

Hilton Head Area Chapter
Military Officers Association of
America

July=August 2026
Volume 9 Issue 3

The Hilton HeadLiner

**Brigadier General
Mitchell LeClaire
Chapter President**

As we celebrate two hundred and fifty years since the birth of our country, I am reminded that it was based upon an idea which was reflected in the Declaration of Independence. "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." From this our Nation was founded. There have been hard times, conflicts and struggles but we have remained strong and forthright.

The World Cup soccer tournament has brought players from all corners of the world. To see our country through their eyes has been enlightening for we take our freedoms for granted as evident by the many blessings we have and perhaps don't appreciate.

I feel that this is a great time to be patriotic. It's a time to reflect upon those many blessings that we enjoy. We live in a land where we are free to pursue happiness and growth, to live safely and fully.

Proud to be an American!

NEVER STOP SERVING!



**2025-Star Award for The
Hilton Head Area Chapter**



**2025 5-Star Award for The
Hilton HeadLiner**



MOAA is the nation's largest and most influential association of military officers.

It is an independent, nonprofit, politically nonpartisan organization.

Military Veterans' Coalition (MVC)

Dennis Flynn, COL US Army Ret.

Hilton Head Island Area Military Veterans Coalition (MVC)

The Hilton Head Area Military Veterans Coalition (MVC) meets once a quarter. The first meeting of 2026 was on March 13th. The second meeting was held on May 1st and the third meeting will be held on September 18th. The 4th Quarter meeting date will be decided at the September 1st meeting. MVC President Dick Foster presided. The primary discussion was focused on the status of preparations for the Memorial Day Remembrance Ceremony that was coming up on Monday May 25. In accordance with the MVC By Laws, the Navy League U.S. Council of the Savannah/Hilton Head coordinates every Memorial Day ceremony. Dick Foster, who is also the President of the Savannah/Hilton Head Council of the Navy League U.S. and Peter Hyers (Navy League Council Board member, MVC Board member and MOAA member) reported that everything was in place and ready to go. A few days prior to the ceremony, Dick Dubiel (MVC Board Member and MOAA Board Member) assisted the Navy League by organizing a community outreach detail of Navy JROTC Cadets to assist in putting up the 12 flag poles and flags for the ceremony at Veterans Memorial Park

The next major project that the MVC is responsible for is the Veterans Day ceremony which will be on Wednesday November 11. The Hilton Head Area MOAA Chapter is the MVC Member Organization coordinating the 2026 Veterans Day ceremony. Brigadier General Mitchell LeClaire, President of the MOAA Chapter, is the Master of Ceremonies. The Town of Hilton Head Island Facilities Management Department sets up Veterans Memorial Park with folding chairs and audio equipment for both events. Senior Pastor Rev. Jonathan Tompkins and Lois Chandler, Director of Administration, of Saint Andrew By-The-Sea United Methodist Church, located at 20 Pope Ave, always generously offer the use of the beautiful Church there in the event of rainy weather. Preparations are under way and will continue until November 11th. Individuals and organizations from all four MVC Member Organizations; and from the Town of Hilton Head Island Government; and from the Hilton Head island community are participating.

Visit website at
[Hilton Head Island Veterans Memorial](#)
[Park](#)



First Vice President, Programs
Theodore Janosko, COL US Army Ret.

Thanks for all you do. Wanted to update everyone on several topics

- 1. Meetings.** Thanks to all who attended our May meeting honoring our JROTC at the Wise Guys on May 21, 2026. Our next meeting will on 20 August at the British Open Pub, Bluffton. Hope to see you there.
- 2. Future trips.** Since car-pooling worked so well in March, we are considering several other meetings that we would recommend car-pooling to attend. I would like to do a joint meeting with the Low Country chapter in March 2027 at Parris Island. We are trying to get the post commander to speak at the Traditions (old officer club). Folks could also visit the museum. In the future we are looking at trips to the Mighty 8th Air Force museum in Pooler (cafeteria in the museum) and the innovation center and drone training at Hunter Army Airfield (post dining facility).
- 3. SC Council.** Join us at our 15 October Luncheon SC Council President Jim Albert as our guest Speaker
- 4. Fund Raising.** Still looking for ideas. We are fortunate that many of our members are very well off. We donate very well to a variety of organizations and can now do so using Cheddar-up. I believe that we can host one or two fundraisers a year and donate the proceeds to our scholarships and the OPFOB. We've had several thoughts, and I would like to hear your ideas. Currently I am pursuing chapter coins and a golf tournament since we have several golfers in the chapter.
americanlegionpost205@yahoo.com

Recruiting for Secretary

The Board of Directors is currently recruiting to fill the Secretary position starting in January 2027.

