

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. 11 MOAA 4-Star Chapter 2003/2008/2019; MOAA 5 Star Chapter 2004-2007, 2009-2018, 2020-2024 November 2025

OCTOBER 2025 PROGRAM - Active Shooter Preparedness Class

Sarasota County Deputy Brian Keane gave an outstanding presentation on the County's Active Assailant Program. He has been with the Sheriff's Office for over 25 years, serving in Patrol, Special Investigations, SWAT, Street Crimes, and Crime Prevention.

The informative Active Assailant Program presentation is designed to educate community members on how to respond effectively during a violent incident.

Deputy Keane provided practical guidance on recognizing potential threats, developing situational awareness, and implementing the "Run, Hide, Fight" strategy to increase survival chances. The presentation also emphasized the importance of emergency preparedness, communication with law enforcement during a crisis, and post-incident recovery.

Through engaging discussion and real-world examples, Deputy Keane aimed to empower attendees with the knowledge and confidence to react swiftly and safely in high-stress situations. All attendees would agree, this truly was a lifesaving luncheon program and well worth their time and effort to attend.

NOVEMBER 2025 PROGRAM - Annual Business Meeting & Florida Medal of Honor Memorial - Col Mike Borders

The November luncheon is our chapter's Annual Business Meeting, which will provide information on the chapter's activities during the year, an amendment to the chapter's Bylaws, and the election of Chapter Officers and Directors for 2026.

The Florida Medal of Honor Memorial (FLMOHM) began in 1991 as the Medal of Honor Park, and several efforts were made to enhance the park with a structure and memorial. The Medal of Honor Park Foundation was established in 2011 and renamed in 2014 as the Florida Medal of Honor Memorial.

The project received a state of Florida grant in 2022, final approvals were secured in Nov. 2022, and a groundbreaking ceremony took place on Nov 29, 2022. Preparations, planning, and fund-raising continued, with dedication finally taking place on Dec. 12, 2024. Without the overwhelming generous support of businesses and citizens of the Sebring Florida community, the project would never have been realized.

Our speaker is COL Mike Borders, U.S. Army (Ret), who served 30 years as a Signal Officer and Latin American Foreign Area Officer. He served stateside at Ft. Hood, TX twice and had six overseas tours, one in Germany and the others in Latin America. Mike is a graduate of Command & General Staff College and Senior Service College at the Inter-American Defense College. A fluent Spanish speaker, Mike also has a master's degree in Latin American Studies from the University of Texas at Austin. Following his military career, Mike worked for six and a half years at the National Defense University.

Mike came to Sebring in 2014 and quickly became involved in a range of veteran groups. He served as state president of the Military Officers Assn. of America (MOAA) for two years, and as the local MOAA chapter president in Sebring for seven years. His main focus at this time is the Florida Medal of Honor Memorial.

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

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	Vacant
BLOG/Social Media/Photo	Vacant
Membership Committee	
Recruiting & Retention	Len Friedlander
Recruiting & Retention	William F. Lawyer
Reporting & Records	Christa I. Friedlander
Personal Affairs Committee	
Surviving Spouses Liaison	Vacant
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*

We had a great luncheon meeting on October 17th. First of all, we were honored to have a JROTC official from Booker High School, CW4 Jason Greene, attend and speak briefly about the JROTC program at the school. He was introduced by Bill Lawyer, along with a senior Booker HS JROTC cadet, Cadet Lt Col Alex Matate, who plans to attend the Military Academy at West Point.

Bill also presented a Sarasota Military Officers Foundation (SMOF) check for \$1,275 to purchase a Booker JROTC canopy for their events, something that has been sorely been missing by their organization. On top of that - CW4 Greene became a MOAS member!

Woz, who had planned the program for this date with the FBI, had to find a replacement with almost NO notice when it turned out that the Federal Government shutdown made it impossible for the FBI to attend. With a lot of quick thinking, he set about to find a replacement and came up with a great program presented by the Sarasota County Sheriff's Office (SCSO). Deputy Sheriff Brian Keane, with a helper to run the projector, gave an excellent presentation about what to do when someone with "negative intent" shows up in your life.

Please read through this November Breeze as there's always a lot of good information related to legislative situations requiring member action, YAHOO events, and local events of importance to all of us.

The Breeze always includes the sign-up information for the next luncheon (see page 11). We do need to have a good turnout to have Michaels on East continue to welcome us.

