

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

Vol. XXVI No. 5

MOAA 4-Star Chapter 2003 & 2008; MOAA 5 Star Chapter 2004-2007, 2009 - 2014
Best Newsletter 2007 & 2010; 1st Runner Up 2008, 2012 & 2013; 2nd Runner Up 2009

May 2015

APRIL PROGRAM: *VeteransU - Ryan Simonson*

by Christopher White

Motivating, Mentoring and Making a Difference. These three concepts are the pillars of the veterans' service organization (VSO) VeteransU. Our luncheon speaker today, Ryan Simonson (MOAS member), founded VeteransU a couple of years ago to give younger veterans an alternative to the traditional veterans organizations in this area and the success has been phenomenal. Organizationally, VeteransU has passed 700 members, which clearly shows a need is being met. More importantly, VeteransU can point to a successful record of service in the community.

Ryan is a dynamic, passionate speaker when it comes to veterans' issues. His message to MOAS spoke of community service and opportunities for collaboration between MOAS and VeteransU. One effort, already underway, will occur June 14th at Patriot Plaza for the MOAS sponsored "Celebrating the Stars and Stripes." VeteransU will provide the crew to handle parking and handicap transportation, a significant contribution in support of the expected 1000+ guests.

VeteransU is effective in part because of their extensive use of social media. Additionally, VeteransU recognizes that their population is working, raising a family and struggling to meet all the demands on their time, so they strive to include family members, including young children, in their activities. As Ryan explained, VeteransU has no age restrictions, however, members are generally all at the same "stages of life." He further explained that VeteransU can organize and execute quickly. MOAS can best complement the VeteransU capacity through strategic planning, institutional connections and good old "grey beard" advice.

Watching Ryan succinctly present VeteransU, both as a concept and an organization, one can see that we are fortunate to have him as a MOAS member and more importantly, a partner who can help us connect and better support our younger veteran population.

Learn more about VeteransU at www.veterans-u.org or on Facebook.



MAY PROGRAM: *Scholarship Awards - Cassandra Holmes, State College of Florida Foundation*

by Christopher White

May is traditionally when MOAS hands out some well-deserved scholarship awards. This scholarship season we received 20 applications for our four (4) JROTC Scholarships and our (3) Merit Scholarships. The competition for our scholarships was very strong with submissions by Booker High School, Cardinal Mooney, Pine View, Riverview High School, Sarasota High School and Sarasota Military Academy students. Look for more on this in the Scholarship Column from our Director, Claire Power.



Our guest speaker is Cassandra Holmes, Executive Director of the State College of Florida Foundation. Cassandra joined the staff of State College of Florida Foundation as the Executive Director on April 7, 2014. She is a graduate of Santa

Fe Community College, the University of Florida, and the University of Central Florida; and her experience includes over ten years in development and over nine years in finance. She was previously employed at the Manatee Community Foundation and Walt Disney World – Orlando, FL. Cassandra is a member of the Manatee County Chamber of Commerce, Sarasota County Chamber of Commerce, Leadership-Manatee alumni association, Sarasota Tiger Bay Club and Junior League of Manatee County-Sustaining Member. She enjoys family time with her husband (Ted) and two daughters Abigail and Emma Lee Holmes.

Please join MOAS for this special luncheon on 15 May 2015 at Michael's on East.

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Chapter Officers, Directors and Committees

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President	George Tracy	907-9865
First Vice President	Brian McCarthy	323-1562
Second Vice President	Linda Gould	320-5171
Treasurer	Christa Friedlander	927-0996
Secretary	Craig Hullinger	309-634-5557
Director (Scholarships)	Claire M. Power	921-1931
Director (Programs)	Christopher White	355-6320
Director (Publicity)	Alan Forrester	504-5759
Immediate Past President	Troy Scott	379-3023

Board Staff

Program Planning	Linda Gould	320-5171
Chaplain	Charles Caudill	751-3810
Legislative Affairs	Len Friedlander	927-0996
	Tony Mowry	480-0333
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Veteran Affairs Support	Mike Adkinson	404-918-3811
Historian	Craig Hullinger	309-634-5557
Awards Board	Jonathan Gordon	923-2302

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Recruiting & Retention	Troy Scott	379-3023
Recruiting & Retention	Perry Korszen	907-3732

Scholarship & Projects 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	William LaFollette	755-9019

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

Survivor Assistance Services Committee

Chairperson	Charles Caudill	751-3810
Member	Lee Kichen	355-1227

Auxiliary

Chairperson	VACANT (Linda Gould 388-7149)	
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Social Club YAHOO (Young At Heart Officers Org)

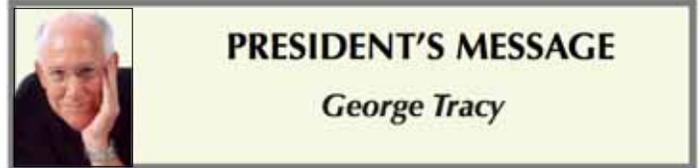
Manager	John O'Brien obrienjc@aol.com	907-8891
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Support Our Troops Program

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

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

George Tracy

What an inspiration is Ryan Simonson, our April luncheon speaker and founder of VeteransU, <http://veterans-u.org/>, who embodies the letter and spirit of the mantra of MOAA President, Vice Admiral Norbert R. Ryan, Jr, USN (Ret), "**Never Stop Serving!!**" We were wondering how Ryan quickly and successfully mobilized over 700 members to readily respond to the often-desperate needs of Veterans and their families. The answer: **social media!** He welcomes MOAS command-level support to help him to "Motivate, Mentor and Make A Difference!! Sign Up at <https://www.facebook.com/VeteransU> and/or <http://www.meetup.com/VeteransU/>!!

