

The Coastal Tide

www.grandstrandmoaa.org

March - April 2023

Grand Strand Chapter

Military Officers Association of America

President's Letter

Spring abounds, and we are glad to get this newsletter out with some great new information for the Chapter. As you browse these pages, please check the dates for upcoming events.

I am truly excited for the leading roles the Grand Strand Chapter of MOAA has achieved both locally and regionally because of your contributions and support. In addition to being awarded the Levels of Excellence banner for eleven consecutive years, our Chapter has consistently kept our members active in service to our veterans of Horry, Georgetown and surrounding counties. We love what we can do for our brethren who have served and our Chapter is on the cutting edge of enhancing all of that.

I know we can continue to improve on our mission successes. Our Directors have been working throughout the past several months to identify ways we can involve more of us; Officers, spouses and supporters into our Chapter projects and outreach efforts.

We realize that by supplying a wider variety of opportunities to be involved with the Chapter, more members can appreciate and participate in the exceptional work being done by our Chapter. Our Directors and Committee chairs are needing your help where you can.

Our finances remain solid and our membership is resourceful. We are looking forward these next two months to celebrate our ROTC and JROTC leaders. Join us as we enjoy some of the fruits of our labors. We look forward to seeing you soon.

S. Anthony (Tony) Prince, CAPT, USN (ret)

President



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.

March 9: Board of Directors meet at 0930: Veterans Café.

March 14: Chapter Dinner Meeting: 1730 at Pine Valley Country Club. Bring friends!

April 6th: Board of Directors meet at 0930, Vet's Café.

April 11th: Chapter Dinner Meeting to recognize graduating Coastal Carolina University Army ROTC cadets

May 4th: Board of Directors meet at 0930, Vet's Café.

May 9th: Chapter Dinner Meeting to recognize Junior ROTC scholarship winners and their instructors. Pine Lakes Country Club starting 1730.

May 25-28: Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall on the field at The Market Common. Opening ceremony, May 26 at 1300.

May 26th: Military Appreciation Parade and Fair, starting 1030AM, The Market Common

May 29th: Memorial Day Ceremony MB Convention Center, 1100—followed by a Memorial Ceremony at the Chapter Monument in Warbird Park at 1500



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



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

Chaplain's Corner

Bernie Callahan, Chaplain,

Groundhog Judgment

Punxsutawney Phil spoke clearly in February. The little pessimist saw his shadow and plunged us into six more weeks of winter's gloom that only now are we pulling through. So, in that sentiment of dejection, let me ask: have you busted all your New Year's resolutions yet? Or, like me, you're resolved to the fact they don't work and didn't list any? Research proves the majority of well-intentioned resolve-makers experience quick and discouraging failure by the time February arrives. Sigh.

When our good intentions and noble actions don't produce much, the temptation is to despair. We might forget that winter doesn't have to be gloomy, that good intentions are still positive, and that hope is invaluable for keeping us sane.

God is certainly aware of human failure and is always ready to push us a little when it's needed and encourage us daily so we can overcome. Sometimes it's best to simply let Him preside as the strict Judge of our every motive and action. Not only does our Lord rule in the courtroom of life, we glimpse in action too as Prosecutor, DA, Bailiff, Recorder, Jury, and even prison Warden.

Such is God's right by fact of creation. This weary planet, and all upon it, are the Lord's. He has a way of fixing the poor circumstances and, when necessary, fixing us.

There is good news. God operates on a note of confidence and promise. Spring has arrived as He promises. We can always afford to be more optimistic than Punxsutawney Phil. Amnesty is available for the asking. Pardon is surety for the needy. Fellowship can continue for those yearning for God's renewed favor.

Thankfully, Our Lord is also our Public Defender. Graciously, our salvation is not conditioned on our goodness nor does it involve suffering from bad luck or relying on fickle good luck. Confident faith is a better remedy for shadows of doubt.

Financial Report

Hello once more. As we enter our Spring season, our budget remains healthy and we are looking forward to supplying Scholarships to all our deserving cadets while remaining vigilant in our planning for the 2023 Golf Tournament upcoming in September.