This next time we're also going to have our annual business meeting where we will elect new board members for the coming year (or more). I have appointed a nominating committee, chaired by Colonel Wes Moy, and he will present a proposed slate of members for election to the Board.

The November luncheon will also feature COL Mike Borders who will present information on the significance and construction of the Florida Medal of Honor Memorial in Sebring Florida.

Please plan to come to participate in our annual election and to also to hear our guest speaker; it's important to honor them with our presence!



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 October 8, 2025 at the Meadows Meadows Community Office. 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 1403 and began the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer led by Chaplain Lindquist.

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

COMMITTEE CHAIRS & VISITORS PRESENT: Troy Scott (Nominating Comm), Linda Wozniak (YAHOO)

PRESIDENT'S ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

- The next MOAS luncheon will be on Friday, Oct. 17, 2025.
- COL Mike Borders will be speaking about the Florida Medal of Honor Memorial on Nov. 21 – and we'll have our annual business meeting and election of board members.

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT: (Steve Carnes)

I have concerns about our aging membership. How are we going to attract younger people to become members? What is the status of the Bradenton chapter?

Len Friedlander committed to providing the Board with current membership age metrics.

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

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT:(Jon Gordon)Nothing to Report

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

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

The BMO CD was closed upon maturity and a check for \$11,228 was hand-carried to the Community Foundation of Sarasota County for the funds to be added to the SMOF Endowment Fund.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

MEMBERSHIP: (Len Friedlander)

- Current membership is 202
- Continuing to update the MOAA Committee Module.
- Using the latest MOAA Near Real Time listing to look for new members.

JROTC, MCJROTC: (Bill Lawyer) Sending reminder letters to all Senior Military Instructors to begin considering their choices for outstanding cadets.

MONTH	BOARD	LUNCHEON
October	Monday 8	Friday 17
November	Monday 3	Friday 21
December	Monday 1	Sunday 7

LUNCHEON REPORT:(Peggy O'Connell):September Luncheon Attendees: 42 Paid:\$1638, Cost: \$1549.80, Excess \$88.20

BREEZE NEWSLETTER: (Len Friedlander) The August issue was published and emailed to 230 addresses. Twenty-eight (28) copies were printed and mailed to members.

- Sent a copy to Mike Soden to upload onto website and attempted to contact him to discuss future of our interaction on website.
- We must select an outside webmaster and website host if contact with Soden is not satisfactory. (Cost would be \$75 per month)

MEET & GREET: (Peggy O'Connell) We had 11 attendees at GrillSmith. I anticipate at least 8 on Oct 8th at Mattisons 41.

PROGRAMS: (Ron Wozniak)

Future Programs

- 17 October- FBI Special Agent Bryce Essary, Active Shooter Attack Prevention and Preparedness (ASAPP).
- 21 November- COL Mike Borders, USA (Ret) Florida Medal of Honor Memorial, Sebring FL
- 7 December- (Sunday) Winter Gala; no luncheon.
- 17 April- Mr. Michael Keil, Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches, Inc

YAHOO: (Ron & Linda Wozniak)

- Wednesday 22 Oct - Gold Coast Eagle Distributing Tour.
- Wednesday 22 Oct Annual Oktoberfest @Gold Coast Eagle
- Saturday 1 November Air Boat Tour on the Peace River
- Saturday 13 December Army Navy Football Game Watch Party @Elke & Troy Scott (West Point Grad) have graciously offered to host the YAHOO Watch Party. Jeff Warmington is going to coordinate the Navy fans.

SARASOTA MILITARY OFFICERS FOUNDATION, INC

SCHOLARSHIP REPORT: (Bill Lawyer): I will meet with the representatives of Ringling College this week to discuss distribution of funds to more than one student.

OLD BUSINESS:

- We need a new Scholarship committee chairperson.
- We need a Marketing & Communications person
- Status of membership survey.
- The Laurel Oak Country Club event on Sept. 25 was cancelled
- The nominating committee needs to be formed ASAP.

