

Hilton Head Area Chapter
Military Officers Association of
America

Nov-Dec2024
Volume 7, Issue 5

The Hilton HeadLiner

PRESIDENT

MITCH LECLAIRE, BG, ARNG (RETIRED)

November will be a busy month with the Presidential election, Veterans Day and Thanksgiving. I strongly encourage you to attend the Veterans Day ceremony to be held at Veterans Memorial Park. It is a wonderful event and honors all of us who have served. Also in November, Operation Patriots FOB is hosting its 3rd Annual fundraising Dinner for the Heroes on Saturday, November 9th.

Our December meeting will be at the Country Club of Hilton Head in Hilton Head Plantation and will feature Linda Caldwell, our South Carolina Council President. Linda has a great presentation that focuses on Nurses in Vietnam. We will also support Operation Morale Support, an organization that provides personal items for those who are deployed and don't have access because of lack of facilities. Marge Gaynor, the founder, gave us insight into the workings of the organization at our October meeting.

Finally, get out and vote if you haven't already. I also extend my wishes for a Blessed Thanksgiving.

NEVER STOP SERVING!

MOAA is the nation's largest and most influential association of military officers. It is an independent, nonprofit, politically nonpartisan organization.



2023

**2023 5-Star Award for The
Hilton Head Area Chapter**



**2023 4-Star Award for The
Hilton HeadLiner**



Military Veterans' Coalition (MVC)

Dennis Flynn, COL US Army Ret.

The Military Veterans Coalition (MVC) of Hilton Head Island meets four times a calendar year. The Third Meeting of 2024 was held on September 13. Representatives from all four of the MVC Member Organizations were present. MOAA Chapter President Mitch LeClaire and MOAA Chapter Board Members Dick Dubiel and Dennis Flynn represented MOAA.

The improvements to Veterans Memorial Park during 2024 are being led by MVC Treasurer Ben Kinnas who is also Treasurer of American legion Post 42. Ben has been working with Hilton Head Town Government Staff to upgrade the system for locating each of the Memorial Pavers at the Veterans Memorial. As of now, the installation of an electronic display to locate pavers by name has been completed. This is a significant improvement for use by visitors to the Veterans Memorial.

American Legion Post 42 also has the lead for the 2024 Veterans Day Ceremony. The Event Coordinator is Col Blaine Lotz, USAF Ret. The Keynote Speaker is CH (MG) William Green, Jr. Chaplain Green is the current Chief of Chaplains of the United States Army. Chaplain Green was born in Savannah, GA and was raised on Hilton Head Island. He enlisted in the Army after graduating from high school. CH Green's impressive biography is easy to find on the Internet and I recommend that you read it. This Veterans Day will be very special. The one hour ceremony will include a variety of stirring music by the HHI Choral Society; bugle calls including "Echo Taps"; a presentation by Mayor Alan Perry; Posting of the National Colors by the U.S. Navy Junior ROTC Cadet Corps Honor Guard of Hilton Head High School and other special moments throughout the Program. Admission is free and seating is provided. Please bring your family and friends and enjoy the 2024 Veterans Day Ceremony at Veterans Memorial Park located at 59 Shelter Cove Lane, Hilton Head Island. The ceremony begins at 1025 am on Monday November 11th with Bugler Billy Howe playing "Assembly" at 1025 and "Attention" at 1030.

American Legion Post 185 Adjutant, Warren Graves, asked me to let you all know that the family and friends of Post 185 invite us in MOAA and our family and friends to attend their traditional Veterans Day Luncheon at the Crazy Crab Restaurant at Jarvis Creek (104 William Hilton Pkwy) at 12 Noon following the ceremony at the Veterans Memorial which will probably end around 11:30 am. In addition to MOAA, they have invited American Legion Post 42 and the Navy League folks as well. The procedure is that we will order off the menu and each party will be responsible for payment of their own bill. Dee and I attended the American Legion Post 185 luncheon after the Memorial Day Ceremony and it was a very enjoyable gathering. There will be open seating within the area reserved for the luncheon; excellent food; very relaxing; very nice camaraderie; and fun meeting people from the other Military Veterans Coalition organizations. If you will be attending, please email Warren Graves with the number of people in your party no later than Wednesday, Nov 6. Warren's email address is warrenagraves@hotmail.com.





