

# 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 MOAA Members

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MOAA 4-Star Chapter 2003, 2007; 5-Star Chapter 2004-2006, 2008, 2009;  
Best Newsletter 2007; 1st Runner Up 2008; 2nd Runner Up 2009

February 2011

### JANUARY PROGRAM: DOUBLE HEADER - ED SMITH AND EPIPHYTES

by Vic Reiling

We had a fine outing, both to the ballpark and then to the flora and fauna of Venezuela. Laura Williams, head of Florida operations for the Baltimore Orioles, gave a wonderful description of the almost completed Ed Smith Stadium renovation. The first game at the site will be on March 1st and there will be 15 more home games in Sarasota, including the Red Sox, Yankees, Rays and Phillies. Ticket applications were passed to all!

The stadium will include really open spaces, a fantastic visual rendition of a tropical ball park, a new scoreboard, and an air conditioned team store and deli. Having attracted over 100,000 fans in 2010, and with Buck Showalter managing the revamped Orioles, Spring Training 2011 should be a real resurgence for the franchise. Laura is soon to visit Baltimore to attend public team events and anticipates an enthusiastic fan response to spectacular Sarasota and its welcoming atmosphere. The Orioles are signed on for 30 Years!



Tom Buchter, CEO of Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, brought us up to date on the many current successes and attractions at the Gardens and then it was off to Venezuela! While there are political differences, the search for Epiphytes is of primary interest for Selby Gardens and a Power Point presentation showed us Selby personnel on their way through the Venezuelan rivers and jungles and, especially, the many plateaus, looking for unknown species. The plateau areas are generally flat on top and have steep cliffs all around their bases. This prevents migration of Epiphytes from one plateau to another and thus they house literal gold mines of these newly found plants that grow upon other plants. Tom finished by telling us that there are yet huge quantities of unknown Epiphytes in almost all of South America - and that Selby Gardens continues to be renowned worldwide for their discovery and research efforts. ●`



### FEBRUARY PROGRAM: SARASOTA OPERA SINGERS

by Margarete Wiltshire



Singers from the Sarasota Opera Company will again perform for our enjoyment at the February luncheon meeting. Rehearsals are now in full swing for the four operas to be presented this year, and the first two will have already had their opening nights. The season opens February 5<sup>th</sup> with the most performed opera in the world, Puccini's *La Bohème*, a tale of young love in Paris. Mozart's *Don Giovanni*, the story of Don Juan's great success with the ladies and his ultimate fiery end, follows on February 12<sup>th</sup>.

Verdi's *I Lombardi*, opening February 26<sup>th</sup>, is the Opera Company's premiere of an epic opera of warriors, jealousy and patricide in two families during the First Crusade. The season's final opera is *The Crucible*, composed by Robert Ward and based on Arthur Miller's Tony Award winning play, weaving a tale of lust, pride, revenge and power during the Salem Witch trials.

Other Opera events include an Artist Concert on Sunday, March 13<sup>th</sup> featuring performances by the 2011 Winter Festival principal and studio artists, and a concert of Verdi's music on March 20<sup>th</sup>.

This is one of the most popular MOAS luncheon programs of the year, so make your reservations early. ●



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**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	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

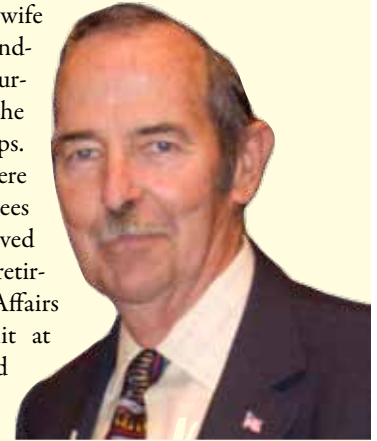
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It is with great sorrow that we make the following announcement.

