

**Winter 2022**

February 1, 2022

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# The MOAA Messenger

## President's Message

### James W. Holler III COL USAF (Ret)

As you recall, we began 2021 in a state of suspended meetings, and were very pleased to resume our meetings in April. Dues and donations had fallen off during this period, but due to savings accrued over previous years we were able to fulfill our financial commitments to the organizations and activities that receive and appreciate KBMOAA's support.

I was pleased to represent KBMOAA at a meeting of the Georgia MOAA (GMOAA) Council held in Warner Robins January 15<sup>th</sup>. We all enjoyed sharing a pizza dinner the evening before with the newly elected GMOAA Council and the Presidents of the other Georgia chapters. By the way, Fred Boyles, our former KBMOAA President, is now the Treasurer of the GMOAA Council.

I was pleased to report that we resumed our dinner meetings in April with a full slate of interesting and informative speakers. I also reported that we had a very successful raffle which netted close to \$4000.00 and that we have six new members.

I also reported, as did several other chapters, that we have a problem with leadership succession. Because we lost a year to covid, and in the absence of volunteers, all currently serving officers agreed to serve through 2022, and all were unanimously elected at the January 18<sup>th</sup> meeting (no surprise). If you have ever considered becoming a member of the KBMOAA Board of Directors I can assure you it's a rewarding experience. Also consider the quotation "We never stop serving."

Finally, as you are aware, we are now in the process of planning our second Our Community Salutes (OCS) event to be held at the Camden County Recreation Center on May 5<sup>th</sup> 2022. Many thanks to David St. Clair for taking the lead in planning this truly outstanding event during which we recognize the graduates of Camden County High School and Charlton County High School who are entering military service. In the near future we will be seeking donors to sponsor the new enlistees and their families; your generous support will certainly be appreciated.

I look forward to seeing you at the next meeting on Feb 15<sup>th</sup>. If you know anyone who is eligible to join or has become inactive, invite them to come.

Best wishes for the coming year,

Jim Holler  
President KBMOAA

## January Speaker

Our January meeting speaker, John F. Morrissey, Mayor of St. Marys, up-dated members on the State of the City and the progress of the City's Master Plan *One St. Marys'* projects.

- Cumberland Inlet, the 700-acre former Gilman Mill property, should see ground breaking spring of 2022 with projects that include:
  - Aquaculture: the farming of shrimp, oysters and produce
  - 170-boat marina, dry boat storage, yacht repair
  - Condominiums, a café
- Former airport property
  - New industrial park
  - JDA in negotiation with 2 prospective companies for light industrial applications
- City Marina adjacent to the Gateway Property
  - 14-day short-stay marina to open May 2022
- Gateway Property
  - Long-anticipated development of this property is presently in negotiations with CB and Sugar Yadev to build a lodging establishment.

## Our Community Salutes

Recognizing that 70% of our nation's youth are not eligible for military service, KBMOAA will honor Camden and Charlton County High School seniors who HAVE met the high standards of, and enlisted in, our Armed Forces. The dinner event at the Camden County Rec Center, 6:00pm May 5, 2022, will host the enlistees and their immediate family members. Our Chapter has applied for a MOAA National Grant to assist with expenses but there is a shortfall. Anyone wishing to support this special event should send a check to KBMOAA, P.O. Box 47191, Kings Bay, GA 31547. Specify OCS on the check. Event questions should be directed to Dave St. Clair at [stclair1@comcast.net](mailto:stclair1@comcast.net).

**Friendly Reminder: Chapter dues (\$25) are due.**

## MOAA (National) Advocacy Objectives for 2022

MOAA's legislative priorities:

- Sustain pay raises and adequate housing allowances for those currently serving and COLA raises for retirees
- Ensure Coast Guard, NOAA and Public Health Service receive pay during government shutdown
- Protect the Military Health, Pharmacy and Family Support benefit programs
- Achieve equity of benefits for Reserve members
- Reform toxic exposure claim processes
- Protect eligibility for burial at Arlington National Cemetery
- Improve survivors' benefits
- Recognize the effects of the pandemic on service members

## 2021 Chapter Donations

- |  |         |
|--|---------|
| • College of Coastal Georgia Veteran's Scholarship | \$1,100 |
| • JROTC (Walter Perkins and Tiana Ibach)           | 100     |
| • Coastal Georgia Honor Flight                     | 500     |
| • St. Marys' Submarine Museum Honor Flight         | 1,000   |
| • K9's for Warriors                                | 300     |
| • Wreathes Across America                          | 225     |

## TOPS

MOAA's Officer Placement Service (TOPS) assists military officers and their spouses in their transition from military service to public and private sector careers by providing the following:

- Web access to job announcements requiring military experience.
- Online resume posting in a military-specific database of qualified candidates.
- Experience-based transition counseling at presentations in-office or by mail, e-mail or phone.
- On-request resume critique service.
- Networking contacts in all 50 states and in 9 foreign countries.

If you have any questions, please contact our local KBMOAA TOPS representative, Kelly Alexander, at [kalexand@tds.net](mailto:kalexand@tds.net).

## The Richter Fund

The Richter Fund was created in September 2017 as tribute to CAPT Thomas A. Richter USN (Ret) who founded the current Kings Bay MOAA Chapter. It is sustained through donations from 50/50 Raffle winners and the generosity of KBMOAA members. The fund is administered by the Chapter's Board of Directors.

Its purpose speaks to one-time special assistance to military personnel, not to the Chapter's regular annual donations. The Chapter's Board reaches out to uniquely situated community leaders for recommendations as to those in need. Assistance is local and discreet. Anyone wishing to donate to this fund should send a check to KBMOAA, P.O. Box 47191, Kings Bay, GA 31547. Specify Richter Fund on the check.

## The Treasury

General Fund Balance: \$12,485.65 Richter Fund Balance: \$2,843.00

## Membership Status

Chapter membership stands at 56 members

## Future Meetings:

February 15, 2022, 5:30pm Social hour, 6:30 Dinner (\$25)

Program: **David J. Reilly** CAPT USN (Ret), National Navy League President

Location: Clubhouse at Osprey Cove

Reservations: kbmoaasec@gmail.com

After a distinguished 38-year career in the U.S. Navy, Capt. Reilly joined the Navy League of the United States in 1998 and rose through its ranks to national President, currently serving from June 2021 to June 2023. Service in various league positions has provided Reilly with in-depth understanding and appreciation of the organization and its role in supporting the sea services.

- Mar 15 -- Jessica Warren, Georgia County Extension Agent
- May 17 – U.S. Representative Earl L. "Buddy" Carter (R-GA)

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# NEVER STOP SERVING