- **Take minutes for the monthly Board meeting held on the first Wednesday of the month.**
- **Keep a record of attendees and their menu selections for the 6 membership meetings and prepare name tags.**
- **Contact Melanie Frank for additional information**

COL Ted Janosko Programs

If you have ideas for speakers, programs or venues, please contact Ted Janosko at tjjanosko@gmail.com.

The MOAA Board of Directors meets the First Wednesday of the month at 11:45 at the Bluffton Public Library or at The Crazy Crab, Jarvis Creek. Members are welcome to attend.

Please check with one of the Board members to determine the location

2026

Thursday 20 August 2026 - British Open Pub, Bluffton. Guest Speaker is Annelore Harrell. Local author and MOAA Surviving Spouse.

Thursday 15 October 2026 - British Open Pub, Bluffton. Guest Speaker: James Albert, President SC Council MOAA

Wednesday 11 November 2026 - Veterans Day Memorial Service at the Shelter Cove Veterans Memorial Park. Lunch, 2nd floor Poseidon following Veterans Day Ceremony.

Thursday 10 December 2026 - Holiday Luncheon at Wise Guys, Hilton Head Island. Guest Speaker is Ted Steinhauser, cybersecurity.

Thursday 21 January 2027 - Old Oyster Factory, 101 Marshland Rd, Hilton Head Island. Guest Speaker is Tank Michaels, MOAA National and installation of officers.

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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moaahhi.org](https://moaahhi.org)**

Surviving Spouse Liaison
Marilyn Janosko, CPT, U.S. Army

Surviving Spouse Corner: Find Support Wherever You Live
Yenchesky
August 05, 2026

By: Roy

A military surviving spouse who lives far from a military installation or VA facility still has access to a wide network of national organizations dedicated to providing support, guidance, and community. One of the most accessible starting points is [Military OneSource](#), which offers 24/7 phone and online assistance, confidential counseling, financial guidance, and help navigating survivor benefits. Because services are delivered virtually, surviving spouses can receive personalized support without traveling long distances.

The [VA's Office of Survivors Assistance](#) also provides extensive online tools, benefit explanations, and direct inquiry support. Surviving spouses can explore programs such as Dependency and Indemnity Compensation, education benefits, and health care options through online guides, downloadable resources, and telephone support. The VA also offers virtual counseling, caregiver resources, and grief support through its Vet Centers and hotlines.

Several national nonprofit organizations play a major role in supporting surviving spouses regardless of location. [MOAA](#) offers survivor-specific guidance, legislative advocacy, and access to both local and virtual chapters. [MOAA's Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter](#) is especially valuable for those who do not live near a military community.

[RELATED: [Surviving Spouse Corner: The Value of Connection](#)]

[USAA](#) provides financial education, insurance guidance, and survivor-specific assistance to eligible members. Their advisors can help spouses navigate life insurance claims, long-term planning, and financial transitions after loss.

The [Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors \(TAPS\)](#) offers grief counseling, peer support, survivor seminars, and a 24/7 helpline. TAPS provides both in-person and virtual programs, ensuring surviving spouses can access emotional support and community from anywhere in the country.

Surviving Spouse Liaison
Marilyn Janosko, CPT, U.S. Army

Veterans service organizations (VSOs) such as the [Veterans of Foreign Wars](#), [the American Legion](#), [AMVETS](#), and [Disabled American Veterans](#) also provide valuable assistance. Even if a spouse does not live near a local post, these organizations maintain state and national service officers who help with VA claims, benefit navigation, and survivor advocacy. Many offer phone appointments, online resources, and virtual support networks.

