

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

Best Newsletter 2000-2004, 2007/2010; Runner Up 2008/2009, 2012-2014; Newsletter 5 Star 2015/2017-2024; 4 Star 2016; Website 5-Star 2015-2024
Vol. XXXVI No. 7 MOAA 4-Star Chapter 2003/2008/2019; MOAA 5 Star Chapter 2004-2007, 2009-2018, 2020-2024 July 2025

JUNE 2025 PROGRAM - Mike Modrik - ABC Meteorologist and 'Discover the Suncoast' Host

Mike Modrick, the weekend meteorologist with ABC 7 the local Sarasota TV station, gave a personal, interesting and very amusing talk to MOAS members on Wed, June 18 at Michaels on East.

Without the support of any visual aids due to a technical glitch, Mike soldiered on and held everyone's interest. He began with his personal journey to Sarasota in 2020 after Covid, which members found honest and sincere. He then talked about his concept of 'Discovering the Suncoast' which the station supported with a 4 program trial, but never told him to stop, so he has completed 147 episodes so far.



He then spoke about Climate Change and that it has been occurring over many thousands of years. However, man-made effects on climate do have to be limited, and the restrictions on polluting the atmosphere must apply to all countries, not just some. He urged us not to be too pessimistic, but that we do need to pay attention to weather related threats to our community and to always be prepared and safe. There were many questions and overall a very enjoyable talk.

On July 31st at 1.00pm, 20 of our members will be able to enjoy a tour of the ABC 7 studios. The priority of attendees will be those who attended the lunch. If interested email Ron ASAP at RonWozniak13@gmail.com.

JULY 2025 PROGRAM - Sea Turtle Tracks & Shorebird Facts

Our July speaker will be Kristen Mazarella, Executive Director of the Anna Maria Island Turtle Watch (AMITW), a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization whose mission is to conserve the ecosystem of Anna Maria Island and its surrounding waters for people, sea turtles, and shorebirds in partnership with the island community.



Since 1983, AMITW has coordinated conservation efforts for nine miles of Manatee County shoreline. In three decades, the organization monitored 19,325 turtle activities and protected 9,469 nests, including at least 400,137 hatchlings that departed the beach to become a future generation of sea turtles that will return to the region as they reach maturity — in about 30 years.

The organization includes staff and volunteers who have documented the status of shoreline habitat and trends in sea turtle nesting. These data show that nesting by loggerhead turtles has declined, then rebounded in recent years. Nest destruction by both natural and non-indigenous predators has also increased during the same period.

AMITW & Shorebird Monitoring coordinates with county, state and federal efforts to conserve sea turtles — primarily loggerheads and green sea turtles. Manatee and Sarasota Counties host the highest density of loggerhead nests in the Gulf of Mexico.

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Military Officers Association of Sarasota (MOAS) Mission Statement

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

| | |
|---|------------------------|
| President | David Downer |
| 1st Vice President | Steven L. Carnes |
| 2nd Vice President | Ron Wozniak |
| Treasurer | Christa I. Friedlander |
| Secretary & Historian | Peter Dering |
| Director (Scholarships) | William F. Lawyer |
| Director (Communications) | Vacant |
| Director (Legislative) | Michael Lindquist |
| Director (Membership) | Len Friedlander |
| Immediate Past President | Jonathan C. Gordon |
| Legislative Committee | Michael Lindquist |
| Vets Affairs/Commission | Vacant |
| Marketing & Communications Committee | |
| Chairperson | Vacant |
| Editor-Newsletter | Len Friedlander |
| Web Site | Craig Hullinger |
| BLOG/Social Media/Photo | Craig Hullinger |
| Membership Committee | |
| Recruiting & Retention | Len Friedlander |
| Recruiting & Retention | William F. Lawyer |
| Reporting & Records | Christa I. Friedlander |
| Personal Affairs Committee | |
| Surviving Spouses Liaison | Peggy Mock |
| Chaplain | Michael Lindquist |
| Programs Committee | |
| Chairperson | Ron Wozniak |
| Luncheon Programs | Chris Nind |
| Young at Heart [YAHOO] | Ron Wozniak |
| YAHOO Coordinator | Linda Wozniak |
| Meet & Greet | Peggy O'Connell |
| Luncheon Committee | |
| Chairperson & Coordinator | Peggy O'Connell |
| Greeter | Peter Dering |
| 50-50 Manager | Mary Gordon |
| Scholarship Committee | |
| Chairperson | William F. Lawyer |
| Member | Jim Ainslie |
| Member | Len Friedlander |
| Member | Mary Gordon |
| Member | Linda Wozniak |
| JROTC Liaison | William F. Lawyer |
| Support Our Troops [SOT] | Ron Wozniak |
| Awards Board Chair | Jonathan C. Gordon |

Editorial Policy: "The Breeze" newsletter is published by the Military Officers Association of Sarasota, Inc., an affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) and the Florida Council of Chapters (FCOC). MOAA and its affiliated chapters & councils are non-partisan."