Well, we did it again! Under the leadership of Pat McLain, who single-handedly supports our MOAS Academic Olympics program, Kay and I joined John & Carol O'Brien and Linda Gould on our MOAS Veterans team to "challenge" the 2015 winners; Blake Wiley's, always-impressive Pine View School team. Needless to say, we were humbled, but elated, to celebrate these brilliant students in this way and we actually got a few questions right! We will do better next year **with your help!** Thanks, Pat, for your outstanding support of this worthy program on our behalf!

The Sarasota Jewish Family and Children's Service (JFCS), 4th Annual Tribute To Veterans, honoring COL Linda Gould is taking reservations for the luncheon on Friday, 29 May, at Michael's On East. <http://jfcs-cares.org/web/events/tribute-veterans/>. **We welcome your attendance there to celebrate Linda!** Please use the form on Page 8 (mark it as MOAS) to sign-up or contact Monica Caldwell (941 366-2224, x142).

Kay and I have signed up for the MOAA Florida Council of Chapters (FCOC) Annual Convention, sponsored by the Ancient City Chapter MOAA in St. Augustine, FL, from 22-24 May 2015. **You are all invited!!** Register at www.moaafl.org. **Come join us!!**

Again, save the date for Flag Day, 14 June, to enjoy the MOAS "*Celebrating The Stars and Stripes*" program, being organized under the leadership of Tom Piazza and his U.S. Flag Protocol Initiative support team, featuring a Flag Retirement Ceremony. **This will be an event you will not want to miss!**

Thanks to the team of Brian McCarthy, Alan Forrester and Jim Connell we now have plenty of new MOAS Brochure-Applications for you to distribute. If you need some for an event or just to pass out, let us know and we will get them to you.

As we realized, once again, from Todd Hughes' words at the March luncheon and Ryan Simonson's words last Friday, the most important source of support for veterans IS VETERANS. So please use the MOAA "Take Action" communication system at http://www.moaa.org/Take_Action.html to add your voice in support of your MOAA team in Washington. **Just Do It!**

Tom Piazza is still seeking MOAS Veteran volunteers to assist his Flag Protocol Initiative training, Lesson 10, in Sarasota County Schools. Contact: 941-761-1278, tepiazze@gmail.com.

Thanks to all of you, who attended our April 2015 luncheon; to our Luncheon Support Team for their always-outstanding job; and to our great speaker, Ryan Simonson, for his leadership in founding VeteransU and defining and encouraging MOAS collaboration in VeteransU efforts to "Make a Difference" for struggling young Veterans and their families!

Reminder: Ben Weiss, LTC USA (Ret) invites all Rangers and Special Forces family and personal guests to a breakfast social, 25 April, 10AM-Noon, Lakewood Ranch Holiday Inn (\$20). RSVP: Ben; email rgrben@aol.com.

On a final note, next month's luncheon is our scholarship luncheon, and we are asking members to sponsor luncheons for the scholarship students and their parents. Please note your sponsorship on your reservation form.



SECRETARY'S CORNER

Craig Hullinger

President George Tracy, presiding, called the meeting to order at 4:00PM on Apr 4, 2015 at the Meadows Community Center.

ATTENDANCE: *Board Members Present:* George Tracy (President); Brian McCarthy (1st VP); Linda Gould (2nd VP); Christa Friedlander (Treas); Craig Hullinger (Secy); Alan Forester (Dir); Claire Power (Dir); Christopher White (Dir). *Board Member Absent:* Troy Scott (IPP). *Committee Chairs and Visitors Present:* Pat McLain, Len Friedlander, Tom Piazza, John O'Brien & Jim Hesson.

BOARD MEETINGS AND LUNCHEONS

MONTH	BOARD	LUNCHEON
MAY	4	15
JUNE	1	19
JULY	6	17

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: George Tracy noted that Todd Hughes spoke at our last luncheon, providing a very interesting program. He encouraged the Board to go to the USF-MS Military Appreciation Day. He noted that the new brochure was outstanding and thanked all those who helped produce it. He stated that he had received a fund raising request from the Veterans Cemetery. He noted that he was impressed with the MOAA Magazine, and is working to have Admiral Ryan attend our September MOAA luncheon. We have reduced the number of people who have not paid their renewal dues from 68 to less than 40 people. He thanked the Board Members who have called members.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: The Mar 2, 2015 Board meeting minutes & newsletter summary were unanimously approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Balances as of Mar 31, 2015.

MOAS Operating Account:	\$29,686.03
Operating Fund	\$21,332.26
LoV/Flag Initiative	\$ 8,353.77
Scholarship Fund Account:	\$40,741.04
Undesignated Scholarship Fund:	\$ 33,077.86
Schmidt Scholarships	\$ 4,000.00
Support Our Troops:	\$ 3,663.18

We received \$50 from MOAA for reporting our membership.

OLD BUSINESS:

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Scheduled Events (*Elke Scott*): The March Luncheon had 75 attending and 50-50 received \$76. We collected \$1,046 for our speaker, Todd Hughes, whose house burned down.