NEW BUSINESS:

- FCoC Leadership, Training Event & Convention.
- Funding of the FCoC event (level of support to provide).
- Acquisition of Webmaster for MOAS Website
- Modification of Chapter Bylaws to allow Allied Officers to fill elected positions

BOARD APPROVED ACTIONS/MOTIONS:

- A motion was approved unanimously, to select an outside source to be our webmaster at a cost of approximately \$75.00 per month
- A motion was unanimously approved to provide \$300.00 for FCOC Casino Night and \$200.00 for the Friday Awards Dinner.
- A motion made by Christa was unanimously approved to contribute \$500.00 to Patriot Paws service Dogs.
- Troy Scott requested discussion to allow allied officer MOAS members to be eligible for BOD. A motion was made, and unanimously approved to amend MOAS by laws to allow allied officer MOAS members to fill Board of Director positions.

The meeting adjourned at 1602.

NEXT MEETING: The next Board meeting will be Monday, Nov 3, 2025 2:00pm at the Meadows Fitness & Wellness Facility.

	LUNCHEON PROGRAMS
October	FBI - Active Shooter Preparedness Class
November	Annual Mtg + FL Medal of Honor Memorial



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER Michael Lindquist

POWER

POWER can be defined in many ways. It can be seen as the ability to do something or to act in a particular way. It can also mean the physical strength or force exerted by someone or something.

But power is not an end in and of itself, it is not a goal to be sought. True Power is not about physical strength; it is the energy that flows from our thoughts, the ideas we form, and the words we choose to speak.

Often called Spiritual Power, this energy flows into our body through our spiritual center—the chakra at the top of the head and is released as radiant energy through the chakra at the throat.

Spiritual power is your inner strength, the invisible force that gives you life.

In Buddhism, there are five spiritual powers: faith, effort, mindfulness, concentration, and wisdom. You can connect with your own spiritual power through meditation, self-reflection, and gratitude.

Your spiritual power is uniquely yours. No one else can find it for you. It begins within and may take different forms for different people. You can discover the depth of your power by:

- Asking yourself honest, introspective questions such as, "What is my life goal?" or "What gives me purpose?"
- Writing down your goals and intentions.
- Spending time in nature—taking walks, sitting near a body of water, or watching the sunrise or sunset.

We are all creations of God, each carrying the same divine spark. Practice gratitude, kindness, and compassion with everyone you meet, remembering that the Spirit within is the same for all.

Namaste,

Michael

MEMBERSHIP UPDATES New Members

Escobar, Frank A. LCDR, USN (Ret) (Ria)

Leung, Andrew J. Capt, USMC (Rachel)

4705 Sweetmeadow Circle
Sarasota, FL 34238-4336

203-253-1623 aleung@procyon.net

Greene, Jason A. CW4, USA (Ret) (Amoy)

6033 Maidenstone Way
Palmetto, FL 34221

912-662-3789 sirjasongreene@gmail.com

NATIONAL WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA DAY SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2025

SPONSOR WREATHS - \$17.00



Sponsoring a veteran's wreath is a personal gift of gratitude and remembrance for someone who served this country so that we can be free.

On-line wreath sponsorships are due by Dec 2, 2025.

November 10, 2025

Honoring All Those Who Served



★ 7 to 9 a.m. ★
Carlisle Inn
3727 Bahia Vista Street, Sarasota

Our Keynote this year...



Ron Turner

Our Supervisor of Elections, a proud Veteran of the United States Army and a member of the Disabled American Veterans.

REGISTRATION

Individual Tickets: \$25

Kim Noyes: 228-9144 (voice or text) 827-2920 (fax)

The Sarasota Kiwanis Foundation is a 501c3 Charitable Organization

SRQKiwanisVeteransDayBreakfast@gmail.com

Register online via the links above OR

Send your checks to
Sarasota Kiwanis Foundation
6120 S. Lockwood Ridge Road
Sarasota, FL 34231

A percentage of the proceeds from this event will be donated to the benefit of:
Office of Veterans Success University of South Florida (Sarasota- Manatee campus)



SUNCOAST DIGITAL CONNECT DONATE IT!

The Patterson Foundation's Digital Access for All initiative (DA4A)

THE DA4A DEVICE DRIVE!

October 6, 2025 to January 31, 2026

Do you have old laptops, tablets or computers you no longer use?
You can help someone in your community stay connected by donating your gently used devices!

What Can You Donate?

- Computers, monitors, printers, tablets, smartphones
- Peripherals (hard drives, CD/DVD readers/writers, and other computer items)

Where Can You Donate?

