THE SARASOTA BREEZE

MOAA Military Officers Association of America Sarasota Chapter

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 2015/2017-2025; 4 Star 2016; Website 5-Star 2015-2025

Vol. XXXVII No. 11 MOAA 4-Star Chapter 2003/2008/2019; MOAA 5 Star Chapter 2004-2007, 2009-2018, 2020-2025 November 2026

NOVEMBER 2026 PROGRAM - Annual Business Meeting & John McCarthy

Marie Selby Botanical Gardens VP for Regional History

The November luncheon is our chapter's Annual Business Meeting, which will provide information on the chapter's activities during the year and the election of Chapter Officers and Directors for 2027.

The November program will highlight the extent of Native American settlement around Sarasota County, the barrier islands and beyond, covering 12,000 years of Florida history, and the archaeologists who have studied Sarasota's ancient past since the 1870s.

John McCarthy is passionate about Florida ecology and history. A skilled storyteller, John is well known for his encyclopedic knowledge of the Sarasota region. John is a native Floridian and has lived in Sarasota since 1968. He attended Pine View School and received his BS from Goshen College, Indiana. He worked with Sarasota County Government for 32 years as an Environmental Specialist, County Historian, and Director of Parks and Recreation.

John joined the Marie Selby Botanical Gardens team in 2020 when the organization adopted the Historic Spanish Point Campus.

Luncheon Reservation Forms for NOVEMBER 20 & DECEMBER 8

are available on Pages 12 & 13 respectively of this newsletter and the EVENTS page of the chapter website.

You will notice the chapter now provides an option for you to sign up and pay the events by check (and completing the paper form) as we have been doing, or **on-line** using your **credit card**.

Payments using your credit card may ONLY be made on-line and WILL NOT be accepted at the door.

OCTOBER 2026 PROGRAM - Dena Kilgore - MOAA Councils & Chapters

Ms. Dena Kilgore, the MOAA Program Director of Affiliated Councils and Chapters provided an interesting and informative presentation to approximately 50 members and guests.

After introducing herself and her career, she explained some of MOAA's advocacy successes to date, such as Tricare for Life (TFL), Elimination of the Social Security offset & Widow's Tax, the PACT Act, and the Post 9/11 GI Bill transfer of benefits to spouses and children. She reminded us that MOAA is not just for officers but supports all ranks, and stressed the success of the 14.5% pay raise for junior enlisted personnel in 2025.

She addressed MOAA's summer initiatives - restoring TFL coverage for GLP-1, the Major Richard Star Act, and expanding the Work Opportunities Tax Credit to military spouses - and highlighted MOAA's Tier One Legislative Priorities; the Shutdown Fairness Act, he GUARD VA Benefits Act, the Military Care Act, and improvements to Veteran Caregiver Support and the Work Opportunity Tax Credit.

Dena identified various MOAA website features - not the least being the Legislative Action Center for contacting our legislators. Finally, Dena discussed the work of MOAA Charities in the military community, and future MOAA plans and conferences such as Total Force+ which will occur in Feb 2027.

With over 350,000 members MOAA is a vital organization in support of our military, and we appreciate Dena's visit.

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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	Steven L. Carnes
1st Vice President	Wesley R. Moy
2nd Vice President	Christopher V. Nind
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	David Downer
Legislative Committee	Michael Lindquist
Vets Affairs/Commission	Peter Dering
Marketing & Communications Committee	
Chairperson	Vacant
Editor-Newsletter	Len Friedlander
Web Site	Len Friedlander
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	Christopher Nind
Luncheon Programs	Christopher Nind
Young at Heart [YAHOO]	Ron Wozniak
YAHOO Coordinator	Linda Wozniak
Meet & Greet	Peggy O'Connell
Luncheon Committee	
Chairperson & Coordinator	Mary Gordon
Greeter	Peter Dering
50-50 Manager	Jonathan Gordon
Scholarship Committee	
Chairperson	William F. Lawyer
Member	Brenda Moy
Member	Len Friedlander
Member	Mary Gordon
Member	Linda Wozniak
Member	Art Hillman
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

Steven L. Carnes

On March 4, 1865, as the American Civil War neared its conclusion, President Abraham Lincoln delivered his Second Inaugural Address from the steps of the U.S. Capitol. Four years earlier, standing in that exact location, Lincoln had addressed a deeply fractured nation. In his first speech, he focused heavily on Constitutional principles, pleading for national unity to avoid a looming conflict. Despite his desperate efforts, the country plunged into a devastating war that ultimately claimed the lives of over 600,000 Americans.

By 1865, with the total defeat of the Confederacy drawing near, Lincoln chose to keep his second address remarkably brief. At roughly 700 words, it was a mere fraction of the length of his first inaugural speech. However, what the text lacked in word count, it surrendered nothing in emotional power, spiritual depth, and eloquence. Lincoln used the platform to directly denounce slavery, framing the brutal war as a form of divine retribution meant to wash away the nation's historical sins. Instead of celebrating a military triumph, he concluded with a poignant call for nationwide healing and reconciliation, solidifying a solemn promise to the soldiers who fought to preserve the Union.

Lincoln urged Americans to act with "malice toward none; with charity for all." He called upon the citizenry to bind up the nation's wounds and, crucially, to "care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan." This particular phrase laid the ethical and philosophical foundation for how the United States would treat its military veterans moving forward.