Newsletter (*Len Friedlander*): Printed and mailed 100 copies of the Breeze (B&W) at a cost of \$153. An additional 318 copies were sent electronically.

Scholarships: (*Claire Power*): Claire noted that this was a robust year for scholarship applications. The Committee is currently evaluating 17 applications. Bill LaFollete has been working on the awards night presentation for many years.

Publicity (*Alan Forrester*): Alan Forester credited Tom Piazza for his efforts. A VIP list (35 people) has been generated to invite to the Celebrating the Stars and Stripes event, and they are making progress for the June 14 event.. We should send a formal letter of invitation to the VIP's and need to get the info out to our membership. We can put it on the Web Site, Blog, Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and Google+ and the Breeze.

Programs: (*Christopher White*): Chris White distributed the list of upcoming luncheon programs. He has most of the luncheon

speakers planned and confirmed for the year. James Hesson noted that Admiral Larry Chambers was confirmed to speak in July instead of June. White noted that he would make this correction. White noted that this year is the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War. He will concentrate on Vietnam related speakers during the 50th year commemoration.

LUNCHEON PROGRAMS	
APRIL	Ryan Simonson - VeteransU
MAY	Scholarships - Cassandra Holmes SCF
JUNE	Bill Robertson

Membership (*Brian McCarthy*): We gained two new members but also lost two during the same period.

MOAS	2014	2015
REGULAR	277	281
AUXILIARY	82	79
ALLIED	4	4
TOTAL	363	364

Support Our Troops (*John O'Brien*): We will distribute boxes at the Sarasota Memorial Day parade and Jim Hesson will 'acquire' a F-150 pickup truck to use during the parade to distribute boxes for SOT John noted units are moving in and out of Afghanistan and it is difficult to ensure that we have current unit addresses for our SOT effort. He will work to ensure that we have updated addresses.

Yahoo Events (*John O'Brien*): Looking at a boat ride event at Marina Jack. We would also do a River Cruise this summer. We have scheduled an Improv event at FST.

Flag Protocol Initiative (*Tom Piazza*): The *Celebrating the Stars & Stripes* Committee met on Mar 19. This was an organizational meeting. We have sent a letter to the VA Cemetery defining the flag program. Weapons will NOT be used; bass drums will simulate the firing.

Piazza noted that we need to discuss fund raising, and establish whether we will focus just on corporate sponsors. The Board felt that we should try for contributions from all sources. Piazza said that the Pops was only charging us \$1,000 vice their normal \$3,000. This is part of the rationale for sharing fund raising proceeds with them.

Christa Friedlander moved that we not conduct our fund raising with the Community Foundation, that we keep the funds separate, and accept the checks ourselves. Seconded by Claire Power. Unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS: Tom Piazza received an offer of pro bono help from a CPA who could meet with the Board for one hour. Claire Power noted that it might be better to have Christa Friedlander and other Board Members formulate questions for him rather than him spend an hour with the Board. We will wait till after tax season to take action. Board members who have questions should email them to Linda Gould and Tom Piazza who will send them to the CPA for his response.

Tom Piazza proposed that we meet with our State and Federal legislators on Veterans issues. The Veterans Task Force (VTA) would host the meeting in May with the State legislators. The meeting could be a joint effort by MOAS and Manasota Goodwill. The VTA will provide the location. Linda Gould noted that it could be a great networking opportunity. George Tracy noted that MOAS could set the agenda. Craig Hullinger moved and Christopher White seconded a motion to authorize Tom Piazza and Linda Gould to move forward with the VTA and Manasota Goodwill to set the meeting with our State legislators. Christa Friedlander noted that we have some issues to work out on the use of credit cards. James Hesson asked to be on the next agenda to discuss events to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War. Len Friedlander noted that the Florida Council Convention will be in St Augustine May 22-24, He encouraged Board Members to sign up on FCOC website and attend the event.

NEXT MEETING: Meeting adjourned at 6:10 PM. The next Board meeting is scheduled for 4:00PM on Monday May 4, 2015 at the Meadows Community Center.



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Len Friedlander

Medicare/Tricare "Doc Fix"

The Senate in a 92-8 vote overwhelmingly approved sweeping changes in the way Medicare pays doctors and resolving an issue that has bedeviled Congress and the Medicare program for more than a decade. The action followed passage in the House last month by a vote of 392 to 37, and was a major success for Republicans, who devised a solution to a complex policy problem that had frustrated lawmakers of both parties. The bill, drafted in the House in negotiations between Speaker John A. Boehner and Rep. Nancy Pelosi, the Democratic leader, also extends the Children's Health Insurance Program for two years, through 2017. Without action by Congress, doctors would have faced a 21% cut in Medicare fees, and since Tricare reimbursement rates are tied to Medicare rates the same cuts would have applied to physicians serving Tricare patients. Mr. Obama signed the bill into law on Thursday April 16.

The legislation moves Medicare in a direction espoused by Mr. Obama and many health policy experts, toward payment based on the quality and value of care, rather than just the volume of services. Organized medicine now accepts that change in principle, and the American Medical Association lobbied strongly for the bill, demanding that Congress "fix Medicare now."

The Senate majority leader, Mitch McConnell, (R-KY), said the bill was "designed to ensure that seniors on Medicare don't lose access to their doctors." Before passing the bill, the Senate rejected a half-dozen proposed amendments. Democrats, for example, wanted to provide more money for women's health care, while Republicans wanted to repeal a provision of the Affordable Care Act that requires most Americans to have health insurance, and they tried to force Congress to pay for the Medicare bill so it would not increase budget deficits.

