

The Coastal Tide

www.grandstrandmoaa.org

SEP-NOV 2022

Grand Strand Chapter Military Officers Association of America

President's Letter

We are deeply saddened by the recent deaths of two of our beloved MOAA members, Gerry Sherwin and Kelly Sharbel. Both men had served in volunteer leadership positions and were active in our MOAA sponsored events. Please keep Gerry and Kelly's families in your thoughts and prayers.

Our 9th Annual MOAA Golf Tournament was a tremendous success raising over \$23,000.00. I want to thank Jim Offutt and all the MOAA volunteers who helped organize this wonderful event. Let's do it again next year!

We honored veterans on Friday, November 11 in various locations throughout the Grand Strand from Little River to Georgetown. I am especially grateful to those of you who attended MOAA's ceremony at the MOAA monument in Warbird Park. It is nice living in an area that greatly respects and honors the military and first responders.

"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.

Nov 8—Chapter Dinner Meeting, Pine Lakes CC. Guest speaker RADM Joseph Nimmich, USCG, Ret.

Nov 11—Wreath laying at MOAA Memorial, Warbird Park, Market Common 3PM. Followed by Afterglow at Tidal Creek Brewery, Market Common.

Dec 13—Chapter Dinner Meetg, Pine Lakes CC. Holiday Concert with Carolina Forest HS String Orchestra. **Toys for Tots Collect.**

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, speaker)

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

(Chaplain Bernie L. Calaway)



ROAD TRIP

Got an irresistible yearning for a road trip? If you follow the itinerary of Kenneth Petersen you might start your journey in the southwest United States at a dusty town called Why, Arizona. Heading cross-country would take you through Uncertain, Texas. Then heading northeast, you'd want to take a rest stop in Dismal, Tennessee. Ultimately, you'd reach your destination – Panic, Pennsylvania. These are real towns in America, but perhaps not likely a trip you'd relish.

The destination of our beloved country sometimes seems dismal as well if we get too discouraged. Much bad stuff can, and does, go wrong daily. There's fear of breakdown and we're over the speed limit. If some of our politicians were fish they couldn't lead us to water.

Fortunately, history and bad politics don't control our travel. It's a bit more of a drive, but another six hours on the road will take you from the town of Panic to a place named Assurance, West Virginia. With God at the wheel, we'll get there despite detours and flat tires.



Financial Report

Chapter finances remained healthy throughout the year. Our revenue included funds from dinners, dues, raffles, golf and miscellaneous donations. On the expense side, grant funds went to support veterans in need, both individually and through mobile Stand Downs we helped organize and execute. In addition, we continued support of the Coastal Carolina University Army ROTC unit as well as 17 Junior ROTC units through unit stipends and cadet scholarships.

Our financial balances as of end of October are as follows:

Operating Balance	\$21,637.54
Grants Balance	\$ 6,603.00
Reserve Account	<u>\$15,090.96</u>
Total Chapter Balance:	\$43,331.50

DINNER PROGRAMS

NOVEMBER 2022 DINNER

Pine Lakes Country Club, Myrtle Beach

Guest Speaker: RADM Joseph Nimmich, USCG (ret.)

Deputy Administrator of FEMA from 2014-2017, RADM Nimmich provided a wealth of knowledge about the history of FEMA, Homeland Security and community support through catastrophes of the past.



Another Highlight this month was securing our ELEVENTH consecutive award of the FIVE STAR LEVEL of Excellence to our MOAA Banner. Thanks to all of you for participating with the Chapter in so many ways! Past President Jim Albert placed the Award.



DECEMBER 2022 DINNER

Pine Lakes Country Club, Myrtle Beach

Guests: Stephan Williams, Musical Director, Carolina Forest High School String Orchestra
Program: Christmas & Holiday Music Concert



Last year Stephan Williams (second from left) played holiday music with former students in a string quartet.

This year Stephan will return to our December meeting with a much more robust group of musicians. We can be grateful the Pandemic is now under control and this year we hope many more of you and family friends will join the Chapter for our celebration. In addition, we will, again, be collecting Toys for the Marine Reserve Toys for Tots Campaign.



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.



2022 Toys for Tots Campaign

Last year the Grand Strand Chapter collected over 750 toys at our December dinner and other locations throughout the area for the 2021 Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots campaign. This year we will again be collecting unwrapped, new toys for disadvantaged area children at our Holiday Dinner program on December 13, 2022 at Pine Lakes CC. Please participate if you can.

Veterans Day Wreath Laying Cermonies

The Grand Strand Chapter held a Veterans Day wreath laying ceremony at the Chapter's memorial monument in Warbird Park on The Market Common. The day and the weather were glorious even after TS Nicole passed through. Thank you all for your service to our Chapter and our country. And remember our Chapter motto is "Never Stop Serving".