Our president, Raymond O'Connell passed away peacefully on January 11, 2011, at his home in the Meadows. He leaves his wife Peggy, 12 children and 22 grandchildren. Three of his sons are currently serving on active duty in the Army, Navy and Marine Corps. Ray hailed from Chicago where he received his BS and MA degrees from Loyola University. He served 20 years in the U.S. Air Force, retiring as the chief of the Public Affairs Office to a Tactical Airlift unit at O'Hare Airport. He then joined AT&T in public affairs and worked in both Chicago, and at the firm's corporate headquarters in New Jersey. In 1999 Ray retired from AT&T as PR Vice President for the Midwest. Peggy and Ray moved to the Meadows in Sarasota in 2004 where they have been an active force in the community. The energy and commitment Ray exerted in the MOAS, serving as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President and President, is only a part of his legacy. He was also president of the Sarasota County Special Athletes Boosters supporting the county Special Olympics and was a member of the Loyola University Alumni Advisory Board.



It was just in December that Ray enthusiastically welcomed our new officers and directors for 2011, and we were all together at the Military Gala. He loved Sarasota and MOAS. Whether at our monthly social events at a beach party, bowling, or a lunch cruise, or out in the heat and sun of a Support Our Troops drive, Ray enjoyed the people, being in the midst of the activity and, most of all, participating. When Ray informed me of his medical challenge, he was determined and his vision was forward-looking.

In our sadness for our lost comrade, we need to be thankful for having had Ray in our lives, and carry on the example of family and community service he exemplified, and expects of us.

Ray's interment was in Evanston, IL on January 17th. A memorial service will be scheduled in Sarasota at a later date.

John O'Brien  
President

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The Board meeting was called to order at 1600 hours on 3 January 2011 at the Meadows Community Center, 1st Vice President John O'Brien presiding.

**ATTENDANCE.** Board members present: John O'Brien (IVP), Vic Reiling (2VP), George Binswanger (Secy), Don Kuyper (Treas), George Tracey (Dir), Bill LaFollette (Dir), Alan Forrester (Dir) and Len Friedlander (IPP). Board members absent: Ray O'Connell (Pres). Committee members and visitors present: Max Jonah, Pat McLain, Barbara Hamilton, and Jim Hesson.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT.** The minutes from the 6 December 2010 Board Meeting were approved as emailed and published in the Breeze. MOAS name tags are available at \$15.00 each. Make out check to MOAS. Contact the Secretary at 941-922-1824.

BOARD MEETINGS & LUNCHEONS - 2011		
MONTH	BOARD MEETING	LUNCHEON
JANUARY	3	21
FEBRUARY	7	18
MARCH	7	18
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.** The balances on hand as of 31 December 2010 are as follows:

- a. The balance of the MOAS Operating Fund is \$12,770.23.
- b. The balance of the Scholarship Fund is \$32,123.85 which includes \$7,869.14 in Special Accounts (Support Our Troops & Taylor Funds).

**MEMBERSHIP.**

MOAS	2009	2010
Regular	363	342
Auxiliary	98	96
Allied	6	4
Total	467	442

**PROGRAMS.**

2011	
January	Baltimore Orioles and Selby Gardens
February	Sarasota Opera
March	Booker High School VPA
April	Author John Jakes
May	Scholarship Awards
June	TBA

**SCHEDULED EVENTS.** The report for the annual Gala on 12 December 2010 had a profit of \$439,000. There were 104 in attendance, one of the smallest groups.

**NEWSLETTER.** We regret to inform the members of MOAS that Joe Cyr, who has been compiling the *Breeze* prior to each monthly luncheon, has had a serious heart attack and will no longer be able to contribute to the newsletter nor to the maintenance of the MOAS membership data base. Any member of the MOAS family willing to help should contact the Editor, Len Friedlander, 927-0996.

**SCHOLARSHIPS AND PROJECTS.** Applications for both leadership and merit scholarships are being sent out this month to the high schools in Sarasota.

**SARASOTA COUNTY VETERANS COMMISSION.** There is an effort to create a 9/11 and Veterans Memorial at either Booker Elementary or the Venice Airport. The memorial will have beams from the World Trade Center surrounded by black granite.