The current payment formula set by Congress in 1997, links Medicare spending on doctors' services to growth of the overall economy. Medicare spending has regularly exceeded the targets. Under the law, the excess is supposed to be recouped in subsequent years through cuts in payment rates for doctors. This law repeals that formula. Fiscal conservatives object because only one-third of the cost would be offset. The rest, \$141 billion from 2015 to 2025, would add to federal budget deficits. "This bill is not paid for," said Senator Jeff Sessions, (R-AL).

New spending would total \$211 billion over 10 years, the Congressional Budget Office estimated. Higher-income Medicare beneficiaries would pay additional premiums totaling nearly \$35 billion, and Medicare would save a similar amount by trimming payments to hospitals, nursing homes, and home health agencies. Senator Mike Lee, (R-UT) said the bill "doubles down on Medicare's broken price control model" and "inflates the administration's power as regulator and compliance officer."

The votes against the Senate bill came from Republicans: Senators Sessions and Lee, along with Senators Ted Cruz (TX), David Perdue (GA), Ben Sasse (NE), Tim Scott (SC), Richard C. Shelby (AL), and Marco Rubio (FL).

New Bill for Military Survivors - H.R.1594

Representative Joe Wilson (R-SC) recently introduced H.R. 1594, the Military Surviving Spouse Equity Act. The bill repeals a law known as the "widow's tax," an unfair penalty that forces thousands of military survivors to forfeit their earned benefits. Under current law, military survivors forfeit part of or their entire military Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) annuity when receiving Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) from the Department of Veterans Affairs. The two programs serve very different purposes. SBP is a program administered by the Department of Defense that allows uniformed service retirees to elect a provision for continuing

financial support for an eligible survivor. DIC is paid to survivors of service members who die while on active duty, or to survivors of retirees who die of service-connected illness.

The vast majority of active duty deaths are in ranks of E-6 and below. For these survivors, the offset virtually wipes out any SBP payment, leaving most survivors with only DIC, a modest payment of about \$15,000 a year. Eliminating this inequity has been a longstanding legislative goal of MOAA. MOAA thinks that when military service causes a member's death, indemnity compensation from the VA should be paid in addition to SBP coverage, not subtracted from it.

"We're thankful to Cong. Wilson for reintroducing this important legislation," said MOAA's Deputy Director of Government Relations, Col. Phil Odom, USAF(Ret). "As chair of the House Armed Services Personnel Subcommittee, his support carries considerable weight." MOAA continues to work with their contacts in the Senate to introduce similar legislation.

To support this legislation veterans are encouraged to contact their congressional representatives and request they cosponsor and vote in favor of this bill.

Commissaries Targeted Again

The FY 2016 defense budget proposal continues the plan to ultimately reduce the annual commissary subsidy by \$1 billion. The FY2016 Defense Budget Estimate is approximately \$585 billion. With the proposed commissary cuts only saving .05% of the budget, why does the DoD continue to look at this "important non-pay benefit" as a cost saving measure? These cuts hurt the very people DoD needs to re-enlist at a time when retention is becoming increasingly challenging and those that have already devoted their adult lives in service to our nation: retirees.

DoD solicited the RAND Corporation's expertise to review how price increases have affected grocery retailers in the private sector. RAND then used this data to analyze how this might translate into changes in sales and revenue at the commissaries. The report said commissary patrons typically buy more groceries than customers of comparable civilian supermarkets. They also travel greater distances to take advantage of this benefit and frequently shop at the exchanges after the commissary. The report also found that 50% of eligible commissary shoppers are retirees and 25% are active-duty personnel, E-1 through E-3.

RAND's conclusion was not surprising: "If the appropriation is eliminated, prices at the commissaries will likely rise and/or stores may no longer be financially viable." The report went on to say that, "raising overall price levels will not be a successful strategy to cover the shortfalls in costs caused by the elimination of the annual DoD appropriation."

In a Wall Street Journal op-ed, MOAA President, Vice Admiral Norb Ryan, USN (Ret) said, "Congress should take a critical look at waste in the Pentagon's acquisition programs. In 2013 alone, the GAO reported that the Pentagon's top 85 major defense-acquisition programs experienced overruns of nearly \$411 billion." The \$411 billion in acquisition program overruns would cover the entire cost of sequestration or pay for the commissary subsidy for nearly the next 300 years.

With the proposed cuts only saving the DoD very little, we need to ask our elected officials why the commissaries are repeatedly the target of DoD budget cuts, especially when they provide such a significant benefit that is highly valued by so many.

On Thursday April 16th the House voted 240 to 179, largely along party lines, to repeal the federal tax levied on multi-million dollar estates. The bill now goes to the Senate for action.

Congress's Joint Committee on Taxation estimated that repealing the Estate Tax would cost the Treasury \$14.6 billion in FY2016 and \$269 billion over 10 years. Mr. Boehner said that it "is nothing more than a drop in the bucket to the federal government."

In light of some of the budget cuts being promulgated, and the continuing requirement for budgetary offsets for new expenditures, this statement by Speaker Boehner seems a bit incongruous.



