

# Bridge View

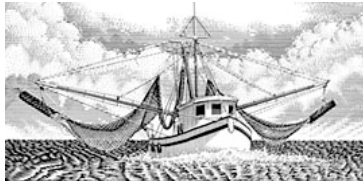


Charleston Chapter, Military Officers Association of America

November 2007



Web site: [www.chasmoaa.org](http://www.chasmoaa.org)



## Shrimp Boats Are Coming

### SPECIAL PROGRAM: Robert Lahm Award

You've had your turkey, now join us for our annual seafood event at Red's Ice House. Skip the shopping and come see how Shem Creek has decorated for the Christmas holidays. Enjoy a great meal, great company and a super evening all the way around.

**PLACE:** Red's Ice House  
98 Church St. Mt Pleasant

**DATE:** Friday, 30 November, 2007

**TIME:** 6 P.M. Social time  
6:45 P.M. Dinner

**MENU:** Low Country Boil with shrimp, sausage, potatoes and corn. Cash Bar

**COST:** \$17.00 (same as last year)

**MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO**  
"Charleston MOAA"

**DRESS:** Casual

**RSVP:** NLT 28 November, 2007

**MAIL TO:** Lt. Cliff Abbey  
100 Cheshire Drive  
Goose Creek, SC 29445

**NOTE:** After you turn off of Coleman Blvd onto Mill St, make an immediate right into the large parking lot. There is a sign there. Then drive across the parking lot to Red's Ice House.

*You'all come, ya hear.*



NOVEMBER  
**30th**



## Veterans, Do You Care About Them?



Over the last few weeks, I've seen lots of short video clips of people saluting veterans. So far, only military personnel are featured in these clips, however, it got me to thinking. All of us in MOAA are veterans and we are being honored by active duty personnel. It does give me a warm feeling to be remembered.

However, I started to think about those veterans that aren't as fortunate as I am. Some of our fellow veterans are in the Ralph H. Johnson VA Hospital in Charleston. Additionally, some of these veterans don't receive any visitors during their stay at the hospital.



I don't know about you, but the couple of times I have been in the hospital, I have been bored stiff. A visit by anyone (not medical staff) was a real spirit lifting event. Even if they could only stay three or four minutes, I found their visit uplifting and I felt better for hours after they left.



Our Chapter has visited our fellow veterans several times this year and each time we have been warmly welcomed by both hospital staff and especially the veterans in the hospital. We are going to continue our visits and would like other Chapter members/Veterans to join us.

Will you join us and help cheer up a fellow veteran? We visit the VA hospital every quarter and our trip is only two or three hours out of our day. Our next trip is on November 7, 2007. Contact Terry Joyce (phone 871-6360) and let him know you would like to participate. **Will you please join us and help our fellow veterans?**



Who's this Month's MOAA Profile  
See Page Three

# Legislative Update

CDR John E. Nolan, SC, USN

## COLA

The vast majority of military retirees will see a 2.3% COLA effective December 1, 2007. It will first appear in the January pay checks.

Special "first COLA" rules for certain members retiring during the current calendar year :

\*Members who entered service on or after Sept. 8, 1980 and who retired between July and September of 2007 will see a 0.2% COLA.

\* Those who entered service on or after Sept. 8, 1980 and retire in the fourth quarter of this calendar year (after Oct. 1, 2007 will see no COLA this year.

All members who retired from service during 2007 will receive full COLA's in future years.

## TMC Highlights Top Defense Bill Priorities

As the House and Senate Armed Services Committee leaders start negotiations to resolve differences between the separate House and Senate versions of the FY 2008 Defense Authorization Bill , MOAA and 32 other military and veterans organizations, ( representing 5.5 million current and former service members and their families and survivors) highlighted nine priorities they particularly would like to see include in the Bill

\* Wounded Warriors: Support specific improvement provisions included in

\* End Strength : Support for end strength proposals included by both Committees for the Army and Marine Corp. However concerns that reductions in active duty and reserve components for the Navy and Air Force are driven by budget considerations rather than requirements and have the potential to cause significant operations tempo problems in facing future military needs.

