

# 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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MOAA 4-Star Chapter 2003 & 2008; MOAA 5 Star Chapter 2004-2007 & 2009-2015  
Best Newsletter 2007 & 2010; 1st Runner Up 2008, 2012 - 2014; 2nd Runner Up 2009

June 2016

### MAY PROGRAM: *Scholarships Awards; Bill Church, Executive Editor Herald Tribune*

by Perry Korszen

The May luncheon was the platform for the Sarasota Military Officers Scholarship Fund (SMOSF) to award a \$2,000 scholarship to each of the following students:

- Aravind Byju (Pine View HS) - attending Harvard University
- Keaton Clark (Sarasota Military Academy) - attending New York University,
- Vada Hammons (Sarasota Military Academy) - attending the University of Florida,
- Robert Hodgson (Booker HS) - attending the University of Virginia,
- Dakota Stoble (Booker HS) (Schmidt Scholarship) – Palm Beach University

Kathryn Beck (Cardinal Mooney HS) – attending Florida State University and Cassandra Golembeski (Riverview HS) – attending Liberty University were not able to attend, and will receive their scholarships at the June luncheon.

After helping MOAS President George Tracy present the scholarship awards to our accomplished recipients, Bill Church, Executive Editor of the Sarasota Herald Tribune, gave an engaging and entertaining speech to the membership, sharing some of the wisdom he has acquired from many years of leading newsrooms. He explained to the students present that if they continue to excel in their studies they would someday find themselves in his shoes, acting as keynote and commencement speakers. Bill shared the three most important points for a speaker to remember: have fun, be yourself, and be a good storyteller.

He then addressed the very relevant and often sensitive topic of the relationship between the media and politics. Bill explained that the disagreements we have are the result of the freedoms we have, and that the media should reflect the numerous opinions and viewpoints of our diverse citizenry.

In closing, Bill described how proud he was to grow up as military brat and his fond memories of his experiences moving around the world each time his Air Force dad received a new assignment. He was presented with the Inaugural Eagle award from the Military Officer's Association of Sarasota as thanks for the Herald Tribunes continued support. Visit <http://www.heraldtribune.com/personalia/bill.church> to access Bill's Sunday column.



### JUNE PROGRAM: *Olivia Swaan - Irish Harpist & Singer*

by Perry Korszen

Olivia was born in Dublin, Ireland, where at the age of 12 she studied the harp at the "Irish College of Music." Upon apprenticeship, she joined the famous "Bunratty Castle Singers," where she quickly became the lead harpist/singer, entertaining visitors from all over the world. She toured extensively throughout Europe and the United States.

Marriage took Olivia to the Netherlands where she continued her career, playing and singing in some of the most beautiful castles and estate mansions and performing numerous radio and television appearances in both the Netherlands and Germany. She also recorded her first album, "Song for a Winters Night" on the EMI record label.

Olivia now resides in Sarasota where she became a permanent resident in 2002 and a US citizen in 2009. It is here she recorded her second album, "The Swan in the Evening." She continues to perform at many functions in the area such as the Sarasota Music Club and Sarasota Opera benefits.

Olivia was the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President and was recently elected President of the Artist Series Concerts Friends organization.



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**Military Officers Association of Sarasota (MOAS) Mission**

MOAS, a non-profit 501c(19) organization, exists to improve the awareness, life style, and overall environment of its members; support and serve the citizens of the Sarasota area; influence the political process in matters pertaining to active duty, retired and former military personnel; and enhance the image of America's uniformed services in our local community.

**Chapter Officers, Directors and Committees****Board of Directors**

President	George Tracy	907-9865
1st Vice President (Membership)	Brian McCarthy	323-1562
2nd Vice President	Perry Korszen	907-3732
Treasurer	Christa Friedlander	927-0996
Secretary	George Tracy	907-9865
Director (Scholarships)	Claire M. Power	921-1931
Director (Publicity)	Alan Forrester	504-5759
Past President	John O'Brien	907-8891

**Board Staff**

Program Planning	Perry Korszen	907-3732
Chaplain	Charles Caudill	751-3810
Legislative Affairs	Len Friedlander	927-0996
	Tony Mowry	480-0333
SCVeterans Commission	Patricia McLain	371-0883
Veterans Task Force	Tom Piazze	761-1278
Historian	George Tracy	907-9865
Awards Board	Jonathan Gordon	923-2302

**Membership Committee**

Chairperson	Brian McCarthy	323-1562
Recruiting & Retention	Troy Scott	379-3023
Recruiting & Retention	Perry Korszen	907-3732

**Scholarship Committee**

Chairperson	Claire M. Power	921-1931
Member	Kay Tracy	907-9865
Member	Carol O'Brien	907-8891
Member	Mike Staley	752-4086
Member	Jean Southworth	922-5081
Member	Len Friedlander	927-0996
JROTC Liaison	Tony Mowry	(907) 888-8355

