

# The Hilton HeadLiner

**Brigadier General  
Mitchell LeClaire  
Chapter President**

We started the new year by administering the oath of office to the Board of Directors and Chapter chairs. We are delighted to welcome COL Ted Janosko as our new 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President. Ted has a broad background at both the Chapter and National level and will play a significant role in the Chapter. Welcome aboard Ted.

The much anticipated Committee Module/Near Real Time Report is in the final phases of implementation. This program will allow us to better manage our membership and look at potential members in our area. Membership Chair John Marcinowski is on board and looks forward to utilizing this important piece of software.

Our May meeting will honor our JROTC Scholarship recipients. Education Chair Jerry Glass is organizing the program which will be held at Wise Guys Restaurant. I am always impressed with the professionalism of our young cadets.

Wishing all a Happy and Blessed Easter.

**NEVER STOP SERVING!**



**2023**

**2023 5-Star Award for The  
Hilton Head Area Chapter**



**2023 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.**

The first 2025 quarterly meeting of the Board of Directors of the Hilton Head Island Military Veterans Coalition (MVC) was held on March 14, 2025. The first order of business was the election of officers for the period 2025 – 2026. The election results are:

**President – Richard Foster, Navy League USA**

**Vice President – Warren Graves, American Legion Post 185**

**Treasurer – Ben Kinnas, American Legion Post 42**

**Secretary – Dennis Flynn, Military Officers Association of America**

**Veterans Memorial Park.** During the Committee Reports part of the meeting, Ben Kinnas reported on the Veterans Memorial Park Improvement Project. The Director of Cultural Affairs for the Town of Hilton Head Island, Natalie Harvey, met with Ben at the Veterans Memorial on Tuesday, March 18 to select the most appropriate places thereto install three new signs that pertain to the purchase and location of Memorial Pavers. The next part of this project is developing software that will allow purchasing of Memorial Pavers to be done with a cell phone. In the meantime, purchasing Memorial Pavers continues to require the completion of a purchase form that can be found in a container at the Veterans Memorial.

**Memorial Day.** Dick Foster, Navy League USA member and newly elected President of the MVC, reported that preparations are on schedule for Memorial Day which is on May 26 this year. Weather permitting, the Memorial Day Remembrance is held at the Veterans Memorial Park on the last Monday of every year and is a National Holiday. If there is bad weather that causes a last minute change of venue, a sign will be posted at the entry to Veterans Memorial Park with the new location. The Navy League always coordinates this event which begins at 0930 and lasts for approximately one hour. The ceremony is always well attended and very enjoyable with outstanding music; speeches; military ceremonies; bugle calls; etc. It is free with ample seating and convenient parking in the area.

**World Affairs Council of Hilton Head.** This organization was mentioned as a very interesting non-profit 501(c)(3) organization that “engages, educates and inspires our community about world affairs”. Of most interest is Their “Distinguished Speakers Series”. Their office is located at 32 Office Park Rd Suite 209, HHI, SC 29928. The website has more information.

<https://wachh.org>

[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.

**Saturday, April 26:** OPFOB 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Concert for the Heroes @ OPFOB. Clay Walker is featured artist. Tickets can be purchased @ [www.OPFOB.org](http://www.OPFOB.org). All proceeds go toward keeping all OPFOB does totally free to those they serve. Special recognition will be made at the concert for Vietnam veterans recognizing 50 years since the fall of Saigon.

**Saturday, May 3:** the kickoff for the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual OPFOB 22 Days of Light the Fire to bring awareness to the alarming rate of veteran suicides. Volunteers needed to keep the fire burning 24/7 for 22 straight days. Please go to [www.OPFOB.org](http://www.OPFOB.org) to volunteer.

**Save the Date:** The 4<sup>th</sup> 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. More details will follow in May.