Surviving spouses should also be aware of the growing number of benefit scammers who target veterans and their families. These scammers often promise to “speed up” VA claims, charge fees for services that should be free, or attempt to collect personal information. A legitimate veterans service officer will never charge for filing a VA claim. Surviving spouses should avoid sharing Social Security numbers, banking information, or benefit documents with anyone who is not a verified representative. When in doubt, they can confirm legitimacy through the VA, state veteran’s agencies, or recognized VSOs.

CW5 John Marcinowski, USA
2nd Vice President - Membership

Welcome to New Members

- **MAJ USA Scott Thompson and his wife Tanya**
- **LT USN Lillian Ramirez and her husband Anthony Williamson,**
- **COL USA John Macintyre and his wife Patricia**
- **CDR USA/USCG Mark Benjamin and his wife Shirley**
- **CAPT USN Thomas Keeley and wife Gloria**

TAPS

Captain, USN George Stubbs, Past President

Captain USN/USA Andrew Aruzza

Sam Hollis, Honorary Member, WWII Veteran

Education Officer
Jerry Glass, COL, US Army, (Ret)

JROTC Awards Luncheon May 21, 2026

Over 50 attendees saw the following awards presented to the JROTC cadets and programs that members of this chapter support. We thank every member who generously contributes to these programs every year with your chapter membership renewals.

- **Navy JROTC -- Hilton Head High School.**

COL Edwin S. Tankins Memorial Scholarship (\$750) to William Chivers (attending The Citadel)

National MOAA Military Achievement Medal (\$100 stipend) awarded to Cindy Rodriquez

Grant (\$1000) in support of unfunded requirements -- Raider team travel and uniform expenses at competitions.

- **Army JROTC -- Bluffton High School**

COL Edwin S. Tankins Memorial Scholarship (\$750) to Adrian Ullman (attending The Citadel)

National MOAA Military Achievement Medal (\$100 stipend) awarded to Miley Castro

Grant (\$1000) in support of unfunded requirements -- Cadet travel expenses to Drill camp and Fort Jackson, SC.

- **Air Force JROTC -- May River High School**

National MOAA Military Achievement Medal (\$100 stipend) awarded to Luke Haro

Grant (\$1000) in support of unfunded requirements -- Unit flag and guidon. Marksmanship team equipment.

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.

[MOAA - The MOAA Newsletter](#)

We're excited to announce that **MOAA's Legislative Action Center** has a new look—redesigned to improve your experience and make it easier to engage on the issues that matter most.

With a streamlined layout and updated navigation, the Action Center now features:

Featured Advocacy Campaigns: Spotlights MOAA's top priorities, and will change depending on what is gaining traction.

Advocacy by Issue Area: A refreshed layout, allowing you to browse topics such as Currently Serving, DoD Health Care, and Retirees & Veterans.

Latest Advocacy News: A new section combining videos, timely analysis, and links to MOAA's most recent advocacy updates.

These enhancements are part of our broader goal to make the Action Center your one-stop-shop for legislative engagement, news, and other important tools.

[Join MOAA's Advocacy!](#)

OPERATION MORALE SUPPORT

Operation Morale Support continues to support military units serving in isolated locations around the world. They currently provide care packages to units in Egypt, Syria, Jordan and Djibouti, Africa and South Korea.

Items typically requested by the units include the following;

Snacks	Cookies
Candy	Baby Wipes
Holiday decorations	Battery operated lights
Instant Coffee	Hygiene Products
Ground coffee	Toiletries
Microwave popcorn	Electrolyte packages
Flaming Hot Cheetos (small)	Trail mix
Foot care products	Tea
	Feminine Products (thin pads/ tampons)

If you would like to support our troops abroad, let me know what you have to donate and I will make arrangements to take the items to Marjie Gaynor, Founder of Operation Morale Support. You can contact me at hh.moaa@gmail.com. Monetary donations are also welcome to offset the cost of postage. You can donate on-line at the MOAA donations site by clicking here

[Operation Morale Support](#).

**Holly Bosworth, LTC US Army
Webmaster/Newsletter Editor**

The Cheddar Up online payment system simplifies membership management for chapters and councils by offering secure payment processing, customizable member experiences, and streamlined record-keeping. It reduces administrative burdens and enhances the MOAA brand.

The goals of Cheddar Up are to make joining a chapter or renewing membership easier and simplifying tracking payments, collection of information from members and record keeping.