Tragically, Lincoln did not live to see his vision of a harmonious, reunited nation fully realized. An assassin's bullet took his life just days after the Confederate surrender at Appomattox Court House. Even before his death, the federal government had begun implementing programs to fulfill Lincoln's pledges. In 1862, Congress passed a comprehensive pension law to compensate soldiers for both combat injuries and illnesses contracted in service. That same year, the national cemetery system was established. One day before his second inauguration, Lincoln signed a bill creating a national home for disabled volunteer soldiers, which expanded into eleven residential locations over the next fifty years.

Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address remains one of his most celebrated works, surpassed in historical popularity only by the Gettysburg Address. Nearly a century later, in 1959, the head of the Veterans' Administration (VA), Sumner Whittier, chose Lincoln's famous words, "to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan," as the agency's official motto. Placed at the entrance of the VA central office in Washington, D.C., the inscription serves as a daily reminder of the country's enduring obligation to its service members.

In 1999, the phrase was officially integrated into the VA's mission statement, permanently connecting Lincoln's wartime prose to modern veterans' care and cementing his legacy of compassion.

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 Tuesday, October 6, 2026 at the Meadows Meadows Lifestyle & Wellness Facility. 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. The information below should be considered unofficial as the meeting minutes are not yet board approved.

CALL TO ORDER: President Steve Carnes called the meeting to order at 1204. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer led by Chaplain Michael Lindquist.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Steve Carnes (Pres), Wes Moy (1VP), Christa Friedlander (Treas), Peter Dering (Sec'y), Michael Lindquist (Dir), & Len Friedlander (Dir).

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Dave Downer (IPP), Chris Nind (2VP) & Bill Lawyer (Dir)

COMMITTEE CHAIRS & VISITORS PRESENT: Ron & Linda Wozniak, Kevin Cuckrowicz & Larry Woodmansee

PRESIDENT'S ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

- The next MOAS luncheon will be on Friday, October 16, 2026.
- SE Regional MOAA Mtg 16-17 November, Chattanooga, TN.

1st VICE PRESIDENT: (Wes Moy)

- Currently attending the FBI Tampa field office Citizens Academy. Topics covered and the networks developed may have potential for MOAS presentations (e.g. Elder Fraud, Human Trafficking, Cybersecurity, etc).
- Attended the Manatee County Sheriff's Office Citizens Academy this past spring. We should look at some of the topics covered as potential presentations for MOAS.

2nd VICE PRESIDENT & PROGRAMS: (Chris Nind)

- Visited SMA and met with CEO and others. Have arranged for SMA to present their school for Jan program lunch. Students will make the presentation. They will also send a color guard for the April ball as well as for POLO 2027.
- Continued liaison with Sarasota Polo for the Feb 2027event. Still trying to arrange color guard and Kiltie Band as well as area for MOA to do some recruiting and PR. We will have 3 tailgate spaces, all three complimentary.
- Visited Raider competition on Sat Sep 26 at Riverview HS. Excellent competition and well-run day. I met with some Instructors and encourage our new scholarship chair to meet them as soon as possible to develop our communication.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: (Peter Dering) The September 2026 BOD Meeting Minutes were approved unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT: (Christa Friedlander) The September 2026 Treasurer's Reports were approved unanimously. Thank You notes received from MOAA Charities & Sarasota Orchestra

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PROGRAMS: (Chris Nind):
Oct 16. All confirmed.
Nov 20. Annual Meeting & John McCarthy confirmed. Subject, Native American History in Sarasota County. Suggest: Veterans poem to be read during Prayer before luncheon.
Dec 8. Santa Christmas Lunch. Please encourage attendance and remember all attendees bring a wrapped gift valued to $25 that they would like to receive themselves. Mark the gift F or M. If gift is applicable to both sexes mark M/F. Some details to be confirmed with the Cuban ballet but will include short talk on ballet and then young dancers will assist Santa. I will purchase small gifts for the dancers, and I request a donation made to the Cuban Ballet from MOAS. If you have a toy to donate to TOYS FOR TOTS then bring it on Dec 8, in addition to your wrapped lunch gift.
Jan 22, 2027. SMA students presentation.
Feb 19. Patricia Green - MOAA Surviving Spouse program.
Mar 19. Capt. Timothy Close, USCG (Ret).
April 3, 2027 - Formal Military Ball-. I have booked Palm Aire CC for the event. Sponsor is Capt. Carl Morris and Palm Aire resident. I have booked a band called Z Street Speakeasy at a cost of $1,500.00 for the event.
Support: Navy League declined but will promote. MOA Port Charlotte declined, lack of membership, but am still working on them. Plan to visit Hugh Porter at Port Charlotte soon.
Auction: Need at least 20 auction items valued at about $200 each. Items, golf, dinners, wine, baskets, military items, vacation rentals, fishing trips, boat trips, heli rides, golf for 4, spirits etc.
Cost: Served dinner, $90. 3 courses and champagne toast. Cash bar.
Photographer. I need one and ideas
Speaker. Ideas ?
Volunteers. Names to me please as I will need volunteerss for planning and event check in and auction
JROTCs color guard and saber arch on entry, 2 pipers requested.
Dress. Formal, uniform, suit.
Attendance. 150, tables of 8&10. Encourage members to set up tables
Having automation for payment, tickets, and the menu will be vital.
If you can help with any of the items underlined, then please contact me ASAP

MEMBERSHIP:(Len Friedlander) Current membership is 195.
Annual Membership unchanged - 19 New members & 19 members moved, died or resigned.
Using the Near Real Time (NRT) MOAA Membership List I sent 44 emails to National MOAA members with a Letter, The Breeze, and invitations to attend MOAS events:

- Received 8 Kickbacks -- email addresses appeared to be previous Military or Corporate addresses that were no longer valid.

