

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. XXVIII No. 7 MOAA 4-Star Chapter 2003 & 2008; MOAA 5 Star Chapter 2004-2007 & 2009-2016 July 2017
Best Newsletter 2007 & 2010; Runner Up 2008, 2009, 2012 - 2014; 5 Star Newsletter 2015

Sarasota National Cemetery - Patriot Plaza - Memorial Day 2017



JULY PROGRAM: : Bob Carter, Age Friendly Sarasota

by Perry Korszen

This July Bob Carter will talk to our members about Age-Friendly Sarasota and the growing age-friendly movement. Age-Friendly Sarasota is a countywide effort to promote active, engaged, and healthy living for people of all ages. It is part of the World Health Organization's Global Network of Age-Friendly Communities and is supported locally by The Patterson Foundation. More detailed information can be found on their website: www.agefriendly Sarasota.org

Bob Carter's professional background includes more than 40 years of organizational leadership experience. In December 2015 he retired as President & CEO of the regional nonprofit Senior Friendship Centers, having served in that capacity for over two decades. Since January 2016 he has served as an independent consultant and strategic advisor for The Patterson Foundation's Age-Friendly Sarasota Initiative.

A strong advocate for older adults as well as a community leader, Bob led numerous statewide and regional organizations. He holds a Master of Public Administration degree and served as a United States Army Officer. Recent honors include the 2016 Dr. Carter Osterbind Award and the Friendship Centers' inaugural Senior Advocacy Award, which now bears his name.

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Receive the Breeze in color via email or view it on our [website www.sarasotamoaa.com](http://www.sarasotamoaa.com) or [blog http://sarasotamoaa.us](http://sarasotamoaa.us)

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	Brian McCarthy	bnmccarthy@gmail.com
1st Vice President	Ron Wozniak	ronwozniak13@gmail.com
2nd Vice President	Perry Korszen	perry.korszen@raymondjames.com
Treasurer	Christa Friedlander	ladyhawk10@verizon.net
Secretary	Peter Dering	slpdering@gmail.com
Director (Scholarships)	Claire M. Power	bcpower@comcast.net
Director (Publicity)	Alan Forrester	forrester.alan@gmail.com
Director (Legislative)	Mario Fajardo	fajma48@gmail.com
Immediate Past President	George Tracy	gtracysr@hotmail.com

Board Staff

Program Planning	Perry Korszen	perry.korszen@raymondjames.com
Chaplain	Charles Caudill	cccvmi@verizon.net
Legislative Affairs	Mario Fajardo	fajma48@gmail.com
	Tony Mowry	tony@mowrylawoffice.com
SC Veterans Commission	Dan Willison	danwillison2@yahoo.com
Veterans Task Force	Tom Piazzo	tepiazzo@gmail.com
Historian	George Tracy	gtracysr@hotmail.com
Awards Board	Jonathan Gordon	gordonlaw@att.net

Membership Committee

Chairperson	George Tracy	gtracysr@hotmail.com
Recruiting & Retention	Troy Scott	
Recruiting & Retention	Ron Wozniak	
Recruiting & Retention	Perry Korszen	

Scholarship Committee

Chairperson	Claire M. Power	bcpower@comcast.net
Member	Kay Tracy	
Member	Mike Staley	
Member	Jean Southworth	
Member	Len Friedlander	
JROTC Liaison	Tony Mowry	

Scheduled Events Committee

Chair/Reservations	Valerie McCarthy	valerie.mccarthy@gotoalwayshome.com
Greeters	Troy Scott	
Reception Manager	Pat McLain	
Asst. Reception Manager	June Moore	
50-50 Managers	Kay Tracy	
	Christa Friedlander	

Special Programs

Flag Programs & Celebrations	Tom Piazzo	tepiazzo@gmail.com
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Personal Affairs Committee

Chairperson	Charles Caudill	cccvmi@verizon.net
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Auxiliary/Surviving Spouses

Chairperson	Peggy Mock	peggymock@michaelsanders.com
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Social Club YAHOO (Young At Heart Officers Org)

Coordinator	Ron Wozniak	ronwozniak13@gmail.com
Coordinator	Linda Wozniak	nauticaleffect@msn.com

Support Our Troops Program

Coordinator	Christopher White	white.christopher.f@gmail.com
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Brian McCarthy

I want to thank all of our members who participated in the Memorial Day parade and the Patriot's Plaza ceremony. Eight Hundred & Thirty Support Our Troops (SOT) boxes were distributed to our deployed forces in Afghanistan. This month we received certificates of appreciation from units in receipt of our SOT boxes. We are making a difference!

After our customary yearend adjustments, we now have 314 Chapter members. The Board has set a year end goal of 350 members. We need you to be an active recruiter to achieve this goal. Please invite your fellow officers and surviving spouses to a Meet & Greet, YAHOO event or monthly luncheon. They will appreciate your personal invitation. Need help? Ask George Tracy, Ron Wozniak or me; we will be glad to help.



I was surprised to learn we have seventy surviving spouses in our chapter. Peggy Mock, Chair of our Surviving Spouse Committee, would love to hear from you. Peggy has organized a special luncheon on Friday, July 14th at the Sarasota Yacht Club. Additionally, the Chapter's monthly luncheon at Michael's On East is a wonderful opportunity to make new friends and share common experiences. To facilitate introductions, we designate all surviving spouse name tags with a star and set up a special table just for you. Ask Valerie at the registration desk for directions.

It's that time of year to reestablish our Nominating Committee for next years' slate of officers & directors. Special emphasis will be placed on identifying candidates for Treasurer, newsletter editor and Scholarship Committee administrator. If you have an interest, and are willing to serve - please let me know. We need experienced members to serve on the Nominating Committee.

