

THE SARASOTA BREEZE



THE MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF SARASOTA, INC.

An Affiliate of The Military Officers Association of America-MOAA and The Florida Council of Chapters

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Best Newsletter 2007; 1st Runner Up 2008; 2nd Runner Up 2009

April 2011

ANOTHER GREAT PERFORMANCE BY THE CABARET TONADOES

by Pat McLain

In spite of the construction, displacement and inconvenience currently going on at Booker, Musical Director, Johnnie Mnich managed to put together a wonderful production of Stephen Schwartz songs for the entertainment of our members and guests.

The Tonadoes led off with *Magic* by the Company, followed by Leo Chap-pell's solo of *Corner of the Sky*, Brian Finnerty & Company with *We Beseech Thee*, Jasmine Deal & Company with *Turn Back, O Man*, the very familiar *Day By Day* by Kathryn Huxtable & Company and *The Spark of Creation* by Maddie Kaus. The program continued with Tyler Bazenas singing *Lost In The Wilderness*, followed by one of the highlights of the show when Savanna Freeman & Company performed *No Time At All* and tried to get our prim and proper audience to sing along. The group concluded their program with *When You Believe* sung by Becca Leap & Company, *All For The Best* by Treyvon Thomas, Matt Robertson & Com-pany, *Stranger To The Rain* by Simone Curry, and *Morning Glow* by Douglas Kolakowski & Company.



The casually outfitted teenagers gave us a really "fun" afternoon and we must also congratulate Victoria Miller for her outstanding cho-reography. Some of the students will be graduating this year but we are looking forward to see what next year's group will come up with to surprise us.

I also want to offer my personal thanks to these kids for singing *Happy Birthday* to me, for the flowers, and for the beautiful card they all si gned.

See Photos on Pages 8 to 11 •

APRIL PROGRAM: JOHN JAKES, NOTED AUTHOR

by Vic Reiling

Praised as "the godfather of the historical novel and "the people's author," John Jakes mingles the lives of his fictional characters with those of historical personages, and involves them in the great events of the United States and the world.

John's devotion to a unique blend of strong story telling and historical ac-curacy has won him a worldwide audience. More than 55 million copies of his *Kent Fam-ily Chronicles* are currently in print, along with nearly 10 million copies of *The North and South Trilogy*. The story of the German American Crown family of Chicago inter-weaves twentieth century history in *Home-land* and it's sequel, *American Dreams*.

He has written sixteen consecutive New York times Bestsellers and six of his major novels have been filmed as television mini-series. •

We are delighted to have this wonderfully creative Sarasota County resident as our April 15th luncheon speaker! •



WHAT'S INSIDE . . .

Chapter Officers, Directors and Committees ...	2
President's Message	2
Secretary's Corner	3
Legislative Update	4
Academic Olympics & VPA & JROTC.....	5
Chaplain's Corner	5
Support Our Troops.....	7
TAPS.....	8
Membership Actions	8
YAHOO Activities	6&7
VPA & Luncheon Photos.....	10 -13
March Birthdays	13
Items of Interest to MOAS Members	14
MOAS Calendar	Back Cover

Chapter Officers, Directors and Committees

Board of Directors

President	John O'Brien	907-8891
First Vice-President	Troy Scott	379-3023
Second Vice-President	Victor G. Reiling, Jr.	377-1262
Treasurer	Donald M. Kuyper	726-5790
Secretary	George L. Binswanger	922-1824
Director (Scholarships)	William Robert La Follette	755-9019
Director (Membership)	George Tracy	907-9865
Director (Publicity)	Alan Forrester	504-5759
Immediate Past President	Leonard Friedlander	927-0996

Board Staff

Program Planning	Victor G. Reiling, Jr.	377-1262
Membership Database Mgr	George Tracy	907-9865
Membership Directory Mgr	Leonard Friedlander	927-0996
Chaplain	James Martin	927-1815
Chaplain	Charles Caudill	751-3810
Legislative Affairs	Leonard Friedlander	927-0996
Veterans Affairs	Patricia McLain	371-0883
Treasurer Emeritus	Marty Hertz	377-8319
Historian	George L. Binswanger	922-1824
Awards Board	Gerald Crawford	426-2411

Scholarship & Projects Committee

Chairman	Steve Cork	377-5485
Member	Winnie Gillette	924-8655
Member	Norman Maclellan	493-1725
Member	Claire Power	921-1931

Scheduled Events Committee

Chair/Reservations	Elke Scott	379-3023
Greeter	Troy Scott	379-3023
Reception Manager	Pat McLain	371-0883
Asst Reception Manager	June Moore	388-3118
50-50 Manager	Peggy O'Connell	342-6697

Survivor Assistance Services Committee

Chairperson	Charles Caudill	751-3810
Member	Margaret Platt	378-8863
Member	Lee Kichen	355-1227

Auxiliary

Chairperson	Barbara Hamilton	921-9250
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Social Club YAHOO (Young At Heart Officers Organization)

Manager	John O'Brien	obrienjc@aol.com	907-8891
MOAS Singles Group	Marguerite Taylor		923-9238

Support Our Troops Program

Program Co-Chairpersons	Jim & Joyce Hesson	926-8702
Program Co-Chairpersons	Donald & Rita Cunningham	351-8967
Program Co-Chairpersons	John & Carol O'Brien	907-8891

Newsletter Operation, Sarasota Breeze

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Photo Recorder	Barbara Hamilton	bah2762@aol.com	921-9250



In 1929, in Los Angeles, CA, The Retired Officers Association (TROA) was founded. Most of us have been TROA members. TROA re-located to Washington, DC in 1944, and became the present Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) in 2003. Since then they have become active proponents in Congress on public issues impacting active duty and retirees.

