



THE GALLEON

NEWSLETTER OF THE

Ancient City Chapter, St. Augustine, Florida

January 7, 2024 — Volume 24 - No.1

Monthly Meeting will be held on
Wednesday Jan 17th at the Officer's Club, St Francis Barracks
ALWAYS check your email for your invite!

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Chapter Officers:

President: Sarah McLevy, LTC (USA Ret)
1st Vice President: John Murphy, COL (USA Ret)
2nd Vice President: Jerry Timoney COL (USA Ret)
Past President: Ron Birchall, LTC (USA Ret)
Secretary: Tony King, LTC (USA Ret)
Treasurer: Rick Cozby, LTC (USA Ret)
Chaplain: Jay Veronko, CDR, (USN Ret)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The next Board of Directors Meeting is
Feb 7th, 2024, 5:30pm, Marsh Creek Club
House.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Military Officers Association - Ancient City Chapter (MOAA-ACC) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(19) organization, dedicated to improving the knowledge, understanding and lifestyle of the general public towards our men and woman who serve in the United States Armed Services. MOAA-ACC, along with MOAA National, advocates through the political process in matters pertaining to active duty, retired and former military personnel, and for a strong national defense, while providing needed support to the St. Augustine and St. Johns County community.

Did you know??!

A few little known facts about Martin Luther King:

- He was born Michael King, Jr. It was changed after his father traveled to Germany and was so inspired the great 16th century Protestant Reformer, Martin Luther that he changed both of their names.
- He started at Morehouse College in Atlanta at the age of 15.
- He was imprisoned 29 times. He was arrested right here in St Augustine in June 1964 for violating Florida's "Unwanted Guest Law"
- He was a Trekkie and even a pool shark!!
- Only other American, besides George Washington, to have his birthday as a national holiday.

CALENDAR EVENTS

1 January 2024: Happy New Year



7 January: Orthodox Christmas Day

15 January: Martin Luther King Day



17 January: Trail Ride (Englewood HS)

17 January: General Membership Meeting

25-28 January: MOAA-FL Leadership Forum

2 February: Groundhog Day

11 February: Super Bowl Sunday, Las Vegas



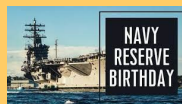
14 February: Valentines Day



19 February: Presidents' Day & Coast Guard Reserve Birthday

21 February: General Membership Meeting

3 March: Navy Reserve Birthday



10 March: Daylight Savings Time Begins



20 March: General Membership Meeting

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Fellow Chapter Members,
Happy New Year!

I hope everyone had the best holiday season. I am excited about being your new Chapter President and following in the footsteps of Ron. I've got big shoes to fill but I know I'm up to the task with all of your help.

The Board of Directors have recommended some fantastic speakers for remainder of the year so I hope you will be able to join us. This month Pat Kluever, our FCoC President will give us an update on MOAA throughout Florida.

Why not make January 17th a day fully dedicated to MOAA-ACC business by participating in the Trail Ride for Engelwood High School followed that evening by our General Membership meeting.

Over the next couple of months we have several opportunities for you to make an impact on the future leaders of our nation. Watch the Galleon Calendar for the dates of the multiple Trail Rides coming up between now and February.

Next month we will begin the planning process for the 2024 Memorial Day Ceremony. If you are interested in helping in any way please let myself or Ron know.

Wishing you a blessed month and hope to see you on the 17th!

Sarah

MOAA - Ancient City Chapter
is proud to present the

JROTC Military Heritage Trail Ride **Wednesday, January 17, 2024**

Starts 0930 at Ft Mose, 15 Ft. Mose Trail, St Augustine

*Tour the National Guard Headquarters and Museum
and the St. Augustine National Cemetery*

Don't Miss the MRE luncheon
1230 hours at Ft. Mose...



MOAA-ACC MILITARY HERITAGE TRAIL RIDE

Agenda

JROTC units will be bused from their school location.