**Scheduled Events Committee**

Chair/Reservations	Elke Scott	379-3023
Greeters	John & Carol O'Brien	907-8891
Reception Manager	Pat McLain	371-0883
Asst. Reception Manager	June Moore	388-3118
50-50 Managers	Kay Tracy	907-9865
	Christa Friedlander	927-0996

**Special Programs**

Flag Programs & Celebrations	Tom Piazze	761-1278
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**Personal Affairs Committee**

Chairperson	Charles Caudill	751-3810
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**Auxiliary**

Chairperson	Peggy Mock	356-3584
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**Social Club YAHOO (Young At Heart Officers Org)**

Manager	John O'Brien <a href="mailto:obrienjc@aol.com">obrienjc@aol.com</a>	907-8891
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**Support Our Troops Program**

Program Co-Chairpersons	John & Carol O'Brien	907-8891
Program Co-Chairpersons	Jim & Joyce Hesson	926-8702

**Newsletter Operations, Sarasota Breeze**

Managing Editor	Len Friedlander	<a href="mailto:ljensq223@gmail.com">ljensq223@gmail.com</a>	927-0996
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**Editorial Policy:** "The Breeze" newsletter is published by the Military Officers Association of Sarasota, Inc., an affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) and the Florida Council of Chapters (FCOC). MOAA and its affiliated chapters and councils are non-partisan."

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

George Tracy

First, I wish to add my **CONGRATULATIONS** to our outstanding MOAS scholarship winners and their families for earning MOAS' recognition of meritorious academic performance. And, as always, **Thank You!** to Claire Power, our Sarasota Military Officers Scholarship Fund Chair, and her committee for the hard work and leadership that went into qualifying these students for our JROTC and MERIT awards!

Kay and I attended the impressive MOAA Florida Council of Chapters (FCOC) Annual Convention, 13-15 May, in Lakeland, hosted by Gary Clark and his dynamic Imperial Polk County Chapter team. Len Friedlander was elected FCOC Vice President, and Mike Borders was elected to replace Len as our Southwest Area VP. We were also delighted to witness MOAA 5-Star Communications Awards to Len and Brian McCarthy, for our MOAS Newsletter and our MOAS Web Site. And FCOC Leadership Awards were presented to John O'Brien, Tom Piazze and Brian McCarthy for their incredible contributions to Support Our Troops, the Flag Initiative and the MOAS Web Site! Thanks to you all for bringing such honors to our Sarasota chapter!!

**Call To Action!!:** Our MOAA President and CEO, Lt. Gen. Dana Atkins (Ret), needs your help to end the current \$15,000 annual penalty imposed on military widows. Add your voice to the thousands who have already called on Congress to end the "widows' tax". This legislation, long overdue, depends heavily on grassroots support and it's currently the most important surviving spouse issue needing congressional action NOW!! So please contact your legislator NOW at <http://capwiz.com/moaa/issues/alert/?alertid=71897626>. Your letter awaits your signature!! This simple, free, quick and effective action, is open to all citizens, Veteran and non-Veteran! **Just Do It!! Thanks for your support!!**

**Memorial Day Parade Preparation:** John and Carol will be preparing the Support Our Troops (SOT) boxes for the Memorial Day Parade (30 May) on 24 May at their house. They still need more volunteers to hand out those boxes during the Memorial Day Parade. **We need your legs!! You need the exercise!!** (O'Brien's, (941) 907-8891, [obrienjc@aol.com](mailto:obrienjc@aol.com).)

**Count down to our 12 June Flag Day Event:** As you know, preparations are in process by Tom Piazze's Flag Day event team, made up of MOAS and POPS Orchestra volunteers. They still need more volunteers and more donor/sponsors! If you can volunteer and/or have a recommendation or personal connection with prospective donors/sponsors, let Tom or Brian know. (Piazze's (941) 761-1278, [tepiazze@gmail.com](mailto:tepiazze@gmail.com); McCarthy's (941) 323-1562, [bnmccarthy@gmail.com](mailto:bnmccarthy@gmail.com).)

Thanks to all of you, who attended our May luncheon; to our Luncheon Support Team for their always outstanding job; to our scholarship winners; and, of course, to our Herald Tribune Executive Editor and inspirational speaker, Bill Church, for sharing with us his experiences, perspective and insights and for his ongoing support of Veterans!

Remember and live by our MOAA mantras, **"Never Stop Serving!"** and **"Take Action!"**

**Thank you all for your support of our MOAS 2016 Team and your donations to our 2016 Scholarship Program!!**





**SECRETARY'S CORNER**

*George Tracy*

President George Tracy called the meeting to order at 4:10 PM on Monday May 2, 2016 at the Meadows Community Center.