Veterans Affairs

Craig Ostergard, 1LT, US Army

Operation Patriots FOB Year to Date Recap

- Awards:
 - Platinum-Level from GuideStar
 - Beaufort Regional Chamber Civitas Caretaker
- All programs offered @ OPFOB through 9/30/24 have already exceeded the participation numbers for all of 2023
- Over 25,000 touch points since our doors opened in July 2020. Thankfully we have not lost one of our local veterans to suicide who has passed through our gates.
- Our weekly Coffee and Camaraderie is averaging 265/month in attendance.
- An AA Program was launched in March 2024 @ OPFOB
- Weekly Bible Studies continued in 2024
- OPFOB membership has grown 42% through September
- Through the generosity of an anonymous veteran, we have been able to add some needed staffing—the additional staff will assist in better managing our growth and allow us to better serve our members
- Shooting Clays course has had a significant upgrade in 2024—one of the best now in SC—and we have offered our shooting clays course to local schools' shooting clays teams as a place for their practices. Course is totally ADA compliant
- OPFOB volunteers have provided over 13,700 hours of support thus far in 2024
- OPFOB stepped in when one of our triple amputee Vietnam veterans was in need of a new wheelchair and provided it
- OPFOB supported the Toys for Troops Program
- In 2024, OPFOB has furthered collaboration with other veteran nonprofits including Core Medical, the Big Red Barn, Veterans Guardian and Boulder Crest (the “gold standard” in veteran wellness programs).
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Surviving Spouses

Marilyn Janosco, CPT, US Army

Surviving Spouse Corner: Avoid These Surprises During Your Time of Loss

By: Pat Green October 01, 2024

Photo by RichLegg/Getty Images

Losing a spouse is a traumatic emotional event. When you are in the vulnerable time after your spouse's death, you do not need the extra stress of dealing with surprises. Prepare yourself now for the following:

Finances and Benefits

The Social Security death benefit is only \$255. Pensions are paid forward. You should be prepared for a possible prorated claw-back of the last month of your spouse's pensions. A bill now under consideration in Congress would reduce the effects of the claw-back of your spouse's military pension. Visit MOAA's Legislative Action Center and urge your representatives to support the Respect for Grieving Military Families Act (H.R. 3232/S. 1588).

The year after your spouse dies (if you have no dependents), taxing agencies will consider you a single person. That means that you will pay taxes at a higher rate. Deductions are reduced by one-half when you are single. If there is large equity in your family home, consider the tax consequences of a sale. Time the sale of large assets to reduce your tax implications.

If you do not already own a credit card in your name with a large available credit balance amount, it may be difficult to get one on your newly reduced income.

A regular monetary gift from a spouse's relatives may be reduced or eliminated.

[RELATED: **MOAA Members Save on Estate Planning Tools With Everplans**]

Some life insurance policies are reduced or denied depending on the circumstances of death, for example accidental causes or suicide.

Some well-meaning people can give bad information. Seek professionals for advice on important matters.

Funeral Costs, Timing, and Requirements

Burial costs can run from \$5,000 to \$20,000. If you delay the interment too long, there might be casket storage costs. These costs must be paid when the arrangements are made. Even with pre-arrangement cremation policies, there might be additional costs.

A casket burial at Arlington Cemetery might be a six-month delay. Burial at your nearest national cemetery can usually be arranged in one to two weeks; a year wait might be required for a cremation burial.

You will be asked for your spouse's birth certificate, DD Form 214, your spouse's parents' names and their mother's maiden name.

You will need 15-20 (maybe more) copies of the death certificate.

[MEMBER-EXCLUSIVE PUBLICATION: **Your Guide to Military Burials**]

If a religious service is held, as a member of a church or synagogue, you might be surprised with costs for music, program printing, security, flower attendant, and clean-up fees. Sometimes, there are even pastoral fees.

Social/Personal Concerns

Grief can affect your memory and reasoning skills. Take a trusted friend or child with you to important appointments. Your power of attorney papers should be changed as soon as practicable. Your new best friend might be the county veteran service officer.

Some of your spouse's friends might not wish to continue the relationship with you. In a second marriage, some stepchildren might become aloof.

You might not realize or remember who attended the funeral. Have a guest book. Use it also to note especially thoughtful or kind acts that were shown to you. Later, in review, you can express your appreciation with less emotion and more gratitude.

Children, friends, and neighbors will rally around, but slowly their life will resume to normalcy. Yours will not. You must build your life anew. It's a difficult task, but you can do it.

For more assistance with planning ahead, download MOAA's new publication, [*Preparing for the Loss of a Military Spouse*](#).

Send Us Your Feedback

We'd love to hear from you. Please let us know if this article was helpful by sending an email to sscomm@moaa.org.

[MORE SURVIVING SPOUSE CORNER ARTICLES](#)

News For You

Advocacy

[Push to Retain Skilled Nurses at Military Hospitals Moves Forward in NDAA](#)

Oct 01, 2024

The MOAA-backed provision would help strengthen staffing as these facilities look to add patients.

