

The Hilton HeadLiner

**Brigadier General
Mitchell LeClaire
Chapter President**

Let me start with some good news. Our Chapter has once again received a 5 Star Level of Excellence Award and a 4 Star COL Marvin J. Harris Communications Award. Both of these awards are significant in that they indicate the status of our Chapter. Our Board of Directors has strived to promote excellence in our endeavors and these awards are indicative of those efforts. My thanks to our Board of Directors and in particular Holly Bosworth our Webmaster and Newsletter Editor for her terrific job in compiling our comments for our submittals.

Our May membership meeting honored our JROTC cadets at our annual award ceremony. COL Jerry Glass presented the COL Edwin Tankins Memorial Scholarship and the MOAA Medal for Military Excellence. I am continually impressed with the quality and character of these young men and women.

Your membership in our Chapter is important to us. If you haven't paid your annual dues please do so. If there are programs that you would like to see or information that you would like us to present, let us know. You have my email address and I would entertain suggestions that you may have.

Welcome to all of our new Chapter members! New members are listed on page 9 of the newsletter.

NEVER STOP SERVING!



**2024 5-Star Award for The
Hilton Head Area Chapter**



**2024 4-Star Award for The
Hilton HeadLiner**



MOAA is the nation's largest and most influential association of military officers.

It is an independent, nonprofit, politically nonpartisan organization.

Military Veterans' Coalition (MVC)

Dennis Flynn, COL US Army Ret.

For those new to our MOAA Chapter, the Military Veterans Coalition (MVC) of Hilton Head Island is composed of four member organizations. They are the Hilton Head Area Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA); American Legion Post 185; American Legion Post 42; and the Hilton Head Island Council of the Navy League of the United States. There are up to three members from each Member Organization who make up the Board of Directors of the MVC. The MVC Board of Directors meets once each quarter of the year. The first quarterly meeting of 2025 was held on March 14th and the second quarterly meeting was scheduled to meet on June 6th. However, the second meeting had to be postponed and has not yet been rescheduled.

During the March 14 meeting, the main topic of discussion was the upcoming Memorial Day of Remembrance that was held by the MVC on Monday May 26 at the Shelter Cove Veterans Memorial. Every Memorial Day event is coordinated, on behalf of the VMC, by the Hilton Head Council of the Navy League. The other three Member Organizations of the MVC take turns hosting Veterans Day which falls on November 11th every year. Richard Foster, the current President of the Hilton Head Island Council of the Navy League and the current President of the MVC is always the Master of Ceremonies for the Memorial Day ceremony. The event is always very well presented and very well received. This year, once again, the 400 or so members in the audience showed their enthusiastic appreciation.

The next big event for the MVC is the Veterans Day 2025 Celebration. It was scheduled to be hosted by American Legion Post 185. However, they are not able to do it and your MOAA Chapter has volunteered to have the honors on behalf of the VMC. We will also have the honors, as scheduled, for 2026. More details next time. We are busy making plans and finalizing arrangements for Veterans Day 2025. Please put this special event on your calendars for Nov 11th at 10:30 am at the Hilton Head Island Veterans Memorial located at 59 Shelter Cove Lane, Hilton Head Island. In case of rain the ceremony will be at Saint Andrew by-the-sea United Methodist Church, 20 Pope Ave, Hilton Head Island.

[Visit our website at](#)

**Hilton Head Island Veterans
Memorial**



Veterans Affairs

Craig Ostergard, 1LT, US Army

Veteran Outreach Update:

Operation Patriots Forward Operating Base (OPFOB)

offers a 268 acre recreational property in Ridgeland, SC; open to all veterans, first responders, active duty and their family members. Founded in July 2020, OPFOB has now hosted over 29,000 visits to its facility.

Save the Date: The 4th Annual OPFOB Dinner for the Heroes will be held Saturday, November 8, 2025 @ the Hilton Beachfront Hotel, Palmetto Dunes, Hilton Head. More details to follow. Last year's dinner was sold out two months in advance—don't miss out this year.

2025 marks the 50th year since the fall of Saigon. As a result, we will be honoring our Vietnam veterans at the OPFOB Dinner on Saturday 8 November 2025. We are excited that NFL Steeler great, Rocky Bleier, will be joining us as the Guest Speaker.

After graduating from Norte Dame, he was drafted into the Army and was a grunt in RVN. Seriously wounded and went on a grueling rehab to make it into the NFL. Only 34 players in the NFL have 4 Super Bowl rings and Rocky is one of them.

