and a "Forms" section with a "Frequently Asked Questions" link. The main content area also includes a "DFAS Survivor SBP Newsletter" heading, a "Click here to download a PDF of the June newsletter" link, and several articles with titles and brief descriptions, such as "Director's Message - June 2021", "Active Duty Line of Duty Survivors Spotlight June 2021", "The SBP-DIC Offset Phased Elimination: What to Expect in the Upcoming Phases", "Status Notifications Roll Out in 2021", "What SBP Annuitants Need to Know - How to Verify Eligibility to Keep Payments Coming", "Did You Know?", "What Child Annuitants Need to Know About School Certifications", and "myPay for SBP Annuitants".

## JROTC Winds Up the 2020-2021 School Year

On 5 June 2021 the Grand Strand Chapter completed our activity with JROTC Units for this school year with CDR Jim Offutt, USN (Retired) making a MOAA JROTC Leadership Medal presentation at Carolina Forest Navy JROTC's annual awards ceremony.

This was the last presentation in an awards season severely impacted by the lingering restrictions the COVID-19 pandemic has imposed all year on our 17 supported JROTC units. In a traditional year we provide chapter member presenters for 12-14 of our units throughout the area in Horry, Georgetown, Marion, Williamsburg, and Marlboro County school districts. This year, however, only 5 units were able to hold public ceremonies. Several other schools held ceremonies with only in-school audiences and several others had their medals presented in classroom settings by their instructors. A few units held



no ceremonies at all with awards being provided individually to their cadets. One Unit has even postponed their ceremony to September when cadets return.

Nevertheless, our chapter provided our highly prized awards to 100% of the Units we support. Additionally, our chapter distributed grants of \$350 to each Unit to help defray the activities that are unfunded by the military or school district that they managed

to conduct during the year or will execute this summer at various camps and cadet leadership seminars. Of course, we were able to provide four outstanding graduating cadets from various units going on to college with \$2,000 scholarships selected by COL Hans Duerr's scholarship committee whom we recognized at our May dinner for the scholarship winners and JROTC instructors. We were pleased that instructors and several spouses from 6 of our Units were able to attend that function.

Sadly, no JROTC Color Guards were allowed to attend our monthly gatherings and open our meetings with the presentation of the national colors. We were fortunate to receive support throughout the year from the Vietnam Veterans Color Guard arranged by Jerry Terwilliger and Jim Albert.

We sincerely hope that a complete return to normalcy will permit the full range of JROTC involvement with our chapter next school year as we seek to both give and receive support from this important character/citizenship building program that JROTC provides our community's youth.



## Membership Updates

### In Memorium:

James “Jim” Hills Sr., 1LT, USA (former), of Myrtle Beach, SC, passed away on June 14, 2021 at MUSC in Charleston, SC. Obituary at: <https://grandstrandmoaa.org/resources/Documents/Obituary%20-%20Jim%20Hills%20Sr..pdf>

### Welcome to our new Members:

- Charles “Ben” Brush, 1LT, USAR (former), lives in Myrtle Beach with his wife, Lynn.
- Carolyn Hills, Surviving Spouse of James “Jim” Hills Sr., lives in Myrtle Beach.
- Leon Kircher, LTC/Chaplain, USA and Guard (retired), lives in Myrtle Beach with his wife Patricia.
- Elizabeth “Betty” Matthews, Surviving Spouse of Ron Matthews, lives in Myrtle Beach.
- Joseph Schroder, LTC, USAR, lives in Conway with his wife, Mary Ann.