**PUBLICITY.** Contact information is being transferred currently.

**SUPPORT OUR TROOPS.** Still moving boxes from our regular sources. 2010 has been a banner year for MOAS.

**NEW BUSINESS.**

- 1. Update for 2010-2011 Directory. Len Friedlander announced plans for creating an insert of updates to be included with the newsletter.
- 2. Len Friedlander pointed out that MOAS needs to submit to FCOC a list of MOAS members who died in 2010.
- 3. Vice President O'Brien proposed purchasing a projector and screen for use at luncheons. A motion was made by Binswanger and seconded by Reiling to do so at a cost not to exceed \$600. It was approved unanimously. Some members present made immediate contributions.

**NEXT MEETING.** The Board adjourned at 1730 hours. The next scheduled meeting is on 7 February 2011 at the Meadows Community Center. Board meetings are open to all members. ●





### ***SBP DIC OFFSET***

Rep. Joe Wilson (R-SC), Chairman of the House Armed Services Personnel Subcommittee, the congressional panel with key jurisdiction over uniformed services quality of life issues, introduced legislation this month to eliminate the Survivor Benefit Plan/Dependency Indemnity Compensation (SBP/DIC) offset. Wilson's bill, H.R.178, called the -- Military Surviving Spouses Equity Act -- repeals the dollar-for-dollar reduction of SBP, fully restoring eligibility for all survivors; eliminates recoupment of repayments of SBP premiums on remarriage of the survivor; and, allows restoration of eligibility to survivors who passed the benefit to dependent children.

Passage of this legislation is even more critical this year, as DFAS now demands repayment, with interest, of refunded premiums from the survivors who have chosen to remarry after age 57. Last year, remarried widows won a suit against the Government to restore both full SBP and DIC after age 57 marriages. In response, DFAS now demands a full repayment of the refunded SBP Premium money. Moreover, DFAS requires payment with 6% interest, despite the fact that the original payment to survivors was paid without interest and despite the fact that survivors paid taxes on the payment, too. Present law makes it a penalty if the survivor remarries prior to the age of 57, by denying full payment of SBP and DIC. The new DFAS policy makes it a penalty now if a survivor remarries after age 57. It's become a penalty for remarriage both before and after age 57.

This is the sixth year in a row that legislation has been introduced to eliminate this widow's tax. Those who would like to see it happen this year are encouraged to contact our Congressman and Senators to request they take action.

### ***GATES PUSHES DoD BUDGET CUTS***

On January 6<sup>th</sup> Secretary of Defense Robert Gates outlined an ambitious plan of cuts and efficiencies to squeeze more than \$78 billion in savings from the defense budget over five years. The proposal included a wide range of changes that would affect all facets of defense spending including civilian and uniformed personnel, command structures, weapons systems, intelligence, and benefits.

Gates has repeatedly told reporters that health costs are "eating the Department alive", in part because working-age retirees who have access to civilian health coverage are foregoing that coverage to use TRICARE. Gates said the FY2012 defense budget would propose "modest" increases in fees for retirees under-65 and adjusting those fees every year at the rate of medical inflation. Gates also noted that military retirees pay significantly lower fees than federal civilians do for their health care. It is yet to be seen what is meant by "modest fees," but in 2007 and 2008, he proposed increasing fees by \$1,000 to \$2,000 per year.

Other initiatives the defense budget will propose are:

- Reducing Army and Marine Corps active duty forces -- by 27,000 and 20,000-25,000, respectively -- starting in FY2015.
- Reducing the number of DoD contractors
- Eliminating/downgrading more than 100 flag and 200 senior civilian billets
- Cancelling the Marine Corps expeditionary fighting vehicle
- Consolidating intelligence and information technology programs

Final details on the FY2012 budget proposals may not be known until the President formally submits the FY2012 budget to Congress in February.

### ***TRICARE YOUNG ADULT PROGRAM***

On January 13<sup>th</sup> the DoD announced its introduction of the premium-based TRICARE Young Adult Program (TYAP), which extends medical coverage to eligible military family members to the age of 26. Expected to be in place later this spring, TYAP implements the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) of FY2011. Premium costs are not yet finalized, but the NDAA specifies rates must cover the full cost of the program. TRICARE previously met or exceeded key tenets of national health reform, but did not include the expanded coverage for adult children. Dependent eligibility for TRICARE previously ended at age 21 or age 23 for full-time college students. The FY2011 NDAA now gives the DoD the authority to offer similar benefits to young adults under TRICARE, and qualified, unmarried dependents up to age 26 will be able to purchase TRICARE coverage on a month-to-month basis -- as long as they are not eligible for their own employer-sponsored health coverage.