The relationship of our organization, the Military Officers Association of Sarasota, to MOAA is as an "affiliate". That means we are a Chapter, or club, etc, and an "independent, self-governing organization that voluntarily choose to affiliate with national MOAA for the purpose of cooperation and mutual support in attaining common goals." (P 5, MOAA Council and Chapter Policies and Procedure Guide.) MOAA puts out Guidance, which helps us to organize, but our chapter is free to operate as its members see fit.

As I found out while serving 5 years in the Pentagon on the Army Staff and on the staff of the Army Surgeon General, DOD rarely contemplates how they can take care of either retirees or even Active Duty personnel issues, unless it is brought to their attention. The MOAA slogan of "One Powerful Voice" counts in the halls of Congress. This is an important thing that MOAA does for us.

Most of us are on Medicare now, and I'm not aware of a similar organization like MOAA representing us in Congress. However, MOAA will be there for Tricare For Life. DOD does not want it in their budget line. We need to make an effort to keep informed, and don't forget our high voter turnout. Stay informed!

Recently Captain Jim Martin (USNR) submitted his resignation as Chapter Chaplain after five years of service to the Sarasota MOAA Chapter. His service to MOAS followed a 30-year career in the US Navy Ready Reserve and eleven years as the Chaplain for the MOAA Chapter in San Diego. We are very grateful for the time that Jim has devoted to our Chapter and wish him well in the years to come. While he will be spending the summer months up north, we fully expect to see him and his lovely wife Anne back here in Sarasota come fall. We wish you Godspeed.

Jim has written a very moving and insightful article that highlights his thoughts on his spiritual journey through life. He wanted to share it with MOAS members, and we have produced the article, entitled *My Own Journey*, as an insert to this newsletter. ●

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The Board meeting was called to order at 1600 hours on 7 March 2011 at the Meadows Community Center, President John O'Brien presiding.

ATTENDANCE. Board members present: John O'Brien (Pres), Troy Scott (1VP), Vic Reiling (2VP), George Binswanger (Secy), Don Kuyper (Treas), George Tracy (Dir), Bill LaFollette (Dir), Alan Forrester (Dir) and Len Friedlander (IPP). Committee members and visitors present: Max Jonah, Pat McLain, Charles Caudill, and Jim Hesson.

PRESIDENTS REPORT. Minutes of the Special Board Meeting of 17 January 2011 were made a matter of record wherein the following occurred: "A motion was made by Reiling and seconded by Kuyper to appoint John O'Brien, COL, US ARMY (Ret) President and Troy Scott, COL, US ARMY (Ret) as 1st Vice President for the remainder of the 2011 term. Approval was unanimous."

SECRETARY'S REPORT. The minutes from the 7 February 2011 Board Meeting were approved. MOAS name tags are available at \$15.00 each. Make out check to MOAS. Contact the Secretary at 941-922-1824 or at cbinsy@verizon.net.

BOARD MEETINGS & LUNCHEONS - 2011		
MONTH	BOARD MEETING	LUNCHEON
APRIL	4	15
MAY	2	20
JUNE	6	17
JULY	5	15
AUGUST	1	19
SEPTEMBER	6	16
OCTOBER	3	21
NOVEMBER	7	18
DECEMBER	5	11 (GALA)

TREASURER'S REPORT. As of 28 February 2011

- a. The balance of the MOAS Operating Fund is \$12,282.78.
- b. The balance of the Scholarship Fund is \$32,581.72 which includes \$6,681.73 in Special Accounts (Support Our Troops & Taylor Funds). A spreadsheet breakdown will be provided next month. The Treasurer's report was approved.

OLD BUSINESS. Troy Scott presented a plan and location for the proposed 2013 FCOC Convention in Sarasota. It will be held, if approved by FCOC Board, at the Hyatt on 6th Street and the Bay. The date, if approved, will be 6-9 June 2013.

PROGRAMS

March	Booker High School VPA
April	Author John Jakes
May	Scholarship Awards (COL Dave Dawson - CENTCOM)
June	TBA

MEMBERSHIP

MOAS	2010	2011
Regular	342	337
Auxiliary	96	101
Allied	4	4
Total	442	442

SCHOLARSHIPS AND PROJECTS. Applications are coming in from students. An evaluation meeting of the committee will take place on 5 April at SMA.

SUPPORT OUR TROOPS. John O'Brien reported that 400 boxes were shipped with a lot of help from the post office.

PUBLICITY. Alan Forrester reported that MOAS now has 15 new press contacts. He needs photos to send to contacts. On Saturday 12 March 2011 Veterans will be honored, as well as our late President Ray O'Connell, at a celebration in Lakewood Ranch.

SARASOTA COUNTY VETERANS COMMISSION. The Annual Prayer Breakfast will be held 1 April 2011 and the Relay for Life Cancer Walk at Sarasota High School will be held 8-10 April 2011. If interested, contact Pat McLain (371-0883) for particulars. The second section of the National Cemetery in Sarasota is now undergoing construction and will include 12,000 casket burial spots, 16,000 cremation burial spots, and 7,200 Columbarium spots. There are 30 volunteers at the cemetery, but they can always use more help. Services will be held 29 May 2011 at 1:30 PM for Memorial Day and parking may be very limited.

CHAPLAIN. Charles Caudill presented a draft letter which he would like to send to widows over the President's signature.