[Read More](#)

Advocacy

[Readiness, Benefits Remain Under Threat Despite Short-Term Budget Fix](#)

Oct 01, 2024

Congress averted a shutdown for now, but uncertainty for service members and veterans remains without full-year funding.

Wreaths Across America How You Can Support Our Mission

This year, National Wreaths Across America Day will be held on Saturday, December 14, 2024. Join the more than two million volunteers and supporters who will gather to Remember, Honor and Teach at more than 4,600 participating locations in all 50 states, at sea and abroad.

Remember

Sponsor a veteran's wreath in honor of or in memory of a loved one who served in our armed forces. Or, sponsor and allow us to designate a recipient among the millions of heroes who rest in honored glory.

Honor

Volunteer with us as we honor our veterans throughout the year. From laying wreaths locally to leading a sponsorship group or coordinating a ceremony location, there are many ways to get involved!

Volunteer

Teach

Invite your network of friends, family, coworkers and organizations to join us as we strive to honor every veteran. As the scope of our mission grows, so too does the need for support. Help us to spread the word!

Please help us Remember, Honor, and Teach on December 14, 2024 at 12:00 pm (Wreath Placement Immediately Following Ceremony) by sponsoring a wreath, volunteering, or inviting friends to help. Please contact the Location Coordinator here to volunteer: waabeaufort@outlook.com

Programs

If you have ideas for speakers and programs, please contact Holly Gifford Bosworth at hh.moaa@gmail.com.

Please note that the Chapter board approved the change from monthly meetings/activities to bi-monthly. The schedule below reflects this change.

2024/2025

Monday 11 November - Veterans Day Ceremony at Veterans Park, Hilton Head Island, SC

Thursday 12 December - Annual Holiday Dinner Party at The Country Club of Hilton Head, Hilton Head Island, SC. Guest Speaker CPT Linda Caldwell, President SC State Chapter

Thursday 16 January 2025 - Installation of Officers with LTC Bill Koehler, SC State Council Presiding

Tuesday 11 March 2025 - General Membership Luncheon at Jameson's Char House, Sun City

Thursday 15 May 2025 - JROTC Scholarship Luncheon at Wise Guys, Hilton Head Island

Hilton Head Area Chapter Military Officers
Association of America

HHI MOAA
PO Box 22631
Hilton Head Island, SC 29925

HILTON HEAD AREA CHAPTER MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

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USN

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Colonel Jerry Glass, USA

Veterans Outreach Director

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Craig Ostergard, USA

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The MOAA Newsletter is an **award-winning** member-only e-newsletter subscription that provides information on topics most important to MOAA members, like looking for updates on current legislative issues, military benefits, or the latest MOAA events. The MOAA Newsletter is included for free as part of your MOAA membership.

<https://www.moaa.org/content/tmn/the-moaa-newsletter/>

MOAA Taking Action Center.

Find out about MOAA supported legislation and Key Advocacy issues. Click on the link below to go to the MOAA Taking Action Center

[MOAA | Legislative Action Center](#)

https://moaa.quorum.us/sign_in/

2025 Slate of Officers

The slate of Officers for 2025 is listed below. The General Membership will vote on the officers at the 12 December Holiday Dinner.

President—BG Mitchell LeClaire

1st VP (Programs) - COL Ted Jonosko

2nd VP (Membership) - CW5 John Marcinowski

Treasurer—Maj Kerry McMahon

Secretary—Capt Melanie Frank

Public Affairs—Lt Cdr Michael Minton

Military Veterans Coalition—COL Dennis Flynn

Surviving Spouse Liaison—CPT Marilyn Jonosko

Legislative Affairs—Lt Richard Dubiel

Personal Affairs—Lt Col James Clark

Education—COL Gerald Glass

Veterans Outreach Director—1LT Craig Ostergard

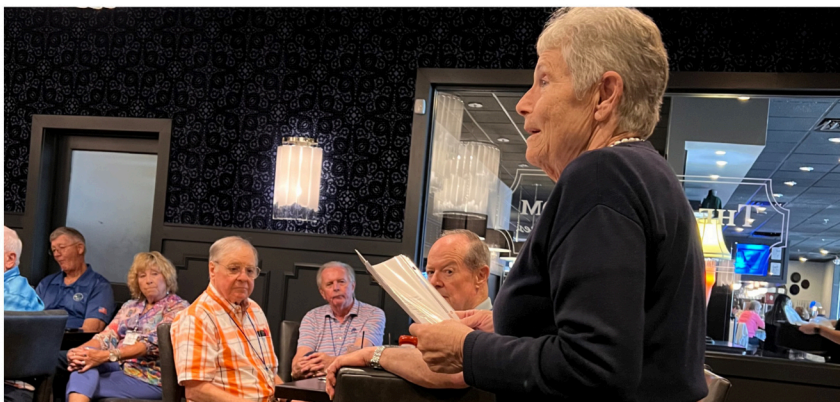
Webmaster/Newsletter Editor—LTC Holly Gifford Bosworth