### ***VA QUALITY OF CARE UPDATE***

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) issued the 2010 annual VA Facility Quality and Safety Report on January 5<sup>th</sup> that reports on VA health care for Congressional review and offers Veterans the opportunity to see the quality and safety findings specific to their VA medical center. This is the third year VA is posting the annual report and the second year to do so voluntarily. The Quality and Safety Report, at <http://www1.va.gov/health/HospitalReportCard.asp>, provides a comprehensive snapshot of the quality of care VA provides at each of 153 medical facilities across the nation. ●

### ***WOUNDED WARRIOR TASK FORCE CONVENES***

The DoD Task Force for Care, Management, and Transition of Recovering Wounded, Ill, and Injured Members of the Armed Forces began its deliberations in Washington D.C. The task force will examine the effectiveness of the Department's wounded warrior policies and programs, to include case management, warrior transition unit staffing, performance and accountability systems, and services for traumatic brain injury (TBI) and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Service members, their families, and the public will have an opportunity to provide input.

The fourteen-member task force, co-chaired by Air Force Surgeon General Lt Gen Charles Green and Dr. Karen Guice, VA Executive Director, is scheduled to provide their findings to the Secretary of Defense and Congress within one year. ●





### ACADEMIC OLYMPICS

The Academic Olympic season continues into February. As stated last month, the new Suncoast Polytechnical High School has decided to join the competition. Remember, you are welcomed at any game at any school. All matches start at 3:30 PM.

#### February 1 (Pineview BYE)

- Northport vs. Cardinal Mooney at Cardinal Mooney
- Suncoast vs. Sarasota Military at Suncoast
- Riverview vs. Booker at Booker
- Sarasota vs. Venice at Venice

#### February 8 (Riverview BYE)

- Pine View vs. Sarasota Military at Sarasota Military
- North Port vs. Suncoast at North Port
- Sarasota vs. Cardinal Mooney at Sarasota
- Booker vs. Venice at Venice

#### February 15 (Sarasota Military BYE)

- Pine View vs. Suncoast at Suncoast
- North Port vs. Sarasota at Sarasota
- Riverview vs. Venice at Riverview
- Booker vs. Cardinal Mooney at Cardinal Mooney

#### February 22 (Suncoast BYE)

- Pine View vs. North Port at North Port
- Sarasota Military vs. Venice at Sarasota Military
- Riverview vs. Cardinal Mooney at Riverview
- Sarasota vs. Booker at Booker

### VPA

**February 9,10,11,12 - THE BAD SEED** (Drama) - 7:00 PM

Adults \$15; Seniors \$10; Students \$5 Res: Judy Piercy - 355-2967

**February 18** - Major Works Concert - 7:00 PM

Adults \$10; Students \$5 at the door

The *Bad Seed* is a 1954 novel by William March, adapted into a successful, long-running Broadway play by Maxwell Anderson and an Academy Award nominated film by Mervyn Leroy. Seemingly, Rhoda, the only child of Kenneth and Christine Penmark, is a perfect little girl. But when Kenneth goes away on business, Christine begins to notice that Rhoda is acting strangely after one of her classmates mysteriously drowns: Rhoda killed the boy because he won the Penmanship medal that Rhoda declared was hers. She has no conscience and will kill if necessary to get what she wants. An adept manipulator, she can easily charm adults while eliciting fear and repulsion from other children, who can sense something wrong with her. And the plot thickens as the nature/nurture controversy unfolds! ●



The month of February seems to focus on "Valentine's Day" when our thoughts turn to giving gifts to our loved ones. Most of us don't remember how Valentines originated, so I thought I would review it for us.