NEXT MEETING. The Board adjourned at 1735 hours. The next Board meeting is on 4 April 2011 at 1600 hours on the Meadows Community Center. All members are welcome to attend. ●

SHS JROTC GOLF TOURNAMENT

The Sarasota High School Junior ROTC is hosting their 2nd Annual Golf Tournament on April 30, 2011 at Heritage Oaks Country Club. For Tournament details please contact Barbara Hamilton at (941) 921-9250 email: BAH2762@aol.com or COL (Ret.) Fred Thibault at (941) 915- 0467 email: agrcol@comcast.net . ●



SUPREME COURT DECIDES MILITARY-RELATED ISSUES

On March 2nd the Supreme Court ruled that members of the controversial Westboro Baptist Church in Topeka, Kan., have the right to picket funerals for service members killed in action. The 8 to 1 decision (Snyder v. Phelps) reversed a lower court’s finding that the group was liable for inflicting emotional distress on the family of Marine Lance Cpl. Matthew Snyder, who died in Iraq.

On March 1st, the Supreme Court ruled unanimously in favor (Staub v. Proctor Hospital) of Army Reservist Vincent Staub, who sued his former employer for wrongful termination under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act. Staub, a hospital employee, was fired in 2004 because of his military obligations. A jury found the hospital liable, but an appeals court reversed the decision. The Supreme Court reversed the appeals court’s decision.

Also on March 1st, the Court unanimously found (Henderson v. Shinseki) that the deadline set up by the Veterans Affairs Department for filing supplemental disability benefits “does not have jurisdictional consequences,” so a party’s failure to file within the specified period could be excused by the Veterans Court.

TRICARE FEE HIKES

For the first two years of the Obama administration, Secretary Gates proposed no TRICARE fee hikes, but in recent months he had been telling audiences that the FY2012 budget would propose “modest” TRICARE fee increases for “working-age retirees”.

On Feb 14 Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness) Dr. Clifford Stanley called a meeting with Veterans Services Organization leaders, including MOAA President VADM Norb Ryan, Jr. (USN-Ret) to outline the TRICARE fee proposals included in the new FY2012 Defense budget.

The discussed plan entails no changes for TRICARE Standard or TRICARE For Life, and no means testing of fees. It proposes what Stanley described as “modest, gradual” changes in TRICARE Prime enrollment fees, and would exempt military disability (chapter 61) retirees and survivors. Specifically, the plan calls for:

- Raising the 2012 Prime enrollment fees by 13% -- from \$230 single/\$460 family per year to \$260/\$520 (survivor and chapter 61 retiree fees would remain at current rates)
- Indexing those fees in 2013 and beyond to a medical inflation index (based on a measure of Medicare cost growth projected to rise at 6.2% per year)

- Changing TRICARE pharmacy co-pays as follows (changes indicated in parentheses):

	Retail	Home Delivery (Mail Order)
Generic	\$5 (+\$2)	Zero (-\$3)
Brand Name	\$12 (+\$3)	\$9 (no change)
Non Formulary	\$25 (+\$3)	\$25 (+\$3)

MOAA is encouraged that the new proposal avoids the draconian TRICARE fee increases proposed in the past. While some areas warrant additional adjustment, it makes a better effort to recognize that career military people pre-pay a very large price for their lifetime health coverage up front – through decades of service and sacrifice.

However, not to rain on the parade, I believe there will be definite pressure on the TRICARE programs in the Congress. According to a report released 28 FEB by the Center for American Progress (CAP), the cost of military health care will exceed \$52B in 2012, if left unchecked - a 300% increase over the last decade. The report, *Doing What Works*, also states that by 2015, health care will account for 10% of DoD spending. Like previous reports, CAP’s recommendations would not change health care services provided to active duty troops, but suggests changes that specifically target working-age retirees who choose TRICARE Prime over the more expensive employer provided commercial coverage option.

But unlike previous reports, the report also calls for implementing fees for retirees over 65 who use TRICARE for Life (TFL); the supplemental policy for veterans enrolled in Medicare. Under the proposal TFL enrollees would pay a \$120 annual enrollment fee, see an increase in cost sharing with Medicare, and would lose coverage for the first \$500 in expenses. The changes called for in the report would, according to the authors, save \$15B a year; an inviting target.

The current cost of TRICARE may be unsustainable; and, although past attempts to raise TRICARE fees for retirees have failed, the current deficit situation, and the Tea Party pressure in Congress to reduce the Defense budget, may make TRICARE a prime target. This is something we must ALL keep an eye on---and make our Representatives and Senators aware of our interest and concern.

VETERAN STATUS

Sen. Mark Pryor (D-AR) is taking another shot at better defining who can legally call themselves a veteran. Pryor introduced a bill 4 MAR that has the full support of the National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS). Current law requires someone to have served a certain period on federal status to qualify for full standing as a veteran. Someone who served 20 years in the National Guard or Reserve without that qualifying period is a military retiree, but not a veteran.

Pryor’s bill, Honor America’s Guard-Reserve Retirees Act of 2011 (S.491), has been referred to the Committee on Veterans Affairs. The bill does not add any benefits and, therefore, is of no cost to the government, but would allow someone who serves honorably for 20 years in the Guard or Reserve the simple privilege of legally being a veteran. •



VPA

April 7- 9 - Pops & Jazz Concert - 7:00 PM
Adults \$10; Students \$5

May 4-7 - *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Musical) - 7:00 PM
Adults \$15; Seniors \$10; Students \$5

Reservations: Judy Piercy,
@ (941) 355-2967

ACADEMIC OLYMPICS

The Semi-Final matches on March 22 and the Final matches on March 26 are past the publication date of this issue. The results will be published in the May issue of the Breeze.