BREEZE NEWSLETTER:(Len Friedlander) October issue was published and emailed to 241 addressees - Nineteen (19) copies were printed and mailed to members.
Created & fielded Zeffy on-line registration apps for Oct Luncheon & Oktoberfest that were incorporated into the October Breeze and uploaded to the Chapter Website

JROTC, MCJROTC: (Bill Lawyer) No Activity

LUNCHEON REPORT: (Mary Gordon) We had 36 attendees for the September luncheon. The program was excellent, and a new member was in attendance as well as several guests.

- The Breeze now gives October luncheon attendees the option to pay on-line with credit card or by mail with check. Reservations have already been made in this way, including members of the Bradenton chapter. Our southwest area VP Mike Borders will also be attending.
- The menu for the December Holiday Luncheon has been finalized. As a reminder Michael's has offered to provide a cash bar waving the bartender fee.
- There will not be a price increase for our luncheons at Michael's in 2027

MONTH	BOARD	LUNCHEON
October	Tuesday 6	Friday 16
November	Tuesday 3	Friday 20
December	Tuesday 1	Tuesday 8 **

	LUNCHEON PROGRAMS
October	National MOAA - Dena Kilgore
November	Annual Business Mtg & John McCarthy
November	Holiday Cheer Luncheon

LEGISLATIVE & CHAPLAIN: (Mike Lindquist)
LEGISLATIVE-See The Breeze
I have been asked to participate in the interment at the Sarasota National Cemetery on Friday, November 13, 2026, at 1:30 PM. service for Mary Louise Quigley widow of Lt. Colonel Thomas K. Quigley.
We have two invitations for speakers @Suncoast Technical College October 14th Subject: The Meaning of Veteran's Day -- I have agreed to take this one.— and TPC Prestancia, private golf and country, club requested a speaker for a Veterans day luncheon, November 11.
VETERANS' AFFAIRS: (Peter Dering)
If you haven't filed a VA disability claim yet and have disabilities, medical conditions or injuries that incurred or aggravated during active military service, apply today! A VA rating can provide tax-free compensation and opens doors to VA benefits like health care, education benefits, vocational rehabilitation and more.

VA RESOURCES

- For questions or requests,1-800-MyVA411 (1-800-698-2411).
- Veterans Crisis Line: 988 and press 1, Chat, or Text 838255

MEET & GREET:(Peggy O'Connell): The next Meet and Greet will be Wed, Oct 14, at 5:30 PM at Grillsmith.
YAHOO: (Ron & Linda Wozniak) **Oktoberfest** scheduled for October 21. As of 10/5, we have 36 signed up. 23 paid online via Zeffy; 13 paid by check
New Event: **Saturday, 21 November**
Tampa Bay Downs Thoroughbred Racing
11225 Race Track Road, Tampa 33626
Gates Open 1100 Racing Time: 1215
SARASOTA MILITARY OFFICERS FOUNDATION, INC
SCHOLARSHIP REPORT: (Bill Lawyer): _No Activity
OLD BUSINESS:
Nominating Committee Update:
The 2027 MOAS Officers and Directors Election is on 20 November 2026 at the MOAS luncheon meeting. The elected Officer or Director positions run for a one-year term starting 1 January 2027.
Current Officers and Directors:
President - Steven L. Carnes (Seeks reelection)
1st VP - Wesley R. Moy (Will NOT seek reelection)
2nd VP - Christopher V. Nind (Seeks reelection but will not Chair Programs)
Treasurer - Christa Friedlander (Will NOT seek reelection) (Tommy Gregory & Bob Wolff)
Secretary - Peter Dering (Will NOT seek reelection) (Art Hillman)
Director (Scholarships)-William Lawyer (Will NOT seek reelection) (Kevin Cukrowicz)
Director (Communications) VACANT (Jerry Goodin - Breeze)
Director (Legislative)- Michael Lindquist (Seeks reelection)
Director (Membership)- Len Friedlander (Will NOT seek reelection) (Alex Vanston)
IPP David Downer (Automatic Position)
Biographies will be submitted to the MOAS Membership via email and in the November Breeze.
NEW BUSINESS:

- BOD Meetings: To improve membership attendance at BOD meetings, should we change how and when we have our meetings?
  - Change meeting time (Evenings, Zoom)
- Discussion regarding Treasurer position:
  - There are two possible candidates, each with extenuating situations.
    - One is here only six months of the year.
    - The other has a very demanding job limiting his time availability.
  - Could the Treasurer be a shared position with two co-treasurers sharing duties and responsibilities?
    - Woz will discuss the situation with the candidates and report back to the Board before October 21.

BOARD APPROVED ACTIONS/MOTIONS: **None**
The Meeting adjourned at 1322
NEXT MEETING: The next Board meeting will be **Tuesday, November 3, 2026 12:00 pm** at the Meadows Fitness & Wellness Facility 3350 Longmeadow.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER
Michael Lindquist

Thanksgiving

"Give thanks for the blessings of each day and share them with others." A universal sentiment embraced across all faiths.

On the third Thursday of November, we celebrate Thanksgiving; a day when families gather to express gratitude for the blessings in their lives. Homes fill with laughter, the excitement of football games, and the aroma of traditional dishes: turkey, mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes, green beans, and pumpkin pie.