OPERATING BALANCE	\$11,657.91
GRANTS BALANCE	\$6,591.19
MONTH END BALANCE:	\$18,249.10
RESERVE:	\$15,100.33

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

Gale Fellowes

PHOTOS ON THE TOWN

**LCOL Dave Roberts, USA, Ret.
Commands the Grand Strand Civil
Air Patrol**



Colonel Dave Roberts had a truly compelling story to tell about the enthusiasm and dedication of

the cadets he trains within the Grand Strand Composite Squadron of our Air Force Auxiliary Civil Air Patrol. We were excited to learn of all their hard work in this organization critical to South Carolina's disaster preparedness programs and assistance to



Our March Dinner Celebration occurred on Valentines Day and included a very memorable and powerful presentation by Captain Dutch Lichtman, MC, US Navy (Retired) .

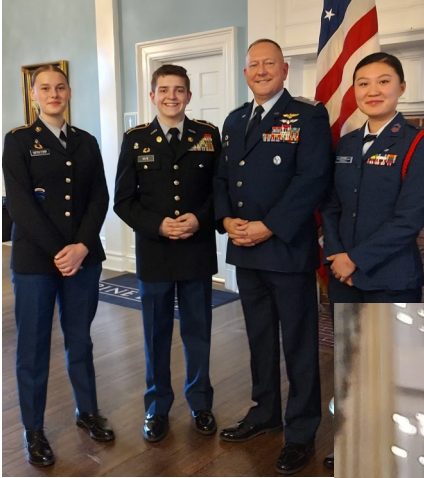
Dutch Lichtmann, one of our own, shared his career highlights during our March meeting.

Full of humor and anecdotes, rarely shared, Dutch made us all laugh and lament through his depiction of the hours he served as anaesthesiologist with President Reagan after the failed assassination attempt of '81.

Colonel Lichtman also took special moments through his presentation to remind us and our JROTC cadets of the effectiveness of clear leadership responsibilities as well as the values of humble service. We all learned just how rich and fortunate our lives have been through his lessons shared.

"You've got to give~ It's your responsibility"





One of the strong points of our Chapter socials occurs as we get to fellowship with our future leaders. The Civil Air Patrol Auxiliary joined us at Pine Valley Country Club. Join us for our meetings routinely held the second Tuesday of each month (except July and August).



Happy faces abound when special surprises show up at the meetings!



AWARDS BANQUET DINNERS 2023

April 11th 2023

ROTC HONORS

Pine Lakes Country
Club, Myrtle Beach

GUEST SPEAKER: Christopher Aranda,
SFC, USA, Ret.

As our Coastal Carolina University academic season comes to a close, several Cadets received awards, Gold Bars and commissioning appointments. This is a great time of year for them. Lead by example, with courage and conviction from our hearts. He advised our youth to always know their soldiers, **MOST PARTICULARLY** the Senior Non-Comm in the motor pool. Wiser words they will never hear!

SFC Aranda, a highly decorated veteran of Iraqi Freedom combat shared many valuable lessons. He continues to have a genuine and longstanding concern for our veterans and is now coordinating the return of our Vietnam Traveling Wall.