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE David Downer

As usual, I'm writing this before the next (June) luncheon, but I wanted to thank Chris Nind for setting up the great visit by Mike Modrick, a meteorologist with our local TV station, WWSB. Unfortunately, neither we nor Mike had all the needed cables for connection of his computer to our projector. He did a marvelous job though, showing us pictures from the speaker's position when there was something he really wanted us to see. Those things were quite visible (somewhat to my surprise).

Please read through all of this edition of "The Breeze." There are several articles of interest included and I'm open to your thoughts about the organization. Please contact me if you would like to share a thought or idea! Among other things, we continue to see our membership shrink, mostly due to attrition, so we're open to all thoughts about changing that situation. Obviously, our flow of "recent officers retiring" is down a lot from what it used to be.

I recommend reading Michael Lindquist's great articles on legislative matters; he's doing such a great job reporting on these important matters. In some cases, there are important action items for some of our members. Be sure to read about them!

As previously mentioned also, we still need someone to fill the "Communications" position on the board! Let us know if you're interested in that or anything else.

Please keep track of MOAA's Advocacy in Action items and support them. These and other matters are addressed in the monthly Military Officer magazine from MOAA National. We need to remember "MOAA's Advocacy Playbook." As I have mentioned before, we should all give some thought to writing to our Congressional representatives about the key issues involving the military.

Remember that the Breeze always includes the sign-up information for the next luncheon (see the back page). Our attendance has been down lately, and we do need to have a good turnout in order to have Michaels on East continue to welcome us. Please plan to come and hear our guest speakers; it's important to our survival!



SECRETARY'S CORNER
Peter Dering

**Military Officers Association of Sarasota, Inc (MOAS)
Sarasota Military Officers Foundation, Inc (SMOF)**

The board meeting for the above organizations was held Monday June 2, 2025 at the Meadows Lifestyle and Wellness Facility 3350 Longmeadow. Issues of significance are addressed below. NOTE: The complete minutes and financial reports will be on the MOAS website www.sarasotamoaa.com following approval of the Board of Directors, The information below should be considered unofficial as the meeting minutes are not yet board approved.

CALL TO ORDER: President Dave Downer called the meeting to order at 1402 and began the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Dave Downer (Pres), Steve Carnes (1VP), Ron Wozniak (2VP), Peter Dering (Sec'y), Bill Lawyer (Dir), Michael Lindquist (Dir), Len Friedlander (Dir) & Jon Gordon (IPP)

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Christa Friedlander (Treas),

COMMITTEE CHAIRS & VISITORS PRESENT:Linda Wozniak
Chris Nind and Peggy O'Connell

PRESIDENT'S ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

The next MOAS luncheon will be on June 18. The speaker will be Mike Modrik, ABC Meteorologist and "Discover the Suncoast" host. Thanks to the Scholarship committee for all the work done to prepare for that important – and successful – luncheon event. Special thanks also to Linda Wozniak for taking the pictures at that luncheon.

Please note long-time member Florence Marino's passing (age 102!)

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT: (Steve Carnes) Nothing to report.

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT: (Ron Wozniak) Programs are set well into 2025.

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT:(Jon Gordon) Nothing to Report.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: (Peter Dering) The May 2025 BOD Meeting Minutes were approved unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT: (Christa Friedlander) The May 2025 Treasurer's Reports were approved unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

LEGISLATIVE: (Mike Lindquist) Please refer to the Breeze for the full report.

BREEZE NEWSLETTER: (Len Friedlander) The June issue was published and emailed to 230 addresses. Twenty-nine (29) copies were printed and mailed to members.

Feedback received from National MOAA on our Newsletter & Website submissions for MOAA Communications Awards is available in the expanded minutes on our website.

MEMBERSHIP: (Len Friedlander) Current membership is 200.

VETERANS' AFFAIRS: Vacant. No report.

SOCIAL MARKETING, COMMUNICATION AND WEBSITE:
Vacant. No Report

LUNCHEON REPORT:(Peggy O'Connell): 48 attendees including students and parents.

MEET & GREET: (Peggy O'Connell) The May Meet and Greet was held on Wednesday, May 14 at Grillsmith on US 41.

The June Meet and Greet will be on Wednesday, June 11, at Mattisons on Forty One at 5:30 pm.

