



Charleston Chapter, Military Officers Association of America

December - Issue 11 - 2017

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Web site: www.charlestonmoaa.com



Christmas in Charleston This Year?

Take a break from the hustle 'n bustle of Christmas preparation. Mark your calendar for December 16th and join us at Carrabba's Italian Grill! The lunch will be informal and the holiday atmosphere will be much in evidence! And, for those among us who are 'late shoppers' and might not ordinarily shop East Cooper, after lunch one can explore the myriad of shops, big and small, in Town Center. Come! Share the Holiday Spirit with friends and colleagues & join us as we kick off the Weekend Before Christmas! Who knows – after a couple of spirits and with your eyes closed, you may be able to envision yourself in a Winter Wonderland!

Place: Carrabba's Italian Grill, 2668 Highway 17 North, Mt. Pleasant, phone 843-849-9126.

Date: Friday, December 15th, 2017.

Time: 11:00 A.M. Social Hour (Cash Bar).

Lunch: 12:00 Noon.

Menu: Choice of entrée: 1) **Chicken Marsala** – wood grilled chicken topped with mushrooms, prosciutto, and Carrabba's Lombardo Marsala wine sauce. 2) **Salmon Cetriolini** – wood grilled salmon finished with diced roma tomatoes, cucumber, dill and a lemon butter sauce. Both entrees served with garlic mashed potatoes or vegetables of the day and non-alcoholic beverage.

Dessert: Mini Sogno di Chocollatta ("Chocolate Dream") – a rich fudge brownie layered with chocolate mousse, fresh whipped cream, and then topped with homemade

chocolate sauce.

Cost: \$20.00 per person. Make checks payable to Charleston MOAA (*Note your choice of entrée on your check...!*)

Dress: Christmas Casual

RSVP: Check to arrive NLT Friday, December 8th 2017

Mail To:

Robert B Baker,
LCDR, USN (ret),
2892 Colonnade Drive,
Mt Pleasant, SC 29466

For additional information:

Call 843-388-8279

R.B. Baker@sbcglobal.net

**This is a luncheon event and
you can make it!**

**Make your reservations today
and celebrate the Holidays
with other members!**

**WATCH TV 2 EVENING NEWS,
on Wednesday December 6,**

**To See Our Chapters *Toys for Tots*
Gift of**

360 Sports Balls To The Marines.

Most of the dollar contributions have come from members at our monthly functions. If you have been unable to attend, please consider making a contribution by mail to our chapter address. Make check out to Charleston MOAA and note for Toys.

Legislative Summary

by Edward O. Crandell, COL (Ret) U.S. Army



The 2018 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) has moved one step closer to a House and Senate vote. The House Armed Services Committee (HASC) Conference Report can be found at

https://armedservices.house.gov/sites/republicans.armedservices.house.gov/files/wysiwyg_uploaded/FY18%20NDAA%20Floor%20Summary%20vFinal.pdf

The report states “Repairing and rebuilding our military is key to defending the country and so is reforming the way the Pentagon does business. HASC

Chairman Max Thornberry has committed to making defense reform a key priority during his tenure.” The following summarizes the key provisions of the section of the report entitled “Repairing the Military and Restoring Readiness.”

Continued downsizing, budget cuts, and funding unknowns strains the force and affects retention. The Conference Committee supports a 2.4% pay increase effective January of 2018. This is an increase from the administrations proposed 2.1%. The conferees did not recommend removal of the Survivor Benefit Plan offset for those spouses receiving Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance (SSIA) from the VA. However, they did vote to permanently continue the \$310 monthly allowance to reduce the financial burden of the “widow’s tax.” It should be noted that the complete removal of the SBP offset is the only fair solution for those survivors whose spouses died of service connected conditions while on active duty or after retirement.

In an effort to reduce the stress on the force, the size of the military end strength will increase by

20,000 troops. The Army will increase by at least 7,500, the Navy by 4,000, the Marine Corps by 1,000, and the Air Force by 4,100. Reserve forces will grow 3,400.

The Conference Report also takes note of the recent victims of sexual assault and recommends actions to prosecute perpetrators of nonconsensual sharing of intimate images by adding a provision to the Uniform Code of Military Justice which specifically prohibits these crimes. It also adds requirements to the Sexual Assault and Prevention Programs of each service.