We can customize the experience by providing receipts that include membership information, sending messages with dues or event reminders, etc.; allowing for recurring payments/auto renew; including a link to make donations to the chapter; and letting members order meal selections or purchase tickets in advance of meetings and events.

Look for the QR Code or weblink on flyers to access Cheddar Up and payment information.

******* If you are unable or choose not to use the URL link or QR Code to register for events, you can still send a check in the mail with your name and meal selections. Mailing address is HH MOAA, PO BOX 22631, Hilton Head Island, SC 29925**

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.

[Hilton Head Area Chapter MOAA](#)





MOAA SIGNATURE GROUPS

Join MOAA Leadership and your fellow MOAA members
on these hosted cruises and land tours.

AFFORDABLE TRAVEL — Every MOAA Signature Group is a negotiated special which is not available to the general public – only MOAA members and their guests can attend. You can, however, bring as many friends and family members with you as you like.

EASIER, SAFER TRAVEL — Vacations are meant to be an escape. It is your time to relax and unwind, explore, and discover. So, let us take care of the details. This is valuable time that doesn't have to be spent worrying about how you're going to get there or, what you're going to do when you get there

INCREASE THE FUN FACTOR — Being surrounded by like-minded people offers you the chance to share experiences and make new memories together. Group travel can give you the chance to meet people and make new friends. You'll meet individuals who are also passionate about travel and have experiences that are similar to your own. With shared military backgrounds and values, camaraderie forms naturally and often leads to lasting friendships.

2026 & 2027 SIGNATURE GROUPS

July 12-21, 2026	Highlights of Eastern Europe River Cruise	9-nights from \$3,999
October 1-10, 2026	Western Europe Yacht Cruise	9-nights from \$4,999
April 25-May 2, 2027	Castles Along the Rhine River Cruise	7-nights from \$4,199
July 19-27, 2027	France & Spain Yacht Cruise	8-nights from \$5,799
September 14-25, 2027	Circle Iceland Yacht Cruise	11-nights from \$8,999
Sept. 25-Oct. 4, 2027	Battlefields of WWI & WWII Tour	10 days from \$6,495

GUARANTEED LOWEST PRICES from The Official Travel Agency of MOAA



Toll-Free Telephone: **1-800-211-5107**

Email Address: **mail@MOAAvac.com**



For complete details, including detailed day-by-day itinerary, please visit us online

MOAA SIGNATURE GROUP CRUISES



Highlights of Eastern Europe

9-nights ~ July 12-21, 2026

Uniworld Boutique River Cruises
Budapest to Bucharest

Rates from **\$3,999** Riverview, **\$5,099** Balcony
Single Supplement from \$2,400

MOAA Amenity: €100 Onboard Credit per person



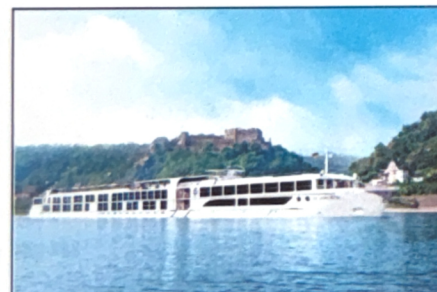
Western Europe Yacht Cruise

9-nights ~ October 1-10, 2026

Atlas Ocean Voyages
Dublin to Porto

Rates from **\$4,999** Oceanview, **\$5,499** Balcony
Single Supplement from \$2,025

MOAA Amenity: \$100 Onboard Credit and Premium Unlimited Wi-Fi per person



Castles Along the Rhine

7-nights ~ April 25-May 3, 2027

Uniworld Boutique River Cruises
Amsterdam to Basel

Rates from **\$4,199** Riverview, **\$5,199** Balcony
Single Supplement from \$2,000

MOAA Amenity: €100 Onboard Credit per person



France & Spain Yacht Cruise

8-nights ~ July 19-27, 2027

Atlas Ocean Cruises
Nice to Barcelona

Rates from **\$5,799** Oceanview, **\$6,399** Balcony
Single Supplement from \$2,430

MOAA Amenity: \$100 Onboard Credit and Premium Unlimited Wi-Fi per person



Circle Iceland Yacht Cruise

11-nights ~ Sept. 14-25, 2027

Atlas Ocean Voyages
Reykjavik to Dover

Rates from **\$8,999** Oceanview, **\$9,999** Balcony
Single Supplement from \$3,947