**ATTENDANCE:** *Board Members Present:* George Tracy (Pres); Brian McCarthy (1VP); Christa Friedlander (Treas); Claire Power (Dir); John O'Brien (PP). *Board Members Absent:* Perry Korszen (2VP); Alan Forester (Dir). *Chairs & Visitors Present:* Mike Borders (Pres. Sebring Chapter & FCOC

**BOARD MEETINGS AND LUNCHEONS**

MONTH	BOARD	LUNCHEON
MAY	2	20
JUNE	6	17
JULY	5	15

Membership Chair) Pat McLain & Len Friedlander.

**PRESIDENTS REPORT:** Welcomed COL Mike Borders (Future FCOC SW Area VP). Kay and I will be attending the FCOC Convention 13-15 May in Lakeland along with Len, Charles, Jon Gordon and spouses. I am working with Victoria Twyne (MOAA National) to provide a speaker for our September Multi-Chapter Luncheon. I expect to have a commitment by next month. Christa has ordered the Award sculpture for presentation to Bill Church at the 20 May Scholarship Luncheon. Thanks, Christa and to Jim Hesson for providing words for that recognition!! As you know, planning is in process by a Stars & Stripes Foundation funding team made up of MOAS and POPS Orchestra of Sarasota and Bradenton volunteers, organized and led by Tom Piazza. They still need more volunteers and donor/sponsors! If you have a recommendation or personal connection with prospective donors/sponsors, let Tom or me know! John and Carol are planning to prepare the SOT boxes for the Memorial Day Parade on 24 May at their house. They still need more volunteers to hand out those boxes during the Memorial Day Parade. We need your legs!!

**Important Dates:**

**30 May** – Memorial Day Parade – SOT box distribution

**12 June**–“YOU'RE A GRAND OLD FLAG”– Patriot Plaza

Our SOT website has been incorporated into our new website at [http://www.sarasotamoaa.com/support-us!](http://www.sarasotamoaa.com/support-us) The old site web service will continue until 6 June with a “Please Be Advised!” note on its Home Page advising users pointing them to the new location! See <http://supportourtroopsmoas.com/>

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** The April 4, 2016 Board meeting minutes were unanimously approved with minor corrections.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** The Treasurer reported the following balances as of April 30, 2016 and the report was approved unanimously.

**MOAS Operating Account** **\$31,036.81**

Operating Fund \$ 27,811.28

LoV Flag initiative \$ 3,225.53

**Scholarship Fund Account** **\$39,180.57**

Undesignated Scholarship Fund \$19,316.29

JROTC/Merit Scholarships \$12,000.00

2016 Schmidt Scholarships (Merit/Vet) \$ 2,000.00

Veterans Scholarships \$ 1,000.00

Academic Olympics \$ 0.00

JROTC Support \$ 1,000.00

Outstanding Cadet \$ 0.00

SOT Fund \$ 3,864.28

**OLD BUSINESS: COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Scheduled Events (Elke Scott):** The April 15 Luncheon paid attendance was 80, with a profit of \$148.50; the 50/50 contribution was \$80.

**Newsletter (Len Friedlander):** The May Breeze was emailed to 344 recipients, & 100 copies mailed to members. Len stated that we have several potential advertisers for the Directory this year. Unfortunately, USAA has cancelled this type of advertising. Brian agreed to purchase an ad for Always Home, LLC and will follow up with Bill Robertson. (Back Page \$150, Full Page \$125, ½ Page \$65).

Len stated that he will take orders for the digital newsletter in July. The cost will be \$50/ for a business card size ad and will run for 12 months..

**Scholarships (Claire Power):** The following \$2,000 scholarships were awarded by the Scholarship Committee and subsequently ratified by the board of Directors.

**JROTC:** 1. Golembeski, Cassandra -Riverview 2.Hammons, Vada - SMA

**MERIT:** 1. Clark, Keaton –SMA ; 2. Hodgson, Robert-Booker

3. Byju, Aravind-Pineview; 4.Stroble, Dakota-Booker (the Schmidt Scholarship) 5. Beck, Kathryn - Cardinal Mooney

We received 17 scholarship applications (includes a 500 word essay) which were reviewed and graded by the Scholarship Committee. I would like to thank the members of the Scholarship Committee for the hours of work that went into the 2016 Scholarship season: Len Friedlander, Mary Gordon, Carol O'Brien, Claire Power, Jean Southworth, Mike Staley and Kay Tracy. I hope to complete the Schmidt Foundation 2016/17 grant material this week.

**Programs: (Perry Korszen):**

LUNCHEON PROGRAMS	
MAY	Scholarships - Bill Church - Editor, Herald Tribune
JUNE	Olivia Swaan - Irish Harpist and singer
JULY	Lee Dougherty, Ross & Jason Stearns

**Membership(Brian McCarthy):** MOAA National recently provided the 2016 MOAA National Prospect list for our area. I am in the process of reviewing and reconciling this list to add to our 2016 recruiting target list for invitations to join the chapter. Please continue your individual recruiting efforts!