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Charles Caudill

The closest words we have to this beautiful Greek word are *fortitude* and *exuberance*. However, *hupomone* means even more. It is the soul that does not passively endure, but actively overcomes and conquers the trials of life. *"I know of no more encouraging fact than the unquestionable ability of man to elevate his life by conscience endeavor."* – Henry David Thoreau

When Beethoven was threatened with deafness, that most terrible affliction for a musician, he said: *"I will take life by the throat."* That is *hupomone*. Sir Walter Scott was ruined financially by the bankruptcy of his publishers, but he kept his spirit intact. He said, *"No man will say 'poor fellow' to me; my own right hand will pay the debt."* It took years and affected his health but he fulfilled his obligations.



Hupomone is the spirit which meets problems head-on and overcomes them. It helps us meet difficulties and opportunities and helps build character. William Earnest Henley, an English poet, critic, and editor, lying in a hospital with one leg amputated and the prospect that the other might follow wrote

Invictus: "Out of the night that covers me, black as the pit from pole to pole, I thank whatever gods may be for my unconquerable soul."

If we let ourselves become weak and out of shape, allow circumstances to beat us, whine and complain in difficult situations, then despair and depression follow. If we are to have an abundant, happy life, when sorrows and pressures come, we should be like the gallant soul in great pain who replied to the question, *"Sorrow fairly colors life, doesn't it?"* Back came the reply, *"Yes! And I propose to choose the colors!"*

I have lived long enough to know that fortitude tested produces the assurance that all human circumstances will work out for our own good if we don't surrender to negative problems. A ship-building company used to advertise *"All our timber comes from the north side of the mountain."* Why the North side? Because the harshness of the weather; deeper snows, stronger winds, and lower temperatures produce trees with more endurance and better timber.

Our military members and their families are perfect illustrations of this. We have endured hardship without question, given our limbs, minds and lives to protect our country; and we are still conquering trials to ensure liberty.

I pray that we all continue to show our spirit of Hupomone to those around us.

Commemorating the Vietnam War

by BG (USA-Ret) James M. Hesson

The following comments represent a personal plea to all addressees to support the commemoration.

In accordance with public law 110 – 181 Section 598, Congress authorized the Secretary of Defense to conduct a program to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War and "in conducting the commemorative program, the secretary shall coordinate support and facilitate other programs and activities of the federal government state and local governments and other persons and organizations in commemoration of the Vietnam War."

On 25 May 2012 the President of the United States of America issued a proclamation entitled "Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War" which stated in part; "Throughout this Commemoration let us strive to live up to their example by showing our Vietnam veterans, their families, and all who have served the fullest respect and support of a grateful nation." More information may be found at www.VietnamWar50th.com.

A commemorative organization has been established within the DoD. One of their major tasks is to enlist commemorative partners throughout the United States. These partners can include federal, state and local communities, veterans organizations and other nongovernmental organizations to assist a grateful nation and thanking our Vietnam veterans and their families. Commemorative partners are encouraged to participate in the commemoration of the Vietnam War by planning and conducting events and activities that will recognize the Vietnam Veterans and their families services and sacrifices. I am currently working with LTC (Ret) Tom Piazza, to provide dialogue for the celebration attendees to increase awareness of the Vietnam War commemoration.

At 8 PM, Tuesday, 28 April 2015, a two-hour PBS special entitled "Last Days of Vietnam" will be aired. This two-hour special chronicles the end of our military involvement in Vietnam. It is a fitting program to view as we enter the Vietnam War Commemoration period. The airing date is significant because it will be exactly 40 years to the day that Saigon was being evacuated. Please pass the word!

On Friday, 17 July 2015, Vice Admiral (Retired) Larry Chambers, will be the guest speaker for the Sarasota MOAA luncheon to be held at Michael's on East. In 1975 as Saigon was falling, Admiral Chambers, then a Captain and the Commanding Officer of the USS Midway aircraft carrier, participated in "Operation Frequent Wind," the final phase in the evacuation of American civilians and "at-risk" Vietnamese from Saigon, South Vietnam prior to the takeover of the city by the North Vietnamese Army (PAVN) in the Fall of Saigon. It was carried out on 29–30 April 1975, during the last days of the Vietnam War. More than 7,000 people were evacuated by helicopter from various points in Saigon.

I ask all of the recipients of this message to do whatever you can do to publicize the Vietnam War Commemoration. I intend to be at the next meeting of the Sarasota Veterans Commission meeting on 28 May 2015 at the American Legion Post # 159 in Venice, Florida to solicit their support to have Sarasota County and the cities contained therein to become commemorative partners and honor all of the service members who served during the Vietnam era.

April Luncheon Photos



President George Tracy with new member Alvin Liftman



Carol & Peter Fegen (C) and their guests Susan & Samuel Kalush



Pauline & Tom Mazzone



(l-r) Elaine & John Guthrie and Joyce Hesson



(l-r) 1VP Brian McCarthy, speaker Ryan Simonson & President George Tracy



Rita Thompson and her daughter Erni



(l-r) Sen. Bob Johnson and Glenn Hadlock



(l-r) Ed Wilkins and William Simmons



(l-r) Ray & Jean Day and Terry & Duane Ylvisaker



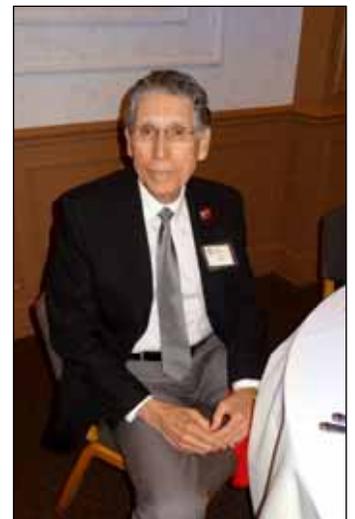
(l-r) Jim Hesson, Howard Crowell & Max Jonah