One Thanksgiving, our family gathered at my parents' home. As we prepared to begin the meal, my father asked his 11-year-old granddaughter if she would say grace. She bowed her head and began to pray softly. My father, seated farther down the table, leaned forward and said, "Michella, we can't hear you." She looked up and replied, "I wasn't talking to you." My father's face turned red, and the whole table erupted in laughter. Moments like these become cherished stories, lovingly retold year after year.

America's first Thanksgiving took place after the Pilgrims survived their first winter in the New World. While some today view Thanksgiving as a Christian celebration, history tells a broader story: the Pilgrims were joined by the Wampanoag people, who had long practiced their own harvest traditions. Together, these two cultures created a shared celebration—a time to express gratitude to God, each in accordance with their own beliefs.

Thanksgiving is not unique to the United States. Canada and other nations observe similar holidays at different times of the year. Even in ancient history, the Greeks and Romans held annual festivals giving thanks for the harvest. Gratitude, it seems, is a universal human expression.

Let Us Pray

God is the provider of all we need. We are grateful for every blessing God has given us. Thanksgiving is not only a day to express gratitude, but also a day to live our gratitude by giving to others through our time, our talents, and our treasure.
We are blessed. Amen.

Michael
Chapter Chaplain

October Luncheon Photos

MOAA's Dena Kilgore & Mike Borders (FCOC SW Area VP)

(l-r) Rick Buchanan - Pres. Bradenton Chapter, Dena Kilgore - MOAA, Steve Carnes - Pres. Sarasota Chapter, & Chris Nind - 2VP Sarasota Chapter

Suzanne & Barry Birch w/Dogs Inc pup Kevin

Bill Lawyer (l) & Jerry Goodin

Tommy & Erica Gregory

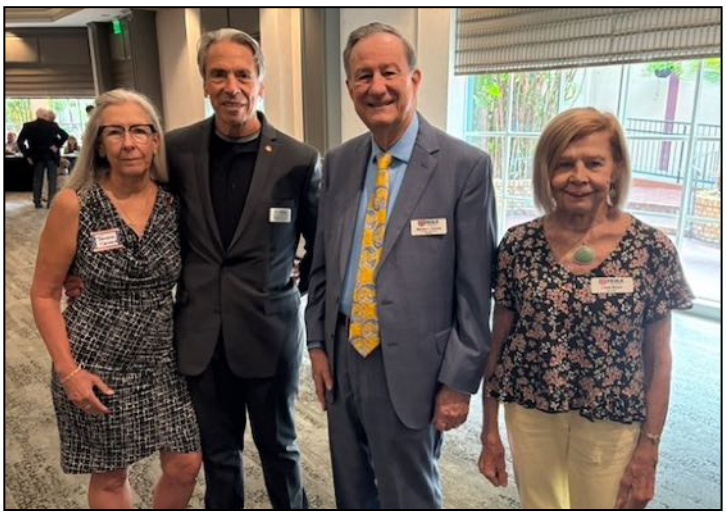
Our Luncheon Coordinators Jon & Mary Gordon & Francine King

Troy & Elke Scott

(l-r) Jerry Goodin, Jack Maguire, Art Hillman & Rick Buchanan

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

OCTOBER BIRTHDAY
Chris Nind



New Members Tammra & Michael Cervone,
President Steve Carnes & Linda Brent

Pres Carnes presents
MOAA Charities donation
to Dena Kilgore

Artificial Intelligence: What You Need to Know

Artificial intelligence (AI) is no longer something in the distant future. It is becoming part of everyday life—and it offers both useful opportunities and legitimate risks.

FROM THE
1st VICE PRESIDENT
Wes Moy

AI tools such as ChatGPT can help with surprisingly practical tasks. You can use AI to create a flyer for a club or family event, draft a letter to your congressional delegation, summarize a complicated document, plan a trip, develop a weekly menu, or suggest recipes based on what you already have in the refrigerator. It can also help brainstorm ideas, explain unfamiliar subjects and organize information.

But AI requires judgment. AI can produce information that is inaccurate or completely fabricated, sometimes with great confidence. It can also be used to create convincing fake photographs, videos and voices. Criminals are increasingly using AI to make scams and impersonation attempts more believable. Privacy is another concern: do not enter sensitive personal, financial, medical or account information into an AI tool unless you understand how that information will be handled.

The best approach is to treat AI as an assistant—not an authority. Use it to help you think, research and create, but verify important information independently.

AARP reports that many adults 50-plus are interested in learning about AI, while concerns about privacy, misinformation and security remain significant. (AARP)

Want to learn more? AARP offers free training for older adults interested in learning how to use AI safely and effectively. https://jobskills.aarp.org/catalogue/courses/b132a690-fe58-4307-9446-54b6dcfefbaf/artificial-intelligence-basics-free-for-limited-time.

TAPS

Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to the families and friends of
Mrs. Mary L. Quigley
Anthony L. Tambini, CDR, USN (Ret)

2026 MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY MODIFICATIONS

- **2026-2027 Calendar**
  - Change MOAS Board Meetings to Noon on the First Tuesday of each month

NEW MEMBER

Cervone, Michael B. COL, USA (Tammy)
365 Gowdy Rd
Sarasota, FL 34237-4750
571-332-3561 mbcervone@aol.com

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

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE
Michael Lindquist

FROM MILITARY TIMES:
Pentagon Data Breach Could Impact Millions: What You Should Know by: Kevin Lilley

Unauthorized users accessed the records of millions of military-connected individuals housed in a Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC) system, according to multiple media reports.