Did you know that you can fill your prescriptions at military pharmacies at no cost to you? Military pharmacies can fill prescription written by military or civilian provider for up to a 90-day supply of most drugs. Check with the pharmacy first to make sure they carry your drug. You can find the military pharmacy closest to you at www.tricare.mil/MTF. Military pharmacies stock most drugs on the basic core formulary and many brand name maintenance drugs on the uniform formulary.

Beneficiaries have no copay for prescription drugs at military pharmacies. Military pharmacies do accept electronic prescriptions from civilian providers, which can save time and cut down on potential errors from using a paper prescription. If you call the military pharmacy and they can't fill your prescription, you have other choices, including TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery and retail network pharmacies.

Fair winds & following seas.



SECRETARY'S CORNER

Peter Dering

President Brian McCarthy called the meeting to order at 4:05 PM on Monday June 5, 2017 at the Meadows Community Center. **ATTENDANCE:** Board Members Present: Brian McCarthy (Pres); Peter Dering (Sec'y); George Tracy (IPP); Alan Forrester (Dir); & Claire Power (Dir). Board Members Absent: Ron Wozniak (1VP); Perry Korszen (2VP); Christa Friedlander (Treas); & Mario Fajardo (Dir). Committee Chairs & Visitors Present: Len Friedlander, & Peggy Mock.

BOARD MEETINGS AND LUNCHEONS

MONTH	BOARD	LUNCHEON
JULY	NONE	21
AUGUST	7	18
SEPTEMBER	5	16

PRESIDENTS REPORT: The President welcomed all members present. Everyone was thanked for participating in the Memorial Day parade at which 630 SOT boxes were distributed. That, with the 200 distributed at Patriot Plaza, was a great effort and will surely be appreciated by our deployed troops.

We need a photographer for the June luncheon. The Chapter desperately needs someone to step forward to assume the responsibilities of the Newsletter/Breeze and Treasurer positions. These are critical areas for the Chapter. **SOT addresses:** The Chapter would like to be able to send SOT boxes to Marine locations as well as Army. The Marine Corp uses chaplains to distribute the boxes, whereas, the Army uses First Sergeants.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: The May 1, 2017 Board meeting minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The Treasurer reported balances as of May 31, 2017. The report was approved unanimously.

MOAS Operating Account \$34,152.67
 Operating Fund \$ 31,782.20
 LoV Flag initiative \$ 2,370.47

Scholarship Fund Account \$27,213.77
CD: \$ 5,000.00 (exp. 3/2018)
 Checking Acc't \$22,213.77
 Undesignated Available Cash \$14,334.36
 JROTC Scholarships \$ 2,000.00
 Merit Scholarships \$ -0-
 Veterans Scholarship \$ -0-
 JROTC Support \$ 1,248.00
 Academic Olympics \$ -0-
 SOT Fund \$ 4,481.91
 Outstanding Cadet \$ 149.50

OLD BUSINESS:

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Scheduled Events: (Valerie McCarthy): The May Luncheon had 115 attendees to include Sheriff Tom Knight & Col Ben Knisely [Speaker & guest], and 26 scholarship recipients/guests. Our members' generous donations covered the additional costs. The luncheon had a profit of \$77.50, and the 50/50 raffle contributed \$116 to the SMOSF.

Newsletter: (Len Friedlander): The June issue of the Breeze was emailed to 350 recipients; 85 copies were printed and 70

mailed to MOAS members at a cost of \$103.32. As we are leaving town from 6/17-7/3, I will not have time to finalize, transmit, print and mail the July newsletter after the luncheon. Therefore, I finalize, transmit print and mail the newsletter BEFORE the June luncheon. This means the June Luncheon Review, Luncheon Photos, and June Birthday photo will be delayed to the August issue.

Publicity & Marketing: (Alan Forrester): Our last month's press release has been sent to our normal channels, and the actual release sent to the Tampa Bay News Wire and was published by them. The Herald Tribune published our press release today.

Programs: (Perry Korszen): June - Mote Marine; July - Age Friendly Sarasota; Aug - SE Guide Dogs; Sep - Joint chapter--MOAA Gov't Relations VP Dan Merry; Oct- Joseph Holt - Pianist; Nov - Annual Meeting & Toni Gross President Tampa Chapter American Gold Star Mothers; Dec - Military Gala.

Membership (George Tracy): **MOAS Active Membership as of 5/31//2017 - 314:** As of 06/05/2017, active MOAS membership has decreased since the beginning of the year from 339 to a total of 314 MOAS active members (Allied, Auxiliary & Regular) including fifteen (15) new members, newly reported deceased members,

	LUNCHEON PROGRAMS
JULY	Mote Marine
AUGUST	Age Friendly Sarasota
SEPTEMBER	Joint Meeting - MOAA VP Gov't Relations

removal of non-renewing members, and newly-qualified MOAS Life members since 1/1/2017.

Scholarships: (Claire Power): Claire has forwarded this year's grant request to the William Schmidt Foundation. The Board decided to put forth an extra effort this year to raise funds for the Scholarship Fund, considering the Giving Challenge was cancelled this year. Brian was authorized to proceed with developing a

MOAS	1/1/2017	5/31/2017
REGULAR	264	236
SURVIVING SPOUSES	71	74
ALLIED	4	4
TOTAL	339	314

brochure to solicit sponsors, like that used by the Stars & Stripes Foundation. Claire has asked for at least one more addition to her committee to assist with administrative affairs.

Support Our Troops (SOT): (Chris White): Memorial Day 2017 was another big opportunity for the Support Our Troops program to distribute boxes - 600 at the parade and 200 at Patriot Plaza. If you know of another organization interested in supporting SOT, please contact George Tracy or Christopher White.

YAHOO: (Ron Wozniak): Upcoming planned events: June - inter-coastal Fishing; July-visit MOTE Marine (July 19?); August - Siesta Beach sunset; Sep 19 - Cubs vs Rays, \$40.00 per ticket (nine have committed- looking for 40 total); Oct 11 - Oktoberfest at the Gold Coast Budweiser facility; Sat Dec 9 - Army-Navy Game); A La Barge or Marina Jack cruise (date TBD).