PROGRAMS: (Ron Wozniak)

Future Programs

- 18 June (Wednesday) -Mr. Mike Modrick, ABC 7 Meteorologist & Host Discovering the Suncoast.
- 18 July- Mr. Thomas Sikes on the US Constitution.
- 15 August- Mrs. Heather Kasten, The Greater Sarasota Chamber of Commerce.
- 19 September- TBD Joint Florida MOAA? (Requested FBI on Active Shooter)
- 17 October- John Saputo, Col USMC and CEO & Owner Gold Coast Eagle Distributing.
- 21 November- Annual Meeting - speaker TBD
- 14 December- (Sunday) Winter Gala no program.

JROTC, MCJROTC: (Bill Lawyer) I attended and presented awards at the Sarasota Military Academy ceremony. Art Hillman joined me for the Venice High ceremony. I confirmed that the obstacle course that we contributed money to has been completed and is currently in use.

YAHOO: (Ron & Linda Wozniak) For info on cancellations, venue, date & time changes, go to the MOAS website Calendar & Blogs at <https://www.sarasotamoaa.com/> or text Ron Wozniak: 941-779-5448 or e-mail: RonWozniak13@gmail.com or Linda at 941-779-5447 or NauticalEffect@msn.com.

Future Events/Outings — Details on YAHOO Page 8 -

- Saturday 14 June Offshore Fishing 0800
- Monday 16 June Sea Turtle Tracks & Shorebird Facts 1000
- Friday 20 June Sarasota Bay No Cost Pontoon Boat Cruise 1700
- Friday 11 July Pontoon Boat Cruise on Lower Tampa Bay 1700

SARASOTA MILITARY OFFICERS FOUNDATION, INC

SCHOLARSHIP REPORT: (Bill Lawyer): The scholarship luncheon was well attended by both students and parents. We were able to present certificates and checks to 9 of the 12 students. I attended SHS ceremonies and presented two more checks. The final check was presented at the Venice High School ceremony. The students were prompt in getting their proof of enrollment to me which facilitated distributing their checks in a timely manner. Next year, we need to be more aggressive with the JROTC cadre to make sure their students apply for a JROTC scholarship!

OLD BUSINESS:

- We need a photographer for luncheons.

NEW BUSINESS:

- We will need a new Scholarship committee chairperson.
- Woz: Membership survey. Presented draft survey to board for comments. Will revise and re-submit for comments.

The meeting adjourned at 1514.

NEXT MEETING: The next Board meeting is scheduled for Monday July 7, 2025 1400 hours at the the Meadows Lifestyle and Wellness Facility, 3350 Longmeadow.

| MONTH | BOARD | LUNCHEON |
|--------|----------|-----------------|
| June | Monday 2 | Wednesday 18 ** |
| July | Monday 7 | Friday 18 |
| August | Monday 4 | Friday 15 |

| | LUNCHEON PROGRAMS |
|--------|---|
| June | Mike Modrick - Discovering the Suncoast |
| July | Kristen Mazzarella-AnnaMarie Turtle Watch |
| August | Heather Kasten - Greater Sarasota CoC |



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Michael Lindquist

July: Embracing Spiritual Freedom

As we enter July, we are reminded of the profound significance of freedom—both in its national and spiritual expressions. Independence Day marks a celebration of the birth of the United States and the enduring ideals enshrined in our Constitution. Among these ideals is the cherished principle of Religious Freedom, outlined in the First Amendment:

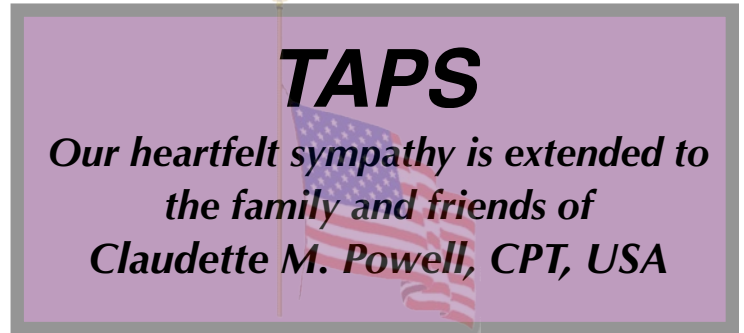
“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.”

This foundational freedom ensures every individual's right to worship—or not—according to their own conscience. Yet while religious liberty is a right protected by law, Spiritual Freedom is a deeper, more personal journey—one not governed by legislation but by inner alignment with the divine.

What is Spiritual Freedom?

Spiritual Freedom is the ability to live authentically, guided by divine wisdom and inner truth. It transcends doctrines and denominations. It is the conscious realization that no outer force can dictate the essence of who we are in Spirit.

Spiritual Freedom invites us to surrender—not in defeat, but in trust. When we surrender to God we open ourselves to clarity, peace, and purpose. This surrender is not passive; it is an active expression of faith. It is the courage to listen to the still, small voice within, to choose what serves our



highest good, and to live from a place of compassion and truth.

