

Grand Strand Chapter

Military Officers Association of America



The Coastal Tide

November 2019

www.grandstrandmoaa.org

President's Message by Randy Dymond



Happy Veterans Day! On November 11th our nation once again honored our veterans who have served with tributes and ceremonies across America. It was no different here along the Grand Strand with many of our chapter members attending and participating in Veterans Day activities at a number of different venues. The busy month of November also included

what has become annual fundraisers for the chapter with generous donations coming from Eggs Up Grill locations hosting Breakfast with a Vet as well as from Gordon Biersch Brewery and Restaurant. Our well-attended November Dinner Meeting was certainly a night to remember as we recognized five commissioning cadets from Coastal Carolina University's Army ROTC Program, held our first Memorial Ceremony honoring deceased chapter members and heard Sharon Russell give an informative talk about the Blue Star Mothers. As your Chapter President, I recently attended the South Carolina Council of MOAA Chapters Biennial General Conference in Columbia and was treated to an array of wonderful speakers including national MOAA President Dana Atkins, South Carolina Congressman Joe Wilson and retired General Robert Livingston. These gentlemen truly have our backs when it comes to advocating MOAA's causes at the state and federal levels. As South Carolinians, we are fortunate to have them in our corner.



Never Stop Serving



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Sharon Russell of Blue Star Mothers Addresses November Chapter Dinner



Grand Strand Blue Star Mothers President Sharon Russell explained the organization's major purposes at the November Chapter dinner meeting. Mrs. Russell is the mother of three service members. She noted that the organization supports

mothers of deployed military personnel as well supporting their deployed children by sending out Hero Boxes to deployed soldiers, sailors, Marines, airmen, and Coast Guardsmen around the world.

The Grand Strand Chapter provides financial support to help the Blue Star Mothers defray the costs of mailing the Hero Boxes. Each box costs \$18.45 to send to deployed troops. The Grand Strand Blue Star Mothers send out 125-150 boxes six times year, spending about \$15,000 annually to do so. While most of the boxes' contents are donated, they must raise funds to finance their distribution.

In addition, the Blue Star Mothers chapters on the Grand Strand support local National Guard and Reserve soldiers, provide welcome home greetings to military personnel returning home from deployment and support veteran family activities at the Charleston Veterans Hospital and Fisher House. Mrs. Russell also works to raise funds for state and local Wreaths Across America to place Christmas wreaths on graves at the National Cemetery in Florence.

Mark Your Calendar

December 10 — Chapter annual Holiday dinner meeting; Music again provided by Carolina Forest High School Ensemble
Toys for Tots Collection

December 23 — Hanukkah

December 25 — Christmas

January 1 — New Years Day

January 14— Chapter Dinner meeting, installation of 2020 officers; Pine Lakes Country Club; 5:30 Social Hour; 6 p.m. dinner.
Speaker: Bill Koehler, 2nd Vice-President, South Carolina MOAA Council of Chapters.

January 20 — Dr. Martin Luther King Day

February 2 — Groundhog Day

February 11 — Chapter Dinner meeting; details TBA

February 14 — Valentine's Day

February 17 Presidents Day

February 21-22: First Major League Baseball spring training games scheduled



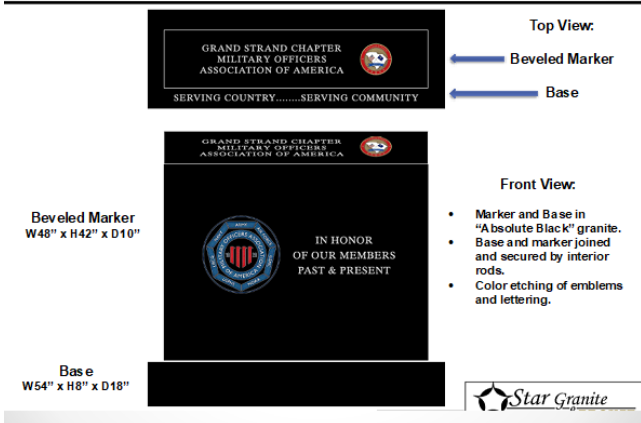
The Chapter dinner meeting in December will celebrate the holiday season with festive music by the Carolina Forest String ensemble. There will be no guest speaker. This annual event has become one of our most popular dinner meetings. Our Chapter also collects toys for the Toys for Tots program at this meeting, so please bring a unwrapped toy to be distributed to families who might not have a Christmas otherwise. Roger Pilcher leads this annual effort. If anyone would like to assist him in picking up the toys from collection points, let him know.