Secretary's Corner Continued on Page 12



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mario Fajardo

Administration Doesn't Budge On Budget

MOAA recently reported on the Trump administration's budget request, including a shocking proposal to terminate individual unemployability (IU) benefits for disabled veterans once they reach age 62 and become eligible for Social Security. When questioned about this budget proposal, VA Secretary Dr. David Shulkin stood by the termination of IU benefits for this group of veterans, saying it was needed to pay for the expansion of the VA's Choice program, and that it was the "responsible" thing to do with taxpayer dollars. MOAA strongly disagrees.

MOAA's Director of Government Relations for Veterans Benefits Lt. Col. Aniela Szymanski, USMCR, explains, "The word 'unemployability' is only one word in the name of this benefit. The full title is 'total disability based on individual unemployability.' It is not, as some suggest, merely a form of unemployment insurance that should end when someone ages out of the work force. It is a total disability allowance. One doesn't suddenly stop suffering from a service-connected disability once they're old enough to retire." Administration officials believe this cohort of veterans should receive reduced disability compensation because they wouldn't be working past age 62, so they shouldn't be paid unemployability benefits. However, IU benefits are paid to veterans too disabled to maintain "substantially gainful" employment. During their prime working years, these service-connected disabled veterans are unable to earn Social Security credits or build a nest egg for retirement through things like an employer-sponsored 401(k). Without those safety nets, the nation's most vulnerable veteran population is at risk of becoming impoverished and destitute.

Budget Undercuts Uniformed Services' Pay

DoD's fiscal balancing act is troubling. According to the DoD Comptroller's Defense Budget Overview, personnel costs have remained relatively constant at approximately 1/3 of the total defense budget. However, in an attempt to find balance and funding for other costly programs like readiness, training, equipment, and modernization, DoD submitted a military pay raise request of 2.1%. It aimed to match last year's raise but the proposal falls 0.3% below the Employment Cost Index, the legislated benchmark for military pay raises. If signed into law later this year, the cumulative gap between military and civilian pay will increase to 2.9%; the last time the pay gap was at zero was 2013. From 1988-2001 the pay-raise gap each year averaged 11.9%. It took nearly a decade of extensive work and lobbying to get out of that hole - solving the gap from a shallow hole is much preferable.

TRICARE Fees To Get a Big Increase

DoD released its FY2018 budget proposal. Unsurprisingly, the document included large increases in TRICARE fees across the board. Several groups escaped the proposed changes, including TRICARE For Life beneficiaries (no changes), active duty service personnel, medically retired service members, their families, and survivors of those who died on active duty.

MOAA has taken a deeper dive into what those fee hikes will mean for affected beneficiaries. The proposed fee increases will fall squarely on all other categories of beneficiaries not mentioned above. Retirees under the age of 65 and their families are hit hard; to a lesser extent, so are active duty family members who choose not to enroll in TRICARE Prime (for instance, many active duty troops with special needs family members). These fee increases are a direct result of the repeal of the 2017 National Defense Authorization Act's grandfathering clause. The intention of the grandfathering was to keep fees where they currently are for beneficiaries in the service prior to Jan. 1, 2018.

MOAA believes these fee increases are disproportional and do not reflect the service and sacrifice of the beneficiaries who have earned the health care benefit. These fee increases serve no purpose other than either funding DoD's readiness accounts or underwriting some other earned benefit - a recurring strategy we've seen in the past. Contact your legislator to voice your opinion on this upcoming legislative action. <http://capwiz.com/moaa/issues/alert/?alertid=77639626>

VA Bills Fill Hearing

The Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee held a hearing May 17 on pending VA bills. Here are a few specific pieces of legislation MOAA supports.

S.112, Creating a Reliable Environment for Veterans' Dependents Act.

The bill would authorize per diem payments for homeless veterans receiving comprehensive support services to furnish care to their dependents. Since the VA launched a massive campaign to end veteran homelessness in 2009, rates have steadily declined by nearly 50%. While rates are declining, veterans with families have been increasing in recent years. Per diem payments for homeless veterans will go a long way toward giving veterans a helping hand as they move down a path to achieving family stability and long-term security.

S.591, Military and Veteran Caregiver Services Improvement Act of 2017.

This measure expands eligibility and comprehensive assistance and benefits for family caregivers participating in the VA's Caregiver Support Program. Specifically, the bill expands eligibility for participation and services to family caregivers of veterans of all eras, rather than just the current population of post-9/11 veterans, and includes "illness," rather than just "serious injury," as a criterion for eligibility. Additionally, the legislation provides for a number of other program expansions, including:

- Child-care services or monthly stipend for such services;
- Financial planning and legal services;
- Adjustment to calculating caregiver stipend for performing personal care services;
- Authority to transfer entitlement of unused post-9/11 education benefits to family members;
- Flexible work arrangements for certain federal employees;
- Lifespan respite care; and
- Establishment of an interagency working group on caregiver policy.

Legislative Update Continued on Page 9



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Charles Caudill

Never Give Up

"If you lose hope, somehow you lose the vitality that keeps life moving, you lose that courage to be, that quality that helps you go on in spite of it all. And so today I still have a dream." –Martin Luther King Jr.

I have become aware of many people who have had disappointments and want to give up. They have withdrawn from social activities and stopped communicating with friends and family. What a tragedy.

God has given each of us a spirit to find peace and love. He has given us a life to share our talents with others. I was taught that as long as I love God, listen to his desire for my life and never give up, everything will work for good.

Two recent examples were exhibited in a television talent contest. One was Angelica Hale who is an exceptional singer and only 9 years old. When she was 4, she developed a bacterial infection in her lungs that progressed into double pneumonia, which became septic and destroyed her kidneys. She was on life-support in the hospital for 80 days, and on dialysis for the next 18 months until testing showed her mother was a perfect donor match. She underwent surgery in 2013 for a successful kidney transplant.