The second speaker for the evening will be retired Admiral John "Boomer" Stufflebeem, a great speaker and has a resume to match. Naval Academy graduate; punter on the football team (hence "Boomer"); played in NFL then onto active duty; Top Gun graduate; over 1,000 carrier landings; commanded the 6th Fleet; carried the nuclear football for George H.; Pentagon spokesperson for 9/11 briefings. Today advises and coaches CEO's and Executive Teams as well as some NFL coaches/teams.



**Marilyn Janosko, CPT, US Army
Surviving Spouse Liaison**

By: Dr. Vivianne Wersel June 03, 2025

In April, MOAA members — including members of MOAA's [Surviving Spouse Advisory Council](#), gathered in the nation's capital for Advocacy in Action, a day to visit lawmakers and advocate for key issues. This year, MOAA identified five issues for members to discuss. Learn more in [this event wrap-up](#).

Your voice still holds power even if you could not attend Advocacy in Action in person. Members, friends, and family — including non-members — can use MOAA's [Legislative Action Center](#) to support legislation, including bills affecting military survivors and families, from anywhere.

MOAA tracks and advocates legislation that affects military surviving spouses and dependents. MOAA offers an easy way to reach out to your elected officials about these bills through its [Legislative Action Center](#). Click the links below to take action.

[Caring for Survivors Act of 2025 \(H.R. 680/S. 611\)](#). This bill proposes increasing the monthly Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) payable to surviving spouses through the VA. It also seeks to reduce the required period a veteran must have been rated totally disabled from 10 years to five years for survivors to qualify for benefits.

[Love Lives On Act of 2025 \(S. 410/H.R. 1004\)](#). This bill would eliminate the remarriage penalty for surviving spouses, allowing them to retain DIC, Survivor Benefit Plan, and TRICARE benefits regardless of age if they remarry. It also restores TRICARE if a subsequent marriage ends and preserves access to education and the commissary benefits.

[Fairness for Servicemembers and Their Families Act of 2025 \(S. 385/H.R. 970\)](#). This legislation will require the federal government to regularly review and update Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI) coverage limits to ensure they keep pace with inflation and rising market costs. Veterans' Group Life Insurance (VGLI) is also included in this legislation. The bill has already been passed by the House, and we hope the Senate will act swiftly to do the same.

Keep up with the latest from Capitol Hill by bookmarking [MOAA's advocacy news page](#).

Surviving Spouse Support: Take These Steps to Access Your Benefits May 28, 2025

Military spouses have access to many resources and benefits after their service member passes away. If their spouse dies while on active duty, survivors receive personal support to walk them through the administrative process and make sure they receive all the benefits for which they're eligible.

Each service branch has its own resources for helping surviving spouses. For example, when a sailor dies while on active duty, Navy liaisons provide short-term and long-term assistance.

The casualty assistance calls officer (CACO) helps with initial benefits claims, said Lt. Cmdr. Stuart Phillips, public affairs officer for Navy Personnel Command.

"After CACOs complete their duties, survivor care is turned over to assigned Navy Gold Star coordinators, responsible for long-term case management," he said. "Coordinators remain in regular contact over the months and years ahead, as long as needed."

[FROM MOAA: [Surviving Spouse Resources and Links](#)]

Surviving spouses of military retirees are eligible for many benefits, and they need to know how to get started and where to find help navigating the system. Here are five key steps surviving spouses should take after their service member dies:

1. Contact the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS). Notify DFAS soon after the death so it can suspend retired pay, then send the death certificate as soon as it is available to receive additional benefits, said Lt. Col. Mark E. Overberg, USA (Ret), who retired in August 2024 as the director of Army Retirement Services. You can [notify DFAS online](#).
2. You'll need to fill out more forms to start the annuity payments if you are eligible for the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP).

[FOR MOAA PREMIUM AND LIFE MEMBERS: [Preparing for the Loss of a Military Spouse](#)]

**Marilyn Janosko, CPT, US Army
Surviving Spouse Liaison**

3. Update the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS). Go to a DEERS ID card site with a copy of the death certificate. You'll get a new ID card that will continue to give you access to the commissary, exchange, and other resources on military bases.

Updating the DEERS system updates TRICARE for your military health benefits. You can also mail the death certificate to DEERS.

[RELATED: [DoD ID Card Office Locator and Appointments](#)]

4. Contact TRICARE. Overberg recommends contacting TRICARE directly to update their system and find out how bills will be paid, especially if you aren't receiving the SBP.