The Booker High Tornado Battalion has grown in size from last year's 105 cadets to over 170 this year. We decided to have our Battalion participate in a "Support Our Troops" project supported by the Military Officers Association of Sarasota (MOAS) for soldiers in Afghanistan. Thanks to the donations of the American Legion, Sons of the American Legion, Ladies Auxiliary, Vietnam Brotherhood and the cadets, we were able to send numerous boxes to troops serving overseas.

The 2010 – 2011 BHS Raider Team had the most successful season in 15 years. Participating in local and district meets, they have won over 20 trophies. Thanks again to a donation from the MOAS, we were able to provide them with T-Shirts that not only united them as a team, but inspired them to work harder and achieve more than ever.

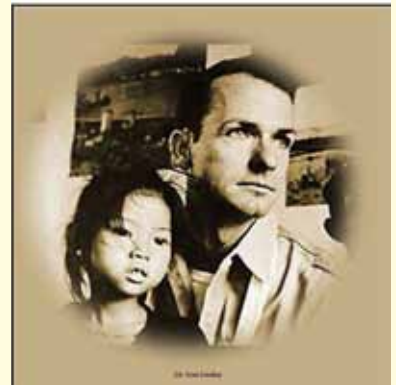
Five of our cadets were selected to attend a trip to Tallahassee for Governor Scott's Inauguration. We had the opportunity to attend a ceremony honoring those who serve and a youth concert. We participated in the prayer breakfast preceding the inauguration and met several government leaders. Overall, Booker JROTC has one of the most successful years ever and we continue to improve.

Written by: C/CPT Kristi Coburn •



The Joy of Giving

One of my heroes is deceased. Navy Lt. Tom Dooley (M.D.), whose life influenced me to enter the Military Chaplaincy, was serving aboard an aircraft carrier in the Gulf of Tonkin in 1954. Still in his twenties, he was asked to help refugees flooding in from North Vietnam. When he arrived at the refugee location, he observed that the hospital could not begin to handle the needs of ten to fifteen-thousand ragged, half-starved refugees. He had only three Navy Corpsmen and a few Vietnamese nurses to help him. The temperature was over 100 degrees, and most of the children had watched their villages being burned and their parents torn from them. He wrote *"...my conscience kept driving me to do more. I could never do enough..."* He began scrounging medicine from ships at sea, tents from the Army units, and vehicles from whoever would give them.



He took leave to ask for help from companies in the U.S. and finally resigned from the Navy to spend all of his time in Southeast Asia. After numerous trips to and from Vietnam, he began to get the attention of the American public. Unfortunately, on his last trip to the U.S. he discovered he had lung cancer. To return to Vietnam was signing his death warrant, yet he had to return. He wrote, *"I know the meaning of my dream...I must, into the burnt soil of my personal mountain, plant the seedling of my life...whatever time is left, whether it be a year or a decade, would be more than just a duration, I will continue to help the clots and clusters of withered and wretched in Asia to the utmost of my ability."*

In spite of his deteriorating health, he worked 20 hours a day until his body literally gave out. On January 18, 1961, he died, one day after his 34th birthday.

Robert Frost could have written Dr. Dooley's epitaph when he wrote: *"The woods are lovely, dark and deep, but I have promises to keep, and miles to go before I sleep, and miles to go before I sleep."*

We all have talents to give. How very rich we become when we discover just who are meant to receive them. Regardless of the time we have left on our life's journey, we must ask if we are giving the gifts of our talents and spirit. As Sir Winston Churchill said, *"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."* •



March's Polo at Lakewood Ranch, sponsored by the Staleys and O'Briens, was a perfect Florida day, with masses of great food. How so many people can have so much fun doing nothing is a mystery. Rumor has it that horses were observed in the area.



On April 16 YAHOOs will attend the Camel Races, hosted by the Staleys, with supporting roles by the Doveners and O'Briens. A second April event will be kayaking Anna Maria Island with lunch at the Mar Vista, sponsored by Ray Day. May 4th will be a cruise/lunch at Snook Haven on the Myakka River and June 11 a Sightseeing Lunch Cruise on the Caloosahatchee River, Ft Myers.

APRIL 16 - 6:00 PM- MOAS CAMEL RACES AT STALEYHILL DOWNS



Patt & Mike Staley, with the assistance of long time camel lovers, the Doveners and O'Briens, will be presenting a new event for YAHOOs. This is a dual-purpose event, entertainment for the participants and supporting our scholarship & SOT funds.

Attendees will be issued a Race Card with the exotic names of these beautiful greyhounds of the desert. These elegant speedsters

were imported to Sarasota with no expense spared, directly from Tahrir Square, Cairo, Egypt, where they learned to run for their lives. After a short YAHOO lesson on how the races are conducted and a description of each cuddly, but still "studly", camel... all YAHOOs will be able to place a bet on any of the 6 camels. Minimum bet will be \$1.00 with a maximum bet of \$20 on any of the six camel races. Half the winnings go to the winner, and the rest is donated equally between the MOAS scholarship and SOT funds.

Please dress according to the weather since the race will take place outdoors. Camels are cute, but messy - high boots and air freshener suggested

There will be Fajitas & fixings, served with salsa & guacamole. BYOB. Cups & mixers provided. Please RSVP to Patt or Mike Staley not later than April 8 at (941) 752-4086.

