

# Bridge View



## Charleston Chapter, Military Officers Association of America

September 2007



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



### President's Pen

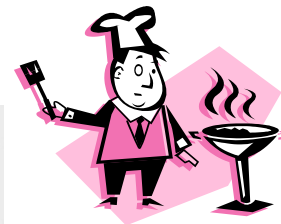
I was pleased and honored to receive a letter dated 9 August 2007 from our National MOAA President, Admiral Ryan, announcing that our chapter has been awarded the Five Star Level of Excellence Award for 2006. This is a prestigious award and we should all be extremely proud that our chapter has received this high honor.

On 31 August we had a luncheon meeting at Carabba's Restaurant. Our previously announced speaker, Sheriff Al Cannon, unfortunately was unavailable for this meeting but remains on our list as guest speaker for a future event. Our guest speaker was CDR John Pucciarelli who is the Commanding Officer of the Navy Consolidated Brig. He spoke on issues and concerns to the Brig. His speech was interesting and informative.

September's event is our annual picnic at the Charleston AFB picnic area. We have secured a caterer and reserved Pavilions A and B for the event. In addition to good food and fellowship we will also have a Force Protection vehicle available for viewing and a knowledgeable company person will be on hand to answer questions.

Please try to attend these events. We welcome your comments and suggestions as we seek interesting and informative topics for our monthly events. If you have a specific interest which would appeal to our membership please e-mail or call me.

*Cliff*



It is Barbecue time. Spouses, Family, and significant others and friends are more than welcome to join us at this event. This year we have a new innovation in lieu of the Golf Tournament we will have a viewing of one of our latest technology Force Protection Vehicles. Wayne Phillips, Vice President of Business Development at Force Protection, Inc., located in Ladson will provide us with an opportunity to view and ask questions concerning Force Protection Vehicles. Wayne's organization makes several of these vehicles one of which we will see. These are the latest protection for our warriors fighting in Iran, Iraq, and other hot spots around the globe.

Please come to Pavilions A & B at the Charleston AFB picnic area to take part in this exciting adventure.

**Place:** Charleston AFB, Pavilions A & B

**Date:** Friday, 28 September 2007

**Time:** Arrive by 11:00 a.m. for a social period and viewing of the Force Protection Vehicle

**Barbecue:** 12:30 p.m. at the picnic area

**MENU:** Barbecue Pork, Rice, Hash, Baked Beans, Green Beans, Cold Slaw, Rolls or Bread, Pickles, Tea, and Chocolate Éclair pie

**BYOB:** If you desire

**COST:** \$12.00 per person

**RSVP:** NLT 25 September

**Make checks payable to:** Charleston MOAA

**Mail To:** LT Cliff Abbey  
100 Cheshire Dr.  
Goose Creek, SC 29445-7128



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

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Cdr. John E Nolan ( SC) USN

### COLA WATCH

Volatile food and energy costs have contributed to a “feast or famine” inflation trend in the Consumer Price Index this year. After being negative for the first five months of the fiscal year, inflation surged 2.4% in the next four months, but has since cooled off again. The Bureau of Labor and statistics recently announced that inflation has increased 0.1% over May’s value.

So what will the 2008 COLA look like? That depends on which CPI we get in the next three months—the hot or the cold version.

In the past twenty years, the last three months of the fiscal year ( July– September) have yielded CPI changes ranging from –0.1 (2006) to 2.6% (2005) . In those two years the COLA ended up at 3.3% and 4.1% respectively.

So it’s anybody’s guess what the final COLA for 2008 will be.

### MEDICARE/TRICARE PAYMENT CUTS

More than 11,000 people responded to MOAA’s special legislative alert last month and helped to carry the day in the U. S. House of Representatives.

The House passed legislation (H.R. 3162) to stop the 9.9% cut in Medicare and TRICARE payments to doctors that are scheduled to occur in January 2008 under current law. Instead of this dramatic cut, the legislation would authorize modest increases in doctors’ payments for 2008 and 2009. These increases are essential to prevent more doctors from refusing to see elderly and/or military patients. The downside is the House included the Medicare/TRICARE payment provision in a huge omnibus health care bill that would increase coverage for lower income children covered under Medicaid, and would reduce payments to Medicare Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) plans. These and a variety of other changes—some of which are controversial—have drawn the threat of a presidential veto.