\*Concurrent Receipt: Support extending Combat-Related Special Compensation to all retirees with less than 20 year's service –as early termination of their careers was involuntary imposed on them by combat wounds. As well as providing full, immediate concurrent retired disability pay for otherwise qualifying retirees deemed "unemployable". They should not have to wait until 2009 for full payment.

\*Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP ) Fixes: Support ending deduction of Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) from SBP annuities when the member's death is service-connected and support for immediate implementation of 30-year paid-up SBP coverage.

\*TRICARE Fees: Support for the Committee's action in barring any increase in TRUCARE Prime feeds for 2008.

\*Military Pay Raise: Support the House provision that would set military pay raises one-half percentage point above Employment Cost Index each year for the next five years.

\*Guard and Reserve Retirement: Support changes that will help improve and encourage continued service in these components.

\*Montgomery GI Bill: Support consolidation of all GI Bill authorities under title 38 and authorize a 10 year portability for Selected Reserve members .

\*Support For Military Families: Support the numerous provisions to improve family needs. However, these should be consolidated in a comprehensive package addressing family readiness.

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U.S. AIR FORCE



# LT COL David Hills, USAF, Retired Member of the Charleston Chapter Returnee to Charleston



Charleston’s Lowcountry is a draw to many folks and retired Air Force Lt. Col. David Hills and his wife Micky are no exceptions.

The Hills were stationed in Charleston from 1973 to ’75. “We came back as tourists in 1986, then (again) every three or four years,” Dave said recently.

“It (Charleston) was like a magnet to us,” Micky added.

After years of living elsewhere, the Hills moved back to Charleston last April. Both are seasoned travelers, with military moves, ocean cruises and “Space A” travel their specialties.

“We’ve been all over,” Micky said. Their cruise ship voyages include the Caribbean, the Panama Canal, South America, Antarctica, Alaska and Hawaii. They plan to fly to Rome later this fall, cruise the Med, then return home on the ship.

Dave’s Air Force career began in 1969 after graduating from the University of Rochester (N.Y.) He had already decided to join up when Gen. Lewis B. Hershey, head of Selective Service, pulled his number first out of the goldfish bowl.

“It allowed me not to have to worry about making a decision,” he said.

Soon he was off to Officer Training School at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas, then navigator training at Mather Air Force Base, California. His first operational assignment at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam in the weather version of the C-130 was perhaps his most rewarding.



2d LT David Hills



Dave Hills and Family

“We flew as pathfinders for satellite snaring missions. We also flew in and out of typhoons,” Dave said. And, he flew along the Ho Chi Minh trail on missions that “were weather related” but he still can’t talk about them.

Dave returned to the States in 1972 to C-141s at Dover, Del. He didn’t stay long — the Air Force moved Dave and its Dover-based Starlifters to Charleston a year later — but he had time enough to meet and marry Micky.

“We were married on Saturday, I made her a legal Air Force wife on Monday and then the movers showed up,” he said.

In 1975, Dave transferred to the Air Force Reserve so he could earn an MBA degree at the University of California. His Reserve duty included time at Travis Air Force Base and McClellan Air Force Base, both in California, and 10 years at the Pentagon. As a civilian, he worked for the U.S. Treasury as a bank examiner. He still works part-time under contract to two federal agencies.

In the meantime, the Hills, both newcomers to Charleston MOAA, are waiting for their new condo to be built in North Charleston on the east side of the Ashley River.

Dave and Micky, welcome aboard!



David & Micky Hills today

## Will You Help?

A college education costs more these days and we would like to help future college attendees. Our Future Military Officer Scholarship Program is a wonderful way to help defer some of these increased costs. Will you help this program grow so we can help a little more.