All service members (active and reserve components) are eligible for free credit monitoring services from Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion. Those who believe they may be victims of identity theft can file a report with the Federal Trade Commission.

FROM MILITARY OFFICER MAGAZINE:
'State of the Force' Address Includes Plan to Cut 20% of General, Admiral Positions by: Kevin Lilley

One in five positions held by generals and admirals will be cut as part of Pentagon plans confirmed by Secretary of War Pete Hegseth during a "State of the Force" speech Sept. 30 at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va.

Hegseth had previously announced plans for a 10% reduction and told the Quantico audience he would order an additional 10% cut, which he called "long overdue and frankly the bare minimum," to get to a "20% reduction across the board."

The cuts would be finalized by Jan. 1, 2027, according to multiple media reports. Fox News first reported the plans the day before the speech. Previous plans also called for a 20% reduction in active-duty four-star positions and the same reduction in National Guard general officer posts.

The initial cuts, announced in May 2025, were being made to remove "redundant force structure to optimize and streamline leadership," according to a memo addressed to senior Pentagon leadership at the time.

The Sept. 30 address covered other major initiatives, including the establishment of the Autonomous Warfare Command, plans to build a brand-new military installation with "independent power generation," and a study of future warfare dubbed Project Meridian.

The week before the Quantico address, Hegseth announced plans for the Joint Warfighter Evaluation, an assessment required of all officers seeking their first star. While the test will be taken by prospective generals and admirals across branches, it reportedly will vary by service and may include in-person or remote written assessments, wargames, and other activities.

Make Your Voice Heard This November by: Ingrid Meyers Make Your Voice Heard

What to Know Before Nov. 3

- Register or update your registration. If you've moved, changed voting jurisdictions, or are unsure your registration is current, check before Election Day.
- Know your state's deadlines. Registration, absentee ballot requests, and ballot return deadlines vary. Visit Vote.gov for your state's requirements.

MOAA is a nonpartisan organization and does not support or oppose candidates or political parties. We encourage every eligible service member, veteran, family member, and survivor to participate in the electoral process. One of the most meaningful ways to ensure the military community's perspective is heard is to cast your ballot.

Advocacy: Write to your legislators today and support MOA initiatives and goals

Stop the 34-Year Wait - Deliver Toxic-Exposed Vets the Care They've Earned

Veterans exposed to toxic substances like Agent Orange, chemicals released by burn pits, and radiation should not have to fight for decades to prove their illnesses are service connected.

Yet according to a recent report from MOAA and DAV, toxic-exposed veterans wait over 34 years on average before receiving presumptive service connection and the care they've earned. The PACT Act was a historic step forward, but its work isn't complete.

Congress must pass legislation to bolster the legal framework for establishing presumptive conditions, creating clear timelines and processes to move from exposure acknowledgment to the delivery of earned benefits. This commonsense reform will cut through red tape, improve VA accountability, and end the long wait faced by millions of veterans.

S. 1032: Major Richard Star Act Retirees/Veterans 03/13/2025 Introduced in Senate
H.R. 2102: Major Richard Star Act Retirees/Veterans 04/04/2025 Referred to the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs.

Currently, these combat-injured (and often seriously disabled) veterans are subject to a cost-saving offset—often described as a "veterans' tax"—where their retirement pay is reduced for every dollar of VA disability received. Reducing earned retirement pay because of a combat disability is an injustice; the compensation provided to injured veterans is not the place to achieve savings.

H.R. 8732: Pensions for Retired Uniformed Service members Act Retirees/Veterans 05/11/2026 Introduced in House

Thank you for standing with MOAS as we continue to protect and support our military family.

— Michael

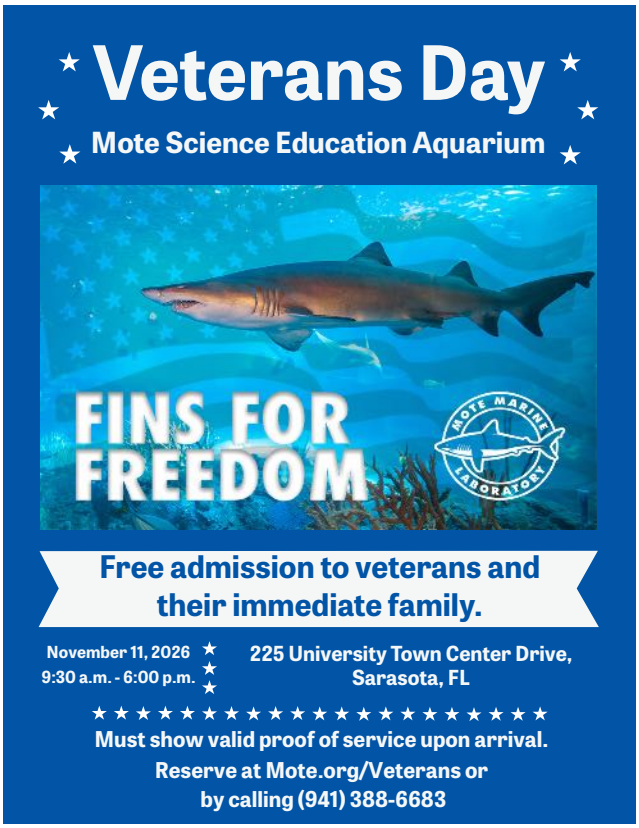
FOR YOUR INFORMATION

SAVE *the* DATE
MOAS FORMAL GALA EVENING
Saturday April 3, 2027
5:30 to 10:30 p.m.
Palm Aire Country Club

2027 COLA Increase for Retirees/Veterans

Social Security beneficiaries, military retirees and people receiving veteran's benefits will see a 3.6% cost-of-living adjustment, or COLA, in 2027. The increase, the biggest in four years, goes into effect in January. It is 0.8% higher than last year's 2.8% COLA

The standard Medicare Part B monthly premium, usually deducted from a beneficiary's monthly social security benefit, is projected to be $209.50 per month in 2027 (an increase of $6.60 (3.25%) from 2026's $202.90).