Valentine's Day started in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century when Saint Valentine was a Bishop in Rome under the rule of Emperor Claudius II. Claudius was having trouble recruiting members for military service. Men didn't want to leave their wives and children because tours of duty could last from months to years. Claudius issued an edict that no marriage could take place in Rome, thinking this would solve the problem. However, Bishop Valentine defied the order and married couples in secret for which he was condemned to death.

As Valentine awaited execution, his admirers would come to jail bearing notes and flowers. One ardent admirer turned out to be the daughter of a prison guard who used to visit him for hours at a time. On the day of his execution, February 14, 269 AD, Valentine wrote her expressing his gratitude for her love, support and friendship and signed it "Love from your Valentine". In 496 AD Pope Gelasius set aside February 14<sup>th</sup> as a special day to honor Saint Valentine.

Reviewing my own journey to know the real meaning of love always seemed to accompany a tragic event in my life. It seems that it would be death that would teach me about love.

It started with my dog, Jeep, when I was 10 years old. My love for Jeep was so deep that I felt I loved him more than I did my own brother and sister. He was my constant companion for over six years. One day my father called me out of the YMCA swimming pool to tell me Jeep was dead. He had chased the neighbor's cat, and the neighbor had beaten him to death with a rake. Holding me, my Dad said we could ask for money, but no amount of money could bring Jeep back. He said we could kill the neighbor's cats, but that would make us just like the neighbor. As he continued to hold me in his arms, he said we could have enough love for Jeep that we would not have any room for hatred. I cried long and hard, but it was the first time I really understood the intensity of love.

Next, was the death of my father and mother who both had a long dying process. Then my brother, whom I idolized, was killed while flying his airplane. Lastly, my wife of 46 years died suddenly due to an undetected brain aneurysm. There were no good-byes. She was the love of my life.

Two weeks after she died, on Easter Saturday, I performed the wedding of a girl I had baptized. She was marrying a submariner who had pulled into the Norfolk, VA harbor and this was the only window they had to get married. That wedding was the most spiritual and loving I have ever conducted. From my personal experience, I learned that seeming tragedies are transformed into a deeper meaning of love.

There are specific aspects of love I want to share with you. Love gives without being asked. It is unconditional, and has no strings attached. Love means never feeling alone. It is tender and gentle, adventurous and affectionate.

Once you have truly fallen in love, you can't fall out of it. So, on this Valentine's Day, I wish all of you the gift of love. ●





Christmas is over. Our troops need our support even more. The soldiers we support in Afghanistan have a difficult mission, in difficult terrain, in a place that is a logistical nightmare. Supplies and equipment are either flown in from an airbase 100 miles from the Chinese border, or trucked through Pakistan at great risk. The logistical reality and the "up close with the locals" mission require infantry soldiers. What this means is while they use helicopters and light vehicles to "commute" to work, their work, every day, 7 days a week, is as a foot soldier.

Why do we need to send out Care Packages? Does it matter? Please read excerpts from a letter received by Barbara Hamilton from CSM Timothy Johnson, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101 Airborne Division.

"My battalion has it pretty rough out here, limited toilets, showers and laundry...eating out of field kitchens. ... But all in all the soldiers are very motivated...Packages such as the one you sent means a lot to them. To know they are thought of as they continue this challenge carries a lot for them; you can't imagine. ...We are in pretty difficult conditions so packages such as this one will be a Godsend for the necessities we soldiers need. Thanks Barbara for the package and



taking your time to think about my soldiers here."

Please pick up some boxes at the luncheon, fill them, and return them at the next luncheon. Due to the generous donations of our supporters we will transport your Care Package to the US Post Office and pay to mail it (\$12.50). We still accept donations.

Our support to the 3rd Brigade, 101st Airborne ended in January when the unit began returning to Ft Campbell, KY. We are waiting to receive the addresses of the 6 battalions of the 4th Brigade, 101st Airborne that are deploying, and will post them on our web site very soon.



