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President's Message

Colonel James W. Holler III USAF (Ret)

Greetings KBMOAA Members,

Our next meeting on February 21st will be the induction of our returning and new Board of Directors for 2023. Most of our BOD members will continue to serve with the addition of Bill DeLoughy as Treasurer and John Holman as Secretary. We all wish to extend a big "Thank You" to Keith Johnston and Joe Lodmell for their years of service to KBMOAA in these important positions. Lt Gen Raymond P. Ayres USMC (Ret) will be performing the induction ceremony.

On January 28th, I, along with Judy Newman, our Membership Chairman, attended a meeting of the Georgia MOAA in Warner Robins. We enjoyed some fellowship time the evening prior with members of the Georgia Council and Presidents of other chapters. The meeting started with the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation followed by the Treasurer's Report given by Fred Boyles, our former KBMOAA President. According to Fred, our GMOAA Treasury stands at approximately \$13,800.00.

Income for the year was slightly down with expenses slightly up. It was also reported that chapter membership is slightly down and two chapters, Golden Isles and Savannah, have closed. There are currently 579 members in Georgia MOAA chapters. GMOAA President Barry Gardner emphasized that all chapters need to work on membership and recruiting.

I think we are all aware that membership is critical to MOAA's success in influencing legislation that affects the pay and earned benefits of both active and retired personnel and their families. We are also aware that MOAA is our first line of defense against misguided legislative measures that would erode these earned benefits and place a disproportionate share of budget balancing on active and retired military personnel and their families. Case in point: The current assault on TRICARE. If you are a member of KBMOAA and not a member of MOAA at the National level, I ask you to consider becoming a member of MOAA as well as KBMOAA. The magazine, weekly news reports, access to our representatives, retirement and transitional information are all excellent.

Regarding KBMOAA membership: We currently have members on our roster who have not paid 2022 or 2023 dues or we have not heard from them in quite a while. We will be reviewing our roster and deleting names of those who we have not heard from on a case by case basis. If you have moved out of the area and want to stay connected, let us hear from you.

Wishing you the best for 2023.

Jim Holler, President KBMOAA

Officers for 2023

The following Officers and Committee Chairs will be sworn in at the KBMOAA February 2023 meeting with installation provided by Lt. General Raymond P. Ayres USMC (Ret):

President: Colonel James W. Holler III USAF (Ret)
1st Vice President position is vacant
2nd Vice President/Historian: Major General Robert S. Dickman USAF (Ret)
Secretary: 1st Lieutenant. William T. DeLoughy ANG
Treasurer: Lieutenant John J. Holman USN

Committee Chairs

Legislative Affairs: Lieutenant Commander Harry C. Lewis USN (Ret)
TOPS: Major Kelly D. Alexander USAF (Ret)
Programs: Captain Orren R. Crouch USN (Ret)
Chaplain: 1st Lieutenant Joseph C. Holler USA
Membership: Judy Newman
Public Affairs: Cheri Richter

Arc of Flags



This flag display greets KBMOAA members as they enter Osprey Cove's Clubhouse for the Chapter's monthly meetings. Flags are, L-R: U.S., Army, Marine Corp., Navy, Air Force, Space Command and Civil Engineer Corp.

Speaker News

First-ever ZOOM-ed Chapter meeting

The November monthly MOAA dinner meeting featured Mark Bontrager, Technical Director, Launch and Range Operations, United States Space Force. Mr. Bontrager spoke to the Chapter from Patrick Space Force Base via ZOOM – our first-ever use of this capability to bring in a speaker that otherwise wouldn't have been available. He described the many changes that Space Launch Delta 45, the USSF organization responsible for launch and range operations at Cape Canaveral Space Force Station, have put in place to enable users to launch at rates that were unheard of twenty years ago. Mr. Bontrager described how SpaceX would be able to launch twice in one day, and how both Space X and United Space Alliance could launch within hours of each other. He noted that the launch rate in 2022, unmatched since the days of much smaller rockets in the 1960s, would be exceeded in 2023. After his description Mr. Bontrager answered many questions from our members, and recalled that he and General Dickman were assigned together at the 45th in the 1990s.

Ed. Note: This virtual presentation opens opportunity for a variety of subjects otherwise unavailable to our community. Thanks to our own Ray Crouch and Bob Dickman for making this first-ever possible.

Future Programs:

March: Emily Floore, Exec. Dir. St. Marys River Keeper

April: Henry Rolon, Chief PAO, FLETC

May: Captain Chris Bohner USN Commanding Officer, Kings Bay Sub Base

Outreach

Rep. Buddy Carter visits Camden County

On October 13, 2022, our MOAA Chapter joined with the Camden-Kings Bay Council of the Navy League to hear Rep. Earl L. (Buddy) Carter, Congressman from the Georgia 1st District. After a very interesting review of his activities supporting our District Buddy answered many questions on a wide range of topics, from local projects to his support for the Ukraine defense against the Russian invasion. This was the first of what we hope will be many collaborative programs among the military and veteran-support organizations in our area.

Awards in 2022

KBMOAA received a **MOAA National 4-Star Harris Award** for its outstanding KBMOAA website design and delivery.