Manatee County

The POINT

Address: 7666 15th Street E, Sarasota, FL 34243
Phone: 941-713-9724 (Marla Smith) Hours: Monday-Friday | 9:30am-3:30pm

Women's Resource Center

Address: 1926 Manatee Ave. W., Bradenton, FL 34205
Phone: 941-747-6797
Hours: Monday-Thursday | 9:00am-6:00pm

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND QUESTIONS

Contact **Marla Smith**

Email: msmithtpf@gmail.com

Contact **Cinthia Pena (bi-lingual)**

Email: cpenatpf@gmail.com

Sarasota County

Sarasota Technology Users Group

Address: 3949 Sawyer Rd, Sarasota, FL 34233
Phone: 941-539-7401 (Mike Hutchinson)
Hours: Mon, Wed, Fri | 10:00am-noon

No appointment needed.

Just let them know you are dropping off devices in support of the DA4A Device Drive.

The Patterson Foundation Office:

Address: 2 N. Tamiami Trail, Ste 206, Sarasota, FL 34236
Phone: 941-952-1413
Hours: Mon-Thu | 8:00am-5:00pm Friday | 8:00am-2:00pm

Women's Resource Center

Address: 340 S. Tuttle Ave, Sarasota, FL 34237
Phone: 941-366-1700
Hours: Monday-Thursday | 9:00am-6:00pm

FL Drivers License Renewals & Voter Registration

Floridians renewing or replacing their driver's license since July 2024 have been issued new, randomized ID numbers. Update your voter registration information with your new driver's license number.



Sarasota Military Officers Foundation (SMOF)

Bill Lawyer

We received some Thank You notes from our veteran scholarship recipients at the State College of Florida (Sarasota-Manatee Campus) and I thought you would like to meet some of them.

Dear Scholarship Donor,

My name is Shakira Brown, and I am a veteran of the United States Army. I wanted to reach out and express how thankful I am to have received this opportunity.

Since finishing my term in the military, I have been on a life-changing journey searching for something that I might be just as passionate about. For quite some time now, I've had the desire to become a dental hygienist. Not only have I dreamed of this, but I have taken the necessary actions to follow this passion and reach my goals. I put forward my best efforts throughout the past few years, fulfilled all my prerequisites, and made the high honors dean's list to apply to the dental hygiene program.

I am thrilled to say I was selected and accepted into the State College of Florida dental hygiene program last year and I am now going into my second year, one step closer to accomplishing my degree. All of which would not have been possible without your generous help and support, so thank you again for this opportunity.
Shakira Brown

My name is Joshua Timms, and I want to sincerely thank you for selecting me as a recipient of the Military Officers Association of Sarasota Scholarship. I'm currently studying toward my Bachelor of Science in Nursing at State College of Florida, intending to become a surgical nurse practitioner.

My journey into healthcare began with my service in the United States Coast Guard. The experience taught me to stay calm under pressure and work as part of a team during life-or-death situations. This foundation continued to grow in my roles as an EMT, ER Technician, and Interventional Radiology Tech, where I developed a strong understanding of emergency care and patient management. I've learned that, in nursing, success comes from a balance of technical skills and emotional awareness, both of which I continue to build on every day.

This scholarship means so much to me. It not only eases the financial pressure of college but also motivates me to keep pushing forward, knowing some people believe in students like me. I've always been drawn to healthcare because of how deeply it impacts lives. Becoming a nurse practitioner will allow me to serve my community in a meaningful and hands-on way, especially in surgical care, where every decision can change someone's life.

I'm incredibly grateful for your generosity. Thank you for investing in my future and for helping me get one step closer to making a real difference.

Sincerely,
Joshua Timms

Dear Scholarship Donor,

Thank you for choosing me as a recipient for the Military Officers Association of Sarasota Scholarship. I am incredibly grateful to have my service in the military honored in this way. I served in the U.S. Navy for nine years as an aviation structural mechanic on the beautiful Whidbey Island in Washington State.

I began my Naval career as an aircraft mechanic working on EA-18G Growlers which are the nerdy siblings to the F-18s. I quickly worked my way up the ranks to E-5 which is the rank that I separated from the military at. Six years into my enlistment, I accepted orders to attend Non-Destructive Inspector school in which I transitioned from a maintainer to inspecting aircraft components with non-destructive methods. People in this field are often coined as the nerds of the aviation structural mechanic community. Our inspection methods included magnetic particles, ultrasound, x-ray, dye penetrant, and eddy current. Being an NDI Technician was my favorite assignment, but I chose to separate from the military after nine years because I wanted to start a family.