The Inviolable Inner Liberty

While the laws of the land may govern our actions, they cannot confine our thoughts, beliefs, or inner connection to Spirit. No sanction or system can strip away the God-given freedom of the soul. We are each endowed with the freedom to choose—to think, to believe, to become.

President John F. Kennedy once reminded us:

“The rights of every man are diminished when the rights of one man are threatened.”

In the same spirit, our collective spiritual freedom is enriched when we honor the divine light in one another. In a democracy, we entrust leaders with certain powers, but we retain the most sacred power of all: the freedom to be who we truly are.

Freedom Rooted in Peace

God did not give us a spirit of fear, rather we each have the power of peace, and love. As we cultivate inner peace through prayer, meditation, and mindfulness, we help bring peace to the world. From that center of calm, we are free—not just as citizens, but as spiritual beings.

This July, let us celebrate not only the freedoms won through sacrifice and governance but also the eternal freedom of the Spirit. It is this inner liberty—our Spiritual Freedom—that empowers us to live with integrity, purpose, and peace.

Memorial Day Flag Placements



Linda & Ron Wozniak place flags at Sarasota National Cemetery gravesites



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Michael Lindquist

New Look MOAA's Legislative Action Center

Redesigned to improve your experience and make it easier to engage on the issues that matter most. With a streamlined layout and updated navigation, the Action Center now features:

- **Featured Advocacy Campaigns:** Spotlights MOAA's top priorities and will change depending on what is gaining traction.
- **Advocacy by Issue Area:** A refreshed layout, allowing you to browse topics such as Currently Serving, DoD Health Care, and Retirees & Veterans.
- **Latest Advocacy News:** A new section combining videos, timely analysis, and links to MOAA's most recent advocacy updates.

These enhancements are part of our broader goal to make the Action Center your one-stop-shop for legislative engagement, news, and other important tools. [Join MOAA's Advocacy!](#)

Supreme Court Ruling Gives Extra Payouts to Some Combat-wounded Vets

Thousands of disabled veterans could be eligible for additional retroactive combat-related special compensation after the Supreme Court unanimously ruled last week that federal officials had unfairly capped those payments.

Officials from the National Veterans Legal Services Program, which helped bring the legal suit, said more than 9,000 individuals nationwide could benefit from the ruling.

The case - *Soto v. US* - has been winding through the federal courts since 2017 and has been pending before the Supreme Court since last fall.

The plaintiff, USMC veteran Simon Soto, served for six years on active duty including two tours. He suffered post-traumatic stress related to his work in the search and recovery of war casualties.

Medically discharged from the service, Soto was awarded permanent medical disability retirement. Ten years later, he applied for the military's combat-related special compensation program, which awards retroactive pay for certain service-related injuries.

Military officials determined Soto qualified for the program, but granted him only six years of back pay, asserting a six-year statute of limitations on claims. The lawsuit argued that limit was arbitrary and not supported by current law. The Supreme Court overturned lower court rulings supporting the military's position, unanimously agreeing that there should be no six-year cap.

The ruling applies to all veterans receiving the combat-related special compensation who were capped because of the six-year time limit. Veterans can contact the [legal services program](#) to see if they qualify for additional compensation.

Pentagon shifts Greenland to US Northern Command

The Pentagon is redrawing its military combatant command responsible for defending the U.S. homeland to include Greenland as the Trump administration signals it wants control of the Danish territory.

The adjustment will shift responsibility for Greenland from U.S. European Command to U.S. Northern Command. In its announcement, the Pentagon framed the revision as part of a broader review of its Unified Command Plan, which divides the world into separate military units and outlines the roles and responsibilities of U.S. combatant commands. No other changes to the Unified Command Plan were included in the announcement.

The Pentagon announcement didn't mention any intent to annex the territory, likely assuaging some Europeans' concerns.

VA's Benefits & Technology Nominees Named

President Trump has nominated Karen Brazell to serve as the VA Under Secretary for Benefits, responsible for processing and managing nearly \$200 billion in financial aid to millions of veterans, and overseeing a staff of more than 30,000 employees and a portfolio of dozens of different department benefits programs.

An Army veteran who also worked as a defense contractor and a DoD employee, Brazell was named a senior advisor to VA Secretary Collins earlier this year.

The White House also nominated Alan Boehme to serve as Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Information and Technology. Boehme previously worked as Chief Technology Officer for the H&M Group, a fashion and design company.

The Senate has not scheduled a confirmation hearing date for either of the new nominees.

Senate Version of 'Megabill' Maintains Student-Veteran Protections

The Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) released its version of the so-called "megabill" last week, and unlike the House-passed version, it does not repeal a rule limiting for-profit institutions to receiving 90% of their funds through federal sources. By striking the "90-10 rule," the House version would end protections for student-veterans established in recent years, again making them targets for colleges seeking income from GI bill benefits.