MOAS	2015	1/1/2016	3/31/2016
REGULAR	278	278	254
SURVIVING SPOUSES	74	74	69
ALLIED	4	4	4
TOTAL	356	356	327

**Support Our Troops (John O'Brien):** We are almost ready for the Sarasota Memorial Day Parade and the Stars & Stripes Foundation's program at Patriot's Plaza at the National Cemetery. We have 400 SOT boxes assembled and an additional 1,100 boxes ready to assemble. We also have 1,200 packets ready to attach to boxes and 100 more packets to prepare. The boxes will be assembled on May 24<sup>th</sup>. (1,200 boxes for the parade and 300 for Flag Day at Patriot's Plaza). Jim Hesson has requested another 300 boxes for a SOT drive at the Church St. James.

**YAHOO (John O'Brien):** Our next event is a Kentucky Derby Day race to raise monies for SOT on Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup> at Mike and Patt Staley's. Brian & Valerie McCarthy have organized a beach party on August 3<sup>rd</sup> @ 6:30 pm on Siesta Beach. Details to follow - so save the date. George suggested that we consider a YAHOO cooking event at one of the culinary schools. It's lots of fun and would get great attendance.

**NEW BUSINESS: Flag Initiative:** A meeting was held on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Attending were; Tom Piazza, Brian McCarthy, Tom Tollette, Alan Forester and Peggy Mock. The following topics were discussed: VIP Invitations, Flag Day program, Memorial Day Parade, Logistics, Veterans Day publicity, Sponsor Donations, MOAS member support, event promotion.

**NEXT MEETING:** Meeting adjourned at 5:50PM. The next Board Meeting is scheduled for 4:00PM on Monday June 6, 2016 at the Meadows Community Center.



## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

*Len Friedlander*

### Senate Defense Authorization Bill Moves Forward

On May 12, the Senate Armed Services Committee approved its version of the FY 2017 Defense Authorization Bill. In the wake of last year's retirement reform, the committee has turned to overhauls of DoD's leadership structure, procurement, and health care programs. There are no details of the committee's recommendations on specific health fees at this time. But committee leaders left no doubt about their determination to address problems in beneficiary access and program efficiency, quality, oversight, and contracting. They also left no doubt they believe many fees associated with TRICARE should be increased.

Changes addressed by the committee include: eliminating preauthorization requirements for specialty care; lowering co-pays for high-value medications and services; requiring a plan to improve pediatric care; requiring a standardized appointment system in military facilities; establishing performance accountability standards for military health care leaders at all levels; incorporating value-based methods and provider reimbursements in TRICARE contracts; expanding tele-health services; authority for TRICARE beneficiaries to enroll in the federal civilian dental and vision programs; authorizing DoD to conduct a pilot program to provide commercial health insurance for Guard and Reserve beneficiaries; and "realignment of the medical command structure" of DoD (with no further details available yet).

On the issue of TRICARE fees, the press release was short on details, but said the committee recommended: no changes for TRICARE For Life; "very modest" enrollment fee increases for retired beneficiaries under age 65; a nine-year schedule of increases in pharmacy copays; authorization for DoD to charge a "no-show" fee for missed appointments in military facilities; changing TRICARE Standard cost shares to flat-dollar amounts rather than the current 20-25% of TRICARE-allowed charges; authority for DoD to lower co-pays for high-value services and increase co-pays for low-value services; addition of \$40 million for autism care to reverse provider reimbursement cuts DoD imposed on April 1, 2016.

In general, MOAA supports the array of quality and access improvement initiatives the committee proposes, though we remain concerned about the magnitude of potential fee hikes.

On non-health care issues, the committee recommended: A 1.6% military pay raise, as recommended in the Pentagon budget (vs. the 2.1% raise recommended by the House committee); Force level reductions recommended in the Pentagon budget (vs. the increases allowed in the House bill); Requiring both males and females to register for the draft; A 25% cut in 4-stars and other flag and general officers; and permanent authority to pay the Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance for SBP-DIC survivors

### House Defense Appropriations Bill Moves Forward

On May 11, the House Defense Appropriations Subcommittee approved its version of the FY17 Defense Appropriations Bill, disregarding the Pentagon's requested 1.6% military pay raise and significant force cuts. Instead, the subcommittee funded a full 2.1% pay raise and provided funding for significant force increases as recommended by the

House Armed Services Committee.

The budget also included a provision specifying funding for shipment of fresh produce to commissaries in the Pacific and Far East, in reaction to publicity about skyrocketing produce prices in Guam.

The subcommittee paid for the increases to the basic budget from special war accounts not subject to budget cap limits. The administration and some in Congress oppose this controversial tactic, as it would leave only about six months of funding in the wartime account.

House leaders believe this is the best way to improve immediate readiness, and that whoever the new president is will be able to request additional funding to meet wartime needs for the remainder of next year without requiring an exception to budget caps.