You can give more than just cash to support our Future Military Officer Scholarship Program. Yes you can also give stocks to the scholarship fund. In addition, you can give a life insurance policy you no longer need. Generally speaking, you will receive a charitable income tax deduction for the value of the policy and that donation will help support future military officer candidates.

Want to know more about how you can contribute to our scholarship fund? Contact our Chapter Scholarship Chairman, Rudy Smart at 824-1263 and he will help you get started.



## JUST FOR YOU

Your web site ([www.chasmoaa.org](http://www.chasmoaa.org)) is now full of useful information and it's just for you. Start with the *Home Page* and it's *What's New* section then click on the *Chapter* Tab to see Chapter info as well as newsletters, pictures and even short movie clips. Then click on the *Interest* Tab to see more info just for you. You have links to the AF and Navy Pharmacies and a whole section with the latest *News of Interest*. You should also check the *Health Care* and the *Important Vet Info* sections. All just for you.



**Sam Stafford III, M.D.**  
**Mt. Pleasant Dermatology**  
1280 Johnnie Dodds Blvd.  
Suite 300  
Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464  
(843) 881-0320



## We Still Need You!!!

**Wanted , one Vice President, and one Editor..**

**To run any organization successfully a well rounded board of directors is needed.**

**With the assumption of duties as President, Cliff Abby, had to relinquish his post as 1st Vice President. Our previous editor, Bill Meisburger, has become ill, and can longer remain as our editor. Butch Fuller is filling in for him in the interim.**

**The positions are challenging ones, but the satisfaction of serving the chapter in these vital roles is very rewarding. Somewhere out there in our chapter can definitely fill these positions.**

**Call and submit your name.**

**The Chapter needs you.**

**Note!**

**Auxiliary Members are eligible for this position!**

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## VA seeking former prisoners of war, family members

Veterans Affairs officials are seeking any former prisoners of war or their family members who are not currently using VA benefits and services.

The officials are urging them to contact VA to find out if they are eligible for health care, disability compensation and other services.

Officials are trying to contact the remaining prisoners of war not receiving any benefits or health care through an outreach program, including asking citizens to pass the word to veterans they know.

These officials are also seeking surviving spouses and family members of former POWs who may be eligible for certain benefits and services.

In recent years, VA has expanded benefits to all former POWs with strokes and certain common heart diseases. More than a dozen other diseases were already covered.

The government's effort to inform former POWs about improvements in benefits has faced a particular hurdle trying to reach older veterans who may not have been in touch with VA for decades.

A majority of former POWs are veterans of World War II, and their military service was before the use of Social Security numbers. As a result, it has been difficult for VA officials to track down those with military "service numbers" who have not been in contact with the Department in recent years.

People who know a former POW can ask him or her to contact VA at (800) 827-1000. Details about benefits and services available to former POWs and family members are available at [www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/Benefits/POW/index.htm](http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/Benefits/POW/index.htm).

## Photos from the September Picnic



Mona Hale and Col Barr Younker at the Cougar vehicle



Nancy Graham and Manny Matsoulakis



Bert Cicenian ® and friend Allan Barry at the front of the Cougar



Charging through the Chow line

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Employee before Owner  
Service above All**



## President's Pen

Our annual picnic outing at Charleston Air Force base on 28 September was a rousing success. We enjoyed good food, great fellowship and a very informative presentation on the Cougar, a Force Protection vehicle which is saving our service members lives in Iraq.

Our next visit to the VA Hospital will be on 7 November. I encourage everyone to join us in bringing a little cheer to hospitalized veterans. We normally meet to carpool to the hospital so let me know if you are interested and either Terry Joyce or I will contact you with pertinent information including where to meet the carpool.

I would be remiss if I did not comment that we are still seeking someone to fill the vacant 1st Vice President and Editor positions on the Board. I invite anyone who might be interested to join us at our next Board meeting. The meetings are held at the Charleston Club at 12:15 on the second Friday of each month. Come early and join us for lunch before the meeting.