Memorial Monument Fund Raising Update

By Michael Davison

Following the Chapter's October Dinner presentation of the Monument Project and kickoff of the Membership Fundraising Campaign, Dean Brown and Mike Davison traveled through the Low Country to Summerville, SC and signed the monument contract with the supplier, Low Country Monuments. A deposit by

the Chapter has locked in the pricing for the Chapter Monument for 12 months, while the Chapter's membership continues its donations to achieve the fundraising goal of \$18,000 (\$16,078 for the monument, plus a small reserve for maintenance and fundraising expenses). As of 12 November, Chapter members (25% of membership) had contributed \$8200 (45% of goal). Please login to the Chapter's website (<https://grandstrandmoaa.org/>) and click on Memorial News. Here you can view information about the Monument Project, current fundraising status, and how to make your donation. The Monument will serve testimony to our Chapter members: past, present, and future. "Serving Country, Serving Community"



Breakfast with a Vet Another Success

On November 8, 18 Grand Strand Chapter members fanned out across the area to man information tables at seven Eggs Up Grill locations for the third annual "Breakfast with a Vet" fundraising event. All the funds raised at this event are used to provide food cards for needy veteran families to purchase food to prepare a holiday meal. Our experience from the past two years have shown us that without these gift cards, these veterans families would have no holiday meal. Thanks to everyone who assisted in this event and the Eggs Up Grill folks who have partnered with us in this effort.



Chaplain's Corner by Greg Hill



A big thank you goes out to the Honor Guards from Conway High School NJROTC and the SC State Guard for their inspirational participation in our November 12, 2019 Memorial Ceremony. Both the “Six-Hat” presentation during the Our Missing Comrades in Arms Table and Honors Ceremony and the “Sounding of Taps” at the closing of the Roll Call and Taps created the sacred environment for our Memorial Ceremony.

We were especially honored to host several Surviving Spouses of deceased Grand Strand Chapter MOAA members. May God’s richest blessings and comfort be with these women to whom our Nation owes such a great debt of gratitude.

I pray this upcoming Thanksgiving will be an opportunity for all of us to express our thanks to God for all the blessings we enjoy.

Financial Report by Tony Prince

During the past month, we established a reserve account to be used when unforeseen circumstances require. In addition, members began making donations to erect the Grand Strand MOAA memorial monument at War Bird Park. Consequently, our Chapter now has three separate accounts to report



on. On the previous page, Mike Davison has reported on the progress of the monument fundraising, and I understand will continue to do so in future

newsletters. \$15,000 was transferred from our general fund to create the reserve account and is reflected below in the “expenditures”. That amount will remain in the account with any accrued interest added unless the Board determines that those funds are needed. The following is the accounting for our general fund:

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| Balance October 1 | \$30,484.47 |
| Deposits in October | \$ 5,430.00 |
| Expenditures in October | \$19,720.36 |
| Balance October 31 | \$16,194.11 |

Chapter Participates in Vets Expo

Chapter Secretary Jim Albert and past president Roger Pilcher represented Grand Strand MOAA at the Myrtle Beach Veterans Expo held November 15 at the General Richard Reed Recreation Center in Market Common. The event was designed to be a one-stop opportunity for veterans to find the assistance they need from obtaining employment to seeking health care. It was well attended both by veterans and agencies and organizations like ours who seek to support veterans.



Membership by John Bradley

Welcome to Fall, everyone!! Our November Veterans outreach programs got the Chapter a lot of visibility but only a few prospective members. The person who was most productive this past month has been Mike Davison, providing us with 5 prospective members (who I personally have made an outreach to) and one new member, Jim Whitmore, who attended our November Dinner Meeting. Remember...all I need is a name and an email address and I can take it from there!