HOSPITALITY AND CHAPTER SOCIAL EVENTS

(Peggy DeVivo, Surviving Spouse Liaison and Social Chairman)

Several social event ideas have been suggested & are in the works even as we realize the Holidays are quickly approaching. We are looking to potentially schedule a social at the Yawkey Bird Refuge in Georgetown, Hopsewee Plantation on the Santee River, Hobcaw Barony in Georgetown and again with the Long Bay Symphony in Myrtle Beach. Other opportunities are the Singing Christmas Tree in Georgetown and the Singing Sergeants who we hear are coming back to Precious Blood of Christ Catholic Church in Pawleys Island.

Updates of events will be sent as emails once we have more details. 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

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. The next Veterans Expo Stand Down is planned for Nov 22nd at the Reed Recreation Center on Market Common.



Recently we again supported the many veteran members of the Waccamaw Tribe at their Aynor Tribal Grounds. Among others, Jim Albert, Truman Parmele, John Bradley and John Short took part in the tribe's annual Pau Wau ceremonies and provided backpacks, socks, blankets, underwear, coats, gloves, sleeping bags, boots, MREs and Food Lion gift cards to over 60 native American vets.

That same week-end our chapter provided similar cold weather supplies to over 40

veterans in Marion for the first time at their annual Veterans Day parade and luncheon at Marion High School. Supporting this Stand Down were COL Tim Houser and a few cadets from his Green Sea Floyd High School Army JROTC.



SOON the Army Reserve Center on Market Common will be refurbishing their building. This will require our Chapter to move its Stand Down gear and supplies to commercial storage. If you know anyone with storage capacity of about 10'X10' please notify Truman Parmele. We will also need a work party to accomplish the move. More details to follow via email.

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.

GRAND STRAND MOAA 2022 GOLF TOURNAMENT

(Jim Offutt, CDR, USN (retired), Golf Chair)

The Grand Strand Chapter once more held a fun, successful Golf Tournament fundraiser on **10 September 2022** at the Wild Wing Plantation Golf Club in Conway. We accomplished our goal of raising \$23,000 this year and we thank all our Chapter members and partners for supporting this excellent event once more.

Funds raised by this event go to support Junior ROTC unit stipends and cadet scholarships as well as Coastal Carolina University ROTC commissioning packets & the Col Robert Hawkins Leadership Award.

Mark your calendars for next year! We look forward to having you work on the Committee or on the Course next September. Special thanks, again, to Jim Offutt for leading this mission.



IN MEMORY



It is with great sadness and deep respect we report the passing of our Chapter First Vice President, Kelly Matthew Sharbel, Captain, US Army National Guard. Born in Nashville, TN, Kelly fought the good fight, and died surrounded by his family on October 9th, 2022.

Kelly enjoyed playing golf, exercising, video games and woodworking. He was fond of politics, having a career that included reporting for the Jackson Sun news, employed as legislative assistant to Congressman Edward Jones and as Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs.

Before moving to the Grand Strand, Kelly taught History for 15 years in Virginia.

Leaving behind his wife, Nancy, daughter, Kimberly Downing and sons Andrew and Kelly III, along with four grandchildren, Kelly's legacy will be rich and long lasting.

We are grateful to have had the opportunity to know Kelly as part of Grand Strand MOAA.

We are encouraged to sponsor Wreaths for the Florence National Cemetery this Holiday Season. The Blue Star Mothers of Coastal Carolina thank you who have already been so generous with your support this year. We are still short of being able to honor every one of the 15,000+ service members who are buried at Florence National Cemetery, so we are asking for your strong support now.

For those who may be unfamiliar with Wreaths Across America, it is the same program that sponsors the wreaths placed at Arlington National Cemetery each year. I am sure you have seen pictures of how beautiful they look when all the graves are covered. These are live wreaths, made and shipped from the headquarters in Maine. It is a small gesture of thanks, but it means so much to the families of those men and women who are buried there, just knowing that their service and sacrifice has not been forgotten.

Blue Star Mothers of Coastal Carolina ("BSMCC") is a registered sponsor for Wreaths Across America, which means that - for every two wreaths ordered through BSMCC at \$15 each - a third wreath is provided at no additional charge. This means that a \$30 donation will adorn 3 gravesites each with one of these beautiful wreaths.

For mail orders, please make checks payable to Wreaths Across America. Please mail them to:

**Blue Star Mothers of Coastal Carolina
P.O. Box 30307
Myrtle Beach, SC 29588**

Mail orders must be received by Friday, November 18th, in order to ensure sufficient time for processing.

For online orders, please be sure to follow the instructions so that the bonus wreaths are delivered (the codes SC0017 and SCFNCF must be utilized). **Online orders will be accepted through Monday, November 21, 2022.**

Visit www.WreathsAcrossAmerica.org

National Wreath Day is Saturday, December 17, 2022. The ceremony begins at noon, followed immediately by the wreath-laying event, and the public is invited to participate (for the first time in 3 years!!). Parking is very convenient, but seating is very limited, so please plan accordingly. Keep in mind that this is a rain or



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
- Many more news and articles on taxes, healthcare, benefits, etc. at moaa.org



Application Form

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.