At our November Board meeting we will be considering candidates for three Board of Directors positions. In the recent past our incumbent directors have graciously agreed to remain in their position but new members are always welcome.

On 30 November, following a tradition of the past several years, we are returning to Red's Ice House for our annual frogmore stew dinner and presentation of Lahm Award to this year's winner. In the past this has been a popular event so please try to attend. This event is highlighted on the front page of this newsletter.

For December we have planned a Christmas luncheon banquet in lieu of the Black Tie Dinner/Dance. This year the luncheon will be held at The Oaks Country Club in Goose Creek on 18 December so please mark your calendars. All pertinent details including directions will be contained in our December newsletter.

We welcome your attendance at our functions and I hope to you had a good time at the Tea Plantation!

*Cliff*

## TOYS FOR TOTS

Thanks to your support, the chapter has achieved its goal for Toys for Tots donations.

A special thanks goes out to our latest contributors: Miriam Campbell-\$25.00; Clyde Wilson-\$100.00; Philip Minges-\$50.00 and; Walter Booker-\$100.00. Thank you all for your generous support.

We have raised over \$700.00 so far this year, and we will be able to support Toys for Tots in fine fashion this year. Please continue to contribute so that we can provide support for the coming year.

Thank you again for your contributions, and the kids will thank you and so will the Corps.



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E-Mail: [lbrown@exitcharleston.com](mailto:lbrown@exitcharleston.com)

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### 2007-2008 OFFICERS and BOARD OF DIRECTORS

<b>PRESIDENT</b>	LT Clifton R. Abbey, USN	764-2448	<a href="mailto:abbeycr@bellsouth.net">abbeycr@bellsouth.net</a>
<b>1st VP PROGRAMS</b>	VACANT		
<b>2nd VP MEMBERSHIP</b>	COL Allan T. Smith, USAF	572-2011	<a href="mailto:alandmarty@comcast.net">alandmarty@comcast.net</a>
<b>SECRETARY</b>	COL Clinton L. Noren, USAF	552-7579	<a href="mailto:cnoren@earthlink.net">cnoren@earthlink.net</a>
<b>TREASURER</b>	LTCOL. Ed Knowles, USAF	553-5299	<a href="mailto:r66837.comcast.net">r66837.comcast.net</a>
<b>DIR. HOSPITALITY</b>	MRS. Virginia P. CHINNES, AUX (thru 2007)	572-8761	
<b>DIR AWARDS</b>	MAJOR John F. Griffin, USAF	767-8765	<a href="mailto:papgriffin@yahoo.com">papgriffin@yahoo.com</a>
<b>ASST DIR AWARDS</b>	COL Steve A. Rowe, USA	303-7438	<a href="mailto:srowe@prucar.com">srowe@prucar.com</a>
<b>DIR PERSONAL AFFAIRS</b>	CAPT Roy Corderman, USN	571-5061	
<b>DIR. LEGISLATIVE</b>	CDR John E. Nolan, USN (thru 2007)	821-5767	<a href="mailto:sandlappers@sc.rr.com">sandlappers@sc.rr.com</a>
<b>DIR. T.O.P.S/PUBLICITY</b>	MAJOR Terry Joyce, USAF (thru 2007)	871-6360	<a href="mailto:wjoyce@prodigy.net">wjoyce@prodigy.net</a>
<b>PAST PRESIDENT</b>	COL Josiah (Butch) Fuller, USA	821-0169	<a href="mailto:ButchFuller@aol.com">ButchFuller@aol.com</a>
	<b>REPRESENTATIVES TO THE BOARD (Appointed by the President)</b>		
<b>EDITOR</b>	COL Josiah (Butch) Fuller	821-0169	<a href="mailto:ButchFuller@aol.com">ButchFuller@aol.com</a>
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<b>DIR. SCHOLARSHIP</b>	COL Rudy Smart, USAF	824-1263	<a href="mailto:rudy@thesmartsplace.com">rudy@thesmartsplace.com</a>

News and Views herein are not necessary those of any Government Department or of other Chapters or Members. **Prospective Chapter Members:** if you are not a member of the Charleston Chapter, MOAA, you have received this copy as a courtesy invitation to call any Officer or Director for information about joining.