**Current Chapter Membership—138 (10 new members added so far this year)**

## 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.



## Outreach Update

1. **Grants** - MOAA awarded GS MOAA a total of \$3750 in grants for 2021, (2500 for several vet support and Stand Downs and 1250 for COVID relief.) This is our fifth straight year to receive these grants and GSMOAA is the only SC MOAA chapter to receive the grants this year.
2. **Stand Down** - Two drive thru Stand Downs have been approved by VA (MB 24 Sept and Aynor Waccamaw Tribe date TBD) Along with HUD/VASH we are inventorying our available materials and will order additional required items. Additional Stand Downs are being reviewed for Georgetown, Little River, and the Marion/Mullins areas. GS Members who are interested in volunteering are encouraged to contact Truman Parmele at cell phone: 703 258-2708 or okomfan44@gmail.com. Green Sea Floyds High School JROTC PMS Tim Houser is providing approximately 30 pairs of shoes donated by their Marching Band. Many thanks Tim.
3. **Veteran Computer Centers**- A second Veteran computer center will be installed at the Welcome Home Veteran Center in Little River in early July, providing veterans the ability to conduct job searches, register for educational classes at HGTC, receive resume preparation assistance and mock interviews. Two additional centers are being scheduled for Georgetown and Aynor this summer.
4. **Veterans Education** - Bill Stewart has successfully enrolled and obtained funding for three area Veterans to attend HGTC HVAC courses starting in August. The curriculum is under the continuing education program at HGTC and lasts two full semesters. Additionally, another area veteran started cyber security classes at HGTC. We are closely coordinating with the Welcome Home Veteran Center, Waccamaw Tribe and others to identify and recruit additional veterans to obtain HGTC classes.



## **Upcoming Sept. 14, Dinner – Pine Lakes Country Club, Myrtle Beach, SC—and other Fall 2021 programs**

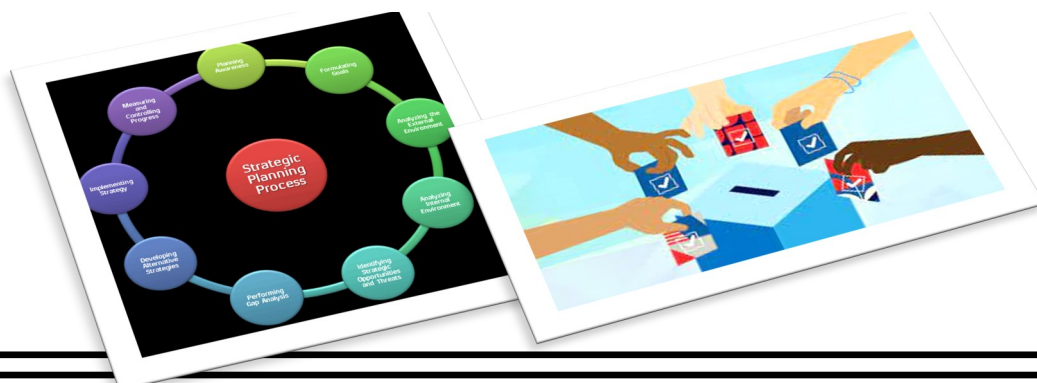
Shortly after our annual Golf Tournament fundraiser on Sept 11th at Wild Wings Golf Course in Conway, SC, the Chapter will host a dinner at Pine Lakes Country Club on Granddaddy Drive in Myrtle Beach on Sept 14th to continue our remembrance of the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks on New York, Washington, DC and Pennsylvania. Guest speaker will be Grand Strand MOAA member, Navy Captain (retired) Jerry Rovner, who is a survivor of the World Trade Center attacks in New York City. Jerry will present a slide show and discussion about his experiences that day, as well as effects of the attacks on his life and that of the country. You do not want to miss this riveting presentation, so mark your calendars.

We also continue to design a program for our October 12th meeting with invited speaker, President Michael Benson of Coastal Carolina University, and our November 9th meeting with invited speaker Paige Sawyer to talk about WW1/Armistice Day. Further, we are planning a social event at Brookgreen Gardens in Murrells Inlet on October 19th, where President Jim Albert will provide a tour of the sculpture gardens, and discuss the history of Brookgreen and the extensive horticulture throughout the gardens. We will also have lunch at the Gardens and potentially a boat tour of the old rice fields. More details to follow on all these Fall 2021 events.

And don't forget to mark your calendar for our December 14th holiday dinner concert at Pine Lakes Country Club featuring the Carolina Forest High School string orchestra who will play classic holiday favorites, past and present. This is one of the nicest programs you will attend over the year, and we fully expect to have the student orchestra back for our dinner.

## **Strategic Planning Session and MOAA Elections**

Shake that quarantine dust and get out and volunteer for a new role in GS MOAA! The Chapter is looking for volunteers to serve in several leadership positions. Volunteers will be further vetted during the upcoming Chapter elections. Anyone with ideas and a desire to get involved is welcome. We are also holding a strategic planning session to determine the best road ahead for the organization. Stay tuned for more details!!





Military Officers Association of America  
Grand Strand Chapter

**8<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Tournament**



**Saturday, Sept. 11, 2021**

***WILD WING GOLF CLUB - CONWAY, SC***

**(with 20<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.