**December 2010 Birthdays**

**(l to r)**

- Bill LaFollette,**
- Rita Thompson,**
- Elke Scott,**
- LTG Jerry Hilmes**

**January 2011 Birthdays**

**(l to r)**

- Bob Salerno,**
- Frank Smith,**
- Rick Windsor,**
- Jayne Blair,**
- Don Harvey**





Of course we have our YAHOO Super Bowl with the Atkins and Cases on February 6. But that is not enough. In our continuing efforts to keep the YAHOOs from getting bored during this cold winter, Ray and Jean Day have added a second YAHOO event on February 10 to Tampa's Channelside to tour a WW II Victory Class Merchant Marine cargo ship, followed by the YAHOO requirement of lunch, with an added tour of the Columba Restaurant in Ybor City. We rarely travel out of Sarasota, so this is a YAHOO test case. Polo has been re-scheduled to March 13<sup>th</sup>, and we have requested great weather. April is open.

### ***FEBRUARY 6 - SUPER BOWL***

A shrimp/chicken gumbo Super Bowl party, sponsored by the Atkins and Cases, will be a classic YAHOO event. Bring your team flags, pom poms, etc; anything you can get gumbo on. Everyone is asked to bring either a "before" or "after" dish (for the Navy members, this means an appetizer or a dessert) plus their own liquid refreshment (beer, wine, or liquor). Mixers, ice, etc will be provided. The hosts are limiting attendance to 40 people. Please RSVP to Nancy Case at (941) 371-5957 NLT than Feb 1st, along with your selection of a "before" or "after" item. The party will be at the Atkins' beginning at 5:30 PM.

**Directions:** I-75 Exit 193 (Jacaranda), Right onto Jacaranda Ave and follow it to Center Rd., (Bank of America on the left and a Sweet Bay Supermarket). Turn Left on Center Rd and go to the first light where you make a Right on Venice East Blvd. Go to the second entrance to Lake of the Woods. Turn Left on Lake of the Woods Blvd and the make the first Right onto Rosewood Ct. The party will be at 310 Rosewood Ct.

**Directions:** From Sarasota on Rt. 41 - travel south on 41 to Center Road. Left on Center Rd and continue until you cross Jacaranda. After the Bank of America and Sweet Bay make a Right on Venice East Blvd and continue to the second entrance to Lake of the Woods. Turn Left on Lake of the Woods Blvd and the make the first Right onto Rosewood Ct. The party will be at 310 Rosewood Ct.

### ***FEBRUARY 10 - YAHOOs JOIN THE U.S. MERCHANT MARINE! SS AMERICAN VICTORY TOUR & COLUMBIA RESTAURANT IN YBOR CITY***

The SS American Victory, having seen service in WWII, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War, is a bit of living history that will be appreciated by MOAS members. She is now moored as a museum by the Tampa Bay aquarium and we have arranged for a guided tour of this historic ship with a special group rate. This ship is one of the most popular tourist attractions in Tampa and is not to be missed.



Our tour will be approximately one hour and cover virtually the entire ship, including cargo holds, radio rooms, hospital, weaponry, the bridge, signal equipment, messes, engine room, and crew cabins. This was a working ship, not the cruise ships some of us are used to. There are no ramps or elevators, and ladders are used to climb between decks. Wear comfortable shoes and be physically able to climb the ships ladders.

The Liberty and Victory class ships were operated by the US Merchant Marine, although they carried a small contingent of Navy men to man the guns. As we walk the ship's decks, we'll learn about shipboard life and the dangers the merchant ships overcame. A little known fact is that the US Merchant Marine suffered a higher percentage of casualties than any of the armed forces, even the US Marines. Join us in learning about American Maritime History. Some specific details of this outing are listed below.

**Date/Time:** February 10, 2011 (Thursday) starts at 11:00 AM

**Location:** The ship is moored at 705 Channelside Drive, Tampa. Close to the cruise line terminal and the Aquarium.

**Cost:** We are able to obtain a group rate, with tickets discounted at \$6.00 each. Buy individual tickets at the ship, 15 minutes before the start of the tour.

**Parking:** A few free parking slots are available on the dock by the ship. Paid parking is available at the nearby Aquarium parking lot.