The Conference Report includes this statement. “Today, we have too many planes that cannot fly, too many ships that cannot sail, too many Soldiers who cannot deploy, while too many threats are gathering. We have come to a key decision point. For six years, we have been just getting by – cutting resources as the world becomes more dangerous, asking more and more of those who serve, and putting off tough choices. Chairman Thornberry and the Conferees believe that we cannot keep piling missions on our Servicemembers without ensuring they have all they need to succeed.”

It will be interesting to see if the rest of Congress agrees when the 2018 NDAA comes to a vote by the House and Senate..

Thank You

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Chapter programs*

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= \$1,758.00 .

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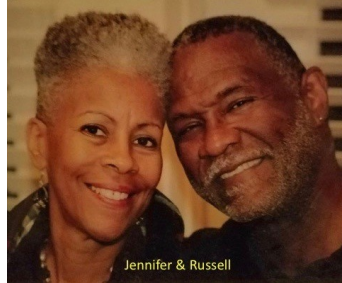
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For every referred Client I donate \$100 to the MOAA Scholarship Fund!

Meet Your Fellow Chapter Member

Lt Col Joseph “Russell” Maiden, USAF (Ret)

Mental Health Professional, Car- ing Mentor



The road from Washington DC as a boy to a career in Clinical Social Work in the Air Force is a long and circuitous one.

Fortunately, Lt Col Maiden's internal GPS had been set for the final destination many years before.

“My dad was a phenomenal man!” Russell proudly stated. “He was extremely smart and made his own way despite the fact that he got his GED later in life. He worked as a Sonar Tech for the Navy and was always in demand to fix things that others couldn't. He taught me many things; being proud of who I am; making my own way and putting in the effort to succeed. He also taught – mostly by showing me – to help others along the way. His influence almost led me to choose the priesthood because in my heart I knew that I wanted to help others”

Russell was born and raised in DC and often visits his mother who still lives there. A good student and an outstanding basketball player, Russell pursued the route to the pros but soon found that it really wasn't meant for him. After leaving Edinboro University in Edinboro, PA he returned home where he obtained his Bachelor's degree from Catholic University and a Masters from Howard University, both focusing on social work. His GPS is now set.

Russell walked a creative path working in St Elizabeth's Hospital in DC where he received extensive training in clinical social work and psychodrama. Following his education and training, he worked for a city psychiatric day care program that provided services to severely mentally ill patients transitioning back to the community. In 1982, he accepted a job at the Naval Alcohol Rehabilitation Center in San Diego. There he was involved with implementing a Creative Arts Rehabilitation service that

was highly successful. This direct contact with the military intrigued Russell. “I saw a lot of sailors and marines who suffered from addictive illness and co-existing mental health problems. Moreover, the system wasn't really set up to help prevent some of these growing problems. I wanted in because I knew that I could help.”

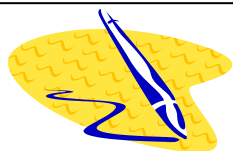
At the ripe old age of 30, Joseph Russell Maiden raised his hand and became a 1st LT in the U. S. Air Force. Progressing through a 24-year career, Russell helped retain many military members and assisted commanders with releasing individuals who were deemed incompatible and prejudicial to military service. He worked with a wide spectrum of behavioral health problems which, amongst other problems, included acute and post-traumatic stress disorders. He also educated the command leadership in recognizing behavioral problems among the men & women who served, which encouraged prompt referral and intervention that prevented lethal occurrences.

Russell's GPS has worked well for him. Rising through the ranks, he has been assigned to many different bases from Sheppard AFB, TX ; two tours at Andrews AFB; 2 month deployment during Operations Desert Shield and Storm; a remote assignment at Kunsan AB, ROK; Tripler Army Medical Center, Hawaii; and MacDill AFB, Tampa, Fl. (where he met his wife, Jennifer). Finally, setting their sights on Charleston and planting their roots in Summerville both Russ and Jennifer have fallen in love with the area.

After 24 years in the USAF, Russell decided to retire at Charleston AFB in 2008. He keeps very busy these golden years of retirement. Jennifer travels around the Southeast as a business consultant, and Russ often accompanies her. You will find him on the golf course several days a week and visiting 7 children and 11 grandchildren also takes up a lot of time too.