JROTC RAIDER COMPETITION
SATURDAY SEP 26

A JROTC Raider Competition on the Riverview High School campus provided 14 participating high school JROTCs with the opportunity to compete in a 5K run, a fitness challenge and running an obstacle course.

The **Venice High School MCJROTC** Raider Team looked sharp wearing their MOAS provided Raider t-shirts.

FOR TICKETS Call **941-926-7677** or
https://thepopsorchestra.app.getcuebox.com/o/21NL0B8D/shows/34P0F24X

Groups seek clarity on motive behind Pentagon's study of women in combat

A group of civil rights organizations sued the DoD for records behind its decision to study women's "effectiveness" in combat roles a decade after the military opened those positions to women. The lawsuit, filed by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and two other groups, asks a federal court to enforce their request for information about why the Pentagon commissioned the study.

Gillian Thomas, senior counsel for the ACLU's Women's Rights Project, argued that SECDEF Pete Hegseth, who has "repeatedly, without evidence, questioned women's ability to serve in ground combat," aims to deliver research to validate his "biased" views. "Now, without explanation, he has commissioned a study of women's performance and assigned it to a researcher with a record of criticizing women's combat readiness," she said. "The public has a right to know why, and what he plans to do with the results."

In January, the DoD commissioned a non-profit research group, the Institute for Defense Analyses, which is largely funded by the federal government, to study the topic for six months. However, according to the lawsuit, the study was reassigned to the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory (JHU/APL) in April 2026, where the lead researcher, Jane Pinelis, authored a 2015 study for the Marine Corps that found "negative effects of mixed-gender units."

The lawsuit adds that the 2015 study "was widely criticized for its flawed design and biased analysis." Those critics, including the Navy Secretary at the time, described it as attempting to show that men are stronger than women rather than establish minimum standards and see who could meet them. Additionally, The War Horse reported that Hegseth relied heavily on that study to support his argument that women shouldn't serve in combat roles in his book The War on Warriors.

In a November 2024 interview on the Sean Ryan Podcast, Hegseth shared his explicit view on the issue: "I'm straight up just saying we should not have women in combat roles." Although he has since softened his rhetoric on women in combat, critics say he continues to push the agenda under the guise of military standards.

According to the lawsuit, the ACLU, the National Women's Law Center and the Service Women's Action Network want Defense Department records showing the scope, purpose, methodology and anticipated use of the study.

Nearly 500,000 veterans to get 3-month break from paying life insurance premiums

More than 457,000 veterans participating in the **Veterans' Group Life Insurance(VGLI)** program will get a three-month break on their monthly premiums, just in time for the holidays. Starting in November, veterans won't have to pay insurance premiums for three months, ending in January 2027, according to a Department of Veterans Affairs announcement.

All veterans with VGLI policies are eligible for the premium holiday if they have a current policy that hasn't lapsed or been cancelled due to non-payment of premiums. Eligible veterans don't have to take any action. They will be automatically exempted from the three months of premium payments and will be notified by letter or email within the coming weeks.

Visit medicare.gov/plan-compare

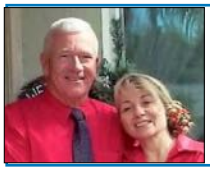
'Unknown' sailors and Marines from the Arizona to be disinterred Dec. 7

Hundreds of family members of sailors and Marines who were killed and buried as "Unknowns" when Japanese warplanes bombed the battleship Arizona are expected to gather in Hawaii on Dec. 7, the 85th anniversary of the Pearl Harbor attacks, as DoD begins exhumations that could lead to the identification and transfer of remains to families.

Of the ship's 1,177 dead, 277 of its sailors and Marines are buried in Honolulu's National Memorial of the Pacific, with 86 of those remains being unknown.

The exhumations will begin with the disinterment of eight caskets from the National Cemetery of the Pacific, known as the "Punchbowl," on Dec. 7 and will continue with about eight caskets removed each week until the total of 86 is reached, according to the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA). Forensic specialists from DPAA will then seek to match DNA from the remains with DNA provided by the family members.

Being able to disinter the 86 Unknowns associated with USS Arizona is singularly due to the determined initiative and extraordinary efforts of Operation 85, a group that began gathering DNA Family Reference Samples from the families of those listed as unknowns as part of the USS Arizona (BB39) Unknown Identification Project. Operation 85 reached the 60% threshold of DNA Family Reference Samples for the Unknowns, allowing disinterments to begin.



YAHOO
Young At Heart Organization
Linda & Ron Wozniak

UPCOMING EVENTS/OUTINGS

Saturday 21 November
Tampa Bay Downs Thoroughbred Racing
11225 Race Track Road, Tampa 33626
Gates Open 11:00 First Post 12:15
Race Day Walk-up Only, Champions Row Clubhouse Rail $15/person, Exclusive Finish Line Views, Outdoor Sun and Shade Suites, Sun & Shade and Tables, A la Carte Dining, Private Bar, Waging Terminals. Pay at the Track. Free parking, but Valet available.