Directions: From I-75 Exit 217A. Exit ramp bears into State Road 70 heading east. Go 3 miles to Lakewood Ranch Blvd. Turn right into LWR and go one mile to the 4-way stop. Turn right onto Clubhouse Drive. Go one block to Summerfield Woods & Bluffs & turn left onto Tumbleweed Drive. Drive just past the little island & turn left onto Pine Lilly Place. 11408 Pine Lilly Place is the second house on the right.

APRIL 25 - 08:30 AM - YAHOO KAYAK TRIP

This kayak trip, sponsored by Ray Day, will be to a new area. Our guide, John Sarkozy, has recommended the north end of Sarasota Bay, and our launch point will be the bay side South Coquina Beach ramp area. This is located immediately north of the Longboat Pass Bridge, and is on the east side of Anna Maria Island. After you cross the Longboat Pass Bridge, take the first right turn into the parking area. We will meet at the parking area at 0830 and prepare for a launch NLT 0900 hrs.

Our kayaking route will be north past mangrove covered Leffis Key. At the Bradenton Beach City Pier we will cross the channel to the fishing village of Cortez and visit a bird rookery at Kitchen Key before returning to our launch point by 1230 hrs. YAHOO R&R after kayaking will be at the Mar Vista Dockside Restaurant and Pub, 760 Broadway, Longboat Key.

RSVP Ray (941) 927-0398, or email DayR1@comcast.net.

To reserve a kayak for this outing, the fee is \$25 per person and includes all the necessary equipment. If you bring your own kayak, the fee is \$10 per person. Payment is by check to "Raymond Day" and he will pay John with a single check. Don't forget the necessary Florida equipment of water, hat, sunscreen, snack, and water shoes.

MAY 4TH - TERRY'S RIVER TOURS AND LUNCH AT SNOOK HAVEN

Come join Carol and John O'Brien for an *elegant* river cruise and lunch at Snook Haven, the *ultimate 5 star old Florida experience*. Terry's River Tour is providing an "exclusive" YAHOO ONLY

Myakka River adventure on the mighty vessel Nan-Sea. While on this Florida Wild & Scenic River you will learn about local history and see native birds, frolicking alligators and cute 30-foot anacondas.



The adventure begins "about" 11:10 AM when we board the vessel, so we recommend that you arrive before that time to look around, check out the area and use the restrooms before the trip. The boat tour begins at 11:30 AM and hopefully, with a little luck, returns to Snook Haven dock at 12:30 PM. The cost for the boat tour is \$13.95 per person, CASH ONLY.

Lunch will be at the famous Snook Haven restaurant (reservation for 30 people @ 12:30 PM). Everyone will pay for their own lunch, and credit cards are accepted at the restaurant.

RSVP Carol at 907-8891 or cobrienvt@aol.com NLT 25 April so we can confirm these hard to obtain reservations. DIRECTIONS: Take I-75 to Exit 191. Travel South on River Rd. Left at Venice Avenue, which is a tree-lined dirt road. Snook Haven is at the end of the road. If you miss it you will be in the river.

***JUNE 11TH - SIGHTSEEING LUNCH CRUISE
ON THE CALOOSAHATCHEE RIVER
FT MYERS***

The YAHOO's are doing something different in June. Carol and John O'Brien are sponsoring a lunch cruise out of Ft. Myers on board the climate controlled triple decked paddle wheeler, the Capt. P. for a 4½ hour cruise on the Caloosahatchee River. The river is lined with beautiful homes surrounded by lush tropical growth. Hopefully we will see a few manatees and other Florida wildlife in their natural habitat. We will also see some of the Intracoastal Waterway and the W. P. Franklin Locks that control the waters of Lake Okechobee. During the cruise we will enjoy an All You Can Eat Buffet Luncheon with a cash bar, therefore no coolers on this trip. Don't forget hats and sun- screen.

We have a reservation for 20 - 30 people. The cost is \$34.98 per person. Please make a check out to John or Carol O'Brien and send to 7606 Broomsedge Ct. Lakewood Ranch, FL 34202. RSVP to the O'Brien's with a check to assure your reservation NLT June 1st. We will then write one check that needs to be received by the cruise company a week in advance.

Boarding begins at 10:30 AM with an 11:00 AM departure. We recommend arriving NLT 10:15 AM. The boat returns to the dock at 3:30 PM

Directions: Take I-75 to Exit 141. Head west approximately 6 miles to the downtown Fort Myers area. Make a right turn onto Hendry St. (Dead ends at the river). Boat address is 1300 Hendry St. Ft. Myers, FL 33902.



Carol and I recently had Support Our Troops help from an obvious source, but previously not used, high schools students needing volunteer time. Our neighbor, a retired Air Force pilot who flies for FEDEX, had heard about our Support Our Troops program and asked if his daughter, a high school freshman, could help us in some way. In many cases organizing this type of effort is more work than just doing it yourself. Since we needed to assemble the paper work for 400 kits, which is great fun (?), we decided to try it. The next thing we knew we had three girls and gave them the different piles of paper; the Instruction letter, customs form needing 3 blocks checked off, and the address labels to the units we support.

The next day, as the girls had just about completed their assigned efforts, I received an email that the addresses we had just received from the Public Affairs Office at Ft Campbell were useless. The units were deploying back to Campbell. When you are doing this as much as we do, that is very discouraging. However, it did not seem to bother the kids. They got all the paper work done, and assembled the postal boxes the next day, ready for the next drive. Think we can get them for the hundreds of SOT Kits we will need for the Memorial Day Parade?