Angelica had shown a talent and aptitude for singing as young as two years old, and began singing lessons a few months after she recovered from her illness. She uses her God-given talent to tell her story and inspire others by participating in fundraisers for children's hospitals all over the United States.

The second contestant was Mandy Harvey, a 29-year-old singer/songwriter who has been deaf since age 18 due to a connective tissue disorder. Though her hearing loss is profound, her timing and pitch are perfect and her passion is tremendous. When she began her performance she took her shoes off so she could feel the tempo and the beat through the floor.

After her hearing loss she reconnected with her music by relying on muscle memory, visual tuners and trusting her own pitch. Mandy is a singer, songwriter and motivational speaker who encourages others to break through their personal barriers. Mandy states *"Hope must never be lost. In it we find strength. And it is our duty to show and give it to others. Hope "keeps life moving" because it pulls us out of any dark situation. Continue to hope and make your dreams a reality."*

In our own journey we face hardships and disappointments that prevent us from accomplishing our desires. If we never give up, sooner or later we will fulfill our dreams.



SUPPORT OUR TROOPS

Christopher White

Memorial Day 2017 was another big opportunity for the Support Our Troops program to distribute boxes. Starting with 1000 boxes assembled on 20 May by a cadre of dedicated volunteers, George Tracy and Linda Gould, took 200 hundred boxes to the Sarasota National Cemetery for their Memorial Day service.

On 29 May, George loaded the remaining 800 or so onto a rented Home Depot truck for the Sarasota Memorial Day parade. Flanked by JROTC cadets from Riverview HS and MOAS volunteers, the team distributed another 600 plus boxes at the parade. We still have about 200 for upcoming events. If you know of another organization interested in supporting SOT, please contact George Tracy or Christopher White. We can get the boxes to you.

Just prior to the Memorial Day weekend, Christopher White, the MOAS SOT Coordinator had an accident at home resulting in a pelvis fracture (long story for another time). George Tracy and other MOAS volunteers executed a "man down" drill and succeeded in getting the boxes out. George has a lot on his MOAS plate, but made room to see this effort through. Thanks George and all the MOAS volunteers that stepped up!

Below is an update from the Commander, Task Force Raptor; the aviation unit currently deployed to Bagram and Kandahar, Afghanistan that we are currently supporting with our SOT packages.



RAPTOR COMMAND TEAM SENDS

April 11, 2017

Task Force Raptor Soldiers, Families and Friends,

During a Transfer of Authority ceremony yesterday, the colors of 16th Combat Aviation Brigade were officially uncased to symbolize the responsibility we now hold for U.S. Forces Afghanistan supporting both Operation Freedom's Sentinel and Operation Resolute Support. This is an important time in American history, and we feel tremendous pride being part of this team as we work with our Coalition and Afghan partners to bring stability and security to the people of Afghanistan.

Over the past month, your Soldiers have moved thousands of miles across oceans and continents to make their way to Afghanistan. They have, with determination and professionalism, worked with the outgoing Task Forces to gain knowledge, which they have already put to good use during successful missions throughout our operational areas. We could not be more impressed with how quickly this team has come together to ensure no lapse in support to ground forces during this transition.

As the summer nears, we expect to be very busy supporting operations in all areas of Afghanistan. Know that your Soldier, no matter his or her job in the brigade, is working incredibly hard to provide aviation support to our heroes on the ground to enable their mission. Task Force Raptor is ready to make its mark by providing the world-class aviation support we have trained so hard to build. The love and support of all of you back home is felt, and it helps to remind us why we do what we do.

Born in Battle! Trust in Me! First Team!

COL Bill Ryan
Raptor 6



CSM Mark Brock
Raptor 7



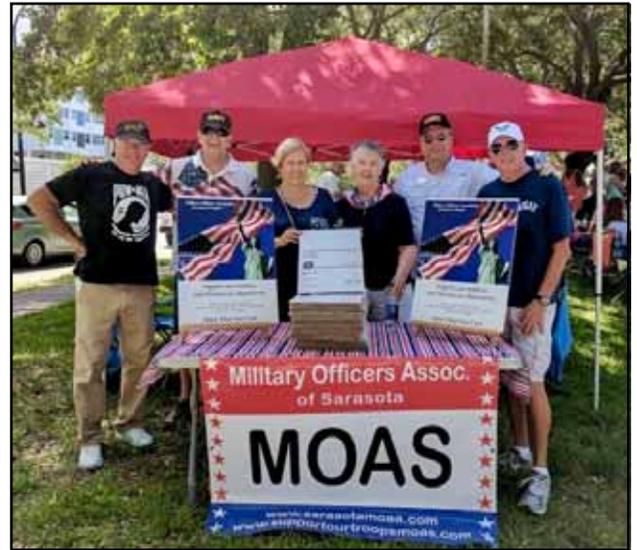
CW5 James Hogg
Raptor 8



The Memorial Day Parade



Riverview HS JROTC Cadets & (l-r) Pete Dering, Ron Wozniak, Len Friedlander, George Tracy, Mike Staley Brian McCarthy, Troy Scott, & Larry Lovell



(l-r) Ron Wozniak, Mike Staley, Kay Tracy, Patt Staley, Craig Hullinger, & Len Friedlander