Contact the VA. The VA is the source of many benefits for surviving spouses, such as Dependency and Indemnity Compensation, military burials, and Veterans' Group Life Insurance (VGLI). Contact them directly, or get help navigating the process from a veterans service organization. The [VA's Office of Survivors Assistance](#) can help you learn about benefits and resources.

[FOR MOAA PREMIUM AND LIFE MEMBERS: [Your Guide to Military Burials](#)]

5. You might be eligible for overlooked benefits. For example, VGLI beneficiaries can receive financial counseling services, said Lt. Col. Richard A. "Skip" Fleming, USMC (Ret), a MOAA Life member and a certified financial planner who has helped many surviving spouses.

Find Resources: Each branch of service offers different resources to support surviving spouses of military retirees.

Visit [Military OneSource](#) to find the resources for your service.

**Richard Dubiel, LT, US Navy
Legislative Affairs**

The Senate Armed Services Committee is in debate on the budget request with a target date of completion of July 4, 2025. The House has previously passed a \$1 Trillion bill. Following finalization of the Senate bill a reconciliation effort will be required to achieve a final NDAA bill for the President's approval.

House Bill HR1228, "Prioritizing Veterans Survivor Act" Restores the Office of Survivors Assistance to its original role under the Secretary of Veterans Affairs passed in the House on a 424 – 0 voice vote has been read in the Senate and has been referred to the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs.

COL Jerry Glass Education

15 May JROTC Awards Recognition Luncheon (See photos on page 10)

Jr. cadets received National JROTC certificate, Medal and \$100 stipend
Sr. Cadets received \$750 COL Edwin S, Tankins Memorial scholarship
Each program received \$1000 grant towards unfunded requirements

May River Air Force JROTC

LTC Rumph, Instructor
Jr, --- Cooper G. Errickson
Program Grant --- Color Guard and Drill Team equipment

HHHS Navy JROTC

SGM Wyatt, Instructor
Jr --- Sophie Safe Sr --- Patrick Balfour (College -- The Citadel)
Program Grant --- PT equipment for 30 cadets

Bluffton Army JROTC

COL Foster, Instructor
Jr. -- Adrian Ullman
Sr. -- Hunter McBrayer (College -- The Citadel)
Program Grant -- Raiders Obstacle Course

CAPT Melanie Frank Secretary

Why I Joined JROTC and Joining the Military - Patrick Balfour - Hilton Head High School Navy JROTC Program

The main reason I joined NJROTC was to boost my chances in getting into a military program after high school (which is the Citadel).

I plan on joining the military because I want to become a pilot. Rather than being a fighter, cargo, or transport pilot, after completing my service obligation, I could become a commercial pilot or continue my military career.



COL Ted Janosko Programs

If you have ideas for speakers, programs or venues, please contact Ted Janosko at tjjanosko@gmail.com.

The MOAA Board of Directors meets the First Wednesday of the month at 11:45 at the Bluffton Public Library. Members are welcome to attend

2025

Thursday 21 August 2025 - BBQ Dinner at Port Royal Golf & Racquet Club, Port Royal Plantation, Hilton Head Island. Speakers: CPT Linda Caldwell and CAPT Robert Darling

Thursday 23 October 2025 - Mangiamo's Pizza on Hilton Head Island

December 2025 - Holiday Dinner TBD

2026 (Proposed Schedule)

Thursday 15 January 2026 - Old Oyster Factory on Hilton Head Island

Thursday 19 March 2026 - OPFOB in Ridgeland

Thursday 21 May 2026 - Wise Guys on HHI JROTC Recognition

Hilton Head Area Chapter Military Officers
Association of America
HHI MOAA
PO Box 22631
Hilton Head Island, SC 29925

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The MOAA Newsletter is an **award-winning** member-only e-newsletter subscription that provides information on topics most important to MOAA members, like looking for updates on current legislative issues, military benefits, or the latest MOAA events. The MOAA Newsletter is included for free as part of your MOAA membership.

MOAA - The MOAA Newsletter

We're excited to announce that **MOAA's Legislative Action Center** has a new look—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!

**CW5 John Marcinowski
2nd Vice President - Membership**

We would like to welcome new Chapter members. Hope to see you soon at our meetings.