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

**A Spouse's Guide to Advocating By:  
Jen Goodale**

This article originally appeared in the July 2023 issue of Military Officer magazine and was updated in January 2025. At any given time, there are approximately 1 million military spouses — just 0.3% of the population — serving alongside America's men and women in uniform. MOAA, along with other organizations, advocates for improvements to policies and programs to enhance quality of life for military families. These combined efforts have led to improved parental leave policies, the development of robust spouse employment and education programs, the introduction of the Basic Needs Allowance to address food insecurity among military families, and much more.

But despite this progress, we still have a long way to go. And the start of a new Congress offers the perfect opportunity to move our agenda forward. As the spouse of a servicemember, retiree, or veteran, you play an important role in advocating for this great community. It might seem easier to join the chorus of complaints, but advocacy can be simple and is far more rewarding — and it works.

Start taking action with these three simple steps:

1. Share your story. Talk about your experience as a military spouse — the good, the bad, and the ugly. The majority of the nation does not understand the unique challenges military families face, but they want to learn more. Share your story far and wide.

You never know who might want to champion your issue and help you spark change.

2. Stay solution-focused. Identifying a problem or an issue is only the first step. It's tempting to belabor the challenges, but don't get bogged down in the negative.

First, define the issue as succinctly as possible. Next, share the most compelling example to illustrate why the issue must be resolved. Finally, offer a recommended solution. As the adage goes, you get more flies with honey. The same holds true for advocacy; you get more support with solutions (not complaints).

3. Connect with lawmakers. In the past, spouses were expected to toe the line and keep grievances to themselves. Luckily, times have changed. Lawmakers want to hear from constituents. There are easy ways to reach out to your representative and senators (if you live in one state and vote in another, reach out to all of them). To find your lawmakers, share advocacy messages, and more, use [\*\*MOAA's Legislative Action Center\*\*](#). **Bottom line: You have a powerful voice. Use it.**

If you want to get more engaged with MOAA's military family advocacy efforts, send a message to [moaaspouse@moaa.org](mailto:moaaspouse@moaa.org). Together, we are stronger.

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

## **Love Lives On Act**

Surviving spouses who remarry under age 55 risk losing Survivor Benefit Plan payments and Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC). This bill (S. 410 | H.R. 1004) – introduced in the Senate by Sens. Jerry Moran (R-Kan.) and Raphael Warnock (D-Ga.) and in the House by Rep. Richard Hudson (R-N.C.) – would remove this age restriction. It also would allow survivors to regain TRICARE eligibility if a second marriage ends in death, divorce, or annulment.

The Senate version had 25 cosponsors as of Feb. 26. The bill has the support of 40 advocacy organizations alongside MOAA, to include Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS) and the American Legion.

“Military service is family service, and our country owes a great debt to the surviving spouses of fallen service members,” said Moran, who serves as chairman of the Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee. “As Gold Star spouses heal from their loss and choose to remarry, they should not have to worry about losing their survivors’ benefits provided by the VA and DoD.”

**[ADD YOUR VOICE: Support the [Love Lives on Act](#)**

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

## **Caring for Survivors Act**

DIC benefit rates for survivors of those who die in the line of duty, or of veterans who die of service-connected ailments, have been only minimally adjusted since 1993. They now rest at 43% of a 100% disabled veteran's compensation; this bill would raise that rate to 55%, resulting in about \$450 more per month and matching the compensation percentage offered by similar federal programs.

The bill also allows more survivors who have cared for a disabled veteran to claim DIC benefits. Current law requires a veteran to have been totally disabled by a service-connected condition for at least 10 years in order for a survivor to qualify for DIC. The Caring for Survivors Act would reduce this to five years.

Reps. Jahana Hayes (D-Conn.) and Brian Fitzpatrick (R-Pa.) introduced the House version of the legislation (H.R. 680) on Feb. 6, while Sens. Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.) and John Boozman (R-Ark.) introduced Senate legislation (S. 611) on Feb. 18.

“Unfortunately, the outdated rules governing Dependency and Indemnity Compensation mean many surviving families do not receive the full benefits they are entitled to,” said Hayes, adding that the bill “ensures the federal government keeps its promise to fallen service members by supporting their families.”