Dee Lovell



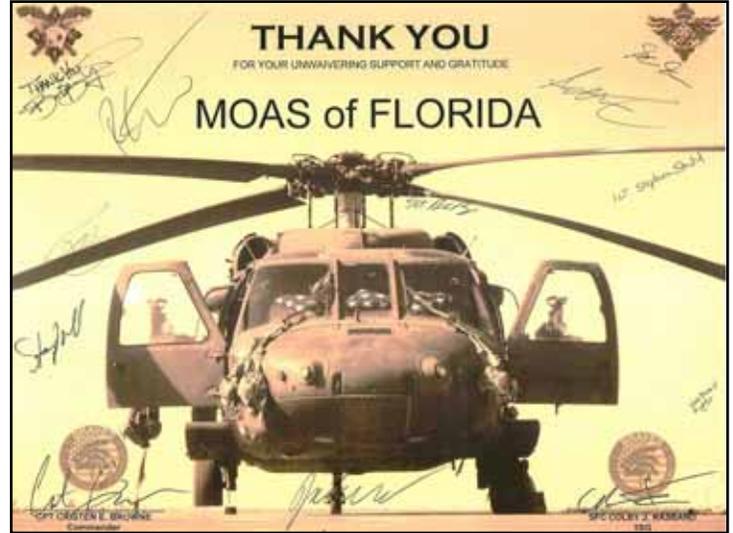
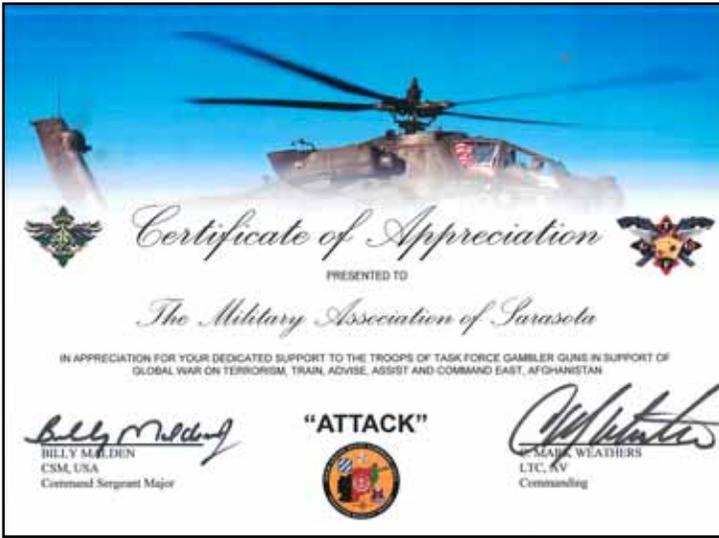
George Tracy & The SOT Truck



Pete Dering & Brian McCarthy waiting to distribute boxes



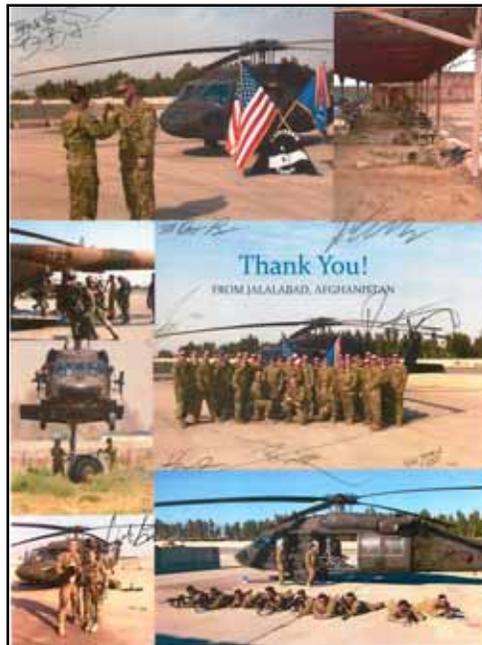
(l-r) Patt Staley, Kay Tracy, Len Friedlander, Mike Staley & Troy Scott



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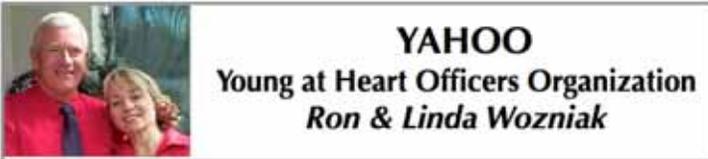


You can find all the information you need at our website

<http://www.sarasotamoaa.com/support-us>

to send an SOT care package to our troops deployed to Afghanistan. Please send them a Priority package of items they need and let them know that you support them. It's easy, inexpensive**, and will provide a morale boost to these men and women who are ion harms way and sacrificing to protect us in this war against terror.

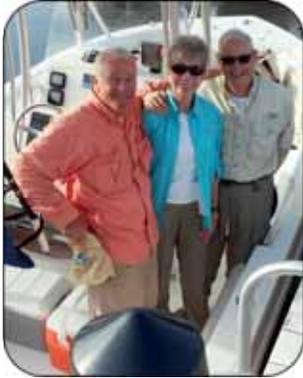




YAHOO
Young at Heart Officers Organization
Ron & Linda Wozniak

We are still looking for volunteers to organize future YAHOO events.

Our 4th YAHOO near offshore fishing outing was on May 15th with Ron Wozniak captaining "Out of Control," a 22' 2015 Cobia 217 Center Console, Freedom Boat Club offshore boat, out of Regatta Pointe Marina, on the Manatee River in Palmetto. Bob Fernander, Anita Kincaide, and Ron Wozniak fished 3 Mile Reef North off Anna Maria Island in 30' water on a bright sunny, calm day. Woz had the biggest catch, a 16.5" flounder. All fish were released except



for the flounder.

To give you an idea of costs for this event, we caught our own bait, spent \$43.80 on gas and \$10 tip for the Freedom Boat Club dock hand. So, it does not cost a lot to go near offshore this way. Local near offshore charters with certified guides have a price range of \$500 for 4 hours, \$700 for 6 hours or \$900 for 8 hours with a maximum of 6 fisherman.



Monday June 19, 2017
0800-1700 (or earlier)

Near Offshore Fishing Gulf of Mexico off Sarasota
2 Marina Plaza, Marina Jack, Sarasota, FL
Freedom Boat Club Dock. 1st dock on left
south of Marina Plaza

Four (4) Fishermen per boat - Limited spaces available
FIRST COME BASIS.