Schedule (times are approximate)

- 0930: JROTC bus arrives **Fort Mosé (St. Augustine)**
Orientation by MOAA-ACC Officer in Charge
Introduction to St. Augustine as a Military Town
Movie about the History of Gracia Real de Santa Teresa de Mosé
Tour of Fort Mosé museum
- 1030: Leave for **St. Francis Barracks and St. Augustine National Cemetery**
- 1100: Tour **St. Francis Barracks, Florida National Guard**
In 1921 Congress formally gave the barracks to the State of Florida
The Barracks headquarters the Florida Army National Guard and the Florida Air National Guard
The structure was rebuilt in 1922 using the original coquina walls
Presented by: Alison Simpson, Florida National Guard Historian
- 1130: Tour of the **St. Augustine National Cemetery**
History of St. Augustine National Cemetery
Brief history of Seminole Wars
Who is buried at the National Cemetery?
Presented by: Alison Simpson, Florida National Guard Historian
- 1200: Depart for **Fort Mosé picnic grounds**
- 1230: Real Military Experience Eating an MRE - **"Meal, Ready to Eat"**
Includes: All Tours, Water, Meal-Ready to Eat [MRE], Unique Trail Ride patch
- 1330: Leave for Home

THIS IS TRULY A ONCE IN A LIFE-TIME EXPERIENCE

FOR YOUNG JROTC CADETS

JIM CARGLO, CHAIRPERSON

MOAAACCMEMBERS@GMAIL.COM



How Many Veterans Will Be Serving in Congress After the 2024 Election?

This article by Leo Shane III originally appeared on Military Times, the nation's largest independent newsroom dedicated to covering the military and veteran community.

Congress hasn't had at least 100 members of the House and Senate with military backgrounds since 2017. But the veterans caucus in the legislature right now is close enough to challenge that mark in the 2024 elections.

The number of veterans in Congress has steadily declined since the 1970s, a shift which mostly reflects the change to the all-volunteer force and the dwindling number of Americans who enlist annually.

But veterans advocates have worried that decline has also taken away valuable insight for lawmakers as they craft national security policy, veterans support plans and defense budget proposals.

In 1973, the total number of veterans serving in House and Senate seats was 401 — 75% of all the seats in both chambers. By 1995, that number was down to 213 seats. It dropped below 100 for the first time in 2013.

A total of 97 lawmakers with military backgrounds were elected in 2022, 80 in the House and 17 in the Senate. That was up five veterans from the previous congressional elections, and only the fourth time in the last 50 years there has been any increase at all in the total veterans elected.

Of that group, 58 veterans (60%) served at least part of their enlistment after 2001. Advocates are hopeful that the younger generation of veterans will help push that number back up, albeit to a much lower level than the past historic marks.

But doing so will require some luck at the ballot box.

Already, the Senate is scheduled to lose one veteran next year. Sen. Tom Carper, D-Del., the last Vietnam veteran serving in the chamber, has announced his plans to retire from Congress.

Two veterans in the House — Ohio Republican Reps. Brad Wenstrup and Bill Johnson — have also announced plans to leave Congress.

That means at least three new candidates with military experience will need to win state races in order to keep the number of veterans in Congress steady.

Most primary battles for House and Senate seats will be decided later this spring, giving candidates the summer to campaign for the general election. By early summer, advocates should have a clearer idea whether the number of veterans aiming for those seats is increasing or on the downturn again.

Guest Speaker

for our January Meeting



We have the pleasure of the President of the MOAA-Florida Council of Chapters, Pat Kluever and his lovely bride Mary being with us this month. As we head into the Leadership Seminar in Orlando later this month, I have asked him to give our membership a brief State of the State for MOAA in Florida

He will also be conducting the induction of our new officers for 2024-2026.

Support & Healing Thoughts

This month we'd like to express support and healing thoughts for the following members, spouses, relatives and friends who are ill, injured, grieving or in some distress:

Rik Erklens

This new section of the Galleon will be a way for members to reach out to other members in distress to offer support as well a means of offering healing thoughts and/or prayers for those in need.

If you are in need, or know of a member who may be of our thoughts and/or prayers, please notify Bill Coleman, Personal Affairs Committee Chair at bills48s@comcast.net to have them added to the next edition of the MOAA-ACC Galleon.

Important Announcements !!!