The Senate version of the children’s health care bill doesn’t include the Medicare/TRICARE payment issue, making it hard to tell whether those provisions will stay in the final version of the bill the House and Senate leaders will hammer out in September. Congressional leaders understand the Medicare/TRICARE payment issue must be fixed before January. If it doesn’t stay in this bill, or it ends up getting vetoed, it’s almost certain Congress will consider alternative options to address the problem before the end of the year. So keep the pressure on our Congressional delegation to continue supporting fixing the Medicare/TRICARE payments to doctors issue. Your letters, phone calls and e-mails can really make a difference in getting this accomplished.

### MORE \$22 DRUG

The cholesterol drugs Tricor, Antara, Omacor and Welchol will have a \$22 co pay effective Nov, 21. Triglide will be offered at the generic \$3 co pay even though it is not a generic Drug.

The prostate drug Avodart also is moving to the third tier, leaving the generic Proscar on the formulary for \$3.

Acid Reflux drugs Prevacid, Zegerid, Protonix and Aciphex also will move to the third tier leaving Prilosec and Nexium at the lower co pay. These changes will be effective Oct 24. Even though it is not generic, Nexium will have the \$3 generic co pay.

High Blood Pressure drugs Avapro, Avalide, Benicar and Diovan co pays will be \$22 effective Nov 21.



**John “Pappy” Griffin, USAF, Retired**  
**Native of South Carolina**  
**Member of the Charleston Chapter**  
**World Traveler**



**Lieutenant  
John Griffin**

Retired Air Force Maj. John “Pappy” Griffin and his wife, Marie, love to travel but their roots are firmly planted in South Carolina.

“I figure I’ve been to 34 countries,” John said recently, a few days after he and Marie returned from a vacation trip to Nova Scotia. (That trip had a down side — they were stuck for eight days waiting for a replacement ‘run-flat’ tire, but the episode didn’t dampen their enthusiasm for going places.)

John picked up the travel bug early. He was born in Pickens County, S.C., but attended a different high school each year because his dad’s work meant lots of moves. Later, he started college at Clemson, transferred to Stetson University and finished at the University of South Carolina.

He was commissioned in the Air Force in 1964 and soon became a combat crew commander with a Titan II unit at McConnell Air Force Base, Kansas. His overseas ventures followed. He was a combat crew commander in Mace missiles on Okinawa, but eventually switched to the intelligence career field.

The switch led to John’s most challenging assignments.



**John’s Family**

In 1969, he became chief of Intelligence with the 315th Special Operations Wing at Phan Rang Air Base, Vietnam.

I worked almost every base in Vietnam and Laos,” he said. Because of his job, “I could pick up the phone and redirect a plane” to a new target.

His work also took him to nearly every base in South Vietnam and Laos. In Laos, he even worked with Meo tribesmen, whom he called “helluva good bunch of fighters.”

Before Vietnam, he and Marie adopted two Korean youngsters. Afterwards, they spent five years at Wiesbaden Air Base, Germany where they adopted another. Together with three kids acquired the old-fashioned way, the nickname “Pappy” makes sense.

John and Marie spent 1975-79 back at Clemson where he taught Air Force ROTC. Then, it was three years at Shaw Air Force Base where John was chief of 9th Air Force’s Operations and Intelligence Fusion Center. The work was a cog in U.S. Central Command’s wheel in the Persian Gulf.

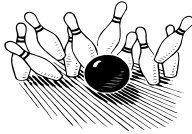
John retired in 1984 to a second career in education. He taught history, government, geography and economics and watched Marie’s career grow. She’s now a grad school professor at Charleston Southern, teaching aspiring school principals.

Nowadays, John’s on the board of the Charleston Scottish Society, is a member of the Charleston Symphony League and the S.C. Historical Society and volunteers with Water Missions International. He’s also a life member of MOAA and head of our awards program. Way to go, Pappy!



**Pappy today, with his wife, Marie**

## MOAA MIXED BOWLING LEAGUE



We have completed another fun filled season and are taking a break until we start a new season in September, 2007.

### WE NEED SOME NEW BOWLERS !

Both regular and substitutes are need;  
Both Men and Women

We bowl on Thursday evenings at 6:30 p.m.  
The only thing needed to join us is a desire to enjoy the sport and the camaraderie of good folks.

For further information or to sign up for our next season, please contact:

Norm Wolff 216 6433 or [junowolff@bellsouth.net](mailto:junowolff@bellsouth.net)

There are two women's leagues that bowl at the Starlifter Lanes on Wednesday and Thursdays mornings. If there are any ladies who would like to join us. Please contact:

Judy Wolff 216 6433 or [junowolff@bellsouth.net](mailto:junowolff@bellsouth.net)

You do not need to be a member of MOAA for the women's league.