I thought I had my career goals sorted out after the military, but that quickly changed when I became a mother. I now have two daughters, ages 2 and 4, and am attending college full time working towards my BAS in Management and Leadership. I hope to utilize my degree to be the best leader I can be while also aiding and empowering my community.

Thank you again for this scholarship, I am forever grateful to you for helping me reach my education goals!

Respectfully,
Jessi Renee Bost

Dear Scholarship Donor,

Thank you for selecting me for the Fall 2025 Military Officers Association of Sarasota Scholarship! I'm honored and very grateful for your support.

Returning to college at 47 was a major decision, shaped by life experiences and a profound desire to grow. After graduating from high school in 1995, I served in the U.S. Air Force as a Telecommunications Technician. Thereafter, I had the opportunity to build a career in healthcare IT, unfortunately, due to chronic health challenges, I had to step away in 2016. Since then, my wife and I have relocated to Sarasota, raised our five children, and navigated a range of challenges, from home repair disputes to personal health setbacks. Despite it all, I've remained committed to rebuilding with purpose.

Being back in the classroom, now at SCF, has been both humbling and empowering. I've had moments of doubt—but also moments of connection, clarity, and confirmation. The encouragement I've received from professors, classmates, and Foundation staff has reminded me that it's never too late to grow or contribute.

This scholarship eases a real financial burden. Between medical needs, school expenses, and the cost of daily living, your support truly matters. It allows me to focus on developing my academic and creative goals. I'm currently pursuing my AA in Liberal Arts with plans to transfer into a B.A.S. program in Supervision and Management or Studio Art. Either way, I hope to use what I've gained to support others—whether through mentoring, ministry, or community advocacy. Thank you for investing in my future. I won't take it for granted.
With sincere appreciation,
William Graham III

OCTOBER 2025 LUNCHEON PHOTOS



Jerry Goodin (l) & Bill Lawyer



Ron Wozniak & Brian Keane
Sarasota County Deputy Sheriff



Debra Sandberg (l) & Mae Miller



(L-r) Art Hillman, Paul Soderquist
& Michael Lindquist



Peggy & Elizabeth Mock



Bill Lawyer presents SMOF grant to
CW4 Jason Greene, SMI, Booker HS
JROTC & Cadet LTC Alex Matate



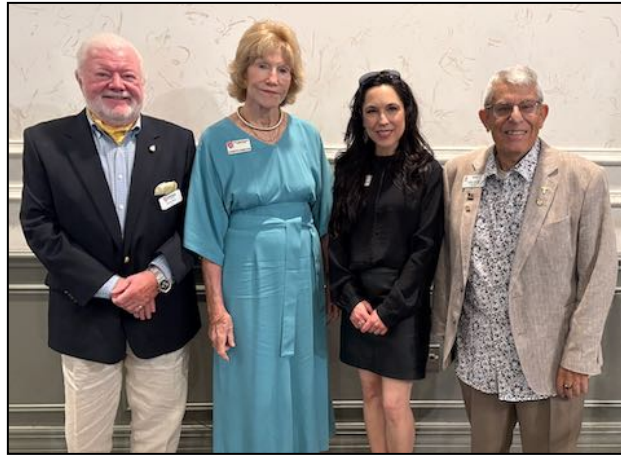
Francine King & Stephen Carnes



Bobbie & Ed Hamilton



Mike Mason & Sylvia Barber



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS
(l-r) Chris Nind, Bobbie Hamilton, Elizabeth Mock & Dave Downer



Linda Vernon (l), guest of Linda Wozniak



Phyllis & Bob Wolff



Michael Lindquist



Bill Lawyer (l) & guest Lew Berman



Cynthia Nind (l) Ilene & Paul O'Connell



Booker HS JROTC Cadet LTC Alex Matate & Booker HS JROTC Senior Military Instructor CW4 Jason Greene



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Michael Lindquist

Greetings from MOAA....

The federal government has begun taking action to shut down. This is not a distant policy fight — it will have immediate and lasting consequences for our nation's service members and their families.

Without a doubt, this is a failure on the part of our elected officials, and those who serve to protect our nation are now being forced to carry the burden of Washington's dysfunction.

The Solution, At Least a Partial One: The Pay Our Troops Act

The Pay Our Troops Act of 2026 (H.R. 5401) would ensure servicemembers and many service-connected civilians continue to receive pay and allowances during a shutdown. The bipartisan bill already has more than 55 cosponsors.