Mary Jo Krebs (l) and Xenia Monaghan



President George Tracy presents speaker Ryan Simonson with a token of our appreciation



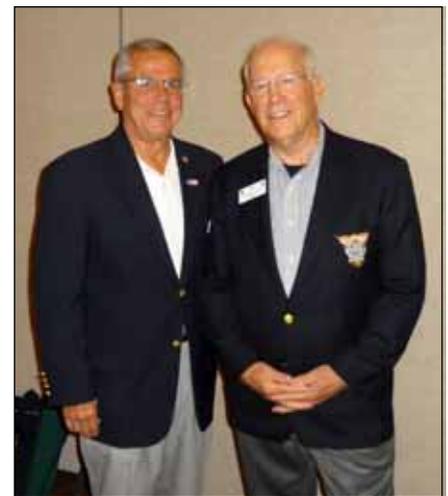
David Swain



Don Kuyper
(who is moving to Phoenix)



Helen & Cliff Bermann



Tom Piazza (l) & George Tracy



YAHOO
Young at Heart Officers Organization
John O'Brien

We have recovered from the Gordon's St. Patty's Day diet party, followed by a Baltimore Orioles baseball game. Unfortunately the baseball game was rained out after three great innings, but we are expecting refunds by

the end of the month and we will be in contact with everyone involved. The YAHOOs finished April by kayaking Sister Keys on a perfect day followed with lunch at Mar Vista. We do have an IMPROV on Friday May 1st at the Florida Studio Theater, and a



visit to the Edison & Ford Estates in Ft Myers, Tuesday, June 9th.

Friday, May 1

IMPROV at Florida Studio Theatre

Come join the YAHOO's for a Friday evening of comedy at the new IMPROV program titled *Life's a Beach.* The overview of the program is: "*Life's a Beach*, our new Friday night show, lampoons the happenings and nightlife of our fair city from Snowbirds to Hurricanes and everything in between."

The show will have games, sketches and improvised songs to make the evening a fun-filled night. The show is located in Bowne's Lab in the Gompertz Theatre Complex at 1265 First Street. The doors open at 6:30PM for people to enjoy a meal and drink before the show begins at 7:30PM.

The menu is the same as the Green Room Menu. John and Carol have eaten there and the food is very good. Go on the FST web site to view the Green Room menu. We have 24 tickets with a great location "stage front" at \$12 each. To sign up for this event contact Carol O'Brien at cobrienvt@aol.com or call 941-907-8891. Sign up early to assure yourself a seat.

Tuesday, June 9th

Edison & Ford Winter Estates in Ft. Myers

Come journey with the YAHOO's as we take an excursion to visit early 20th-century industrialists and entrepreneurs Thomas Edison and Henry Ford Winter Estates in Ft. Myers, FL on Tuesday, June 9th. The estates are nestled along the Caloosahatchee River and the scenery is beautiful.

We will tour both the home of Thomas Edison and Henry Ford as well as learn how both gentlemen arrived in Ft. Myers. We have a docent tour starting at 10:00AM. The house tours last 1½ hours and the cost for a group of 20 or more is \$18 per person. If less than 20, the cost is \$25 per person. At our leisure, we can tour the laboratory and gardens. Visit the web site at www.edisonfordwinterestates.org to learn more.

After the docent tour, we have a lunch reservation at 12 noon at Pincher's Restaurant which is located right next to the estate in the Marina. Travel time from our home is approximately 1 hour and 30 minutes. This would be a great time for a little overnight getaway. If you are interested, please contact Carol O'Brien at cobrienvt@aol.com or call at 941-907-8891 not later than June 1st.

Directions: Take I-75S to Exit 138. Turn right on Martin Luther King Blvd (road changes name to McGregor Blvd). Go approximately 5 miles to a gate on the left into the estates located at 2350 McGregor Blvd.

A Tribute to Veterans
 Service to Community Awards

Honoring individuals in our community who
 Inspire Patriotism
 Provide Service to Others
 Offer Hope to Veterans

AWARD RECIPIENTS

Georgie Alfano-Cronk SP4, US Army Professionals Assisting Military Families & Friends	Daniel Kunkel 1st Lt. Infantry, US Army Sarasota Patriotic Observance Committee
Linda L. Gould COL, US Army (Retired) The Patterson Foundation	Ted Smith CPL E-4, US Marine Corps Sarasota County Veterans Commission

Friday, May 29, 2015 • 12:00 p.m. • Michael's On East
 For tickets contact Monica Caldwell,
 JFCS Development Director at 941-366-2224, ext. 142 • mcaldwell@JFCS-Cares.org

Reservations should be received no later than May 18, 2015
 JFCS, 2688 Fruitville Road, Sarasota, FL 34237

NAME(S) _____
 ADDRESS _____
 CITY _____ ST _____ ZIP _____
 EMAIL _____
 TELEPHONE _____

Entrée Selection: Please indicate entrée selection for all attendees
 Salisbury Steak
 Michael's On East Chopped Salad with Grilled Salmon