If you have not been following Afghanistan lately, American combat forces have been on the offensive clearing Taliban positions, and occupying positions that will make it difficult for the Taliban to return. It is planned to bring some of the Afghan Army into some of these positions too. The spring offensive, which will start soon, will be a major test of US plans to deny the return of the Taliban, and it will certainly not be casualty free. These young men need our support.

Call me; we have 400 Kits we can bring over. 907-8891. We deliver, or pick them up at the luncheon. ●



Terry Neuss, on left, with her guest, Dottie Koutsoris



NEW MEMBERS

James O. Hubbard, LCDR, USN (ret)

16105 Lakeshore Drive
Sarasota, FL 34231
(941) 926-4665 jimhub22@verizon.net

Edwin M. Wheeler, Former Officer, USA

(Rosalie “Ro”)

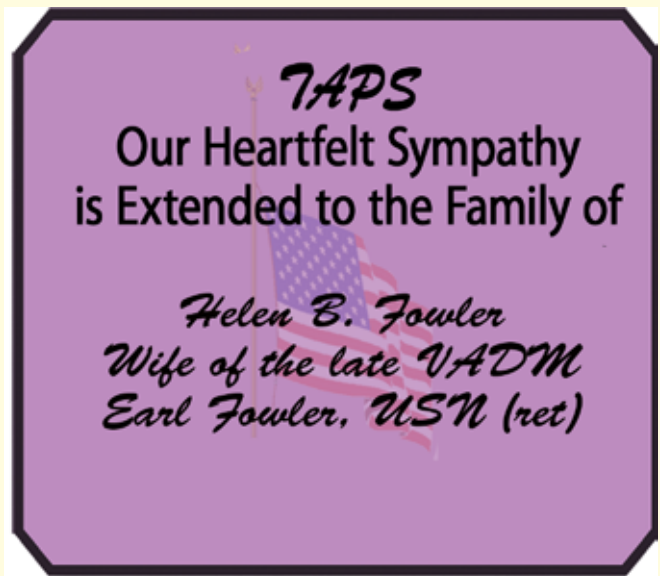
1299 N Tamiami Trail, #260
Sarasota, FL 34236-2468
(941) 316-0374 emwaf@aol.com

In coordinating our 2011 “Give Me 10” team recruiting effort with our national MOAA organization, we know that our local community includes many former and potential MOAA members, whom we hope to return or renew to active status. With this in mind, I would appreciate your support, as active MOAS members, to assist this year’s membership campaign by helping create awareness, within your neighborhood of who we are, of what we do and of the opportunity to become MOAS members. You need only review this issue of the Breeze to appreciate the benefits of joining (or rejoining) our local MOAS chapter. So, should you encounter anyone with an interest in joining us, please encourage them to do so and refer them to either myself or any other member of our Board for follow-up. Thank you for your support!!

As I mentioned last month, we continue to need your support in completing our 2011 MOAS membership renewal campaign, having collected 75 % of our 2011 active membership dues toward our goal of 100%. So, if you have not yet paid your 2011 dues, please forward your check to our MOAS address (PO Box 1016, Sarasota, FL 34230-1016), as soon as possible. If you did not receive, or perhaps, misplaced, your original 2011 dues notice, you should have received my reminder via email or post by the release of this issue. So please respond to ensure that we can keep you on active MOAS status, or to advise us, if your situation has changed. We appreciate and look forward to your continued MOAS membership.

Also, please be reminded that our national organization, MOAA, of which we are a leading chapter, continues its 2011 “Give Me 10” chapter membership drive to recover lapsed national MOAA memberships and recruit new ones. This program offers significant financial incentives and bonuses to our MOAS chapter that will assist funding of our local scholarships, our “Support Our Troops” activities and other MOAS charitable and social programs. Notably, during this drive MOAA 1-year memberships are complimentary (free) to all on duty active, reserve and National Guard officers, and are 2-years-for-the-price-of-one (\$30) for all retired, auxiliary and/or former officers who are new or lapsed national MOAA members. According to our records, 350 of our MOAS active members, also have MOAA national memberships. However, we have no way to determine if your national MOAA membership has lapsed. This drive provides the 92 MOAS members, who are not national MOAA members or those whose memberships have lapsed, the opportunity to gain MOAA benefits at a 2-for-1 discount, while helping local MOAS chapter funding. I have the required “Give Me 10” enrollment forms and will handle related collection and submission activities for the chapter. So, if you have an interest, please contact me directly (info on page 2) or via our other Board members for more information.

Finally, a hearty welcome to our new members!! We appreciate your membership and support and look forward to sharing the camaraderie of our local military family!!



Kathy Pollack, on right, with her guest, Alex Bemporad

VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS CENTER SHOW PHOTOS



Kathryn Huxtable

Jasmine Deal

Tyler Bazenias



Leo Chappell



Jasmine Deal

Brian Finnerty

Kathryn Huxtable



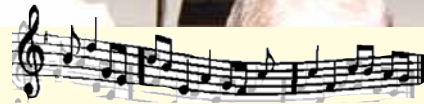
Doug Kolakowski

Savanna Chae Freeman

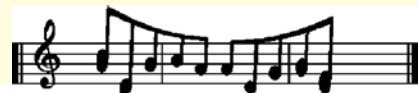
Brian Finnerty

Matt Robertson

Tyler Bazenias



Leo Chappell on behalf of the cast, leads the group singing "Happy Birthday" and presenting Pat McLain with flowers and a card