- Annual dues are \$30.00 due on December 31st of each year for the following year. Bring your payment to the next Chapter meeting on Dec 20th or pay online at the MOAA-ACC website
- Leadership Forum Jan 25-28, in Orlando is open to all members but HIGHLY recommended for our Board of Directors. See agenda at the end of this newsletter.
- Please consider registering to be an Advocate for MOAA's Legislative Action, make your voice heard.



Be An Advocate!

MOAA's Legislative Action Center is your destination to:

- Learn about MOAA's legislative priorities.
- Communicate directly with your legislators.
- Join thousands of others in or outside the Uniformed Services Community — Anyone can sign up through this link!

WWW.MOAA.ORG/TAKEACTION



SCAN THE QR CODE



OR GO TO THE LINK TO SIGN UP!

ADVOCACY UPDATE

MOAA Praised For Work Ending Promotion Holds

By: MOAA Staff

DECEMBER 20, 2023

The Senate confirmed more than 400 officer promotions Dec. 6 and confirmed 11 addition senior nominees Dec. 19, ending nearly 10 months of delay and addressing what was a mounting threat to our national security.

MOAA congratulates these officers on their new roles, and thanks the many lawmakers, advocacy groups, and concerned citizens who worked along with the association to end this harmful hold and put our most talented military leaders in key jobs directly impacting combat readiness.



“I’ve been working to lift the holds on our military officers for months and, several weeks ago, I promised our military members and their families that we have their backs. I made a commitment then to the men and women of our military and I keep my commitments,” said Sen. Dan Sullivan (R-Alaska). “At this very dangerous time in our nation’s history, our country once again has our best and most combat-capable military officers on the field. I want to offer my sincere gratitude to the Military Officers Association of America and all the other patriotic Americans who spoke out to lift the holds on these military officers. Thanks to the support of MOAA and other military and veteran advocacy groups, these military officers and their families are no longer in limbo.”

MOAA’s work on the issue included in-person meetings with individuals from both parties and a Nov. 7 letter to every senator stressing the importance of ending the hold and the damage it created on multiple fronts. MOAA’s position was to support military members and their families, and not have them negatively impacted while the Senate and the administration rightfully debate policy issues.

Interfering with the confirmation process “is denying our military the leadership it needs to accomplish its demanding mission,” MOAA President and CEO Lt. Gen. Brian T. Kelly, USAF (Ret), wrote in the letter. “And as recent events highlight, the stakes could not be higher and the need for leadership could not be greater.”

Kelly praised Sullivan and other lawmakers for their work in ending the hold and asked for continued support from legislators on other defense and veterans matters.

“Many lawmakers on both sides of the aisle showed their support for the uniformed services community by speaking out forcefully on these disappointing holds,” Kelly said. “We need them to continue their support of the all-volunteer force by addressing so many other issues at the heart of service – improvements to compensation and living conditions for those who serve and their families, access to high quality medical care, and preservation of service-earned benefits for all generations of veterans and retirees. MOAA looks forward to supporting this work on behalf of not just our more than 360,000 members, but all of those who’ve worn the uniform, their families, and their survivors.”

To learn more about MOAA - Advocacy in Action visit www.moaa.org/content/take-action/advocacy-in-action/

INFORMATION



For the most current information on the Legislative updates that your organization is supporting for you, please visit MOAA's Take Action Center at: <https://takeaction.moaa.org/moaa>

Hello
my name is

AWESOME!

New members will receive a FREE Name Badge and a MOAA-ACC Collectable Coin. Please email: MOAAACCMembers@gmail.com or call Jim Cargilo, 1st Lt, USMC (FRM) at 904-377-9866.



Annual dues are \$30.00 due on December 31st of each year for the following year. You may renew your membership as follows:

1. Make checks payable to MOAA-ACC and mail to P.O. Box 4571, St. Augustine, Florida 32085.
2. Pay on-line at <https://moaa-acc.org>
3. Bring your payment to a Chapter meeting.

Please email MOAAACCMembers@gmail.com or call Jim Cargilo at 904-377-9866 with any questions.

We're up to **84** members!

Share our website with others and encourage them to join our ranks. <https://moaa-acc.org>



And remind them they need to join the National MOAA Organization at <https://www.moaa.org>

**CHECK OUT
OUR WEBSITE**

Please look to our new website to find useful information about chapter activities and other useful information of interest. <https://moaa-acc.org>