Luncheon ticket: \$45 x _____ = \$ _____
 Patron ticket: \$100 x _____ = \$ _____
 Table sponsor: \$1,000 x _____ = \$ _____
 Reserved table of eight and listing in program book

I cannot attend, however, would like to make a donation of \$ _____
 to support the Operation Military Assistance Program at JFCS.
 Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Check one:
 VISA MASTERCARD DISCOVER AMEX

Credit Card # _____
 Exp Date _____ 3 or 4 digit code _____
 Checks should be made payable to: **JFCS**



SUPPORT OUR TROOPS

John O'Brien

The Chapter is preparing to again conduct a MOAS Support Our Troops (SOT) drive to hand out our SOT boxes to the public during the May 25th Memorial Day Parade on Main Street in Sarasota. The goal is to encourage citizens to support the men and women of the 82nd Combat Aviation Brigade in Afghanistan by shipping a Care Package to let our deployed servicemen and women know we care. We have been supporting this unit for 7 months.



MOAS has been allotted two locations in the parade to hand out SOT Boxes. First will be Jim Hesson, BG, USA (Ret.); bringing up the end of the parade with a truck donated by Sarasota Ford to Support Our Troops. Jim has been quoted as being grateful there are no

elephants in the parade. The other location we have is at the end of the parade at the Chaplain J.D. Hamel Park ceremonial area at Main St and Route 41 where the parade ends, for a 45-minute patriotic ceremony recognizing those who have sacrificed so much to protect our country.

We are in need of volunteers to distribute boxes at the truck bringing up the end of the parade, or at the J.D. Hamel Park ceremonial area.

When the parade is over and after all that hard work, we will gather at O'Leary's Tiki Bar for needed refreshments.

Call/email John O'Brien at 941-907-8891 or obrienjc@aol.com to volunteer to Support Our Troops.

Another Great Year for the Scholarship Fund

by Claire Power

This scholarship season we received 20 applications for each of our four (4) JROTC Scholarships and our two (2) Merit Scholarships. The competition for our scholarships was great with submission by Booker High School, Cardinal Mooney, Pine View, Riverview High School, Sarasota High School and Sarasota Military Academy students.

Each student listed below will receive a \$2,000 scholarship:

JROTC Scholarships

Kimberly Cloyd (Sarasota Military Academy)

Reshalla Ramshran (Sarasota HS)

Sarah Weiss (Booker HS)

(Riverview HS did not have a JROTC applicant this year who met our requirements.)

Merit Scholarships

Jamie Ross (Pine View HS)—(the Schmidt Scholarship)

Samantha Eboli (Riverview High School)

Madeline Del Medico (Cardinal Mooney High School)

(Since we did not award a JROTC scholarship to Riverview we reallocated the funds to a 3rd Merit Scholarship.)

We thank the membership for their generous donations to the Sarasota Military Officers Scholarship Fund (SMOSF), which make these scholarships possible.

Please join us at the May 15th luncheon to meet these outstanding students.



Visual & Performing Arts & Academic Olympics

Pat McLain

Visual Performing Arts

- May 1 Jazz Festival**
7:00PM Tickets Adults & Seniors \$10; Students \$5.
Judy Piercy @ (941)355-2967 Ext.1 or www.vpabooker.com
- May 5 Senior Music Recital**
7:00PM No Charge
- May 14 Spring Band Concert**
7:00PM \$5 at the door
- May 21 Senior Theater Recital**
7:00PM No Charge
- May 22 Art/Dance/DiGiMo Senior Recital**
7:00PM No Charge

Academic Olympics

MOAS TACKLES PINE VIEW FOR ACADEMIC SUPREMACY

In what has become a post-Academic Olympic ritual, MOAS took on the Pine View Academic Olympic team, and validated the caliber of our county education system – we got creamed.

George and Kay Tracy, John & Carol O'Brien and Linda Gould spent the afternoon of April 9th in the battle for supremacy against Pine View students Jaclyn Wiley, Alisse Palmer, Moses Glickman, Laura Hand, Brody McCurdy and Thu-Mai Le.

The competition was nothing like the regular Academic Olympics game because Pine View Coach Blake Wiley and his helpers just looked up some random questions on the computer, we didn't really keep score, and once again the kids creamed us in spite of our PhDs etc.

The MOAS team did manage to get some questions answered in a timely manner and I even popped up with an answer (though I don't play the game). My job is to keep the score and bring food to sustain the troops. But, since neither team seemed to know Black Jack Pershing, I felt compelled to help out.

What we did have was a whole lot of fun and a lot of interaction with a really nice bunch of kids. Hopefully we will have more MOAS participants next time.

See you all at next year's Academic Olympic competition.

Pat



MEMBERSHIP ACTIONS

Brian McCarthy

What does it mean to be member of our Chapter? We hope it is more than just participating in our social events and attending our monthly luncheons. We are an important part of our community. We contribute in many ways, from providing scholarships for deserving students to passing out *Support Our Troops* care packages in the Memorial Day parade.

We have two upcoming opportunities for you to volunteer in our community initiatives.

American Flag Protocol

We are now on Lesson 10 of our American Flag Protocol Initiative. We are in need of Chapter members to help with four functions: (1) sign and date the certificates 30 minutes before the class starts, (2) attend the flag folding class presented by JROTC Cadets, (3) make a five minute presentation regarding service and what it meant to them and (4) present Certificates of Completion to approximately 25 5th graders.

