

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
Central Florida Chapter



FOCUS



September 2026 Volume 69 Issue 5

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

President's Message	1
Key Personnel & Next Luncheon	2
Surviving Spouse Corner	3
Legislative Announcements	4
Events & Notices	5

Dates to Note:

Chapter Luncheons:

October 13th

November 10th

December 8th

Sept. 11 – Patriot Day – 25th anniversary

Sept 18th – POW-MIA Ceremony in Orlando

Sept. 18 – Air Force Birthday

Sept. 19 – POW/MIA Recognition Day

Sept 26th – Gold Star Memorial Day in Orlando

Sept. 27th – Official Gold Star

Mother's and Family's Day

Sept 26-27 – Orlando Air Show in Sanford

Oct. 13 – Navy Birthday

Oct. 26 – National Day of the Deployed

Nov. 7th – Orlando Veteran's Day Parade in Lake Nona

President's Message

I hope you have made the most of your long summer days, and for those of you that traveled to cooler locations, I wish you a safe journey back to Central Florida.

We have made the tough decision to **CANCEL our September 8th luncheon** at the DoubleTree UCF. The Ballroom is not available on September 8th, and with the response from the email Randy sent out to Central Florida MOAA members who are not members of our Chapter, the DoubleTree restaurant could not accommodate the expected luncheon turnout. **Our next luncheon will go on as planned on October 13th, 11:30am at the DoubleTree UCF.**



It's that time of year when The National Hurricane Center continuously monitors any upcoming major weather disturbances, and so please double check to make sure your hurricane plans are in place and your supply kit is well stocked! The National Hurricane Center upped the odds that two systems, one in the Gulf, and the remnants of what had been Tropical Storm Dolly, could develop. Please refer to the attached Hurricane Checklist which provides life saving tips while preparing for seasonal hurricanes.

I want to thank our Chapter members Charles Smith, Joanie Fiebrandt, Kin LaFate, Ashley Orf and Bob Brogan who volunteered at the August 21st Orlando VA Creative Art Show at Lake Nona to support of our local veteran artists. There were several hundred works of art on display, and we had over 300 visitors who had a chance to judge the artwork.

I am grateful and give many thanks to Al and Ruth Schroeder for their tireless efforts to promote our Chapter's "Healing Through Expression" (HTE) philanthropy non-profit charity. We are very excited that VA Lake Nona has been chosen to host the 2027 and



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www.flmoaa.org

MOAA National: www.moaa.org

MOAA Take Action Center:

<https://moaa.quorum.us/>

2028 *National Veterans Creative Arts Festival* where the top veterans across America will be honored in over 50+ different categories! Our HTE involvement will dramatically increase, so let your voice be known if you are interested in participating in upcoming VA Recreational Therapy artistic endeavors to support this worthwhile cause.

Stay tuned to an end of the month announcement for the October 13th luncheon. And, as always, check out the Florida Council of Chapters newsletter, *The Communique*, for the latest going on within the 36 MOAA Chapters in Florida. Go to www.flmoaa.org.

Cheers, Lorraine

MOAA CFC Luncheon on October 13th @ 11:30am at DoubleTree UCF \$24 per person

Our next Chapter meeting is a Luncheon at **11:30am on October 13th** and will be held at the DoubleTree Orlando East - UCF Area. The DoubleTree is located at **12125 High Tech Ave, Orlando**. Note that the hotel sits back off the road and may not be immediately visible. The price for the lunch is \$24 per person and can be paid in cash, check, or credit card. As always, we will be asking for your generous JROTC/ROTC scholarship contributions! **RSVP NLT October 6th** to this email, or email lorraine holland@hotmail.com or call 407-221-1388. Please put the luncheon on your calendar and come out to enjoy a wonderful event with your fellow chapter members. FYI, future luncheons will be on November 10th and December 8th.



Military Officers Association of America
Florida Council of Chapters
The Council Communique



The August Edition of FCoC Communique Newsletter was recently emailed out to over 4,000 Florida MOAA recipients. If you are one of the “uninformed” that didn’t get it or didn’t open the newsletter, it is posted and archived on the FCoC website at <https://flmoaa.org/news>

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Please take a look at what our 36 Florida MOAA Chapters are up to, and see many informative and wide-ranging articles from our Council Members. Our very own Randy Fiebrandt works hard as the Communique' Editor, and don't forget to look for his question and hidden answer!

Membership and Mission of MOAA

The last page of this newsletter will always be a Central Florida Chapter (CFC) membership application for your use to recruit new members. MOAA's greatest mission is to improve the lives of those who serve, and their families. The larger our numbers, the greater our voice. If you know of an eligible military, veteran or surviving spouse, please print and cut out the membership application form and ask the veteran to join up and become a member of your Central Florida Chapter!