After the tour we will rendezvous for lunch at the famous Columbia Restaurant in nearby Ybor City. We have made group luncheon seating arrangement at the Columbia for 1:00 PM, individual selections to be made from the menu. After lunch, for those who are interested, we have arranged for a tour through this historic landmark restaurant. The restaurant is located in the historic district of Ybor City at 2117 East 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, with free customer parking across the street.

Please contact Ray Day at (941) 927-0398 or by email at [DayR1@comcast.net](mailto:DayR1@comcast.net) regarding your commitment for the ship tour and/or the luncheon. Of course, this outing is open to all MOAS, but please also invite your friends and neighbors if you would like them to join us. In addition, contact Ray if you need a ride to Tampa or would like to "car pool".

See Polo on Page 10





**Our Speakers for the day ,  
Laura Williams & Tom Buchter**



**Sylvia Barber with her guest,  
Jim Hubbard, a potential new member**



**<<<---  
Rosalind Eskew, on right, with  
her guest,  
Virginia Hare, visiting from Tulsa,  
Oklahoma**





**Ronnie Porter, on the right, with her guests, John Gwynn on the left, & Steve Uchman, standing, who is a long time member now living in South Yarmouth, Massachusetts**



**Bonnie & Bob Salerno, new members**



**<<<--- Margaret Sholund with her guest, John Lynch**



### **MARCH 13 - POLO AT LAKEWOOD RANCH, "POLO DE PARIS"**

Mike and Patt Staley, and John and Carol O'Brien are planning another day at the Polo Field at Lakewood Ranch with the theme being "Polo de Paris". We will begin when the gates open at 11:30 a.m. with the usually spectacular tailgate party. The game does not start until 1 p.m. so there will be plenty of time for socializing, and checking out the horses. Everyone bring your drink of choice, an appetizer to share, chairs, hats, and sunscreen.

The sponsors will have two tents, coolers of ice, water, plates, cups, utensils, napkins and tables. We will be set up as last year with tailgating on the north side of the field, east of the grandstands. Look for a US Flag, and our MOAS banner.

**DIRECTIONS to the Polo Field:** from I-75, exit 213, University Parkway east toward Lakewood Ranch. Go about 3.5 miles and turn right onto Lorraine Rd. Enter the second polo field entrance on the right where there will be someone collecting money (\$10.00 CASH/adult).

Parking will be on your left, which for our Navy members is the north side-line of the Polo Field. Park anywhere and come join us to the east of the stands.

RSVP to John and Carol O'Brien by March 6 at 907-8891 or email [obrienjc@aol.com](mailto:obrienjc@aol.com). •



### **FCOC CONVENTION CRUISE UPDATE**

The Florida Council Convention Coordinator has posted an update on the FCOC website, <http://moaaffl.org>, for the convention cruise scheduled for May 8, 2011 for those considering attending the convention as well as those who have already booked passage. (The link is in the **News Item** on the home page of the website.)

The update includes information about our [exclusive shore excursions](#). These excursions were designed just for members of our group and will not be available to other passengers on the ship. The excursions are available for booking and must be booked before the final payment date --- February 21, 2011. There is also information about an exclusive offer for MOAA members for a pre-cruise hotel stay at the Radisson Hotel.

### **PALMETTO VETERANS VILLAGE**

Over 150 people attended a grand opening celebration Saturday, January 15, for Veterans Village, a new community in Palmetto designed to offer assistance to veterans. Homes can be customized to meet the needs of disabled buyers.

Veterans with disabilities and financial problems are often stuck without proper homes and must fight for housing benefits alone. A conglomeration of local organizations and experts hope to turn the page on that trend with a new neighborhood concept designed to aid veterans. American Ideals Foundation, represented by Bob Moffa, Founder, worked together with Cityscapes International Realty represented by Alan Forrester, MOAS's representative, to sponsor this event. Benefits of residing in the Veterans Village include 100 percent financing for veterans; up to \$4,000 off the purchase of a new home; help with obtaining a mortgage through Veterans Affairs and other government grants.