May 9th 2023

JROTC Presentations

Pine Lakes Country
Club, Myrtle Beach

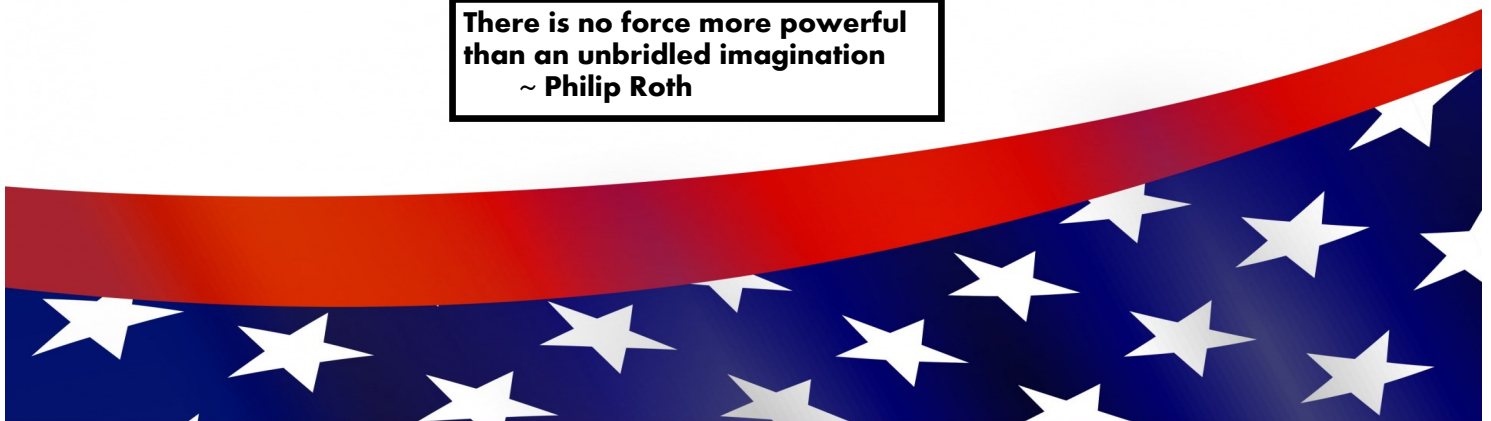
Guest Speaker: Colonel Tim Houser,
NCANG, Ret. Is currently Commandant of
the Green Sea Floyds' High School.

Join us in May as we honor all our JROTC graduating seniors at this moving ceremony. And bring guests to hear this dynamic presentation and enjoy the fellowship of our Chapter.

Take a moment to share the impact military service has had for us with these young folks who will be carrying on our commitments.

As the nation struggles to meet its military recruiting goals, it is even more important that we encourage and applaud our JROTC and ROTC cadets who have taken up the challenge of protecting our freedoms.

**There is no force more powerful
than an unbridled imagination
~ Philip Roth**



PACT Act Alert ~ Spouses Please Read

If you're the surviving spouse or child survivor of a Veteran who died from a toxic exposure-related condition, you may qualify for VA benefits—including monthly benefits through the VA Dependency and Indemnity Compensation Program. We have heard plenty about this recently, but it deserves closer scrutiny for many of us.

Thanks to historic new legislation called the PACT Act, the VA has expanded the list of health conditions that VA assumes are service-related. This means that the survivors of Veterans who died from these conditions can now qualify for benefits. These newly-covered conditions include all reproductive cancers, respiratory cancers, head cancers, and many other illnesses.

Here's what this new law could mean for survivors like you

- ☐ If your loved one passed away from a PACT Act-related condition, we encourage you to apply for DIC benefits now.

- ☐ If VA previously denied your claim for DIC benefits for a PACT Act-related condition, you can now apply to collect benefits as far back as the date of your original application. VA will try to contact you and may be able to reevaluate your claim, but you don't need to wait for VA to contact you before you can re-apply.

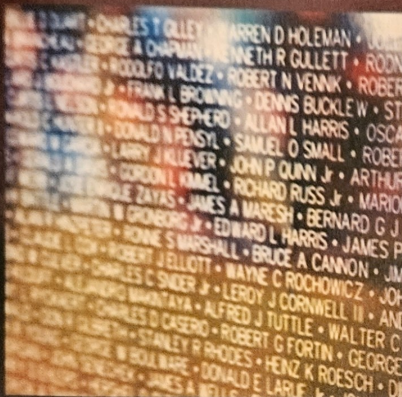
- ☐ If VA owed your loved one money or benefits that they never received, you may also be eligible for a one-time accrued benefits payment. Many of our partners refused to complain of their war-related diseases. Your physician or the VA can help uncover these conditions if you have concerns about them.