Saturday 12 December Kickoff: 1500
Army Navy Football Game Watch Party
Party starts at 1400. Venue TBD.
It will be a host's home or clubhouse.
We are looking for a Sailor or Soldier to host this year's Watch Party. Traditionally folks attending bring their own drinks and a dish to pass. Contact Woz or Linda if you wish to attend or better yet host this event. After a host is identified we will pass you their info.

PAST EVENTS/OUTINGS

OKTOBERFEST Wednesday 21 October
A report on the **OKTOBERFEST** will be in the next issue the Breeze

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NOMINEES FOR THE 2027 MOAS OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Steve Carnes

Steve received his BA from Penn State, graduated from Stetson University College of Law, and commissioned through AFROTC, entered active duty as a JAG at Charleston AFB. Separating from the active AF in 1982, he was appointed Assistant Counsel to the New Jersey Governor. He served 10 years at McGuire AFB as an ASJA, appointed a NJ state judge in 1986, a Military Judge in 1989, a federal judge in 1994 and assigned to Air Force Legal Services Agency at Maxwell AFB. Steve served in NATO as Ass't Legal Advisor to the High Representative of Bosnia Herzegovina (1999-2000), and was promoted to Colonel and assigned to 2nd Air Force. His final assignment was at MacDill AFB as the senior AF legal advisor to the Commander, USSOCOM. In 2012, Steve transferred to Tallahassee, FL and became the chief federal judge, retiring in 2023.

2VP: Chris Nind

A graduate of the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, Army Command and Staff College and Armed Forces Staff College, Norfolk, Va, Chris served in Germany, Northern Ireland, Canada, Cyprus, United States and UK, and retired in 1990 as a Lt Col at age 41. He moved to USA in 1991 and began a nonprofit career: Executive Director of Therapeutic Horseback riding organizations in Naples and in New England, Executive Director of Camp for underprivileged children in Boston, and Executive Director of bereavement program for children in Boston. He moved back to Naples in 2006 and was Director of Development for the Salvation Army in Naples, retiring in June 2015 and started work for Literacy Volunteers of Collier County in April 2016. Chris moved to Longboat Key in 2020 and is married to Cynthia Crane.

Secretary: Art Hillman

Upon graduation from the University of Illinois in 1967, Art was commissioned a 2LT in the US Army, serving on active duty from 1967 to 1970, including serving in Viet Nam as a platoon leader with the 101st Abn, a MACV advisor to the RVN Regional Forces and with 5th Special Forces. In 1970 he returned to U of I, receiving an MBA and Law degree. Moving to Chicago Art served for 14 years in various capacities with the 85th Div in Chicago, leaving the Army Reserve as a LTC in 1986. He practiced law in Chicago and Atlanta from 1974 to 2006, specializing in international mergers, acquisitions and joint ventures. He married Cindy in 1971, and they have 2 children and 6 grandchildren.

Treasurer: Robert (Bob) Wolff

Bob is a Vietnam veteran with 26 years of military service including tours in Vietnam and Cambodia. Following his nine years of active duty, he spent 20 years with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and served as the Deputy Civil Engineer for the USAF. Following his government retirement in 1998, he worked for an engineering company and then as the Executive Director of the Society of American Military Engineers where he served for the next 12 years followed by the Executive Director of Quality of Life Plus, now Project S.E.R.V.E., a non-profit organization that partners engineering students with injured veterans and emergency responders to design customized solutions that improve their quality of life. He retired in 2021 and now serves as the Chair of the Project S.E.R.V.E. Board of Directors and is active with the American Society of Civil Engineers. Bob holds a Ph.D. in Civil Engineering and an M.S. in Water Resources Planning from Stanford University, as well as a B.S. in Engineering from the United States Military Academy.

Director (Scholarships): Kevin Cukrowicz

Kevin served more than 30 years in the U.S. Air Force and Ohio Air National Guard as a cyberspace operations officer, including command and JTF J6 roles, with a deployment to Iraq. A longtime advocate of service leadership, he retired as a Lt Col after a career that spanned operations centers, NORAD support, and squadron-level excellence. In civilian life, Kevin is a Data Governance Solutions Architect at Liberty Mutual, where he applies the same disciplined, mission-focused approach he developed in uniform to enterprise data architecture and governance. He is running for office to continue serving fellow officers and strengthen the chapter's impact in the Sarasota community.

Director (Communications): Jerry Goodin

Jerry has been a member of the Sarasota MOAS since moving here in 2023. He recently retired from American Airlines in Miami and now has time in his schedule to become more engaged with MOAS. He is a retired USAF Colonel and a graduate of the Air Force Academy. His time in the service as a pilot and staff officer developed his organizational and leadership skills for his role on the MOAS staff. Jerry and his wife Vicky have enjoyed many of the Yahoo events around Sarasota. They also have a healthy travel appetite as they enjoy the freedom of retirement.

Director (Legislative Affairs): Mike Lindquist

Michael was born into a military family and spent his childhood living abroad. He began school in England, moved to Panama, and later graduated from Seoul American High School in South Korea. He earned a BS degree from the University of Tampa, a MS from the Florida Institute of Technology, and a Doctorate from Argosy University in Sarasota.