"This legislation provides the financial certainty military families deserve, protecting them from the instability of government shutdowns while they protect us," said MOAA President and CEO Lt. Gen. Brian T. Kelly, USAF (Ret).

But Congress still hasn't done its full duty. The bill covers the Armed Forces and the Coast Guard, yet leaves out the USPHS Commissioned Corps and the NOAA Corps. These are uniformed services too — and MOAA will continue to fight until every servicemember is protected.

Take Action Now

Must-Read:

Retired Pay

Q. I'm a military retiree. Will I get my next check?

A. Yes. Military retirement is paid from the Military Retirement Fund, not from yearly appropriations.

Q. I'm a disabled Veteran. Will I get my next disability check?

A. Yes. VA disability, pension, education, and housing benefits continue as usual. Payments are funded in advance and are not tied to the annual budget fight.

RICHARD STAR ACT

Senate Floor Action

The Senate version of the bill (S. 1032) was introduced Oct. 8 for consideration by unanimous consent on the Senate floor. The effort would've moved the bill forward to the House for a vote, but it was blocked by an objection.

After the objection, a compromise motion to waive procedural hurdles and allow a single roll call vote (at a 60-vote threshold) on the bill before the end of the year was raised. It was blocked in similar fashion.

The voiced objections claimed the bill would amount to "double dipping" and would impose unacceptable costs. However, retirement pay and disability compensation are two separate, service-earned benefits, and the cost is modest in the context of the broader federal (and military) budget.

Take Action Now

How You Can Get Involved

As the House and Senate prepare to take up their respective versions of the FY 2026 NDAA, your voice is critical in shaping the final outcome. Lawmakers must hear directly from you about the importance of these amendments and how their inclusion in the NDAA will impact the uniformed services and veteran communities.

Here's how you can take action:

- **Engage** Through MOAA's Legislative Action Center: Send messages to your elected officials urging their support for amendments like the Major Richard Star Act and improvements to TRICARE access.
- **Build Awareness:** Share MOAA updates with fellow servicemembers, retirees, and family members to broaden the impact of our collective voice.
- **Stay Informed:** Follow MOAA's coverage on our website and in our newsletter as the NDAA moves through both chambers and into conference.

Together, through informed and active advocacy, MOAA can help ensure the FY 2026 NDAA protects the service-earned pay and benefits of our nation's past, present, and future uniformed servicemembers, their family members, and their survivors. For more legislative updates or to act, visit the [MOAA Legislative Action Center](#).

Key Bills Supported by MOAA:

S. 201: ACES Act of 2025 Retirees/Veterans 08/14/2025 Signed by President.

S. 2392: Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2025 Retirees/Veterans 07/30/2025 Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Ordered to be reported without amendment favorably.

H.R. 3578: Improving Veterans' Experience Act of 2025 Retirees/Veterans, VA Health Care 05/23/2025 Introduced in House

H.R. 3547: Servicemember Healthcare Freedom Act of 2025 DoD Health Care 05/21/2025 Introduced in House

S. 1861: Servicemember Healthcare Freedom Act of 2025 DoD Health Care 05/22/2025 Introduced in Senate



YAHOO
Young At Heart Organization
Linda & Ron Wozniak

PAST EVENTS/OUTINGS

Thursday 25 September ABC 7 Studio Tour (21 Attended) First stop was the Podcast Room, then Newsroom, Control Room and finally the Studio.

It was a most enlightening and informative tour. All the staff made us feel welcome and important and we appreciated the time and effort they put in to make our tour special. We had nothing but good feedback from those in attendance.



Attendees: Ron & Linda Wozniak, Chris Nind, Bill Lawyer, Steve Carnes & Francine King, Sylvia Barber, June Wolgemuth, Steve Mulligan & Susan Ross, Troy & Elke Scott, Estrella Englehardt, Dennis & Meryl Gale Ciborowski, Linda Brent, Jon & Mary Gordon, Wes Moy, Rich & Betty Greenspan.

Lunch and/or drinks followed at Marina Jack's Blue Sunshine Patio overlooking the marina.

UPCOMING EVENTS/OUTINGS

Saturday 8 November 1200

Air Boat Tour (Arrive NLT 1140)

4204 SW Adventure Way, Arcadia, FL 34266

50-Minute Airboat Ride on the Peace River

COST: \$52 or \$47/person with Military ID if we have at least 10. Pay Peace River Charters at the site.