MOAA CFC Board Meeting Minutes

Minutes for MOAA CFC Board Meetings are located on the web site at www.moaacfc.org.

Surviving Spouse Corner

By Pat Green

It's still summer! Hope you are having a great one with a vacation, time spent rebuilding your garden after our **freezing** winter, or extra time with kids, grandkids, and family.

MOAA uses the summer for a follow-up Legislative push.

If you haven't ever gone to the MOAA Legislative Center, let me guide you:

- Go to www.moaa.org
- Under the MOAA logo,
- Click on Advocacy, then click on Legislative Action Center.
- Start scrolling to the box labeled Families and Survivors, then click. You will find this explanation.

There are a number of issues there. A MOAA Legislative advocate told me that they need support on the 2nd issue, Parity for Surviving Spouses: Increase DIC to match other federal survivor benefits.

Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC)—a benefit for survivors of those who die in service or from service-connected conditions—lags behind other federal survivor benefits. DIC provides only 43% of what a 100% service-disabled veteran receives. Civilian federal survivor programs provide up to 55% of the employee's calculated retirement pay.

This inequity leaves military survivors with less support than their civilian counterparts, despite the sacrifices their loved ones made in service to our country.

The bill also cuts in half, from 10 years to five, the amount of time a veteran must be rated 100% disabled before passing away from a non-service connected condition in order for the surviving spouse to collect DIC.

Contact your lawmaker today and ask them to champion this bill and push for its passage. Or, you can use the module that MOAA provides. When you press write, you will be asked to fill in some information so that MOAA can write and address a letter to your reps, expressing

your support for that bill. Submit your information and then press write. An email will be sent to your representatives supporting this bill.

There are other bills in the Families and Survivors section. Please look through those. There may be others that you would like to support. Do your part and ask your Representatives to support your choices.

Legislative Update

And further to Pat's comments above, Congress has just returned to Washington for a final push before taking off more time to campaign for the Fall elections. MOAA recently completed their summer Advocacy in Action push and encouraged meetings with our State representatives and participation for all members in sending emails, phone calls and/or letters to their individual representatives. In September, lawmakers have just 16 legislative days before the midterm elections. Keeping the government funded is the top priority. The National Defense Authorization Act and the Take Care of America's Veterans Act, a sweeping package that includes the Major Richard Star Act, will both compete for floor time. If you haven't done so, there is still time to voice your opinion, in hopes that Congress might take up action on the three major items that MOAA is advocating.

This Year's Three Issues

These aren't the only issues MOAA is engaged on, but they're three where there's real momentum and a genuine chance to move the needle before the end of this Congress.

Issue	Legislation	The Ask
Major Richard Star Act	H.R. 2102 / S. 1032	Eliminate the VA disability offset for combat-disabled military retirees, who currently forfeit a dollar of retirement pay for every dollar of VA disability compensation. Affects nearly 59,000 combat-disabled veterans; the bill carries 400+ combined cosponsors and is moving on multiple legislative vehicles.
Improve and Enhance WOTC Act	H.R. 6231 / S. 3265	Reauthorize the Work Opportunity Tax Credit, which expired at the end of 2025, and expand eligibility to military spouses, whose unemployment rate remains roughly five times the national average, driven largely by frequent PCS moves.
GLP-1 Coverage Parity for TFL	No legislation yet	Restore TRICARE For Life coverage of GLP-1 medications for obesity-related conditions, ended in August 2025, which created a two-tier coverage system based on beneficiary category rather than medical need. More than 800 beneficiaries have contacted MOAA about the change.

Go to <https://www.moaa.org/summeraia> to find out more about this effort and to make your voice known!

POW/MIA Recognition Ceremony on Friday Sept 18th at 10:30am Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts

This is a friendly reminder to mark your calendars for the **POW/MIA Recognition Ceremony on Friday Sept 18th at 10:30am at the Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts**. Join Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer and our Veterans Advisory Council in paying tribute to our nation's heroes and standing together as a community to honor their service and sacrifice.

This year's event includes a panel discussion focused on the lived experiences of POW family members. Attendees will hear directly from children and family members of Prisoners of War whose experiences span conflict eras from World War II through the Vietnam and Iraq wars.

The ceremony is a tribute to the United States military prisoners of war and those still missing in action, reaffirming the city's commitment to bringing our heroes home and ensuring that they are never forgotten.

Doors open at 10 a.m. with coffee and refreshments available. Please go into the link to register for this free event.

Parking: Complimentary parking will be available in the City Commons Garage, 460 Boone Avenue, Orlando, and parking will be validated at the event. If you are being dropped off, the physical address of the Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts, 445 South Magnolia Avenue, Orlando, FL, 32801.