Leo Chappell



Brian Finnerty & Company



<<<---
Jasmine Deal & Company



Maddie Kaus

Jasmine Deal



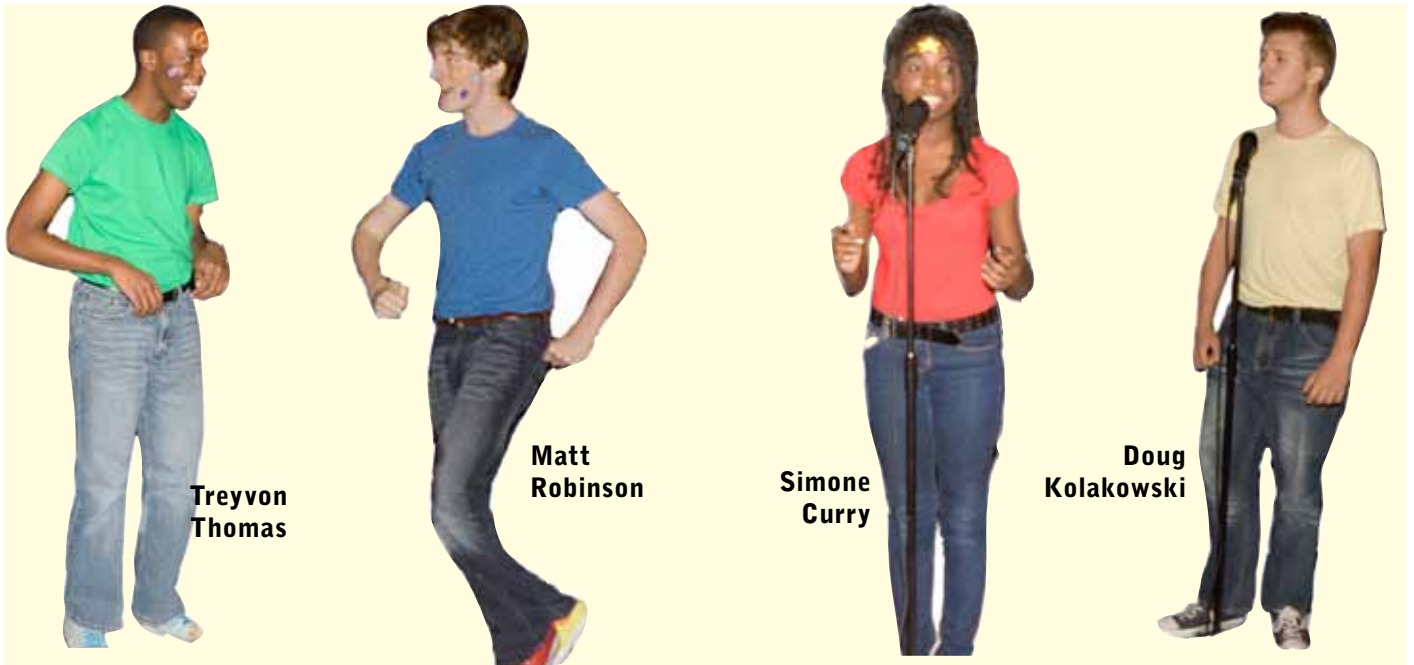
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Kathryn Huxtable & Company



Maddie Kaus & Company



Treyvon Thomas & Company



Treyvon Thomas

Matt Robinson

Simone Curry

Doug Kolakowski



Doug Kolakowski & Company



<<<<<<
**Mother of Leo Chappell
applauds at Finale;
Victoria Miller, the
show's choreographer, at
her prompting station at
the rear of the hall**



>>>>>>
**Our President O'Brien
wraps things up with
Judy Piercy, the VPA
Secretary**



Bernard Rothschild, on left, with his guests (l to r) John & Mange DeBlock & Robert Ford



Roberta & Paul Martin, on the right, with their guest Arlene Wilson



(l to r) BG Jim Hesson, Dennis Collins (a possible new member), Charles Caudill, and John O'Brien.



Dee Oliver, in the center, with her guests (l to r) Pat Cohen & Cecile Brink



(l to r) Jack Sargeant, guest Jolee Suskovic, Bettye Sargeant, and guest Carol Nevins



Pat McLain, standing in center, with her guests (standing) MG George & Dorothy Bauer and (sitting l to r) Barbara Wohl, Harriet Kipling, and Judy Piercy



**Jackie Moore and guest
Dee Farmwald**



**New member Ed Wheeler, on left,
with MG George Johnson**



David Phillips & Alan Forrester

**--->>>
William & Barbara Moberger, on left,
with their guests, Julian & Pat Currie**



March Birthdays

- (l to r)**
- Barbara Hamilton,**
- Bernie Rothschild,**
- Bob Zonies,**
- Patt Staley,**
- Pat McLain,**
- Sylvan Tanner,**
- Len Glaser,**
- Don Cunningham.**



STAY TRICARE ELIGIBLE: KEEP RECORDS UP-TO-DATE

Beneficiaries who have recently experienced a life-changing event, such as the death of a spouse, birth or adoption of a child, divorce, or marriage should immediately record these changes in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS). If they wait, TRICARE benefit coverage could be affected.

Incorrect information can potentially impact getting a prescription filled, a medical claim paid or making a doctor's appointment. Beneficiaries can easily avoid these types of problems by making sure their DEERS record is accurate.

All sponsors are automatically registered in DEERS and sponsors must register all eligible family members. Once registered, family members can update their personal information (e.g. addresses and phone numbers).

Events that change a beneficiary's TRICARE status include: change of address, relocation, retirement, marital status, birth, death, adoption, or Medicare entitlement.