[Tours | Peace River Charters](#)

RSVP to Woz NLT Friday 31 October.

"Our Peace River airboat tour is fun, exciting and family oriented, moving at fast speeds covering over 20 miles of river you will travel down the lower peace river as your guide shows your various wildlife and reptiles and amazing scenery. Our goal is to give our customers a personalized tour for all ages. The river has so much to offer with its amazing scenery with hundreds of species of animal and plant life. Come on a memorable **REAL FLORIDA RIDE**."

Lunch following the tour at Navigator Bar and Grill, 9700 SW Riverview Circle, Arcadia, FL

Saturday 13 December Kickoff: 1500

Army Navy Football Game Watch Party

The Scotts, USMA 1966 and the Warmingtons, USNA 1977, will host an Army-Navy Watch Party Game at the Scott residence,

841 Forestview Ct, Sarasota.

Troy will prepare his famous Billy Goat Chili, and Jeff will bring his special Mule Fritters.

Everyone is encouraged to bring a salad dish or dessert to share. Please BYOB.

Game starts at 3 PM, be sure to get here for the kickoff.

Call Troy or Elke at 941-379-3023 to RSVP.

Don't forget to wear your favorite team's colors. Black, Gold, Gray is the best choice, but Navy Blue and Gold are good too...Marines Red & Gold.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION



MOAS MEET & GREET

Wednesday November 12th

5:00pm to 7:30p

Bonefish Grill

3971 S. Tamiami Trail

Sarasota, FL 34231

[https:// bonefishgrill.com](https://bonefishgrill.com)

Please let Peggy O'Connell know by Monday November 10th if you will be attending.

pegoconnell12@gmail.com or (312)



Military Officers Association of America

Florida Council of Chapters (FCoC)



Leadership Training Seminar

&

49th Annual Convention

29-31 January 2026



Rosen Centre Hotel | Orlando, Florida

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

URGENT - PLEASE RESPOND**WE WANT TO KNOW IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN ATTENDING THE GALA THIS YEAR.**

The MOAS BOD is trying to determine how many of you would attend the MOAS Gala Sunday December 7, 2025

Your feedback will determine if we will finalize plans.

DINNER DANCING

Please email Woz at RonWozniak13@gmail.com NLT Friday 24 October
with a simple YES (How many in your party) or NO.

Cost per person: \$110.00

We are NOT asking for payment at this time.

IMPORTANT TIME-SENSITIVE!**Tricare warns government shutdown could stall claims payments**

As the federal government shutdown continues, some Tricare medical providers are being told their claims for services for military families may not be paid until government funding is restored, according to the Tricare.mil website.

It's not clear why those claims are delayed or why the money isn't available now to pay claims for that care, as the Defense Department's shutdown guidance specifically exempts private-sector care under Tricare from the shutdown's effects.

According to shutdown guidance issued by DOD, "private sector care under Tricare" is excepted from the shutdown, and is specifically identified as one of the missions and functions that may continue to be carried out in the absence of available appropriations.

Tricare.mil [reiterates that guidance](#), saying Tricare patients "may continue to get care or attend currently scheduled appointments with your civilian providers. Your usual out-of-pocket costs will apply."

However, a key issue for medical providers is payment for their services. The Tricare page goes on to state that "Tricare may not be able to process or pay medical claims for services received on or after October 1, 2025, until funding is restored. The Defense Health Agency (DHA) is also working with Tricare contractors to also communicate with healthcare providers on potential delays in payment. We understand this may cause concern and inconvenience, and we sincerely regret the disruption. We remain committed to resuming full operation as quickly as possible once appropriations are enacted."

**7th Annual Portraits of Courage:
Vietnam Remembered Years Later****NOVEMBER 14, 2025 5:00 PM****RINGLING COLLEGE OF ART AND DESIGN
SELBY FOUNDATION GALLERY**2700 N. Tamiami Trail
Sarasota FL 34234**November 14 - December 9, 2025**

The Ringling College of Art and Design is honored to present the 7th annual installment of Annual Portraits of Courage: Vietnam Remembered Years Later — a powerful exhibition paying tribute to the valor, resilience, and humanity of American veterans.