## Future Officer Doing Great

Future Second Lieutenant Sarah Spies is doing fine and has completed two years of ROTC training while attending the University of Nebraska. She is maintaining a 3.5 grade point average and has added a Russian language major to her work load.

In the last year, Sarah has become a member of the Arnold Air Society and is also actively participating as a Student Ambassador for the College of Arts and Sciences Recruitment Office at the University of Nebraska. Additionally, back in February, she was invited to join the National Collegiate Honor Society.

Clearly our Future Military Officer Scholarship Program is helping a worthy candidate and our Charleston Chapter members can be very proud of our candidate. Our contributions are being used wisely.



## REMEMBER

### Chapter to visit VA Hospital in November

Mark your calendars for our next visit to the VA Hospital in Charleston, which will be on Wednesday November 7th. This is the 4th visit that has been arranged by Terry Joyce. It is really nice to talk to the Veterans and to learn of their experiences. We meet at the Charleston Club at 9:15 AM, and then carpool to the hospital. Join us. Normally, we bring along shaving and toothpaste items to give to the Vets. For more information, call Terry at 871-6360.

**Remember, it is Veterans day on November 11th. Fly your flag with pride, and honor our Veterans.**

### Future Military Officers Scholarship Fund

The chapter always accepts and appreciates donations to our Scholarship fund.

It's a great way to remember someone special, or a great event such as birth of a grandchild. Or simply because you just feel like it.

Rudy Smart, our Scholarship representative, can give all the information you need to make a donation to the fund.

You can find Rudy's contact information in the Board of Directors list on page 6 of this newsletter.



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### 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 \_\_\_\_\_

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Total Membership: 524  
Auxiliary Members: 105  
Honorary Members: 36

## MEMBERSHIP DUES 2008

To those members who have not yet paid their annual dues, 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 Charter Member, please submit your dues by 1 January 2008.

Please remember that the Chapter's annual dues are expected at the beginning of each year. Check the mailing label on this newsletter, where it says, "DUES PAID THRU....." date to see if your dues are current for the year 2008 or beyond.

If not, please mail your dues at your earliest convenience (\$10.00) for members or \$5.00 for Auxiliary members) payable to Charleston MOAA. Along with your dues, please complete the Membership Application/Renewal form inside the back page of this Newsletter. Attach your check to the application and mail both to:

**Charleston Chapter, MOAA  
P.O. Box 70421  
Charleston, SC 29415-0421**

**Thanks in advance.**

Questions concerning your dues status should be directed to:

Al Smith, Membership VP, 572-2011  
Alandmarty@comcast.net

## MEMBERS WHO HAVE PAID DUES FOR 5 OR MORE YEARS

Two additional members have joined the ranks of those who have paid their dues for five or more years. In addition to those previously recognized we are pleased to extend our wholehearted thanks to the following members:

COL Clinton Noren, USAF (Ret)  
CAPT Manuel A. Hallier, USN, (Ret)

## CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Mrs. Helen A. McInnis  
3121 Burgundy Road  
Alexandria, VA 22323 (Temporary—Jun 08)

## WELCOME ABOARD!!

CDR John S. Olson, USN (Ret.)  
8712 Chamblee Court  
North Charleston, SC 29420-6862

## REST IN PEACE

A grateful nation thanks you for your contribution

**Julietta Gardner  
2 October 2007**

**Wife of MG James L. Gardner, USAF**

**A contribution will be made to the Scholarship Fund  
in memory of our lost members.**

**Our deepest apology to LT COL Gerald Vaughan.  
We erroneously indicated that LT COL Vaughan had  
passed away, when in fact, it was his wife, Sandra.**

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