A coalition of 31 veterans groups (including MOAA) is urging Senate leaders to strip a provision from the Republican budget reconciliation package which they say will allow for-profit schools to once again take advantage of student veterans. The groups noted that the provision concerning a repeal of the 90/10 rule could also

cost the federal government as much as \$1.6 billion, making the move concerning on a fiscal level as well as a ethical one.

Before the rule was expanded to include GI bill and other veterans education benefits as part of the federal funding limit, student-veterans were popular targets for all manner of education programs, some of which left veterans facing aggressive recruiting tactics and false promises.

The Senate HELP Committee's version of the reconciliation bill would keep these protections intact. It must be approved by the full Senate, then survive a House-Senate negotiation, to remain in the final bill.

This process allows an opportunity for MOAA members and others to make their voices heard on the importance of blocking the 90-10 rule repeal. [Reach out to your lawmakers](#) in both chambers today and help MOAA preserve the value of service-earned education benefits.

Administration To End Afghan Relocation Programs

Two foundational government pathways for the resettlement of Afghan allies and refugees would be terminated under executive branch plans shared with Congress.

The U.S. State Department informed Congress in a May 29 congressional notification letter that it will close the Coordinator for Afghan Relocation Efforts (CARE) office by July 1, which handles planning and logistics for the relocation of Afghans who qualify for

Special Immigrant Visas, Immigrant Visas and the United States Refugee Assistant Program (USRAP).

The White House's proposed 2026 budget recommended shutting down Operation Enduring Welcome by the end of FY2025, a program facilitated by CARE that relocates Afghan nationals who are endangered because of their involvement with U.S. war efforts in the region.

AfghanEvac, an organization dedicated to relocation efforts for Afghan allies, said abolishing CARE defies the CARE Authorization Act of 2024 — (Sec 7810, page 1804 of the [2024 National Defense Authorization Act](#) — calling for the Secretary of State to appoint a coordinator for the program through Dec. 2027.

Additionally, Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem announced in early May the end of temporary protected status (TPS) for Afghanistan on July 14; stating that the region's safety had improved and no longer posed a threat to the well-being of those returning. TPS offered protection from deportation to individuals who would otherwise face harm if they returned to their origin country.

Shawn VanDiver, AfghanEvac CEO, estimated the end of TPS would impact more than 11,000 individuals from Afghanistan living in the U.S. and the closure of Operation Enduring Welcome would affect nearly 300,000 Afghans in need of assistance.

Once there was a little village that was founded by elders who wanted to stay connected with old comrades and serve their country and community in the many small and large ways they had so ably done in service of their country. The little village quickly grew, and the people loved the many planned outdoor activities, parties, luncheons and, especially, the camaraderie. Soon the little village became known for its many good deeds and support bestowed on soldiers, veterans, students and others in need.

Villagers hosted fundraising home parties and sent thousands of packages to the troops in faraway lands. They encouraged students to dream of college. Volunteers were many, and everyone in the village stayed involved.

The people came together for luncheons; meeting artists, politicians, men and women defending the country, and listened to many other topics of interest. They proudly dressed up in their finery for the grand holiday gala and danced the night away. How they loved their little village.

But then a great pestilence ravaged the land, and the villagers stayed in their homes to be safe from harm.

After many months, life finally returned to normal, and the village looked forward to resuming the fun parties, outdoor activities, and all the special events they had come to enjoy and expect. It soon became apparent though, that the many volunteers who had kept the village humming and happy had moved to other towns, left this earth, or were just tired.

The little village had become complacent; villagers looked at one another and expected their neighbors to step up. Fewer villagers took the time to come to the luncheons, until the owner of the village tavern chafed at serving only the few, and speakers declined to visit. The elders worried about the little village and begged the people to get involved again, but all said they were too busy.

The little village soon faded away, facing its last sunset because no village can prosper without the support of its people. And the villagers looked at each other and cried over the loss.

Do not let MOAS be like the little village. Be there for it and volunteer. It needs every one of you.

June 2025 LUNCHEON



Bill & Barbara Lawyer & Dave Downer



Steve Mulligan & Sue Ross



Linda Wozniak & Chris Nind



Elke & Troy Scott



Sylvia Barber (l) & Deborah Harvey



(l-r) Wesley Moy, John Hornberger (guest), & Steve Carnes



Tom Halbert & Nancy Gage



Rosemary & Rick Malone



Bob Travers (l) & Michael Lindquist



(L-r) Ron Wozniak, guest speaker Mike Rodrick & Chris Nind



Elke Scott, Ron Wozniak & Christa Friedlander



Sarasota Military Officers Foundation (SMOF) *Bill Lawyer*

Bill Lawyer, Chairman of the MOAS/SMOF Scholarship Committee presented JROTC Outstanding Cadet Awards to cadets at Sarasota Area High Schools in May and June 2025.