Supporters alongside MOAA include Disabled American Veterans (DAV), the Elizabeth Dole Foundation, and the National Military Family Association.

**[ADD YOUR VOICE: Support the  
Caring for Survivors Act**

## Programs

If you have ideas for speakers programs or venues, please contact Holly Gifford Bosworth at [hh.moaa@gmail.com](mailto:hh.moaa@gmail.com).

### 2025

**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**

**Thursday 15 May 2025** - JROTC Awards Luncheon at Wise Guys on Hilton Head Island

**Thursday 21 August 2025** - BBQ Dinner at Port Royal Golf & Racquet Club, Port Royal Plantation, Hilton Head Island

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

**December 2025** - Holiday Dinner TBD

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

### HILTON HEAD AREA CHAPTER MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

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Veterans Outreach Director

First Lieutenant  
Craig Ostergard, USA

Webmaster/Editor/Publisher

Lieutenant Colonel

Holly G. Bosworth, USAR

Email:

[hh.moaa@gmail.com](mailto:hh.moaa@gmail.com)

Website: [https://  
moaahhi.org](https://moaahhi.org)

*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 Taking Action Center**

Find out about MOAA supported legislation and Key Advocacy issues. Click on or highlight the link below to go to the MOAA

**[MOAA| Legislative Action Center](#)**

## **MOAA - The MOAA Newsletter**

### **2025 Slate of Officers**

The slate of Officers for 2025 is listed below. The General Membership voted on the officers at the 12 December Holiday Dinner. The Officers were installed during the 16 January Luncheon

President—BG Mitchell LeClaire

1st VP (Programs) - COL Ted Janosko

2nd VP (Membership) - CW5 John Marcinowski

Treasurer—MAJ Kerry McMahon

Secretary—CAPT Melanie Frank

Public Affairs—LCDR Michael Minton

Military Veterans Coalition—COL Dennis Flynn

Surviving Spouse Liaison—CPT Marilyn Janosko

Legislative Affairs—LT Richard Dubiel

Personal Affairs—LTC James Clark

Education—COL Gerald Glass

Veterans Outreach Director—1LT Craig Ostergard

Webmaster/Newsletter Editor—LTC Holly Gifford Bosworth



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

**Thursday 15 May 2025**

Wise Guys, 1513 Main Street, Hilton Head Island, South Carolina

11:30 AM Social time; 12:00 PM Lunch

**Program: JROTC Cadet Awards Presentations**

**Menu**

Choice of Soup or Salad

*She Crab- Sherry Cream, Chives*

*WG Salad- Mixed Artisan Greens, Fuji Apples, Gorgonzola, Dried Cranberries, Candied Pecans, Balsamic Dressing*

*Caesar Salad- Baby Romaine Lettuce, Manchego Cheese, Parmesan Breadcrumbs, Avocado Caesar Dressing*

Choice of Entrée

*Chicken Diane- Pan Sauteed Chicken Breast Finished with a Mushroom Maderia Wine Sauce, Whipped Potatoes, & Asparagus.*

*Pan Roasted Salmon- White Wine Risotto, Seasonal Vegetables*

*Steakhouse Meatloaf- House Ground Ribeye & New York Strip, Yukon Gold Whipped Potatoes, Haricot Vert, Tomato Sage Mushroom Gravy*

*Dessert- Cheesecake- Caramel & Chocolate Sauce*

*House Cabernet Sauvignon & Chardonnay \$6  
Full Wine List & Bar Available*

**Cost: \$36.00 per person**

**Reservations must be received by Thursday 8 May**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

WG Salad \_\_\_\_\_ Cesar Salad Soup \_\_\_\_\_

Meat Loaf \_\_\_\_\_ Salmon \_\_\_\_\_ Chicken \_\_\_\_\_

Mail with your check to HH-MOAA, PO Box 22631, Hilton Head Island, SC 29925

**Membership Luncheon on 11 March 2025  
at Jameson's Char House, Sun City**

**Guest Speaker,  
Captain Melanie Frank, USN Retired**



## **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](mailto: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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