[View Map](#)

This is the link to RSVP for the event:

<https://www.orlando.gov/Events/2026-POW-MIA-Recognition-Ceremony>



Gold Star Mother's and Family's Day Ceremony on September 26th at 12pm

Join **Orange County Mayor Jerry L. Demings** and the **Orange County Mayor's Veterans Advisory Council** in honoring Gold Star Mothers and Families. Gold Star Mothers and Families embody sacrifice, strength, and enduring love. This ceremony provides a time for remembrance, reflection, and gratitude while honoring those who have lost a loved one in military service.

Orange County Multicultural Center

Saturday, September 26, 2026 - The program is from 12:00 to 1:00.
7149 W. Colonial Drive, Orlando, FL 32818

RSVP at www.ocfl.net/GoldStar2026 by Friday, September 18, 2026.

Contact Shally Wong at 407-836-7042 for details.
www.ocfl.net/VeteransAdvisoryCouncil

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
Central Florida Chapter



Sept 26-27
Orlando Sanford
Int'l Airport

Click on the image to learn more about this upcoming airshow.

Orlando Morale Welfare & Recreation (MWR) August List

It's that time of year when the weather turns cooler, and for those of you that are staying close, the most recent MWR Price Listing is attached to the email.

From MWR Recreational Representative Gabi: Attached is a copy of our most recently updated September pricing sheet for 2026. Please keep in mind tickets are subject to eligibility. You must meet a specific eligibility criterion for any promotional military tickets. To purchase tickets, you must also have a valid military ID (DEERS issued DoD or VA Health ID that is service connected) **it cannot be expired**. Also for Disney you will not find pricing on our pricing sheet. Disney pricing is based on the day and park you would like to visit. Should you have that information feel free to email us mwrorl@gmail.com with it and we can get you the pricing. Most of our tickets require you to select the specific day you want to go to the park. Should you have any other questions feel free to email us. There are no taxes and no fees included and the rate you see will be the flat rate per ticket. The Orlando MWR Office is located Inside the Orlando NEX.

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Physical Address is 7151 Earhart Drive, Orlando FL 32827

MWR Orlando Office Hours- Monday-Saturday 10AM-5PM

(407) 855-0116 or (407)-851-4396

MWR Orlando Phone Ordering- Monday-Saturday 9AM-4:30PM

MWR Orlando is CLOSED Sundays and on all FEDERAL Holidays

Margaritaville at Sea: Through the "Heroes Sail Free" on select sailings program, veterans can book Caribbean cruises for just the cost of taxes and fees. Look for the FREE CRUISE designation. Military always get 20% off on their cruises. Claim here: Margaritaville at Sea. <https://www.margaritavilleatsea.com/current-offers/thank-you-for-your-service-month>

Created as a heartfelt thank-you, our Heroes Sail Free cruise program honors the brave individuals who serve our communities and country every day. From U.S. active and former duty military and first responders to educators, medical personnel, and government employees, this program is our way of giving back to the real-life heroes who deserve to relax, recharge, and escape to an island state of mind. Since launching with GOVX in 2022, we have welcomed over 100,000 U.S. military, first responders, teachers, and everyday heroes on board for well-deserved getaways filled with sunshine, sea breezes, and unforgettable memories.

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
Central Florida Chapter



SAVE THE DATES!

**Military Officers Association of America
Florida Council of Chapters (FCoC)**

Leadership Training Seminar



11-14 March 2027

Rosen Centre Hotel | Orlando, Florida



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MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA - CENTRAL FLORIDA CHAPTER

Application for Membership, Dues Payment & Information Change Form

- ☐ Enroll me as a regular member
 ☐ Address or Information Change Only
☐ Enroll me as a surviving spouse member
 ☐ Dues payment of \$20 & Information update

LAST NAME	FIRST	MIDDLE	RANK	SPOUSE NAME
STREET ADDRESS		ADD'L INFO		PHONE NUMBER
CITY	STATE	ZIP + 4	E-MAIL ADDRESS	BIRTH DATE

NAME OF DECEASED OFFICER (IF APPLICABLE) _____

Member of National MOAA? Y / N Member Number _____

If No, may we sign you up for a no-charge MOAA National Basic Membership?

Status

Service

- | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| ☐ Active Duty | ☐ Army | ☐ Coast Guard |
| ☐ Retired | ☐ Navy | ☐ USPHS |
| ☐ Reserve | ☐ Air Force | ☐ NOAA |
| ☐ Former | ☐ Marine Corps | ☐ Space Force |
| ☐ Surviving Spouse | | |

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Annual dues (payable January) are \$20 for all memberships (except existing Life Members). New members joining after September 1st get credit through the end of the following year. Make checks payable to and mail application to: MOAA CFC, 10151 University Blvd, PMB 145, Orlando, Fl. 32817-1904.. If you would like to make an additional donation to support our ROTC/JROTC scholarship program, please include it with your membership dues, or send separately. This would be greatly appreciated!