But his favorite task is helping to mold his grandsons of 11, 13, & 15 living in the Charleston area. Russell's GPS setting a steady course of “Helping others” hasn't stopped, has it!

Welcome to the Lowcountry Jennifer and Russell!
We are glad you are here!



President's Pen

After an outstanding November with Veterans Day and all the activities surrounding that and free admission to Patriots Point over the weekend, followed by Thanksgiving, we now head to December and all the holidays leading to a new year. The first thing coming up in December is Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day and corresponding with that is the Open House for the Fisher House Charleston. The Open House and Dedication of Fisher House Charleston is scheduled to begin at 1000 hours on Thursday, December 7, 2017. The Fisher House Charleston is located at 150 Wentworth Street in Charleston. That is about a mile from the Ralph H. Johnson VA Hospital. I do encourage our members to attend and support this event.

As noted in last month's issue, Keith Rodwell is leaving the Board and I have asked him to join Dave Farley and Rudy Smart as a nominating committee to search for his replacement. Please consider taking the JROTC/ROTC Awards Director Position and assist your Chapter is working with our JROTC/ROTC units recognize their outstanding service and cadets. They join us in visiting the Ralph H. Johnson VA Hospital as well as supporting our Chapter at the Military Officers of the World Wars Presentation of the colors each year at The Citadel. All Board members will assist you in your efforts as you move onto the Board. We just need you to contact us and let us know of your desire to assist your Chapter.

In addition to Keith's position, Ed Knowles has announced his plan to retire as your Chapter Treasurer at the end of his term in December 2018. Ed has been the Chapter Treasurer for over 25 years and has done an outstanding job. In addition to being our Treasurer, he is instrumental in our annual support for the US Marine Corps' Toys for Tots program. He has coordinated with Channel 2's Rob Fowler and T & T Sportsman Shop to obtain sports balls for the Marines to present to children

each Christmas. The footballs, basketballs, soccer balls and kick balls are a hit with all children. Ed, we will miss you on the Board and will miss your annual coordination with the Toys for Tots program and will have a hard time replacing your services. Thank you for a job well done!!

Unfortunately we do not have any new members to recognize this month; however, I would encourage you to remember to support our Future Military Officers Scholarship Program and take advantage of that opportunity to reduce your taxes!

Thank you again for your continued support to the Charleston Chapter!!!

Ernie

Attention all retirees and annuitants,

The Defense Finance and Accounting Service's addresses changed effective May 1, 2017. The old addresses are being discontinued and will be replaced by addresses in Indianapolis.

The new addresses are:

For Retired Pay:

Defense Finance and Accounting Service
U.S. Military Retired Pay
8899 E 56th Street
Indianapolis IN 46249-1200

Annuitant Pay:

Defense Finance and Accounting Service
U.S. Military Annuitant Pay
8899 E 56th Street
Indianapolis IN 46249-1300

The old PO Boxes in London KY will remain open and all mail will be forwarded to the new address for one year. However, sending mail to the old address will add three to five days to the normal processing time.

Continued on page 5



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Fellow Lowcountry MOAA-ians (or is it MOAA-ites?)

It has been a great pleasure to be the chapter's Awards Director for the past several years. I've had the privilege of meeting some very dedicated instructors in the ROTC & JROTC units that we serve.

It is time that I move on.

We are looking for someone to take over the reigns starting in 2018.

The position involves coordinating the logistics of presentation of the MOAA Medal and our own chapter's Outstanding Cadet Award to the cadets (plus midshipmen at The Citadel) in the 23 high schools and 2 universities in our area.

The Awards Director doesn't personally attend all of the awards ceremonies but ensures that the chapter volunteer presenters have the necessary information and material to make the presentations.

The position is most active during the first half of the year as most awards ceremonies are held between April and May.

I would estimate that the average amount of time spent on this task between January and June is about 5-6 hours a month.

The Awards Director position is part of the chapter's Board and will also attend the monthly board meetings.

If you would like to assist the chapter in this rewarding task please let Dave Farley, Rudy Smart or myself know.

Quite naturally, I will turn over all of my data & material to you and assist you in getting started and in any way I can. Steve Rowe will continue to be the assistant awards director.

Keith Rodwell

Continued from page 4

Attention all retirees and annuitants,

The telephone and fax numbers are not changing.