SARASOTA High School



C/CSM Nicholas Matthias

RIVERVIEW High School



C/CPT Daniel Santana

BOOKER High School



C/MAJ Liliana Janneman



C/CPT Cassidy Forrar



C/1SG Dasiel Rodriquez



C/CSM Alex Matute

Scholarship Thank You Notes

Dear MOAS Scholarship Committee,
Thank you so much for selecting me as a recipient of your Merit scholarship. Your contribution is going to help me next year when attending the University of Florida for Psychology. I really appreciate your support of my higher education. I am sorry that I wasn't able to attend your luncheon due to testing. Wishing you all the best!
Thanks again,
Anabel TOCCO

Dear Mr. Lawyer,

Thank you so much for awarding me the MOAS Merit Scholarship. I'm truly grateful for the MOAS's support as I begin my college journey. I appreciate your generosity, and for believing in my potential. I am incredibly grateful to the MOAS and for all that you do to invest in students' futures.

Sincerely,
Ben
Ben Buurma

FOR YOUR INFORMATION



MOAS MEET & GREET

Wednesday July 9th

5:30pm to 7:30p

Apollonia Grill
The Landings
4956 S Tamiami Trl
Sarasota, FL 34231
apolloniagrill.com

Please let Peggy O'Connell know by Monday July 7th if you will be attending.

pegoconnell12@gmail.com or (312) 982-1374

National Cemetery Pre-Need Eligibility

The National Cemetery Administration (NCA) manages 155 national cemeteries in the United States and provides grant-funding to 122 state, territory, and tribal veterans cemeteries. Over 4.1 million veterans of every conflict are honored by burial in these cemeteries. NCA has assisted millions of veterans and their families in scheduling and arranging for burial at national cemeteries for themselves and their spouses.

In 2016, NCA developed a **Pre-Need Eligibility application** to assist families with burial planning. No longer do veterans or spouses need to wait until the time of death to find out if they are eligible for burial in a national cemetery or for memorial benefits such as a headstone, flat marker, or bronze medallion for use in private cemeteries.

In FY 2023, 55,374 Pre-Need applications were approved.

Pre-Need applications require the veteran's social security number, date/place of birth, military status and service history such as service dates, discharge character, and rank - information commonly found on the DD214 or other separation documents.

If you do not have discharge documents, NCA staff will help obtain the information needed to determine eligibility or via mail or fax using this form www.va.gov/find-forms/about-form-40-10007/ or simply search for "NCA Pre-Need" on the internet.

If you have questions about future burial needs for yourself or a living dependent of a veteran, or you need assistance with submitting an application please call (800) 535-1117 and press 4. NCA's Scheduling Office is open Monday through Friday 8:00am to 7:30pm EST and Saturday 9:00am to 5:30pm EST except Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day. Telecommunications Relay Services or TTY available at 711.

'Task Scams': How to Steer Clear of This Growing

Type of Fraud by: Kevin Lilley, June 17, 2025

So-called "task scams" – promising compensation for low-level online jobs but instead swindling victims out of personal data, or worse – have exploded, from less than 500 such scams reported to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) 2021 to 20,000 reports in the first six months of 2024.

And unlike other types of job scams, they target individuals of all ages in all financial circumstances. Instead of a 40-hour workweek, they offer pay for repetitive tasks like rating videos or applications, downloading/testing software, or similar easy-to-accomplish online duties. Some might even track the victim's "earnings" in an app as the initial jobs are accomplished. **Then, things turn south.**

"At some point, the app or online platform will ask you to deposit your own money — usually in crypto — to complete your next set of tasks and to get your supposed (fake) earnings out of the app." "But if you make the deposit, not only is your real money is gone, you'll never get those fake earnings."

There are variations on the theme: In some instances, the scammers may ask for bank account information as a way to transfer earnings, but instead sell or use those details to steal the victim's identity. Job scams (including task scams) cost a reported \$41 million in cryptocurrency losses alone in the first six months of 2024, up from \$21 million in all of 2023, per the FTC.

Think service members and veterans are safe? Think again: Business- and job-related scams cost the "military community" – those in uniform and their family members, along with retirees and veterans – \$38.4 million in 2024, up from \$26.4 million the previous year. Victims lost \$2,800 on average in 2024, up from \$2,600 in 2023.