VA now encourages all survivors who believe they may be eligible for VA DIC to apply now, or visit VA.gov/PACT to learn more about what this new legislation could mean for you. You can also review eligibility to determine whether you qualify as a surviving spouse or dependent of a Veteran.

When you're ready to file a claim for VA DIC, you can do so online, by mail, or with help from an accredited representative, such as a Veterans Service Officer (VSO). The application you'll need depends on your relationship to the deceased Veteran. If you're the surviving spouse or child of a Veteran, you'll use VA Form 21P-534EZ. The evidence table and checklist found in the instructions of the 534EZ can help you submit a more complete application package and may allow for a quicker decision. If you're a surviving parent, you'll fill out VA Form 21P-535.

Learn more about VA DIC and accrued benefits by visiting www.va.gov/disability/dependency-indemnity-compensation/.

<https://news.va.gov/117331/survivors-eligible-new-benefits-legislation/>



THE VIETNAM TRAVELING MEMORIAL WALL



REMEMBER AND HONOR
MAY 25-28, 2023



VISIT THE WALL AT
THE FIELD NEXT TO
CRABTREE MEMORIAL GYM

1004 CRABTREE LANE, THE MARKET COMMON



THE VIETNAM TRAVELING MEMORIAL WALL WILL ARRIVE TO THE FIELD IN THE AFTERNOON OF THURSDAY, MAY 25. IT WILL BE OPEN 24/7 TO THE PUBLIC UNTIL IT LEAVES AT 3:00 P.M., SUNDAY, MAY 28. THE WALL IS 3/5 SCALE OF THE VIETNAM MEMORIAL WALL IN WASHINGTON D.C. IT STANDS SIX FEET TALL AT THE CENTER, AND IS ALMOST 300 FEET LONG. ADMISSION IS FREE TO THE PUBLIC.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

OPENING CEREMONY
FRIDAY, MAY 26 AT 1:00 P.M.

REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY
SATURDAY, MAY 27 AT 2:00 P.M.

CLOSING CEREMONY
SUNDAY, MAY 28 AT 1:00 P.M.

PARKING WILL BE AVAILABLE ON FORBUS COURT, CRABTREE LANE (BEHIND CRABTREE MEMORIAL GYM) AND ANY OTHER AVAILABLE PUBLIC PARKING SPACES. GOLF CART TRANSPORT WILL BE AVAILABLE TO AND FROM VALOR MEMORIAL GARDEN FRIDAY & SATURDAY, MAY 26 & 27, ONLY.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS!

WANT TO VOLUNTEER? EMAIL KAREN AT KCLEVINSON@GMAIL.COM. GENERAL QUESTIONS... CALL 843-918-1054 OR 843-232-2441.



VET CENTER SUPPORT SERVICES WILL BE AT THE WALL 24/7. PATRONS ARE WELCOME TO VISIT THE WALL AT ANY TIME, DAY OR NIGHT.