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## We 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.

Call and submit your name.

The Chapter needs you.

Note!

Auxiliary Members are eligible for this position!

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## Nominations being accepted for Lahm Award

The Robert J. Lahm Award was established to honor the memory of Lieutenant Colonel Robert J. Lahm, who served as Chapter Secretary from January 1997 to April 2003. Lt Col Lahm made many significant contributions to both the community and to this Chapter. The Award recognizes the efforts of an individual in providing outstanding service to the Charleston community and Charleston Chapter MOAA

**Nominations:** Any chapter member (including Honorary) making a significant contribution to this Chapter and/or the Charleston Trident Community is eligible. Any chapter member may nominate a member of the Charleston MOAA Chapter for this award. Eligibility will be considered for non-members, on a case-by-case basis, who have clearly demonstrated outstanding service regarding the purpose of this chapter.

**Submission:** Nominations are to be submitted to the Chapter President not later than 31 October 2007.

Recipients name will be added to a permanent trophy.

Award will be presented at pre-announced member function.

Restrictions:

- (a) Sitting Chapter President is not eligible.
- (b) Normal duties of office performed by Board members are not deemed significant contributions and thus are not eligible for this award

Help Our  
Chapter  
Help Low  
Country  
Kids



We are selling decals and license plates and the profits from these sales will go back to the community through programs such as the annual Toys for Tots program.

These beautiful red, white and blue decals and license plates will enable you to show your MOAA colors.

They are guaranteed not to chip, crack or fade for three years.

Decals are \$5.00 each (2 for \$9)  
Plates are \$10 each (two for \$18)



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Customer before Company  
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WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senator Jim Inhofe (R-Okla.) praised the passage by unanimous consent of his bill (S.1877) clarifying U.S. law to allow veterans and servicemen not in uniform to salute the flag. Current law (US Code Title 4, Chapter 1) states that veterans and servicemen not in uniform should place their hand over their heart without clarifying whether they can or should salute the flag.

**“The salute is a form of honor and respect, representing pride in one’s military service,”** Senator Inhofe said. **“Veterans and service members continue representing the military services even when not in uniform.**

**“Unfortunately, current U.S. law leaves confusion as to whether veterans and service members out of uniform can or should salute the flag. My legislation will clarify this regulation, allowing veterans and servicemen alike to salute the flag, whether they are in uniform or not.**

## Christmas in September



The temperature and humidity is high, it’s too hot to leave the house. Our thoughts are thinking of ways to beat the heat.

What do you mean Christmas in September? The answer is simple, every Christmas the Chapter donates Footballs and Soccer balls to the U. S. Marine Corps:

### “Toys for Tots Program “

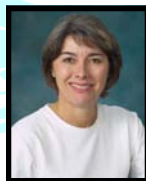
Again this year the Chapter is planning to participate in this program.

As you know we have been gathering funds throughout the year to support this worthy cause. Let’s get a jump on the program and make a Christmas gift in September to the Toys for Tots drive by the Chapter. The kids will thank you and so will the Corps.

**Remember Christmas in September  
Make a donation this  
month!!**



Lynn Brown  
U. S. Navy, Retired  
Realtor



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## 2007-2008 OFFICERS and BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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<b>1st VP PROGRAMS</b>	VACANT		
<b>2nd VP MEMBERSHIP</b>	COL Allan T. Smith, USAF	572-2011	alandmarty@comcast.net
<b>SECRETARY</b>	COL Clinton L. Noren, USAF	552-7579	cnoren@earthlink.net
<b>TREASURER</b>	LTCOL. Ed Knowles, USAF	553-5299	r66837.comcast.net
<b>DIR. HOSPITALITY</b>	MRS. Virginia P. CHINNES, AUX (thru 2007)	572-8761	
<b>DIR AWARDS</b>	MAJOR John F. Griffin, USAF	767-8765	papgriffin@yahoo.com
<b>ASST DIR AWARDS</b>	COL Steve A. Rowe, USA	303-7438	srowe@prucar.com
<b>DIR PERSONAL AFFAIRS</b>	CAPT Roy Corderman, USN	571-5061	
<b>DIR. LEGISLATIVE</b>	CDR John E. Nolan, USN (thru 2007)	821-5767	sandlappers@sc.rr.com.
<b>DIR. T.O.P.S/PUBLICITY</b>	MAJOR Terry Joyce, USAF (thru 2007)	871-6360	wjoyce@prodigy.net
<b>PAST PRESIDENT</b>	COL Josiah (Butch) Fuller, USA	821-0169	ButchFuller@aol.com
	<b>REPRESENTATIVES TO THE BOARD (Appointed by the President)</b>		
<b>EDITOR</b>	COL Josiah (Butch) Fuller	821-0169	ButchFuller@aol.com
<b>CHAPLAIN</b>	CAPT Henry Lovelady, USN	553-9581	capthenryl@comcast.net
<b>DIR. SCHOLARSHIP</b>	COL Rudy Smart, USAF	824-1263	rudy@thesmartsplace.com