Stopping Task Scams

Along with traditional anti-scam advice [available from MOAA](#) and [other outlets](#), keep the following tips in mind when combating task scams:

- Platform is key. Real job offers won't come unsolicited via text messages, emails, or apps like WhatsApp. It's a reason to stop right from the start.
- Don't pay to get paid. This technique can be found in other scams, such as [multilevel marketing schemes](#), and should be an immediate red flag.
- Follow the money (or don't). Watch for promises of payments in cryptocurrency, and steer clear of any offer that involves gift cards. These payment methods can be all but untraceable, making it more difficult to recover losses after a scam.

If you've been a victim of a task scam or suspect you're being targeted, [file a report with the FTC](#).



YAHOO
Young At Heart Organization
Linda & Ron Wozniak

**Looking for Your Ideas & Volunteers to Organize
 Future YAHOO Events**

We have other YAHOO Events/Outings in mind and would like to see other MOAS Members and/or spouses come up with suggestions and hopefully volunteer to assist and/or organize an event/outing. Linda and Woz will assist you along the way. It is fun and you will be glad you were able to make MOAS an even better organization.

PAST EVENTS & OUTINGS

Saturday 14 June Offshore Fishing

With no Tarpon activity on Bean Point Woz & Chris Nind fished 3 Mile North Reef, Bean Point and Lower Tampa Bay. The Gulf was rougher than expected & fishing was just as tough. Nothing big enough to brag about. All fish caught were returned to the water unharmed.

Monday 9 June Sea Turtle Tracks & Shorebird Facts

Ron Wozniak, June Wolgemuth, Rick & Rosemary Malone, Dave Downer & guest Michelle attended. Anna Maria Island Turtle Watch (AMITW) Danielle Kimberly gave a very interesting and informative presentation, and will bring their Program to our July Luncheon. We had a delicious lunch under the shade of a large tiki on a white sandy beach at the Gulf Drive Cafe, Bradenton Beach.

Friday 20 June Boat Cruise on Sarasota Bay

Attended: Len & Christa Friedlander & Susan (dau), Dave Downer, Ron & Linda Wozniak. Cruise CANCELED due to lightning and group adjourned to Marina Jack's Blue Sunshine Patio overlooking the marina. It never did rain & it turned out to be a beautiful evening with good food, service & Friends.



**Saturday 21 June Military Appreciation Night
 LECOM Park, Bradenton**

Tampa Tarpons at Bradenton Marauders

10 Attendees: Art & Cindy Hillman, Jerry & Vicky Goodin, Ed & Bobbie Hamilton, Bob & Charussri Travers and Ron & Linda Wozniak.



The Marauders' staff treated the Veterans & Spouses attending with sincere recognition and respect throughout the evening.

Woz was asked to throw out the 1st Pitch and says he got it in low for a Ball but over the plate. He did not embarrass himself or MOAS. We had great seats right behind Home Plate. While the weather was threatening, it turned out to be a beautiful night.

UPCOMING EVENTS/OUTINGS

Friday 11 July 1000 - 1300

"No Cost" Pontoon Boat Cruise

Anna Maria Island Sound

Freedom Boat Club Dock

12300 Manatee Ave W., Bradenton

BYO food & drinks for a slow relaxing cruise on Anna Maria Island Sound. Contact Woz at 941-779-5448 or e-mail: RonWozniak13@gmail.com NLT **Wednesday 9 July** for reservations.

Wednesday 16 July 0730

Inshore Fishing Anna Maria Island Sound

Freedom Boat Club Dock

12300 Manatee Ave W., Bradenton

Contact Woz at RonWozniak13@gmail.com or 941-779-5448. NLT **Monday 14 July** for reservations.

Fishing Outings: Start & quit times are flexible. Cost: fuel & tip for dockhand. Bring your own food & drink, sunscreen & a cap, Woz will provide tackle if you do not have any. FL Saltwater fishing license required unless a FL Resident 65 or older. Rubber soled shoes are required aboard all boats.

For information on cancellations, changes in venue, dates & times, go to the MOAS website Calendar & Blogs at <https://www.sarasotamoaa.com/> or text Ron Wozniak: 941-779-5448 or e-mail: RonWozniak13@gmail.com or Linda at 941-779-5447 or NauticalEffect@msn.com.

Receive the Breeze via email or view it on www.sarasotamoaa.com or blog sarasotamoaa.blogspot.com



SARASOTA CHAPTER

Friday July 18, 2025

@ 11:30am

Michael's On East

1212 S East Ave Sarasota, FL 34239

Dress Code – Casual

MENU

SERVED LUNCHEON

Specialty Bread Basket

ENTREE

MoE Summer Cobb Salad

*Grilled Chicken, Assorted Lettuces,
Spiced & Sugared Walnuts, Sliced
Strawberries, Mango, Edamame,
Chopped Egg & Crumbled Gorgonzola
Drizzled with a Sweet Poppy-Seed
Dressings*

VEGETARIAN

Summer Cobb Salad

*Same Salad topped with a Crispy Black
Bean Cake*

***Individual Mason Jars of Salad
Dressing per Guest***

DESSERT

Chocolate Ganache Torte

*Classic Layers of Chocolate Cake &
Mousse Enrobed in Ganache*

Served Coffee, Decaf & Tea

*Pre-set Iced Water
Served Iced Tea w/Lemon upon
request*

Please make your luncheon reservation by mail.