### Veterans First Act

The Senate Veterans Affairs Committee approved a large omnibus package which addressing a range of MOAA-supported initiatives.

- Provides a plan to extend special Caregiver Act services for the full-time caregivers of catastrophically disabled veterans from the Vietnam era. Currently, benefits apply only to caregivers for Post-9/11 vets.
- Establishes an Office of [VA] Accountability and Whistleblower Protection and tightens disciplinary and removal rules for senior VA executives.
- Requires the VA and DoD to jointly update guidelines for the management of opioid therapy for chronic pain in wounded, ill or injured service members and veterans.
- The Senate Committee took a different approach than its House counterpart on a controversial cut to the housing allowance under the new GI Bill. The House adopted a 50% cut to the Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) for future GI Bill benefit transfers to dependent children (current transfers would be grandfathered). The Senate instead aligned the BAH rate for all qualifying GI Bill users with the five-year cumulative 5% cut to the rates established in the FY 2015 National Defense Authorization Act. GI Bill recipients would continue to get the same housing rate as active duty families at the E-5 with dependents rate.
- Strengthens administrative procedures for care for veterans in communities.
- Authorizes GI Bill eligibility credit for time spent in medical hold status.
- Creates a pilot program to reduce the appealed claims backlog.
- Allows survivors who lost their spouses early in Iraq or Afghanistan conflicts (9/11/01 – 12/31/05) up to five additional years to use their Fry Scholarship GI Bill benefits.
- Enables Fry Scholarship users to participate in GI Bill matching by private colleges under the Yellow Ribbon program.
- Authorizes GI Bill benefits for involuntary Guard - Reserve call-ups for "pre-planned and budgeted" operational missions.
- Enhances research on the health effects of toxic exposures impacts on descendants.
- Enables speedier payment of Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) for active duty deaths reported by a military service.
- Honoring as veterans certain career members of the National Guard and Reserve

Panel Chairman Senator Johnny Isakson (R-GA) noted at the press conference for the bill, "When people look back at what Congress accomplished this year, the Veterans First Act will be at the top of the list." The bill must now be reconciled with a House veterans omnibus measure passed last November.





**CHAPLAIN'S CORNER**

*Charles Caudill*

**Acceptance**

Recently I attended a memorial service at the 2016 MOAA Florida Council of Chapters annual meeting in Lakeland, FL. The service was conducted in Veterans Memorial Park, which honors military veterans, firefighters, law enforcement officers, and first responders. At the end of the service there was an unveiling of three sculptures by the winners of a countywide student competition. Students were asked to create 3-D models from paper products conveying the themes: "Honor," "Service," and "Sacrifice." The winning entries were scaled to full size and replicated in steel and glass.



During the service I noticed a couple holding the picture of a teenage girl and wondered why. When the service concluded an official told me they were the parents of the artist who designed the sculpture entitled "Honor." This creative, young student had recently committed suicide.

I immediately went to the parents and introduced myself. Tears filled their eyes when I gave them a hug and acknowledged that I was aware of the manner of their daughter's death. They were afraid she could not go to heaven because of the way she died. I told them that suicide only happens when the pain gets so severe the person can no longer tolerate it. At death, God's love is so great He takes them in his loving care and welcomes them home accepting them as they are. This seemed to offer them some peace.

Standing near the parents was the wife and 3-year-old daughter of Captain William McGehee, who had written the poem "Honor," engraved on the face of the sculpture. He had written "Honor" in 2006 while still in high

school. Mrs. McGehee told me her husband was serving his second tour in Afghanistan.

His poem is worth sharing:

**HONOR**

*This I asked a learned scholar,  
"Sir, how can I rise to Honor?"  
And such was the master's reply,  
"To rise up, live, love, fight, then die  
"To live you must be living right  
No different in the dark than light  
And though life's path be full of pain  
It's through that path that Honor's gained*

*If you are to love you must see  
First to that which all others need  
Second you must lay down your pride  
For love cannot live where it abides*

*You must fight forever through your strife.  
You must fight for love, fight for life  
You must fight for your lady's hand  
And fight to save your Fatherland*

*All living things, in turn, must die  
At death you either stand or fly  
It's how you meet the coming night  
That proves your worth in Honor's sight*

*Now that I've shown you Honors way  
Keep to its path and do not stray  
Heed the words of this meek scholar  
This is how you rise to Honor"*

Reflecting on the events at the memorial service caused me to realize that not only the young go through valleys; we all do. Sometimes, it feels that aging is more intense. We also have the need to feel loved and accepted; to be reassured of our worth. It certainly is the time to become closer to family. There are days that we do feel lonely, but with our faith in God we are never alone.