Please copy and paste the following web address into your web browser for additional contact information:

<https://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary.html>

Please go to the web site and up date your password and all other information on your account.



Rest in Peace **Military Brothers and Sisters.** **Your Service to Our Country** **is Recorded and Honored.**

LtCol Richard E. Johnson, USAF

Mrs. Berneice M. Fuller AUX,
Wife of COL Josiah W Fuller USA Ret.

DoD eyes a change to GI Bill transferability

The Pentagon is weighing a policy change that would limit certain service members from transferring their education benefits to dependents, a Defense Department official said in a written statement this week.

His testimony said the new restriction would take effect one year from the date DoD finalizes the policy change.

Joe Plenzler, also a Legion spokesman, said Friday he had not previously heard about the DoD's plan to change the transfer rules for the GI Bill and is concerned about some of the language in Kurta's statement.

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How the 2018 Tricare Changes Impact Tricare for Life Users

Almost all types of [Tricare](#) coverage will face sweeping changes, upgrades and reforms in 2018 resulting from legislation passed last year and a [contractor changeover](#).

The only part of Tricare that won't be dramatically impacted is [Tricare for Life](#).

That's because Tricare for Life, used by military retirees over age 65, isn't like the Defense Health Agency's other plans. Rather than provide stand-alone comprehensive coverage, Tricare for Life pairs with Medicare Part B as wrap-around coverage.

Quick Facts:

Tricare's major changes impact almost all plans, including [active-duty families](#) and [military retirees](#).

- Tricare for Life is almost entirely exempt from the changes.
- The only change to Tricare for Life is a shift in the annual date deductibles and cost caps reset.

Like many of Tricare's other plans, Tricare for Life includes an annual deductible that users must pay out-of-pocket when receiving care. Tricare for Life users pay a deductible of \$150 per individual or \$300 per family in circumstances where services are used that Medicare does not cover. Also like other plans, those beneficiaries have a maximum amount they will pay out-of-pocket in any given year of \$3,000, known as a "catastrophic cap."

In the past, both of those costs -- the deductible and the cap -- reset every Oct. 1 with the new fiscal year. But starting in 2018, that will no longer be the case.

That means for the remainder of 2017 only, all users who have hit their cap have an extra three months -- October, November and December of this year -- to receive care without additional fees. Those who have not yet hit their cap or deductibles will continue to pay toward the fee ceilings.

Like Tricare's other plans, starting in 2018 Tricare for Life will instead reset every Jan. 1, bringing the plans in line with the annual calendar used by most health insurers, as well as Medicaid and Medicare.

Trouble Registering with Vets.gov?

Some veterans are encountering trouble when attempting to register with [Vets.gov](#), a step that vets must complete to qualify for the national ID card when the VA begins accepting applications in November.

Here is a workaround. When you visit Vets.gov, pick option one, the 'sign in with DS Logon' even if you have never heard of DS Logon. Only then will you be able to find the option to create an eBenefits premium account, also known as DS Logon, which requires users to be enrolled in Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS).

For those eligible, DS Logon is probably the quicker option. If you look right below the Login button, you will see a tab that says 'More DS Logon Options.' Click it, and you will see four more color-coded tabs. The first is labeled 'Need a DS Logon?' Fill out all the info, and you are good to go.

2017-2018 OFFICERS and BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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1st VP PROGRAMS	LCDR Robert B. Baker, USN (thru 2018)	843-388-8279	r.b.baker@sbcglobal.net
2nd VP MEMBERSHIP	COL Beverly R. Brockman, USA (thru 2018)	843-875-4465	brockman1982@att.net
PAST PRESIDENT	COL Josiah W. Fuller, USA (thru 2018)	843-821-0169	ButchFuller@aol.com
SECRETARY	CDR David E. Farley, USN (thru 2018)	843-881-9452	defarley@bellsouth.net
TREASURER	LtCol Ed Knowles, USAF (thru 2018)	843-553-5299	r66837@comcast.net
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DIR AWARDS	CAPT Keith Rodwell, USN (thru 2018)	610-420-4046	keithrodwell@icloud.com
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DIR. T.O.P.S/PUBLICITY	Vacant		
ASST AWARDS DIR	COL Steve Rowe, USA (thru 2018)	843-797-6326	srowe@carolinaone.com

REPRESENTATIVES TO THE BOARD (Appointed by the President)

CHAPLAIN	Col Walter S. Adams, USAF	318-780-4009	scottandnancyadams@gmail.com
EDITOR	MAJ Charles Rickard, USA	843--640-3738	spudisland19@gmail.com
SCHOLARSHIP/Web Site	Col Rudy Smart, USAF	843-834-0474	rudy@thesmartsplace.com

Prospective Chapter Members: if you are not a member of the Charleston Chapter, MOAA, you have received this copy as a courtesy invitation to contact any Officer or Director for information about joining our Chapter.