**Please help me welcome our newest member:
Cpt. Jim Whitmore, USA (Fmr)**

Currently here is our tally:

| | |
|----------|-------------------------|
| 73 | Annual Members |
| 3 | Two-Year Members |
| 58 | Three-Year Members |
| 12 | Surviving Spouses |
| <u>2</u> | <u>Honorary Members</u> |
| 148 | Total |

The above still shows that we are basically holding our own in total memberships. We have 20 prospective members in the wings, some of whom I probably have bugged enough; however, 12 current members are delinquent, having not paid their 2019 dues, despite frequent friendly and recent reminders.

One last thought: I want to thank everyone for helping me fulfill my duty as your Membership Chair over these past couple of years or so. I have enjoyed the challenge although I wish I could have done more! Best of luck to the next Membership Chair, who, with your continued help, I am sure will be successful.

Please remember....RECRUIT, RECRUIT !!

November is a busy month with the annual commemoration of Veterans Day, especially in the Grand Strand with numerous organizations and communities taking the time to recognize the service of America's veterans. First Vice-President John Bradley (I), Dave Nagy, and Past President Dave Townsend took part in one such commemoration at Grande Dunes.,



National MOAA Working with Others on Immigration Policy Changes

(Courtesy of National MOAA Public Affairs)

Several recent policy and rule changes announced by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) may affect military and veteran communities, and MOAA's government relations team is keeping up with these changes while continuing its mission to preserve benefits and protections earned through service. Here are three main policy changes that may affect military families soon:

Parole in Place : Earlier this summer, DHS announced a review of the Parole in Place policy for military families. A determination regarding the longevity of the policy was to be announced at the end of July. The USCIS website states Parole in Place for military families is a discretionary policy used on a case-by-case basis; DHS has yet to make a public statement regarding the future of the program, leaving military families unclear of their protections. National MOAA has joined other organizations seeking to preserve the policy for military families.

Public Charge Rule: A rule change regarding citizenship requirements – one that outlines grounds for inadmissibility related to whether an applicant for citizenship has or is receiving government assistance – was scheduled to take effect Oct. 15, 2019. The rule exempts active duty and Ready Reserve members and their families who have received this assistance, but others who have served this country such as National Guard members, veterans, and their families could be affected by this rule.

Overseas Residency Definition Change: Media sources announced yet another DHS policy change on Aug. 28, this time impacting military children born overseas. The policy change, which sparked national outrage, would not consider certain military children born overseas for automatic citizenship. It came after DHS determined its definition of "residency" does not align with definitions used in statute and at the State Department. While initial headlines suggested a far larger scope of impact than the 24-families-per-year figure cited by immigration officials, the American public voiced great concern over the suggestion that military children may not be granted automatic citizenship. While most military families will not be affected by this policy, USCIS says these populations will be affected and will have to file Immigration Form N600k to apply for citizenship for their child, effective Oct. 29, 2019: 1) Children of non-U.S. citizen parents who are adopted by a U.S. citizen, U.S. government employee or U.S. servicemember after their birth; 2) Children of non-U.S. citizen parents (such as a lawful permanent resident U.S. government employee, or U.S. servicemember) who are naturalized only after the child's birth; or 3) Children of two U.S. citizen government employee or U.S. servicemember parents who do not meet the residence or physical presence requirements to transmit citizenship to their child at birth (or have one non-U.S. citizen parent and one U.S. citizen parent who does not meet these requirements).

For more information on issues MOAA is currently working on behalf of its members and active/retired service members go to

[www.http://takeaction.moaa.org](http://takeaction.moaa.org)

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CCU Cadets being commissioned in December were guests at the Chapter November dinner meeting. (l to r): President Randy Dymond, Cadets Joshua Bautista, Randy Holmes, Robby Myers, Joshua Westerhaus., and Captain Zach Currie.



Chaplain Greg Hill presided over the Chapter's first ever Memorial Ceremony at the November Dinner meeting. The solemn ceremony featured the recognition of deceased Chapter members, recognition of surviving spouses, a table empty of all but service hats to commemorate those no longer with us and those still missing, and the playing of Taps by a SC State Guard bugler.



National MOAA President Lieutenant General Dana Atkins, USAF (Ret) presented Chapter President Randy Dymond the Grand Chapter the 5-Star Level of Excellence Award at the quarterly meeting of the South Carolina MOAA Council of Chapters meeting held at Ft. Jackson on November 9.



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

{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 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.