*"Agree with God, and be at peace; thereby good will come to you." Job 22:21*



**HONOR**



**SERVICE**



**SACRIFICE**

# May Luncheon Photos



Elke & Troy Scott flank Willie Oler



Jim Hesson (L) & Ted Smith  
President, Sarasota County  
Veterans Commission



Barry & Casiana Hilton



Kathy Pollack



(L-R) Jack Barnett, Brian McCarthy,  
Alan Forrester & Peggy Mock



President George Tracy (L)  
& guest speaker Bill Church



Claire Power with scholarship recipient  
Aravind Byju (R) & his father K.R.



Scholarship recipient Vada Hammons  
& her mom Barbara



Sylvia Barber & her guest Russ Ward



Scholarship recipient Keaton Clark  
& his mom Susan





MOAS President LT George Tracy & Herald Tribune Executive Editor Bill Church present MOAS scholarships to (L-R) Aravind Byju, Robert Hodgson, Vada Hammons, & Keaton Clark.



Robert Hodgson & his mom Debra



George Tracy presents a MOAS Eagle to Bill Church



Dakota Stoble receives the William Schmidt Foundation Scholarship from (L-R) George Tracy, Casiana (Schmidt) Hilton, & Bill Church



Dakota Stoble & her dad Tim



**MAY BIRTHDAYS**

(L-R) Jessica Barroso, Ellie Fernander, Diane Connell, Kathy Pollack, Brian McCarthy, Gudrun Graugaard, Mary Jo Krebs



**YAHOO**  
**Young at Heart Officers Organization**  
*John O'Brien*

Any event at Patt & Mike Staley's is always a 10 +, and the Kentucky Derby Day Party was no exception. We had our own running of the horses; the thrill of picking a winner, and the agony of watching our horse "just stand there." Great fun was had by all!! The Ladies were truly outrageous in their hat choice and the selection of the Best Ladies Derby hat was hotly contested (see below).



Patt and Mike outdid themselves with a table full of great food and an array of beverages. The Hullingers provided their hand-made Mint Juleps, and Nicky Dovener prepared a Derby cake that was enjoyed by all. Check out [sarasotamoaa.blogspot.com](http://sarasotamoaa.blogspot.com) to see additional pictures of a great evening.

Lest you think that all we wanted to do was to have a party, there was an ulterior motive to the Derby event. In addition to having an exceptionally fun evening, the event was intended as a fundraiser for our Support Our Troops Program. Thanks to Patt & Mike's efforts, we raised \$637.00 for SOT.



## MOAS Beach Party

August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2016 @ 6:30 pm

Siesta Beach, Sarasota, Florida

Join the **YAHOO crew** to celebrate the reason we all live here! We are gathering on the north end of Siesta Beach Park to watch the sunset at 2016 (8:16 pm). This is a spontaneous event – no plan whatsoever! Pack up your favorite picnic basket, bring your favorite beverage and don't forget a chair or two. No need to RSVP – just show up. The McCarthy's will have an American flag to mark the gathering spot. We will be on station at 1830. Be sure and arrive in plenty of time to socialize.

(Remember no glass containers on the beach)



(L-R) Bill Church (Executive Editor, Herald Tribune); Vada Hammons (SMA); Aravind Byju (Pine View); Keaton Clark (SMA); Dakota Stoble (Booker); Robert Hodgson (Booker); Claire Power (MOAS Scholarship Chairperson); and LT George Tracy, Sr, (President, MOAS).

The MOAS scholarship program was initially proposed in 1997. Over the ensuing years there have been numerous iterations of the program. The present program has two components, one for high school seniors and one for returning veterans.

The high school program, which has two components – JROTC & Merit - provides deserving local youth a financial jumpstart on their post high school education.

This year we received 17 outstanding applications (to include a 500 word essay), which were reviewed and graded by the Committee.

I would like to thank the Scholarship Committee members for the hours of work that went into the 2016 Scholarship season; Len Friedlander, Mary Gordon, Carol O'Brien, Jean Southworth, Mike Staley and Kay Tracy.

Remember, I can't continue our good work without your continued contributions. Please contribute to the MOAS Scholarship Fund today.

**Claire Power,**  
*Director and Chair of the Scholarship Committee*





**SUPPORT OUR TROOPS**

*John O'Brien*

Well, we're getting ready for the Sarasota Memorial Day Parade on May 30<sup>th</sup> and we have all the materials in our garage. Since the last time I wrote this column we were asked to support another Memorial Day event, so we ordered 300 additional boxes from the Post Office for a total of 1,625 boxes in our garage. Our SOT committee/volunteers will gather at our house this week to attach the paperwork to the boxes, and once the work is done we'll enjoy some cold beverages and pizza along with other goodies. Thanks to all of our volunteers who support this SOT program as the soldiers so appreciate it, as indicated below by another thank you note we received. We are still looking for volunteers to distribute the boxes at both the Memorial Day Parade and the Flag Day Celebration at Patriots Plaza on June 12. Join us!!!!