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.

## CHANGE OF ADDRESS

LTC Bertram H. Crooks  
The Jefferson, 900 N. Taylor Street  
Arlington, VA 22203-1858

CAPT Joseph D. Sharpe  
7328 Kestrel Trail  
Hanahan, SC 29410

## Marines, the Drum and Bugle Corps Goes Cellular



Buglers and drummers from the Oldest Post of the Marine Corps have created the most up-to-date setting for Marine music -- the cellular telephone. "The Commandant's Own," The United States Marine Drum & Bugle Corps now features MP3 ringtones, which can be downloaded from any personal computer. As the first in the U.S. Armed Forces to offer cell phone ringtones, the drum & bugle corps personally recorded a diverse mixture of public domain music, to include drum cadences, bugle calls, marches, and their most notable stylings in jazz. For more information, visit "The Commandant's Own" web-site at (<http://drumcorps.mbw.usmc.mil/>).



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## 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 Director of Scholarship, 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 8 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: 523  
Auxiliary Members: 103  
Honorary Members: 37

### BE THE NEXT IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD!!

Did you know that this newsletter is on line and in living color? Check out our website at [www.chasmoaa.org](http://www.chasmoaa.org). You will need the latest version of Adobe Reader which is available on our site, and it's free. If you choose to access the newsletter from the web on a regular monthly basis instead of the U.S. Post Office "snail mail", you will:

- Be notified as soon as the newsletter is on the web.
- Receive your copy 5 to 7 days earlier.
- Help the environment by reducing paper waste and diminishing the number of trees needed to make paper.
- Help your Chapter to reduce the price tag involved in the cost of postage and printing!

I hope this sounds like something you would like to do to help your chapter. If so, let Al Smith know at:

[alandmarty@comcast.net](mailto:alandmarty@comcast.net).

If you select this option you will receive a personal e-mail in October and December of each year showing you your annual dues expiration date



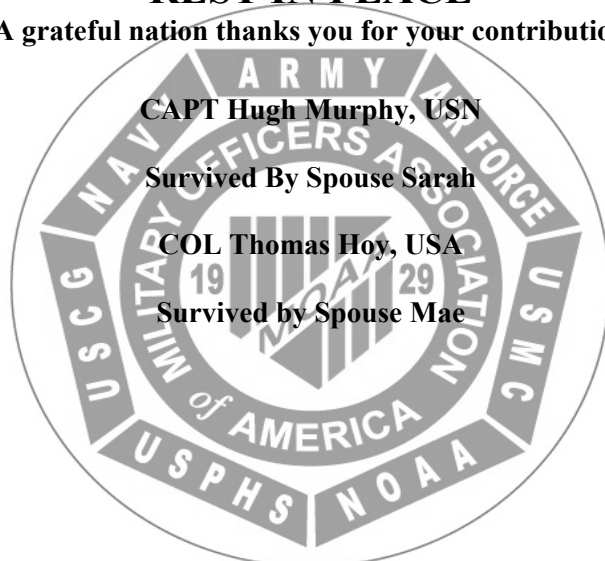
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## REST IN PEACE

A grateful nation thanks you for your contribution



CAPT Hugh Murphy, USN

Survived By Spouse Sarah

COL Thomas Hoy, USA

Survived by Spouse Mae

A contribution will be made to the scholarship fund in memory of our lost member

John Common, DMD, MS  
CDR, DC, USN, Retired  
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Phone (843)-871-6636



## Dues Questions

Questions concerning your status should be directed to:  
Al Smith, Membership VP.

(843) 572-2011

[alandmarty@comcast.net](mailto:alandmarty@comcast.net)

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