Only cost is fuel & bait. FL saltwater fishing license required (unless 65+ & FL resident). If you have saltwater medium or heavy tackle, bring it. If you do not we will provide. Wear rubber soled shoes & bring your own sunscreen, food and drink. Text Ron Wozniak at (941)779-5448 or RonWozniak13@gmail.com.

Friday July 14, 2017 – Two Tours
Sarasota Bay Explorers Boat Tour &
Guided Mote Marine Laboratory & Aquarium Tour
 Sarasota Bay Tour - \$29
 Mote Marine Laboratory & Aquarium Tour - \$17
 Both Tours - \$ 43

Tour #1- **Sarasota Bay Explorers educational sea life encounter boat tour on Sarasota Bay
0930 show time for 1000 departure (2 hours)

@ 1600 Ken Thompson Parkway,
 City Island, Sarasota (co-located with Mote).
 Cost \$29/person. Depending on how many signup and pay, cost could be lower. Refunds will be made to you, if we have more than 25 sign up and pay for the boat tour.

** Although co-located, Sarasota Bay Explorers Eco-Boat Tour is independently operated, and not part of Mote Marine Laboratory & Aquarium. Covered Pontoon Boat. U.S. Coast Guard Certified Captain. Narrated by Marine Biologist. Clean Restroom.

1215-1315 Lunch at Salty Dog at your own expense

Tour #2 - 1330 -1600 Mote Marine Laboratory & Aquarium Guided Tour by our own MOAS Member, Toni Borman.

Cost \$17.00 per person

RSVP Required not later than July 1st. Contact Toni Borman at (941) 320-2923 or ToniBorman@gmail.com.
 \$29 Boat tour; \$17 Mote tour; \$43 for both tours
 Make your check payable to Toni Borman & mail to her at:
 4811 Tri Par Drive, Sarasota, FL 34234

Near Offshore Fishing (WEEKEND DATE)

Gulf of Mexico off Anna Maria Island
Saturday July 15, 2017 0700-2000 (or earlier)
Regatta Pointe Marina, 1005 Riverside Drive, Palmetto
Freedom Boat Club Dock. 1st dock on left.

Four (4) Fishermen per boat
 Limited spaces available 1st COME BASIS.

Only cost is fuel & bait. FL saltwater fishing license required (unless 65+ & FL resident). If you have saltwater light to medium tackle, bring it, if you do not we will provide. Wear rubber soled shoes & bring your own sunscreen, food and drink. Text Ron Wozniak 941-779-5448 or RonWozniak13@gmail.com

Future planned events---looking for volunteers to coordinate the events.

Aug Date TBD Siesta Beach Sunset, POC TBD
 **19 Sep - Chicago Cubs vs TB Rays, Tropicana Field
 11 Oct - Oktoberfest-Gold Coast Eagle Distributing LWR
 28 Oct Halloween Party - Private Residence
 9 Dec - Army-Navy Game - Private Residence
 If you are interested in hosting one of these events, or have an idea for a future event, contact Ron at (941) 779-5448 or RonWozniak13@gmail.com

**The TB Rays have saved a block of 40 seats for this Cubs vs. Rays game. The cost is \$40 per seat. As of June 7th, we have only 11 seats reserved and seven paid for. If we do not get more interest and a check to reserve seats for in this outing, we will lose our block of seats, so please mail your check payable to Ron Wozniak ASAP at: Ron Wozniak, 207 68th Street NW, Bradenton, FL 34209-2227.

Legislative Update Continued from Page 4

Vet Group Consensus on 4 Needed GI Bill Changes

After their public disagreement stalled a congressional hearing in April, 35 veterans groups came together in Washington to reach some consensus on changes to the Post-9/11 GI Bill and restart their activity on Capitol Hill. The groups agreed the Post-9/11 GI Bill needed to change, at least to close loopholes excluding some service members from receiving education benefits.

What divided the groups is a proposal from Student Veterans of America (SVA), a national organization focusing on education policy, that the GI Bill's expansion be funded by new enlistees who would pay \$2,400 over two years to opt into the benefit. The VFW and the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA) vehemently opposed the idea, describing it as a "tax on troops." The rift caused the postponement of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs subcommittee hearing.

While the groups still differ on how to pay for improved education benefits for service members, they agreed to build momentum in Congress on four changes to the GI Bill.

Fix a Pentagon deployment authorization that is unfairly preventing thousands of reservists and guardsmen from earning GI Bill benefits.

Expand eligibility for the Yellow Ribbon Program to surviving spouses and children of service members killed in the line of duty.

Expand full GI Bill benefits to all Purple Heart recipients. Currently, a veteran must be medically retired from the military or have 36 months of active-duty service to qualify.

Assist student veterans whose for-profit schools close (e.g. last year, for-profit ITT Technical Institute closed, and thousands of veterans were unable to recover lost education benefits).

While the meeting didn't resolve the divisions about whether to charge service members for the GI Bill, the groups did find common ground on the four changes.

USFSPA & Divorce - Supreme Court Ruling

The US Supreme Court ruled on May 15th that states cannot increase a former spouse's share of a veteran's military retirement pay to make up for a loss in benefits caused by a waiver to receive disability payments.

In 2015, the Arizona Supreme Court affirmed the family court and held that neither state law nor federal law prevents courts from allowing such relief for an ex-spouse when a veteran chooses to waive retirement pay.

The U.S. Supreme Court reversed that affirmation and ruled that the Uniformed Services Former Spouses' Protection Act pre-empts the state court's order. "A federal statute provides that a state may treat as community property, and divide at divorce, a military veteran's retirement pay. The statute, however, exempts from this grant of permission any amount that the government deducts 'as a result of a waiver' that the veteran must make 'in order to receive' disability benefits," Justice Stephen Breyer wrote for court. Breyer cited the high court's 1989 decision in *Mansell v. Mansell*, in which it held that federal law prohibited California from treating the waived portion of a major's retirement pay as community property divisible at divorce.