Please contact Tom Piazza to volunteer for one or more schools listed below.

Phone 941-761-1278 or email tepiazze@gmail.com

- 14 May 2015 (1-3pm) Lakeview Elementary School, 7299 Proctor Road (east of I75)
- TBD (afternoon) Brentwood Elementary School, 2500 Vinson Ave (Southgate Area)
- TBD (afternoon) Sarasota Academy of the Arts, 4466 Fruitville Road

Celebrating our Stars & Stripes

On Sunday, 14 June 2015, the Military Officers Association of Sarasota will join with the POPS Orchestra of Bradenton and Sarasota to celebrate the 238th Birthday of our nation's Flag. This unique ninety minute musical event will focus on the origin and history of the United States Flag as presented by Mr. Vane Scott III, who brings life to this amazing story. A special feature of this event will be a formal Flag Retirement and Retreat Ceremonies overlooking the impressive features of the National Cemetery.

Our Chapter is sponsoring this event and we need your help! We need volunteers for the following functions:

- **Marketing and Publicity: Alan Forester (941) 504-5759;** forrester.alan@gmail.com
 - Mailing Invitations; receiving RSVPs; preparing Programs; welcoming VIPs & inclement weather notification
- **Fund Raising: Claire Power (941) 921-1931;** bcpower@comcast.net
 - Donor Research; Preparing Gift Solicitation Letters; Gift Acknowledgement
- **Logistics/Site Set-up: Linda Gould (941) 388-7149;** llgould@aol.com
 - Greeters; Ushers; Water Distribution
- **Parking & Traffic: Chris White; (941) 355-6320;** white.christopher.f@gmail.com
- **Program/Stage Management: Tom Piazza (941) 761-1278;** tepiazze@gmail.com
 - Stage Set-up; Assist Performers; Water distribution; Sound system; Flag Pole operation

Please help us out and join us at the Patriot Plaza at 6 PM on June 14th for an evening of patriotic fun.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATES New Members

Newcomer, John L. LT, USNR
4735 White Tail Lane
Sarasota, FL 34238
(941) 923-9961 jlnewco1@verizon.net

Hadlock, Glen A. (Bethany) Capt, USMC
4443 Golden Lake Drive
Sarasota, FL 34233
(941) 925-1517 glennhadlockdc@outlook.com

Clay, Michael A. (Gail) COL, USA
8114 Misty Oaks Blvd
Sarasota, FL 34243
(248) 231-2215 maclay@umich.edu

If you have not yet paid your 2015 Dues of \$35 (and your scholarship fund donation) please send it as soon as possible to:
MOAS
PO Box 1016



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

(l-r) Duane Ylvisaker, Alvin Liftman, Sylvia Barber, Tony Mowry, Tom Mazzone, & John Guthrie

MOAS Luncheon
Friday, May 15, 2015
Michael's On East



MENU

SERVED LUNCHEON

Carrot & Coriander Bisque

Signature Bread Basket

ENTREE:

*Sautéed Breast of Chicken
 with Sliced Tomatoes, Melted Provolone & Pink
 Peppercorn Sauce
 Roasted Garlic Mashed Potatoes,
 Broccoli & Roasted Red Pepper*

SERVED DESSERT

*Crème Brulée
 Silky Vanilla Bean Custard & a Thin Burnt
 Sugar Shell, topped with Fresh Berries*

Served Coffee, Decaf & Tea

MOAS LUNCHEON RESERVATIONS

For 5/15/2015 at 11:30 AM

Michael's On East

DRESS: Coat (Tie Optional)

Please reserve _____ places for the Luncheon **and**
 _____ **additional places for students/parents.**

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? _____

WANTED !!!!

*Member's donations to support lunches for student
 honorees and their parents at the
 May Scholarship Award Luncheon.
 Simply add reservations for the number of scholarship
 guests you wish to support.
 THANK YOU!!!*

NEW NEW LOCATION !!!



MEET & GREET

Friday May 8th 4pm - 7pm

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 *World of Beer***

**downtown Sarasota at 1888 Main Street
 (corner of Main & Links)
 Park in Links Ave Garage**

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.

Sign Up NOW!!!!

Florida Council of Chapters
2015 Convention
 May 22-24, 2015
 Renaissance Resort Hotel World Golf Village
 St Augustine, FL

For more information visit acmoaa.org
 Email rebirch@comcast.net or call 904-794-2883



 MOAS CALENDAR 		
MAY - JUNE 2015		
DATE	EVENT	TIME
May 1, Friday	YAHOO: IMPROV- Florida Studio Theater - Details Page 8	6:30 p.m.
May 4, Monday	MOAS Board Meeting - Meadows Community Center	4:00 p.m.
May 8, Friday	Meet & Greet - - World of Beers - - Details Page 11	4:00 p.m.
May 15, Friday	Luncheon - Michaels on East - Scholarship Luncheon	11:30 a.m.
June 1, Monday	MOAS Board Meeting - Meadows Community Center	4:00 p.m.
June 9, Tuesday	YAHOO: Tour Edison & Ford Estates- Details Page 8	10:00 a.m.
June 12, Friday	Meet & Greet - - World of Beers - - Details Page 11	4:00 p.m.
June 14, Sunday	Celebrating Stars & Stripes - Patriot Plaza -	6:00 p.m.
June 19, Friday	Luncheon - Michaels on East - Bill Robertson	11:30a.m.

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 _____