Eligible new family members can be registered in DEERS at MacDill AFB. Beneficiaries can update contact information only at 800-538-9552. More information on eligibility criteria is available at www.tricare.osd.mil/deers/default.cfm.

FL VA ONE STOP WEB PORTAL

Florida Department of Veteran Affairs (F-DVA) is a state agency responsible for assisting, without charge, Florida's veterans, their families and survivors in improving their health and economic well-being through quality benefit information, advocacy and education. The department also operates seven veterans' homes. Six are skilled nursing facilities and one is an assisted living facility.

The F-DVA website at www.FloridaVets.org, contains a Florida Vets First "one-stop" web portal at <http://www.floridavets.org/services.asp> which offers a variety of veterans' benefits and services information as well as a link to Florida's County Veteran Service Officers who also provide free veterans' counseling. The web page also has a list F-DVA field offices where veterans' counseling is available or you may call the Division of Benefits and Assistance at (727) 319-7400.

Additional information about Florida veterans' topics is available by visiting the website and subscribing to F-DVA's monthly veterans' newsletter *eFloridaVets News*.

HUMANA WINS TRICARE CONTRACT RENEWAL

The Defense Department announced that Humana Military Health Services (the current TRICARE contractor for the South Region) has won a \$23.5 billion TRICARE South Region contract to provide health services for three million beneficiaries. The Region includes Florida.

This contract award follows a successful protest lodged by Humana with the Government Accountability Office (GAO) in July 2009 over the government's initial award of the contract to UnitedHealth Military and Veterans Services.

Health care delivery under the new contract is scheduled to begin on April 1, 2012, and as is customary, the contract contains five one-year options exercisable by the Defense Department.

FLORIDA VETERANS' NURSING HOMES TO BE OUTSOURCED???

Gov. Rick Scott and the Florida Cabinet are asking the Legislature to fund a cost-benefit study of three options for managing the state's nursing homes for veterans. The study would compare current state management with private companies or a public corporation.

Department of Veterans' Affairs interim executive director Bob Milligan, a retired Marine Corps Lieutenant General, vetted the proposal at the Senate Budget Subcommittee on Health and Human Services Appropriations, stating that the homes have been plagued by high employee turnover rates under state management. He said the corporation would be operated as a public instrumentality, governed by a board of trustees. Operating as a public instrumentality would also allow the state to retain VA and other non-taxpayer funding streams. Another benefit of the public corporation concept Milligan said is the ability to continue to operate in the open, according to Florida's Sunshine Law.

Milligan was joined by the Florida Health Care Association, who told the committee the private nursing home industry supports the move.

The panel approved the proposal over objections from the Disabled American Veterans and Vietnam Veterans of America. Gov Scott's 2012 Budget will not leave the F-DVA budget unscathed and deep cuts are projected.

ARMY BIRTHDAY BALL AND GOLF CLASSIC

The Association of the United States Army (AUSA) and the Army Birthday Ball Soldier's Committee are hosting two events in honor of the Army's 236th Birthday.

The Army Ball Golf Classic will take place on April 22, 2011 at the Bay Palms Golf Course, MacDill Air Force Base. On June 11, 2011 the 236th Army Birthday Ball will be held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Downtown Tampa. Register for the events starting April 1st, 2011 at www.armyballtampa.org. •

Friday

**MOAS
Luncheon
Apr 15, 2011
Michael's
on East**



MOAS LUNCHEON RESERVATIONS

For 4/15/2011 at 11:30 AM - Michael's on East

PLEASE NOTE NEW PRICE AMOUNT

Please reserve _____ places for the luncheon.
A check for \$ _____ is enclosed based on **\$24.00** for each person attending (Tax & Tip included).

NAME, RANK & PHONE # of Requesting Member.

Please print names of additional persons attending.
(Use an extra sheet of paper if necessary)

New or First Time Attending Member _____

Is this your birthday month? _____

Is this your spouse's birthday month? _____



Return the form above with check made out to MOAS.

Mail to:

**ELKE SCOTT
841 FORESTVIEW COURT
SARASOTA, FL 34232**

Please Note: Elke's Phone #379-3023

NOTICE

We must provide the restaurant with an exact number of reservations at least 48 hours in advance of event. No additional requests or refunds will be honored after that time.

Requests for menu changes due to dietary restrictions should be provided at the time of reservation. Please do not contact Michael's-on-East directly. Thank you. •







New member Allison Archbold, on right, welcomed by our receptionist, Pat McLain



MOAS CALENDAR – APRIL - MAY 2011



Date	 Event		Time
Apr 4, Mon	Board Meeting at Meadows Community Association		4:00 PM
Apr 7-9	VPA Pops & Jazz Concert - Details on Page 5		7:00 PM
Apr 15, Fri	MOAS Luncheon - Michael's On East - Author John Jakes		11:30 AM
Apr 16, Sat	YAHOO Event: Camel Races - Details on Page 6	Dress Code - Coat & Tie 	6:00 PM
Apr 25, Mon	YAHOO Event: Kayak Trip - Details on Page 6		8:30 AM
May 2, Mon	Board Meeting at Meadows Community Association		4:00 PM
May 4, Wed	River Tour & Lunch at Snook Haven - Details on Pages 6 & 7		11:00 AM
May 4-7	VPA Show 25th Annual Putman County Spelling Bee - Details Page 5		7:00 PM
May 20, Fri	MOAS Luncheon - Michael's On East - Scholarship Awards; COL Dawson, CENTCOM	Dress Code - Coat & Tie 	11:30 AM