This year, the exhibition focuses on the Vietnam War, spotlighting the experiences and sacrifices of the men and women who served during one of the most complex and contested chapters in U.S. military history. Through evocative painted portraits created by Ringling College students and faculty, viewers are invited to witness the deeply personal stories of local Vietnam veterans—stories of bravery, endurance, and the enduring costs of war.

GALLERY HOURS: Tuesday - Friday, 9am - 3pm
please visit www.ringlingcollege.gallery.

Medicare Open Enrollment Period

Now's the time to compare Medicare plans for 2026. Visit medicare.gov through December 7 to compare plans and make any changes. Your new coverage will start January 1, 2026 if you change plans.

Why compare plans for next year? Plans change, and your health care needs or situation may have changed, too. Find a Medicare plan that fits your current needs.

Compare Plans

When comparing plans, look at the estimated "Yearly Drug & Premium Cost." A plan with the lowest premium may not always provide the lowest total cost to you.

Key Points for the 2026 COLA

Expected increase: Projections point to a COLA of around 2.7% to 2.8%, a modest increase over 2025's 2.5%.

Final announcement delayed: The official COLA announcement will be delayed until the Sep inflation data is released, which is being held up by the shutdown.

How it affects payments: The COLA will be reflected in Social Security checks starting in January 2026.

Impact on Medicare: A significant portion of the increase may be offset by a projected increase in Medicare Part B premiums, which are expected to rise from \$185.00 to \$206.50 per month.

Beneficiaries will not see a decrease: Despite the potential for a smaller net increase, a hold-harmless provision ensures that beneficiaries' Social Security checks will not be reduced.



SARASOTA CHAPTER

**Friday November 21, 2025
@ 11:30am**

Michael's On East

1212 S East Ave Sarasota, FL 34239

Dress Code – Coat - Tie Optional

MENU

SERVED LUNCHEON

Specialty Bread Basket

ENTREE

Roasted Sliced Turkey Breast

*Served with House-made Gravy,
Caramelized Sweet Potatoes with
Pecans & Scallions, Steamed Baby
Carrots, Brussel Sprouts and
Cranberry Sauce*

VEGETARIAN

Portobello Wellington

*Portobello Caps Stuffed with
Mushroom, Spinach,
Toasted Pine Nuts, & Gruyere
Baked in a Golden Brown Puff Pastry*

DESSERT

Spiced Pumpkin Torte

*Salted Caramel Buttercream,
Candied Pecans & Jack Daniels
Caramel Drizzle*

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).
4. 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.*
5. 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



NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2025



DATE	EVENT	TIME
Monday, Nov 3	MOAS/SMOF Board Meeting - Meadows Lifestyle & Wellness Building	2:00 p.m.
Saturday, Nov 8	YAHOO: Air Boat Tour, Arcadia - Details on Page 9	12:00 p.m.
Monday, Nov 10	Kiwanis Breakfast Honoring Veterans - Details on Page 4	7:00 a.m.
Tuesday, Nov 11	VETERANS DAY	
Wednesday, Nov 12	Meet & Greet - Bonefish Grill - Details on Page 9	5:00 p.m.
Friday, Nov 14	Ringling Museum - Profiles in Courage - Details on Page 10	5:00 p.m.
Friday, Nov 21	MOAS Luncheon - Annual Meeting + FL MOH Memorial	11:30 a.m.
Monday, Dec 1	MOAS/SMOF Board Meeting - Meadows Lifestyle & Wellness Building	2:00 p.m.
Sunday, Dec 7	MOAS GALA - Details on Page 10	
Saturday, Dec 13	YAHOO: Army - Navy Football Game - Details on Page 9	3:00 p.m.

2026 MOAS Membership Renewal Campaign

Our MOAS 2026 membership renewal applications will be mailed to you during the month of November. Please review the information to ensure its accuracy, and return the application with your annual dues at your earliest convenience to allow us to present an accurate membership count, based on end-of-year numbers, to National MOAA and the Florida Council of Chapters.

If you are currently not a national MOAA member and would like to join with a FREE basic membership, please check the box on the form providing permission for us to submit your email address to MOAA to establish your membership.

We ask that those over 90 years of age (who are dues exempt) also return the forms, corrected if necessary, so we can keep our records up to date and allow us to keep you informed of ongoing events.

Please consider adding a donation to our Sarasota Military Officers Foundation when writing your membership check, and enable us to continue our support to local high school Junior ROTC units, provide scholarships to graduating high school seniors continuing their education, and to veterans requiring financial support while attending local colleges and universities.

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