MOAA Amenity: \$100 Onboard Credit and Premium Unlimited Wi-Fi per person





**The Hilton Head Area Chapter of
The Military Officers Association of America
General Membership Luncheon**

Thursday 15 October 2026

The Golf Club at Indigo Run, 101 Berwick Drive, Hilton Head Island

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

Program: Jim Albert, President, SC MOAA Council

Menu

Cobb Salad - Mixed greens, topped with grilled chicken, sliced avocado, grape tomatoes, blue cheese crumbles, bacon bits, egg, balsamic vinaigrette

Gourmet Turkey Wrap - Sliced avocado, smokehouse bacon, heirloom tomato, Boursin cheese, Arcadian greens, cilantro aioli, French Fries

Club Burger- Chuck, short rib and brisket patty, Cheddar cheese, lettuce, tomato, onion, toasted brioche bun, French Fries

Cost: \$30.00 per person

Reservations must be received by MONDAY 8 October

Name _____

Salad _____ Turkey Wrap _____ Burger _____



Mail with your check to HH-MOAA, PO Box 22631, Hilton Head Island, SC 29925

Reserve and pay through Cheddar Up here



**The Hilton Head Area Chapter of
The Military Officers Association of America
Veterans Day Luncheon**

Tuesday 11 November 2026

Poseidon Coastal Cuisine
38 Shelter Cove Lane, Shelter Cove Towne Centre,
Hilton Head, SC 29926

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

ENTREE COURSE

BAJA SALAD WITH GRILLED SHRIMP: Mixed Greens, Roasted Corn, , Black Beans, Cucumber, Grape Tomatoes, Monterey Jack Cheese, Avocado, Red Chili Ranch Dressing & Tortilla Strips

4oz GRILLED SALMON: Lemon Butter Sauce served with Chef's Accompaniments

CHICKEN PICATTA: Lemon Caper Sauce with Chef's Accompaniments

TOMATO PIE WITH SMALL SIDE SALAD: Fresh Tomato, Mozzarella, Parmesan, Garlic & Herbs served with a Small Garden Salad

DESSERT COURSE

**Double Chocolate Bread
Pudding**

BAR : CASH BAR

Guests Responsible for their own Tabs

SPECIAL WINE & BLOODY MARY PRICING

- \$6 per glass/each

Iced Tea/Coffee Service included

Cost: \$30.00 per person

[Click here to register with Cheddar Up](#)

[If you choose not to use Cheddar Up](#)

Name _____

Baja Salad _____ Salmon _____ Chicken _____

Tomato Pie _____



[Reservations must be received by Thursday 4 November](#)

Mail with your check to HH-MOAA, PO Box 22631, Hilton Head Island, SC 29925

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

2026 HH MOAA membership Renewal Form

Dues \$30.00 Scholarship _____ Outreach _____ OPFOB _____

Operation Morale Support _____ Total _____

Please complete the following to ensure that your personal information is accurately reflected in the 2026 directory. **(PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)**

Last Name _____ First Name _____

Rank _____ Branch of Service _____

Active _____ Retired _____ Former _____

National MOAA Membership Number* (REQUIRED) _____

Street Address _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone Number _____ Cell _____ or Mobile _____

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 the [MOAA Home page](#) to find your National MOAA member number or call MOAA Member Service Center 8AM-6PM Monday through Friday at 800-234-6622 or 703-549-2311. You can also email them at msc@moaa.org,

You can now renew and pay your annual membership dues on line with our new Cheddar-Up program. Click [here](#) to go to Cheddar-Up or use the QR Code below.



NEW MEMBER APPLICATION

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

Membership dues are waived for the first year

Enclosed

Dues \$30.00 Scholarship _____ Outreach _____ OPFOB _____

Operation Morale Support _____ Total _____

Please complete the following to ensure that your personal information is accurately reflected in the directory.
(PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)

Last Name _____ First Name _____

Rank _____ Branch of Service _____

Active _____ Retired _____ Former _____

National MOAA Membership Number* (REQUIRED) _____

Street Address _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone Number _____

Email Address _____

Name of Spouse _____

Spouse's email _____



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