Fill out the form below and mail us your check.

1. Provide first & last names, rank and service of attendees. Use back of form, if needed. Please note in comments if it is your birthday month, you're a new member, a surviving spouse, or if this is your, or your guests, first time attending.
2. Special diet and vegetarian meal requests **MUST** be submitted together with the initial luncheon reservation. Michaels on East will no longer honor last minute requests at the luncheons.
3. **Your reservation and payment should be received no later than 3 days before the luncheon date.** For late registrations, you must EMAIL or Call our Luncheon Coordinator (Peggy O'Connell). Do **not** contact Michaels on East. We will try to accommodate late registrations, but *no guarantees*. We must inform Michaels on East at least 48 hours in advance. *No refunds will be possible after that date.*
4. 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.

MEMBER INFORMATION

Name, Rank Service _____

Phone # _____ email: _____

Please reserve ___ seats for the luncheon

Cost \$39.00/person (Tax & Gratuity incl.)

Enclosed is a check for \$ _____

| Name | Meal (E / V) | Comment |
|------|--------------|---------|
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

COMMENT CODES: SS-Surviving Spouse; BD-Birthday; NM-New Member

Please make the check payable to MOAS

and mail to:

PEGGY O'CONNELL

1100 Imperial Drive #303, Sarasota, FL 34236-2465

Questions? (312) 982-1374 or email: pegoconnell12@gmail.com

NAME TAGS

Fill out the form and provide a check for \$16.50 payable to **MOAS** & we will hand deliver a name tag to you at the next luncheon. Please allow 2 weeks for fabrication.

Give to Len Friedlander at a luncheon or mail to 8221 Deerbrook Circle, Sarasota, FL 34238.

First Name _____ Last name _____

Rank (Abbreviated) _____ Service _____

Status _____

Example

First Name Henry Last name O'Connell

Rank (Abbreviated) LCDR Service USNR Status Ret



JULY - AUGUST 2025



| DATE | EVENT | TIME |
|--------------------|--|------------|
| Friday, July 4 | HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY | |
| Monday, July 7 | MOAS/SMOF Board Meeting - Meadows Wellness Center | 2:00 p.m. |
| Wednesday, July 9 | Meet & Greet - Apollonia Grill at the Landings - Details on Page 9 | 5:30 p.m. |
| Friday, July 11 | YAHOO: No Cost Pontoon Boat Cruise - Details on Page 10 | 10:00 a.m. |
| Wednesday, July 16 | YAHOO: Inshore Fishing - Details on Page 10 | 7:30 a.m. |
| Friday, July 18 | MOAS Luncheon - Michaels on East - Kristen Mazzarella | 11:30 a.m. |
| Monday, August 4 | MOAS/SMOF Board Meeting - Meadows Wellness Center | 2:00 p.m. |
| Friday, August 15 | MOAS Luncheon - Michaels on East - Sarasota Chamber of Commerce | 11:30 a.m. |

TOTALFORCE +

ADVANCING SOLUTIONS FOR THE MILITARY AND VETERAN COMMUNITY

October 28-29, 2025 - National Harbor, MD

When it comes to national defense, MOAA proudly says “Mission first, people always”—but turning those words into lasting impact is what counts. Behind every mission, there are real people with real challenges, from recruitment to retirement.

The question is: How do we truly support them?

At the inaugural **TotalForce+** conference, we’re calling all branches, all ranks, every supporting organization, and all industry partners to unite and advance meaningful solutions for our veterans, service members, DoD civilians, and their families. After all, better care leads to stronger recruitment, which builds a more resilient force—driving a continuous cycle that strengthens and secures the future of America’s all-volunteer fighting force. **DETAILS/REGISTRATION @ [MOAA TOTAL FORCE](#)**

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

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Annual Membership Dues: Regular Surviving Spouse Allied Associate *Mail application with your check for \$35, made payable to MOAS. Postal Newsletter add \$24*

Last Name _____ First Name _____ MI _____ Rank _____ Spouse Name _____

Street Address (Include Apt#) _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Home Phone _____ E-Mail Address _____ Birthday mm/dd/yyyy _____

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 Space Force

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

Signature _____ Date _____ National MOAA Member Number _____

Revised 11/23

Receive the Breeze via email or view it on www.sarasotamoaa.com or *blog* sarasotamoaa.blogspot.com