Surviving Spouse Corner

Peggy Mock

There will be a Surviving Spouses luncheon on Friday, July 14th at the Sarasota Yacht Club. We already have several reservations. If you wish to attend, please contact Peggy Mock, (941) 356-3584 or peggymock@michaelsaunders.com. We are also planning an upcoming informal wine and cheese get together. I welcome your thoughts and ideas for future events.

Surviving Spouse Benefits are at risk. Please read the following report. We will update it as we receive additional information.

On April 5, MOAA Surviving Spouse Advisory Committee members joined over 165 participants — including members of MOAA's board of directors and staff, council and chapter leaders from almost every state, and members of the Currently Serving Advisory Committee, and Currently Serving Spouse Advisory Committee — for MOAA's annual Storming the Hill event in Washington, D.C. The storming teams provided congressional legislators detailed fact sheets on sequestration, the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP)/Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) offset, and TRICARE.

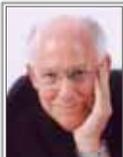
SBP is an insurance annuity to provide a military spouse up to 55% of the service member's retired pay upon the service member's death for any reason. For active duty post-9/11 deaths, the coverage automatically is provided to the spouse. Under current law, survivors of deceased active duty and retired service members must forfeit DIC dollar-for-dollar from their SBP when military service causes the death and DIC is awarded by the VA, currently \$1,258 a month (\$15,095 a year). Those impacted by this inequity (64,100) lose all or part of their SBP. MOAA has been fighting for full repeal of the offset for 16 years.

In 2008, Congress approved a Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance (SSIA) to partially compensate for the SBP/DIC injustice with incremental increases over 10 years (October 2017) toward eliminating the offset. The SSIA was extended last year at \$310 a month (\$3,700 a year) and ends May 2018.

MOAA asked legislators to cosponsor and support current legislation (H.R. 846 and S. 339) and to engage House and Senate Armed Services, Appropriations, and Budget committee members, as their support will be needed for a solution to fully repeal the offset. If a full repeal cannot be funded, the SSIA should be extended.

MOAA also provided a document on TRICARE fee increase prevention to each congressional office. MOAA believes congressional actions should remain consistent with current philosophy and prevent disproportionate TRICARE fee increases.

Please contact your legislators on these issues using MOAA's toll-free line to the capitol switchboard, (800) 272-6622. Ask the operator to connect you with your legislator's office, ask to speak with the legislative assistant or military legislative assistant, and request co-sponsorship of H.R. 846 or S. 339; or go online to <http://capwiz.com/moaa/home/> to send an email to our Representative and Senators requesting they take action on these issues.



MEMBERSHIP ACTIONS

George Tracy

Dear MOAS Members,

Many of our MOAS initiatives, begun last year and accelerating into this year, have created greater local awareness of the benefits and the value of our MOAA Chapter here in Sarasota to Veterans' causes and to community service. We now can leverage more active, dynamic working relationships with other Sarasota charities, committed to helping Veterans and their families. We have been a more and more visible leader with our support of troop care package distribution, JROTC awards, student & Veteran scholarships, the Academic Olympics and related collaborations with Goodwill-Manasota, the Community Foundation of Sarasota County, and the Jewish Family and Children Service to mention a few. But, these opportunities for our leadership and outreach are the result of **your** support, **your** efforts and **your** image; attracting more and more veteran military officers looking for meaningful associations that can make a difference!

So, we need to leverage the leadership, motivation and contributions of our MOAS team with renewed dedication to finding and recruiting those Veteran officers, your neighbors, who have not yet joined us.

With this issue, I am going to re-arm each of you, our most important source of new members, with the "Six Good Reasons," that our national organization emphasizes, for joining our chapter. These compelling reasons will, hopefully, inspire and assist your efforts to persuade any military officer - active duty, Guard, Reserve, former, or retired - or a surviving spouse, to join our MOAS chapter now!!

- **Make yourself heard!! – Take Action!!!** We provide critical grassroots support for you to actively support MOAA's national legislative agenda. Veteran and Active Duty military personnel benefits are under attack and MOAA is in the fight to preserve them with its Legislative Action Center; giving its members the information, the tools, the access and the voice to motivate legislators to take positive action for Veterans/Active Duty military and to open their minds and doors to MOAA's legislative team in Washington, D.C. In these difficult times, MOAA members must speak as one and inspire non-Veteran citizens to become active advocates for Active Duty Military, Veterans, their families and their survivors.
- **Give back to the community!** We are military and Veteran ambassadors in our communities; supporting countless programs that make a difference in the lives of others. Our members go the extra step to give back in the truest sense of service and leadership.
- **Add value to chapter member's lives!** We sponsor interesting programs and opportunities to interact with civic, charity, political, military, and business leaders on issues important to Active Duty Military and Veterans, their families and their survivors.
- **Network with fellow officers!** We include second career Veterans in the work force or retired service members,

who have contacts in the community that can be valuable to transitioning officers.

- **Stay informed!** Our chapter newsletters, websites, and meetings and MOAA National newsletters/emails/website provide you the latest information on local, state, and national issues and changes to military benefits.
- **Influence state & Federal legislation!** We have a Florida Council of Chapters (www.moaaf.org) that unites every MOAA chapter in the state. The council often urges state legislators to propose and pass state-level legislation that affects military members and their families, such as, exempting military retired pay from state income tax, increasing funding for state-run VA programs and waiving out-of-state tuition fees for Veteran students at Florida colleges and universities.

Please accept your challenge to recruit a new member!! (There is a Membership Application on Page 12 of this newsletter and on our chapter website <http://www.sarasotamoaa.com/files/MOAA%20REV%202%20Brochure%202015.pdf>)

We are grateful for whatever effort you can make to extend the welcome of our chapter and of the national MOAA community to every military officer and spouse that you encounter.

A hearty welcome to our new members!
Thank You for your support of MOAS and MOAA!!