PHOTOS FROM OCTOBER 2024 MEETINGS



COL Jonosko, National MOAA Board Member, receiving a pen set from President Mitch LeClair as thanks for his presentation to the Chapter Board members.

Marjie Gaynor from Operation Morale Support provided a briefing on her efforts to support military units stationed in isolated areas, like Syria, Egypt, Sinai Kuwait and Poland





*The Hilton Head Area Chapter of the
Military Officers Association of America
Holiday Party*

Thursday 12 December 2024

Social 6:00 PM to 6:45 Dinner 6:45 to 9:00 PM

The Country Club of Hilton Head

70 Skull Creek Drive, Hilton Head Island SC 29926

Passed Hors d'oeuvres

Coconut Shrimp, Vegetable Spring Roll with Sweet Chili

Caesar Salad

Choice of Entrée

Braised Short Rib

*Mushroom Demi-Glace, Roasted Tomato, Rosemary Fingerling
Potatoes, Roasted Vegetable Melange*

Blackened Salmon

*Black Bean & Corn Salsa, Citrus Beurre Blanc, Rosemary
Fingerling Potatoes, Roasted Vegetable Melange*

Red Velvet Cake

\$60.00 per person

RSVP

Wednesday 27 November (FIRM)



Name(s): _____

Menu choices: ____ *Salmon* ____ *Beef Short Rib*

Send your check and entree selection(s), to be received no later than

*Wednesday November 27, 2023 to MOAA-HH PO Box 22631, Hilton Head
Island, SC 29925*



The Hilton Head Area Chapter of The Military Officers Association of America

General Membership Luncheon

Thursday 16 January 2025

Old Oyster Factor

101 Marshland Rd. Hilton Head Island, SC 29926

11:30 AM Social time; 12:00 PM Lunch

Program: Lunch and MOAA Business Meeting, Installation of Officers

Guest Speaker, LTC William Koehler from the South Carolina MOAA State Council

We will be ordering from the menu with separate checks. Please review the lunch menu before arriving at the restaurant so we can order quickly. The menu can be reviewed at the following link: <https://oldoysterfactory.com/hilton-head-island-the-old-oyster-factory-food-menu>

To register for the luncheon please send an email to hh.moaa@gmail.com not later than **Monday 13 January**.



Join Hilton Head Area Chapter MOAA on FACEBOOK

Please click on the link and request to join the group. After Mike Minton accepts your request to join the group, please check out the Facebook page and provide any feedback you may have.

[https://www.facebook.com/groups/
713822702720142](https://www.facebook.com/groups/713822702720142)



2025 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

Please complete this page and mail with your donation check, payable to MOAA-HH, PO Box 22631, Hilton Head, SC 29925 by December 31, 2024.

Dues \$25.00 **Scholarship** _____ **Outreach** _____ **OPFOB** _____ **Total** _____

Please complete the following to assure that your personal information is accurately reflected in the 2025 directory. {PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY}

Last Name _____ First Name _____

Rank _____ Branch of Service _____

National MOAA Membership Number* (REQUIRED) _____

Street Address _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone Number _____

Email Address _____

Name of Spouse _____

Spouse's email _____

*Chapter By-Laws: Article IV - Membership, Section 6 - Regular members are required to hold and maintain membership in The Military Officers Association of America. Auxiliary members are encouraged but not required to hold and maintain such membership. Go to www.moaa.org to find your National MOAA member Number or call MOAA Member Service Center 8AM-6PM Monday through Friday at 800-234-66622 or 703-549-2311. You can also email them at msc@moaa.org.

NEW MEMBER APPLICATION

Please complete this page and mail with your donation check, payable to MOAA-HH, PO Box 22631, Hilton Head, SC 29925 Annual Dues are \$25.00 First Year dues are waived

Dues Waived Scholarship _____ Outreach _____ OPFOB _____ Total _____

Please complete the following to assure that your personal information is accurately reflected in the 2023 directory. {PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY}

Last Name _____ First Name _____

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State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone Number _____

Email Address _____

Name of Spouse _____

Spouse's email _____

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