By the way---if you haven't read the YAHOO column --- the Kentucky Derby Day party raised \$637 for the SOT fund. Our thanks to a group of wonderful people who think of our troops!!

MARCH 5, 2016

Dear Meredith and fellow MOAS members. We appreciate all you do for us and all the support you bring to our lives by your generous and heartwarming care packages. It means more than you can imagine to feel all the love and support. Task Force Comanche is on their 3<sup>rd</sup> month of deployment and are doing very well. Keep the prayers coming and we will be praying for you all as well.

Sincerely SGT Carroll  
and TF Comanche members.



**President LT George Tracy presents the MOAA Florida Council of Chapters Leadership Citation and Pin to Carol & COL John O'Brien**



**President LT George Tracy presents the MOAA Florida Council of Chapters Leadership Citation & Pin to RADM Brian McCarthy**



**Pat McLain is flanked by the winners of her Booker HS Scholarship Alejandra Rodriguez (L) and Jordan Boyer.**



## MEMBERSHIP ACTIONS

*Brian McCarthy*



The first step in becoming an effective recruiter for your chapter is being armed with knowledge. You are ready with the knowledge of what our chapter does and

the know-how to answer their questions. One of the best ways to understand all the various ways we support our members and our veteran community is to read our newsletter *The Sarasota Breeze* each month. Your leadership team works hard to provide you with a comprehensive overview of all our current activities.

*Second best* – visit our web site [www.SarasotaMOAA.com](http://www.SarasotaMOAA.com). There are two sides to our web site; (i) the public side open to everyone and (ii) the private side open only to you and our members. You can access our web site by computer, smart-phone, or tablet. What are you waiting for? Don't know how to access the private side? Send me an email and I will gladly give you your password and instructions.

Nothing beats a one-on-one relationship. Invite a prospective member to our "Meet & Greet" every second Friday of the month at 1888 Main Street in downtown Sarasota, or our luncheon at Michael's On East on the third Friday of every month (see page 11 of this newsletter). Of course, everyone is welcome to our YAHOO events. Our next one is August 3<sup>rd</sup> at Siesta Beach to watch the sunset on America's #1 beach! Prospective members can pull a membership application right from our brochure, which you can pick up at any luncheon or find it on our web site [www.SarasotaMOAA.com](http://www.SarasotaMOAA.com).

We hope you will all join us for the Memorial Day Parade in downtown Sarasota, and our free Flag Day concert at Patriot's Plaza on June 12<sup>th</sup>. You can even go online and get a Flag Day ticket at [www.ThePopsOrchestra.org](http://www.ThePopsOrchestra.org) or [www.StarsandStripesCelebration.com](http://www.StarsandStripesCelebration.com).

Our call to action – *never stop serving!*

### MEMBERSHIP UPDATES Directory Changes/Additions

Scott, Troy (Elke) COL, USAR  
[entscott41@gmail.com](mailto:entscott41@gmail.com)

Friedlander, Len (Christa) Col, USAF  
[lensrq223@gmail.com](mailto:lensrq223@gmail.com)

# "YOU'RE A GRAND OLD FLAG" FLAG DAY

6:00 PM-7:30 PM, Sunday, June 12th  
Patriot Plaza, Sarasota National Cemetery

On Sunday, June 12th, the Military Officers Association of Sarasota will join the Pops Orchestra for Bradenton and Sarasota to celebrate the 239th birthday of our nation's flag. Enjoy a stirring 90 minute concert of patriotic music by the Pops and choral selections by Gloria Musicae. A special feature of this event will be a formal Flag Retirement and Retreat Ceremony overlooking the impressive features of Patriot Plaza.

[WWW.STARSANDSTRIPESCELEBRATION.COM](http://WWW.STARSANDSTRIPESCELEBRATION.COM)



## VIETNAM WAR 50<sup>TH</sup> COMMEMORATION DID YOU KNOW?

*by Jim Hesson*

### WINNING AND LOSING

- 82% of veterans who saw heavy combat strongly believe the war was lost because of lack of political will.
- Nearly 75% of the public agrees it was a failure of political will, not of arms.

## Taps

*Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to  
the families & friends of*

*Mrs. Freda A. Bogart  
Mrs. Evelyn E. Cerny*



**MOAS Luncheon  
Friday, June 17, 2016  
Michael's On East**



**MENU**

**SERVED LUNCHEON**

*Asian Style Salad with Assorted Greens,  
Chinese Cabbage, Sprouts, Shredded  
Carrots, Cucumber,  
Dried Cranberries, Toasted Almonds  
& Soy Ginger Dressing  
Signature Bread Basket*

**ENTREE**

*Miso-Glazed Salmon  
Mango Jasmine Rice,  
Haricot Verts & Baby Carrots*

**SERVED DESSERT**

*Florida Trifle: Fresh Orange Custard  
& Local Strawberries,  
Vanilla Sponge Cake,  
Orange Liqueur & Whipped Cream*