And... KBMOAA was awarded a **MOAA National 4-Star Level of Excellence Award** for its community service, involvement and commitment fostering programs that directly support MOAA's missions.

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

MOAA (National) Legislative

The legislative slate is wiped clean for the 118th Congress. Support from the membership is needed to achieve the MOAA objectives listed below:

- * Compensation and Service Earned Benefits
- * Military Housing
- * Health Care for Currently Serving Active Duty Personnel and Retirees
- * Health Care Benefits for Veterans
- * Service Families and Survivors
- * National Guard and Reserve Personnel.

Please ensure that you are signed up for [The MOAA Newsletter](#) and that you're registered as an advocate at our [Legislative Action Center](#) (procedure follows):

KBMOAA Member Action Item

MOAA is the largest military lobbyist in the nation, advocating for military officers and their families. We, as MOAA members, can easily participate in that lobbying campaign by accessing MOAA's website to message our national senators and representatives on issues of importance to you. Here's how:

Log on to MOAA.org

Establish an account if you don't have one

Select your category from the "View My Resources" menu

Find and activate the "Advocacy" link. It's a banner item across the top of the MOAA Home Page but might be listed under three horizontal lines on a mobile device indicating more menu items.

Select "Legislative Action Center"

Select the first issue to which you want to "Write"

Fill out the form. The program will automatically connect you with your appropriate national representatives. Assuming you agree with the letter, scroll to the bottom to "Submit" it. Once you "Submit", it will send that letter to Sens. Ossoff and Warnock and/or Rep. Carter.

"Go Back" to the list of letters to "Write" and repeat. You will not have to fill out the info form again. Just "Write", "Submit" and return until you have sent every letter you wish to send.

Easy once you've done it and you can do it as many times as you wish, as in monthly. The more letters our representatives receive the more they listen. This is an easy way to be heard.

Legislative (Local)

On April 18, 2022, Governor Brian Kemp signed several bills of interest to Georgia's military community:

House Bill 1064 exempts up to \$17,000 of military retirement from Georgia income tax for some veterans and allows an exemption on an additional \$17,500 of their military retirement benefit if they make at least that much from working a job in Georgia.

In addition, **House Bill 884** expedites licenses for military spouses, insuring they are issued within 90 days of applying; **Senate Bill 96** allows veterans to use their Veterans Health ID Card when seeking services of a public notary and **Senate Bill 87** allows taxpayers to donate all or some of their annual tax refund to scholarships for disabled veterans.

VA Life Insurance

On Jan. 1, 2023, the Department of Veterans Affairs opened enrollment for Veterans Affairs Life Insurance — the first new VA life insurance program for veterans in more than 50 years — extending VALife access to millions of veterans.

VALife will provide up to \$40,000 of whole life insurance for all veterans, age 80 or under, with service-connected disabilities rated from 0-100%. Acceptance in the program is guaranteed, and no medical underwriting is required.

It will also allow veterans to complete their application online, receive instant decisions, and perform self-service functions — including electronic payments and beneficiary updates.

2023 GA MOAA Conference

The next Georgia MOAA Conference will be hosted by the Georgia Mountain Chapter September 28 – October 1, 2023, in Dahlonega, GA. State meetings are informative, an excellent networking opportunity and fun. Information is at GAMOAA.org.

TOPS

MOAA's Career Transition Resources site is a goldmine of information for anyone transitioning out of the military and into the civilian work environment. Here is how to access it:

Go to MOAA.org

Under the "Resources" tab select "Transition and Career"

Transition Center Resources:

Career Counseling

- MOAA's Transition Guide (downloadable PDF)
- Resume Critiques and reviews
- Webinar Schedule and Archive
- MOAA's job board in partnership with Indeed.com
- MOAA on LinkedIn

Topics Include the Following:

- Information on Upcoming Job-Search-Related Events
- Networking and Social Media Resources
- Transition and Mindset Coaching
- Salary and Benefits
- Federal Job Guidance
- Help for Military Spouses

KBMOAA POC: Kelly Alexander at kalexand@tds.net

Membership Status

Chapter membership stands at 66 members.

Join MOAA National at moaa.org

Join KBMOAA at kbmoaasec@gmail.com

As current MOAA/KBMOAA members, you are the word-of-mouth recruitment arm for this Chapter. Enlist your fellow officer neighbors, friends and acquaintances to join, advocate, influence legislation and enjoy the camaraderie of fellow officers in the community.

The KBMOAA Treasury

Fund Balances as of 1/14/23: General Fund: \$10,675.60 + Richter Fund: \$1,807.00

2023 Chapter Budgeted Donations

\$150 Tunnel to Towers
\$1000 Honor Flight of the Golden Isles
\$745 Our Community Salutes
\$500 CC JROTC Scholarship or Rifle Team
\$500 College of Coastal Georgia for Vets / Scholarship
\$500 College of Coastal Georgia for Vets / Lounge
\$100 College of Coastal Georgia for Vets / Vet of the Year
\$300 St. Marys Submarine Museum
\$500 Marine & Navy Relief
\$225 Wreaths Across America
\$300 K-9's for Warriors

NEVER STOP SERVING