- LTC Matthew Demaria, US Army
- Andrew Graham
- 1Lt Arthur Handman, US Army
- LTC Christine Hill, US Air Force
- CAPT Mary Houser, US Navy
- COL Craig Jones, US Army National Guard
- 1Lt Peter Koch, US Army
- LTC Eric Luca, US Army Reserve
- LTC Edgar Nealon, US Army
- 1Lt Ross Pascall
- Joan Sambuchino,
- MAJ Ted Steinhouser
- CAPT Paul Weidle, US Public Health
- Cmdr. Robert Wood, US Navy

2025 JROTC Recognition Awards Luncheon



1950 Citadel Graduate COL Charlie Calvert with 2025 HHI Graduate Patrick Balfour, attending the 2025 class of Citadel

**Holly Bosworth, LTC US Army
Webmaster/Newsletter Editor**

Cheddar Up online payment system being implemented with the August BBQ. (See flyer on next page)

The Cheddar Up online payment system simplifies membership management for chapters and councils by offering secure payment processing, customizable member experiences, and streamlined record-keeping. It reduces administrative burdens and enhances the MOAA brand."

The goals of Cheddar Up are to make joining a chapter or renewing membership easier and simplifying tracking payments, collection information from members and record keeping.

We can customize the experience by providing receipts that include membership information, sending messages with dues or event reminders, etc.; allowing for recurring payments/auto renew; including a link to make donations to the chapter; and letting members order meal selections or purchase tickets in advance of meetings and events.

Look for the QR Code or weblink to access the August BBQ sign up and payment information.

**Please contact me if you have questions about the process
hh.moaa@gmail.com.**



**The Hilton Head Area Chapter of
The Military Officers Association of America
General Membership BBQ**

Thursday 21 August 2025

Port Royal Golf & Racquet Club

10 Clubhouse Drive, Hilton Head Island, South Carolina

3:30 PM Social time; 4:00 PM Lunch

**Guest Speakers, CPT Linda Caldwell, President, SCMOAA Council
CAPT Robert Darling, MD, US Navy (Retired)**

Menu

SIDES: Homemade Cole Slaw, Potato Salad, Bourbon Baked Beans, Cornbread

MEATS: House-Smoked Pulled Barbeque, Smoked Pork Sausage, Beef Brisket, Bone-in Chicken *(All served with Carolina & Texas Barbeque Sauce)*

Dessert: Apple Pie

Cost: \$38.50 per person

Reservations will be required [NLT Thursday 14 August 2025](#)

Follow the QR Code or link to Cheddar Up to register and make a credit card payment



<https://annual-moaa-bbq-dinner.cheddarup.com>

Join Hilton Head Area Chapter MOAA on FACEBOOK

Please click on the link and request to join the group. After Mike Minton accepts your request to join the group, please check out the Facebook page and provide any feedback you may have.

[Hilton Head Area Chapter MOAA](#)



Please complete this page and mail with your donation check, payable to MOAA-HH,
PO Box 22631, Hilton Head, SC 29925

2025 HH MOAA membership Renewal Form

Dues \$25.00 Scholarship _____ Outreach _____ OPFOB _____ Total _____

Please complete the following to ensure that your personal information is accurately reflected in the 2025 directory. **(PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)**

Last Name _____ First Name _____

Rank _____ Branch of Service _____

Active _____ Retired _____ Former _____

National MOAA Membership Number* (REQUIRED) _____

Street Address _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone Number _____ Cell _____ or Mobile _____

Email Address _____

Name of Spouse _____

Spouse's email _____

*Chapter By-Laws: Article IV - Membership, Section 6 - Regular members are required to hold and maintain membership in The Military Officers Association of America. Auxiliary members are encouraged but not required to hold and maintain such membership. Go to **MOAA** to find your National MOAA member number or call MOAA Member Service Center 8AM-6PM Monday through Friday at 800-234-6622 or 703-549-2311. You can also email them at msc@moaa.org.

NEW MEMBER APPLICATION

Please complete this page and mail with your donation check, payable to MOAA-HH, PO Box 22631, Hilton Head, SC 29925 Annual Dues are \$25.00 First Year dues are waived

Dues Waived Scholarship _____ Outreach _____ OPFOB _____ Total _____

Please complete the following to assure that your personal information is accurately reflected in the 2023 directory. {PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY}

Last Name _____ First Name _____

Rank _____ Branch of Service _____

National MOAA Membership Number* (REQUIRED) _____

Street Address _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone Number _____

Email Address _____

Name of Spouse _____

Spouse's email _____

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