*Served Coffee, Decaf & Tea*

**MOAS LUNCHEON RESERVATIONS**

**For 6/17/2016 at 11:30 AM**

**Michael's On East**

**DRESS: *Casual***

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ places for the Luncheon  
A check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed based on **\$27.00**  
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? \_\_\_\_\_

Please return the above form with check made out to

**MOAS**

Mail to:

**Elke Scott**

**841 Forestview Court  
Sarasota FL 34232-2455  
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.



**MEET & GREET**

**Friday, June 10th, 5:00pm - 7:00pm**

Sarasota MOAA has a monthly  
**Happy Hour/Meet & Greet/Officer's Call**  
on the

**second Friday of each month from 5pm to 7pm**

Our Happy Hour re-creates the camaraderie we  
enjoyed at the O' Club back when we were on active  
duty. We'll have a few drinks and swap some stories.  
Members and prospective members can get to know  
each other in an informal setting.

**We hope you can make the next Meet & Greet  
at the *Sarasota Vineyard*  
downtown Sarasota at 1528 Main Street  
between Lemon Ave & Orange Ave**



**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

**"You're A Grand Old Flag"**

**Sunday, June 12, 2016 @ Patriot Plaza**

MOAS will join The POPS Orchestra of Bradenton and  
Sarasota to celebrate the 239<sup>th</sup> birthday of our nation's  
flag on Sunday June 12<sup>th</sup>. The program will consist of a  
90-minute concert of patriotic music by The POPS,  
choral selections by Gloria Musicae, and a formal Flag  
Retirement and Retreat Ceremony.

**Volunteers are needed** to help plan and conduct this  
event. If interested and able, please contact LTC (Ret)  
Tom Piazze at (941) 761-1278 or [tepiazze@gmail.com](mailto:tepiazze@gmail.com).

 <b>CALENDAR</b> 		
JUNE - JULY 2016		
DATE	EVENT	TIME
May 30, Monday	Memorial Day Parade - Sarasota - SOT Boxes - Details Page 9	9:00 a.m.
June 6, Monday	MOAS Board Meeting - Meadows Community Center	4:00 p.m.
June 10, Friday	Meet & Greet - Sarasota Vineyard - Details Page 11	5:00 p.m.
June 12, Sunday	"You're A Grand Old Flag" - Patriot Plaza - National Cemetery	6:00 p.m.
June 17, Friday	Luncheon - Michaels on East - Olivia Swaan - Irish Harpist	11:30 a.m.
July 4, Monday	Happy Independence Day !!!!!	
July 5, Tuesday	MOAS Board Meeting - Meadows Community Center	4:00 p.m.
July 8, Friday	Meet & Greet - Sarasota Vineyard - Details Page 11	5:00 p.m.
July 15, Friday	Luncheon - Michaels on East- Lee Dougherty, Ross & Jason Stearns	11:30 a.m.

### For Your Information (FYI)

#### Former Spouse SBP Open Season Ends 11/2016

A change in last year's Defense Authorization Act lets military retirees' SBP coverage for a former spouse transfer to a new spouse if the former spouse dies. The law allows a one-year window after remarriage to cover a new spouse. For people remarried more than a year ago, the law gives them until Nov. 25, 2016 to switch SBP coverage to a current spouse. This open season period applies ONLY to members who:

- Had SBP coverage for a former spouse before Nov. 25, 2015, and
- Whose former spouse died before Nov. 25, 2015, and
- Who subsequently remarried a new spouse on or before Nov. 25, 2015

The law change also applies to retirees who purchased Reserve Component SBP (RCSBP). The former spouse SBP open season coverage does not apply if SBP coverage was discontinued for any reason other than the death of the covered former spouse. Retired members whose SBP-covered former spouse has died and who remarry after Nov. 25, 2015 can apply to DFAS, provided they apply within one year of remarriage. [www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary/provide/sbp/FS-SBP-open-season-16.html](http://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary/provide/sbp/FS-SBP-open-season-16.html) contains the DFAS guidance.

Military Officers Association of Sarasota, INC. P.O. Box 1016, Sarasota, FL 34230-1016

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Annual Membership Dues:  Regular  Auxiliary  Associate

*Mail registration with your check for \$35, made payable to MOAS.  
If email is unavailable, newsletters may be sent by UPS - Add \$12*

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_ MI \_\_\_\_\_ Rank \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address (Include Apt#) \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday mm/dd/yy \_\_\_\_\_

Status:  Active  Retired  Former Officer  Regular  Reserve  Surviving Spouse  Foreign \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_

Service Component:  Army  Navy  Air Force  Marine Corps  Coast Guard  NOAA  USPHS  National Guard

Please do not publish my personal information in the Directory Who told you about the Association? \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ National MOAA Member Number \_\_\_\_\_