News and Views herein are not necessarily those of any Government Department or another Chapter, or a Member's Chapter..

Charleston Chapter MOAA Membership Application Renewal Change of Address (circle one).
Chapter Dues: \$10.00 a year for Regular membership. Auxiliary membership \$5.00 per year. Multiple year dues are encouraged in order to reduce paperwork. Make check payable to "Charleston MOAA". Mail to: Charleston MOAA, P.O. Box 70421, Charleston SC 29415-0421.

Last Name _____ First Name _____ MI _____

DOB _____ Rank _____ Service _____ Spouse's Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____ - _____

Phone Number _____ Email _____

If you are a member of National MOAA, please provide your membership number _____

Your status (circle one) Retired Active Duty Reserve National Guard Former Officer Auxiliary

Dues for Year (s) _____ Signature _____

Tricare Users Must Make Provider, Plan Changes Before Blackout Date

[Tricare](#) users soon will be blocked for more than three weeks from making changes to their plans or primary-care providers thanks to the system's upcoming shift to a new pair of contractors and region shake-up.

The blackout will run from Dec. 1 to Dec. 23, officials said. During that period no changes -- including switching from [Tricare Prime](#) to [Tricare Standard](#) -- will be made or processed through the Tricare website, by phone, mail or fax.

Users now must make any changes through the Tricare contractor. All changes must be made by phone or fax directly to the regional contractor, officials said. See the [The Quick and Easy\(ish\) Guide to 2018 Tricare Changes](#)

The freeze is just one part of a series of major Tricare changes that will hit Jan. 1. The system's three U.S. regions will be combined into two; Tricare Standard will be known as Tricare Select; and a new fee structure will change costs paid out-of-pocket by many users, among other changes.

Officials said they have created a workaround for users who plan to purchase Tricare through [Tricare Reserve Select](#), [Tricare Retired Reserve](#) or [Tricare Young Adult](#) but don't qualify to do so until after the blackout starts.

Those users can call the current regional contractor directly to enroll in coverage and pay the required premiums. They will be given a temporary notification letter from the contractor noting their enrollment status, and will be able to present it to providers until the freeze has lifted and their enrollment can be processed, officials said.

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Membership News

Total Membership: 300
Auxiliary Members: 65
Honorary Members: 9
Members Receiving our
E-Mail Newsletter: 139

Membership Dues 2018

To those members who have not yet paid their annual dues for 2018, please note that your Membership is highly valued and we sincerely hope to continue counting you among us as we press on to further the goals and objectives of this Chapter. To remain a Chapter member, please be sure to submit your dues NLT 1 JANUARY 2018.

Please remember that the Chapter's annual dues are expected at the beginning of each year. Check the mailing label on the newsletter if you are receiving the newsletter via US MAIL where it says " DUES PAID THRU" date to see if your dues are current for the year 2018 or beyond.

If you received your newsletter via E-MAIL and are uncertain if your dues need to be paid for the calendar year 2018, then send me an e-mail (brockman1982@att.net) or call me at 843-875-4465 and I will respond to you with the information.

If you determine dues need to be paid, please mail your dues at your earliest convenience (\$10 for members or \$5.00 for Auxiliary members) payable to Charleston MOAA. To keep your information current, along with your dues please complete the Membership Application/Renewal Form inside this newsletter. Attach your check to the application and mail both to: Charleston Chapter, MOAA, PO BOX 70421, Charleston, SC 29415-0421 Thank you very much in advance!

Dues Questions

Questions about your status should be directed to: Beverly Brockman, Membership VP, 843-875-4465
Brockman1982@att.net

Members Paid for 5 or more years:

CDR Richard A. Driggers, USN
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