TAPS

*Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to
the family and friends of
Mrs. Dorothy W. Conyne*

MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

New Members

Guilford, Brenda G (Robert Crepeau) LTC, USA
 9994 Laurel Valley Avenue Circle
 Lakewood Ranch, FL 34202-4021
 (941) 351-2467 guilfordb@aol.com

Crepeau, Robert P (Brenda Guilford) MAJ, USA
 9994 Laurel Valley Avenue Circle
 Lakewood Ranch, FL 34202-4021
 (941) 351-2467 RPCrepeau@aol.com

Directory Additions & Changes

Powell, Jamo C. (Kathleen) COL, USA
 700 John Ringling Blvd Apt: T1208
 Sarasota, FL 34236-1542
 (941) 378-3324 jamop@aol.com

MOAS Luncheon
Friday, July 21, 2017
Michael's On East



MENU

SERVED LUNCHEON

Cream of Watercress Soup

Signature Bread Basket

ENTREE

Back To Basic Trio:

All White Meat Chicken Salad,

*Creamy Tuna Salad with Crisp Celery
& Egg Salad*

*Served on a Crisp Mix of Romaine, Iceberg
& Baby Spinach*

Garnished with Seasonal Fresh Fruit

SERVED DESSERT

Chocolate Pecan Toffee Tart:

Pecan Cookie Crust,

Swirls of Rich Chocolate Mousse

& Creamy Toffee Drizzle

Served Coffee, Decaf & Tea

MOAS LUNCHEON RESERVATION

For 7/21/2017 at 11:30 AM

Michael's On East

DRESS: Casual

Please reserve ___ seats for the luncheon

Cost \$28/person (Tax & Gratuity included)

Enclosed is a check for \$ _____

MEMBER INFORMATION

NAME, RANK, SERVICE & PHONE #

New member or first luncheon attendance? **NEW FIRST**

Is this your Birthday month? **YES**

Is this your spouse's Birthday month? **YES**

GUEST INFORMATION

(Use extra sheet if needed)

1. NAME: _____
2. NAME: _____
3. NAME: _____
4. NAME: _____

Please return reservation form and check made out to:

MOAS

Mail to: **Valerie McCarthy**
7429 Starfish Drive
Sarasota, FL 34231

QUESTIONS? (440) 391-1974 or

Valerie.Mccarthy@GoToAlwaysHome.com

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.

We must provide the restaurant with an exact number of reservations and guarantee the number of attendees at least 48 hours in advance of event. Additional requests or refunds will not be honored after that time.

If you make your reservation with the intent to pay at the door we must hold you to that promise as Michaels on East will charge us for your guaranteed meal, if you attend or not.

NEW LOCATION



MEET & GREET

Sarasota MOAA

Happy Hour/Meet & Greet/Officer's Call

Wednesday, July 12th 5:00 - 7:00pm

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

@ Stonewood Grill & Tavern

**5415 University Parkway, University Park
 corner of Honore Ave- just west of the UTC**

<https://www.stonewoodgrill.com/>



Relaxing BEFORE The Parade
 (l-r) Ron Wozniak, Larry Lovell, Mike Staley



July - August 2017



DATE	EVENT	TIME
July 3	NO MOAS Board Meeting in July	
July 4th, Tuesday	HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY	
July 12, Wednesday	Meet & Greet - Stonewood Grill - University Parkway - Page 11	5:00 p.m.
July 14, Friday	Surviving Spouse Luncheon - Sarasota Yacht Club - Page 9	
July 14, Friday	YAHOO: Sarasota Bay Explorer's Boat Tour - Page 8	10:00 a.m.
July 14, Friday	YAHOO: - Mote Marine Laboratory & Aquarium Tour - Page 8	1:30 p.m.
July 15, Saturday	YAHOO: Offshore Fishing -- Regatta Pointe Marina - Page 8	7:00 a.m.
July 21, Friday	Luncheon - Michaels On East - Age Friendly Sarasota	11:30 a.m.
August 7, Monday	MOAS Board Meeting - Meadows Community Center	4:00 p.m.

Secretary's Corner Continued from Page 3

Legislative Affairs Committee: (Mario Fajardo) The Presidents FY2018 "taxpayer focused" Budget of \$1.1Trillion, includes smaller cost of living adjustments for veterans' benefits payouts and elimination of those adjustments for some federal civilian retirees altogether. The controversial suggestions are likely to be met with opposition from outside advocates and some lawmakers, but White House officials insist the moves are part of a broader strategy to balance the budget without sacrificing essential government services. Many items in the Legislative Update.

Outreach/Auxiliary/Surviving Spouse: (Peggy Mock): We currently have 70 surviving spouses in our Chapter. Peggy is assembling a surviving spouses support group. Surviving spouses would very much like to help with MOAS projects. Some will take SOT boxes to distribute to friends. Considering sending a questionnaire to the spouses to better understand their needs and try to meet them. A Surviving Spouses luncheon is planned for July 14 at the Sarasota Yacht Club.

Update on Stars & Stripes Foundation Activities: (Tom Piazza): Mike Borders reported Highlands County has completed their first iteration of the Flag Protocol program. Lesson 10 was conducted for 90 children. The kids and teachers were very enthusiastic.

New Business:

- We will sell the remaining portable phone/tablet chargers to the members for \$15 each at the next luncheon. (\$10 will reimburse the Chapter's cost & the remaining \$5.00 will go to tSMOSF.
- The Board approved reimbursing George Tracy \$48.00 for the truck rental used for the Memorial Day Parade.
- Consider surveying members with email addresses regarding their views on the chapter,
- Form a Nominating Committee for 2018 officers. Troy Scott was mentioned as the chair. Committee must have chapter experience.

NEXT MEETING: Meeting adjourned at 5:19 PM. **THERE IS NO BOARD MEETING IN JULY.** The next Board Meeting is scheduled for 4:00PM on Monday August 7, 2017 at the Meadows Community Center.

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 _____