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

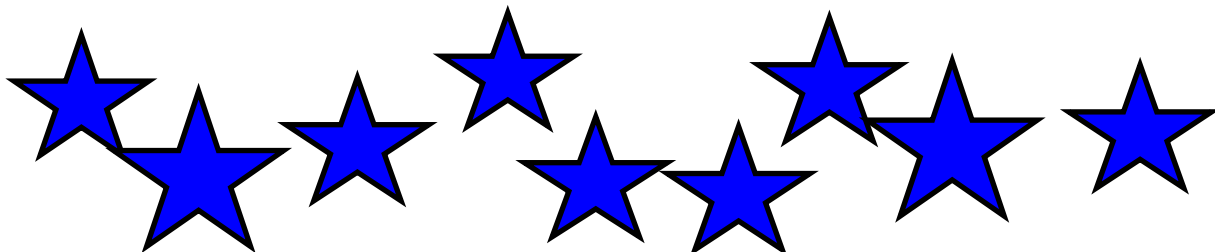
Reminder New ID cards

**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.**

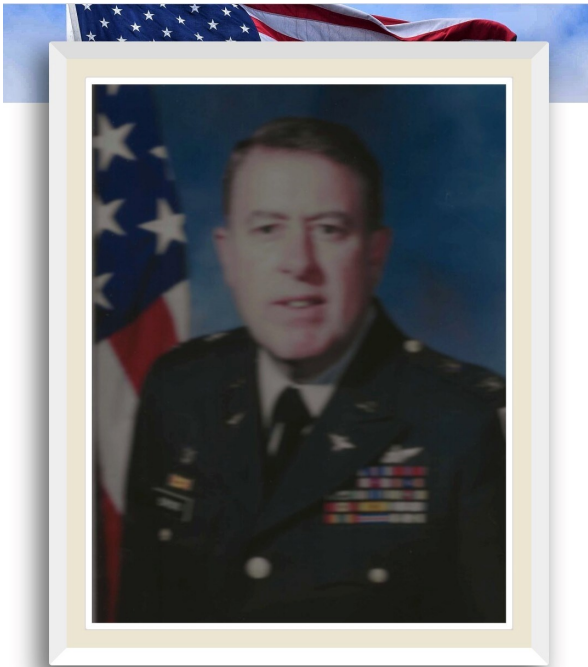
Legacy cards are identified by form number and color, for example:
DD Form 2 Retired is Blue,
DD Form 1173 for dependents is tan or
DD Form 2 for Reserve Retired is red.

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)



Our Own Frank Esposito, Colonel, US Army, Retired passed away peacefully on March 22 surrounded by his wife and children.



While we knew Frank best as an avid golfer and inveterate supporter of our MOAA Grand Strand Chapter along with all the veterans he dedicated so much time to, we can also remember that Colonel Esposito was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross in 1971 for “heroism above and beyond the call of duty in Laos” .

Frank will be sorely missed and we honor his dedication to veterans throughout the Grand Strand.

Francis "Frank" Anthony Esposito

July 18, 1946 ~ March 22, 2023



**ARE YOU ALREADY A NATIONAL MOAA MEMBER?
If not, 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](https://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.

**MEMORIAL DAY
CEREMONY
AT THE
MOAA MONUMENT**

May 29th at 3pm





Military Officers Association of America
Grand Strand Chapter
10th Annual Golf Tournament



Saturday, Sept. 9, 2023

WILD WING GOLF CLUB - CONWAY, SC

Registration Deadline September 1, 2023

- PROCEEDS** - **Homeless Veteran Needs**
- **At Risk Veteran Families**
SUPPORT: - **18 JROTC and ROTC Units**

Registration and Breakfast: 8 – 915am

Shotgun Start @ 930AM

Lunch & Auction to follow golf

\$95/person
\$370/Team (foursome)
\$5 Discount for Each Vet

Team Low Score (Top 3)
Closest to the Pin
Longest Drive (Men & Women)

Sponsorship Opportunities (see reverse)

Contact: Jim Offutt: email: moaagolf@yahoo.com
cell: (703) 627-8136

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

PLAYER REGISTRATION – Deadline Sept 1, 2023

\$95 per person, \$370 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 moaagolf@yahoo.com

Team Capt _____ Phone _____ Email _____ PD _____

Player #2 _____ Phone _____ Email _____ PD _____

Player #3 _____ Phone _____ Email _____ PD _____

Player #4 _____ Phone _____ Email _____ PD _____

Mail to: GS MOAA, PO Box 15842, Surfside Beach, SC 29587

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

(check all that apply)

501(c)(3) Receipt Available Upon Request

Make checks payable to "Grand Strand MOAA"

- 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: \$800**
 - 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
- FOOD & DRINK SPONSOR: \$700 (Includes: Breakfast, Lunch & Beverages)**
 - Two Player Entry Fees
 - Special recognition in Brochure & Website, 2'3' sign at Registration & cart sign
- GOLD SPONSOR: \$400**
 - Two Player Entry Fees
 - Recognition in Brochure & Website, 2'3' sign at Registration & cart sign
- 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: GS MOAA, PO Box 15842, Surfside Beach, SC 29587

or contact: _____