

June 1, 2022

The MOAA Messenger

President's Message

James W. Holler III COL USAF (Ret)

Greetings,

The past six months have been an exciting time for KBMOAA culminating in the very successful "Our Community Salutes" in which we recognized graduates from Camden and Charlton Counties who decided to serve our Country by enlisting in Military Service. Many thanks to all who took part in this event especially Dave St. Clair, Ron Ritchie and Bob Dickman.

On May 21 I attended a meeting of Georgia MOAA including GMOAA President Barry Gardner, his Council members and Presidents of Georgia Chapters. GMOAA Treasurer Fred Boyles (past president of KBMOAA) reported a balance of \$18,158.00. It was pointed out that some chapters have members that have not paid their 2022 dues. KBMOAA is no exception and I ask if you have not done so, please send a check to KBMOAA.

GMOAA Members Chairman Biff Hadden pointed out that there are 800,000 Veterans in Georgia and we represent all of them. He also pointed out that 88 percent of MOAA members do not belong to a chapter. If you know of someone who is eligible to join our chapter, ask them to come to a meeting and join us.

On the legislative side, Governor Kemp has signed the bill allowing military veterans to deduct up to \$17,500.00 from their military retired pay from State income tax from retirement date to age 62. The GMOAA is working on getting the full reduction for retirees.

On a final note, a full service VA Medical Center is planned and will be located between Macon and Warner Robbins. The U S House of Representatives has passed legislation covering those exposed to Burn Pits. This bill is now headed to the Senate where it is expected to pass.

Jim Holler, President KBMOAA

Speakers

February: Our own Dave Reilly, National President of Navy League, advised KBMOAA members about the benefits of being a Navy League member and the accomplishments of the national and local organizations. Contact davejr0343@yahoo.com or dickmanrsd@aol.com for information or an application form.

March: Jessica Warren, Camden County Extension Agent, discussed on-going programs open to the public on topics such as Invasive Plant and Animal Species, How to Care for Azaleas, Ph of your Dirt, virtual learning and much more. Visit www.caes.uga.edu/extension/camden or jkwarren@uga.edu for scheduling.

April: Commander John Bear, Executive Officer, USS St. Louis (LCS 19), Gold Crew, summarized the training, development and distribution of qualified sailors to the Littoral Combat Ship community.

May: New KBMOAA member Lt. Gen. Raymond P. Ayres USMC (Ret) delivered a stirring talk on *The Lone Sailor* sculpture in Washington, D.C. and how it typifies everyone who has experienced military life.

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Our Community Salutes

Recognizing that over 70% of our nation's youth are not eligible for recruitment into the armed forces, KBMOAA sought to recognize those young people from Camden County High School and Charlton County High School who have made the decision to enlist in our Armed Forces. Of the recruitable age range (18 to 28) in the United States today less than 30% are eligible for military service. This alarming statistic has been called by some to be a national defense crisis. What has made this number so high are young people not meeting the military's academic, physical and conduct standards.

KBMOAA sought to turn this situation around by recognizing on May 5th at a dinner ceremony, those young people in our area who have not only made the decision to enlist but also who are part of the elite of their peers who meet the armed services standards. By recognizing those who are raising their right hand to enlist and their families who support them, MOAA hopes to encourage other youth to do the same.

Honored Enlistees:

CAMDEN COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

Walker Perkins, Marines ; Justin Wilson, Marines; Terrell Martin, Marines; Michael Anderson, Marines; Tiana Ibach, Navy; Devon Borja, Navy; Michael Willson, Navy; Thomas Mott, Navy; Lilyann McClain, Navy; Javen Mays, Navy; William Boothe, Army NG

CHARLTON COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

Ashanti Alderman, Air Force; Zachary Taylor, Marines; John Lucas Johnson, Marines; Andrew Spradley, Army NG; Anthony Rewis, Army NG

And...

as an example of KBMOAA's local outreach and representation, our own Major General Robert S. Dickman, USAF (Ret) is pictured with the Brantley High School AFJROTC MOAA Award winner.



Cadet 1st LT Oscar Rollison

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

MOAA (National) Legislative

MOAA SUPPORTED BILL TARGETS VA'S GROWING CLAIMS BACKLOG

Key senators from both parties have introduced legislation designed to provide the VA with resources to combat its claims backlog, which grew in the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic, when tens of thousands of veterans filed claims connected to new benefits. Toxic exposure to middle east burn pits and Agent Orange exposure during the Viet Nam war were popular items of discussion at committee meetings MOAA attended. The VA began accepting claims in mid-2021 from veterans whose Parkinson's Disease, bladder cancer and hypothyroidism are presumed to be linked to Agent Orange and other herbicides. Tens of thousands of these claims have reached the 125 day mark, adding them to the VA case backlog.

MOAA MAKES PROGRESS TOWARD ENDING HUNGER IN THE RANKS

The grassroots efforts of MOAA members made a difference last year as legislators included language in the annual defense authorization bill designed to help military families living at or near the poverty line. This effort in the new law is just a first step, not a fix. The FY2022 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) will create the Basic Needs Allowance (BNA), a monthly payment to service members whose annual gross household income is below 130% of the federal poverty guidelines for the member's location.

AND... Remember to make your voice heard by your Congressmen at the MOAA (National) Legislative Action Center (MOAA.org) where you can directly and easily record your support for issues of interest to MOAA members.

2022 Chapter Donations



KBMOAA President Holler presents a \$500 check to Lt. Col. Steve Banta USMC for the Camden County High School NJROTC

TOPS

The 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, and phone.
- On-request resume critique service.
- Networking contacts in all 50 states and in 9 foreign countries.
- Periodic virtual and in-person transition and career events

For more details go to moaa.org, and select "Transition and Career" under the "Resources" tab. If you still have questions please contact Kings Bay MOAA's TOPS Director Kelly Alexander at kalexand@tds.net.

The Treasury

General Fund Balance: \$10,059.00 + Richter Fund Balance: \$2,924.00

Membership Status

Chapter membership stands at 59 members. New members are:

Shello Pasko, Spouse, CAPT USN
Gray Bailey, CAPT USN
Steve Stevenson, LCDR USN
Mike Bradberry, LCDR USN
Ray Ayres, GEN USMC
Al Konetzni, RADM USN

Future Programs:

Sep 2022: RADM Scott D. Deitchman, USPHS (Ret) MOAA National
Oct 2022: Steve Howard, Camden County Administrator, Joint Development Authority
Nov 2022: BG Purdey , Space Force, Patrick AFB, FL (Zoom)
Dec 2022: TBD
Jan 2023: BG Bill Ayers, PTSD Specialist

NEVER STOP SERVING