Enlisting in the U.S. Army in 1966, Michael received a commission as a 2LT in Field Artillery by January 1968. Throughout his 31-year military career, he held leadership positions in Aviation, Field Artillery, and Logistics, eventually retiring as a Colonel. After retirement, he served as Executive Director of the Congressional Medal of Honor Society, focusing on preserving the legacy of America's Medal of Honor recipients. He later founded Adrian Leadership and Healthcare Consulting, offering expertise in leadership development, business operations, and performance management. He is also an author, having written books of poetry and children's literature. Today, Michael is a faculty member at the University of Phoenix's School of Business & IT; teaching since 2002, both online and at the West Florida Campus.

1VP: TBD & Director (Membership): TBD

SARASOTA CHAPTER

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2026
@ 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
with Housemade Gravy & Traditional Stuffing served with Mashed Sweet Potatoes with Brown Sugar & Crushed Pecans, Steamed Baby Carrots, Brussels Sprouts, and Cranberry Sauce

VEGETARIAN
Curry Vegetable Bundles
An Array of Seasonal Vegetables in a Yellow Curry Wrapped in a Phyllo Bundle, Tied with a Scallion, Baked Until Golden Brown

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

You can pay for this NOVEMBER Luncheon by CHECK or by CREDIT CARD.

To pay by CHECK - Complete the FORM below - and mail to our Luncheon Coordinator - Mary Gordon

1. Special diet requests MUST be submitted with the initial reservation. MoE will no longer honor last minute requests
2. Your reservation and payment should be received no later than 3 days before the luncheon date. For late registrations, you must call our Luncheon Coordinator (Mary Gordon). Do **not** contact Michaels on East.
3. 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 $41.00/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: **MARY GORDON**
8208 Deerbrook Circle, Sarasota, FL 34238-4382
Questions? (941) 923-2302 or email: JMKPL@aol.com

To pay by CREDIT CARD -

Click on the Poster and the Link will open the October Luncheon form using the *Zeffy* processing system. **Follow the Directions.**

Once you have entered the number of tickets you are buying, and you enter your information and the names of any guests, the system will tally the total cost of your tickets. *Zeffy* will **SUGGEST** a donation amount for you to pay for the *Zeffy* service.

You **DO NOT** have to pay this amount -
*Click on **Change or Remove** the extra amount— and leave it **BLANK, or enter 0,** or any amount you wish.*

Complete the credit card transaction & you will receive your event ticket (s) in the email account you provided.

Reservations are required by November 16th.

CREDIT CARDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AT THE DOOR

SARASOTA CHAPTER

TUESDAY DECEMBER 8, 2026
@ 11:30am
Michael's On East
1212 S East Ave Sarasota, FL 34239
Dress Code – Coat - Tie Optional

CASH BAR AVAILABLE

LUNCHEON MENU

SERVED LUNCHEON
Specialty Bread Basket

ENTREE
Sautéed Breast of Chicken
Stuffed with Mozzarella, Spinach & Sun-dried Tomatoes in a savory Marsala Mushroom Sauce served with Gruyere Scalloped Potatoes, Steamed Green Beans & Baby Carrots

VEGETARIAN
Portobello Wellington
Portobello Caps stuffed with Mushroom, Spinach, Toasted Pine Nuts & Gruyere Baked in a Golden Brown Puff Pastry

DESSERT
Flourless White Chocolate Torte
Michael's Signature Fallen Soufflé Cake made with Ground Almonds & White Chocolate

Served Coffee, Decaf & Tea

Pre-set Iced Water

Served Iced Tea w/Lemon upon request

You can pay for this HOLIDAY Luncheon by CHECK or by CREDIT CARD.

To pay by CHECK - Complete the FORM below - and mail to our Luncheon Coordinator - Mary Gordon

1. Special diet requests MUST be submitted with the initial reservation. MoE will no longer honor last minute requests
2. Your reservation and payment should be received no later than 3 days before the luncheon date. For late registrations, you must call our Luncheon Coordinator (Mary Gordon). Do **not** contact Michaels on East.
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MEMBER INFORMATION

Name, Rank Service_____

Phone #_____ email:_____

Please reserve ___ seats for the luncheon

Cost $41.00/person (Tax & Gratuity incl.)

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You **DO NOT** have to pay this amount -
*Click on **Change or Remove** the extra amount— and leave it **BLANK, or enter 0,** or any amount you wish.*

Complete the credit card transaction & you will receive your event ticket (s) in the email account you provided.

Reservations are required by Friday December 4th.

CREDIT CARDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AT THE DOOR

November - December 2026

DATE	EVENT	TIME
Tuesday, Nov 3	*MOAS/SMOF Board Meeting - Meadows Lifestyle & Wellness Building*	12:00 p.m.
Wednesday, Nov 11	*VETERANS DAY*	
Wednesday, Nov 11	*Mote SEA Fins for Freedom - Details on Page 8*	All Day
Nov 14 - Nov 16	*SARASOTA POPS CONCERTS - Details on Page 8*	
Friday, Nov 20	*MOAS Luncheon - Michaels on East – Annual Meeting*	11:30 a.m.
Saturday, Nov 21	*YAHOO: Tampa Bay Downs Racing - Details on Page 10*	11:00 a.m.
Thursday, Nov 26	*THANKSGIVING*	
Tuesday, Dec 1	*MOAS/SMOF Board Meeting - Meadows Lifestyle & Wellness Building*	12:00 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec 8	*MOAS HOLIDAY HOLIDAY - Michaels on East*	11:30 a.m.

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

Military Officers Association of Sarasota, Inc. | P.0. 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

Sevice 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