For each home purchased by someone referred to Alan Forrester

by a member or associate of MOAS, there will be a \$500 donation to the MOAS Scholarship Fund. This will apply also to anyone purchasing a home in any of Neal Communities developments. Forrester and Moffa have also negotiated a 3% discount for Neal home purchases, representing a savings of thousands of dollars.

### **AMERICAN LEGION POST 24 TO BE HONORED**

On March 12, 2011 Bradenton's American Legion Post 24, one of the prominent American Legion Posts in the Sarasota/Manatee community, will be honored by the American Ideals Foundation and Cityscapes International Realty in conjunction with Neal Communities. The Event will be held at Neal Communities Central Park in Lakewood Ranch and starts at 1:00 pm.

### **RIVERVIEW HIGH SCHOOL JROTC PATRIOT BATTALION**

*By SGTMAJ Roger Mitchell, Sr. Army Instructor*

The Riverview High JROTC cadets have been extremely busy. As of 6 January the battalion cadets have performed 2551.5 hours of community service since August!

Hazel Davies has already qualified for a Gold Presidential Achievement Pin for community service, Jackie Byrd has qualified for a Silver Presidential Achievement Pin and both Ian Alderman and Victoria Bilyou have qualified for Bronze Presidential Achievement Pins. Other cadets are only a few hours away from qualifying for achievement pins.

Megan Buckley-Cramer has been accepted to West Point Military Academy and Nicholas Marin has been accepted to The Citadel Kyle Darby, Derrik Hannaford, Nikki Hurst, Stephen Kennedy, Daniel Ladendorf, Justin Percival and Mack Steele have enlisted in the military and will ship to Basic Training after graduation.

This year the cadets collected 31 boxes of items for our service members in Afghanistan as their service-learning project. These are commendable achievements by Riverview cadets! They are leading by example. Interacting with young men and women of this caliber gives one confidence that our nation's future is in good hands. •



Friday

**MOAS  
Luncheon  
Feb 18, 2011**

**Michael's  
on East**



**SERVED LUNCHEON**

Tossed Spinach Salad with  
Dried Cranberries, Feta  
Cheese, Grape Tomatoes,  
Spiced Walnuts, Sliced Mush-  
rooms & Balsamic Vinaigrette

**ENTREE:**

Ginger orange grilled salmon  
topped with zest of lemon,  
lime and oranges, Roasted red  
skinned potatoes with extra  
virgin olive oil and rosemary,  
Roasted Asparagus & Roasted  
Sweet Peppers

**Signature  
Bread Basket**

**SERVED DESSERT**

Classic Tiramisu Cake: Rich  
Mouse of Mascarpone, Cream,  
and Hints of Marsala Sur-  
rounds, Espresso-soaked lady-  
fingers with a dusting of Cocoa

Served Coffee, Decaf &  
Tea

Pre-set Iced Tea

**MOAS LUNCHEON RESERVATIONS**

For 1/21/2011 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 or the 'tear-off' from the flyer 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 ad-  
ditional 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. •





## MOAS CALENDAR – FEBRUARY - MARCH 2011



Date	 Event		Time
Feb 6, Sun	YAH00 event: Super Bowl Party - Details on Page 7		5:30 PM
Feb 7, Mon	Board Meeting at Meadows Community Association		4:00 PM
Feb 9,10,11,12	VPA drama, "The Bad Seed" - Details on Page 5		7:00 PM
Feb 1,8,15,22	Academic Olympics - Details on Page 5		3:30 PM
Feb 10, Thur	YAH00 event: Merchant Marine Tour - Details on Page 7		11:00 AM
Feb 18, Fri	MOAS Luncheon - Michael's On East - Sarasota Opera	Dress Code - Coat & Tie 	11:30 AM
Mar 7, Mon	Board Meeting at Meadows Community Association		4:00 PM
Mar 13, Sun	YAH00 Event: Polo at Lakewood Ranch - Details on Page 10		11:30 AM
Mar 18, Fri	MOAS Luncheon - Michael's On East - Booker HS VPA Show	Dress Code - Coat & Tie 	11:30 AM
Dates TBA	March VPA & Academic Olympic Events - Details to be in March Breeze		TBA