



Bridge View



Charleston Chapter, Military Officers Association of America

June - Issue 6 2025

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Web site: www.charlestonmoaa.com

Please enjoy our last luncheon of the summer as we welcome a representative from *Friends of Fisher House Charleston* who will discuss their foundation's workings in South Carolina with us.

- Place: Logan's Roadhouse
211 Azalea Square Blvd
Summerville, SC 29483
843-851-8666
- Date: Friday, June 27, 2025
- Time: Social Hour 11AM accompanied by a cash bar
- Lunch: 12 Noon
- Menu: Plated Lunch served with Water or Tea



Choice between two entrees:

- OR Baby Back Ribs: a half rack of ribs, so tender they fall off the bone!
- OR Teriyaki Grilled Chicken: 8 oz. fresh boneless chicken breast, marinated in a blend of pineapple juice, teriyaki sauce, herbs, and spices.

All entrees include Logan's homemade yeast rolls, a Roadhouse dinner salad, and a baked potato.

- Cost: \$30.00 per person. Make checks payable to Charleston MOAA.
- Dress: Casual.
- RSVP: Make checks out to MOAA Charleston. Check to arrive NLT Monday, June 23, 2025 or use VENMO.

Mail to: CAPT Bud Schneeweis USCG (Ret)
6 Wappoo Creek Pl
Charleston, SC 29412

For additional information - CAPT Bud Schneeweis @ 703.300.0811
or wshneeweis@verizon.net

Check out our interesting member's biographical sketch on page 3.

Legislative Summary

Submitted by: Bud Schneeweis



CAPT, USCG (Ret)

Special, Check Out: MOAA's [Take Action Center](#)

MOAA Strengthens Ties With Pentagon Officials to Advance State-Level Advocacy

MOAA council and chapter leaders met with key DoD representatives recently to explore ways to deepen coordination on issues affecting servicemembers and their families.

Members of MOAA's State Legislative Exchange Forum spoke with Lee Kelley, acting deputy assistant secretary of defense for Military Community and Family Policy (MC&FP), and Geraldine Valentino-Smith, director of the Defense-State Liaison Office (DSLO). Discussions focused on how MOAA's 400-plus nationwide councils and chapters could enhance MC&FP's advocacy impact –particularly as DSLO continues to advance key legislative goals in all 50 states.

Valentino-Smith praised MOAA state leaders: "Who's influencing the legislators? MOAA members have relationships with state lawmakers who trust their expertise," she said. "This should complement our efforts."

Each year, DSLO publishes a list of 10 state legislative initiatives that serve as focal areas for the regional liaisons. In turn, legislative leaders within MOAA's councils and chapters are empowered to work these initiatives at the local level. This engagement helps expand the reach of DSLO, which has just eight regional liaisons who each cover no less than five states each.

MOAA forum leaders expressed appreciation for MC&FP's efforts and shared concerns about potential cuts to quality-of-life programs that support military families. Kelley highlighted the

direct ties between MC&FP programs and readiness of the total force - along with DSLO, MC&FP oversees child and youth programs; morale, welfare, and recreation efforts; and casualty and mortuary affairs.

Shaping Longer-Term Priorities

Valentino-Smith acknowledged the challenges presented by DSLO's battle rhythm, which involves identifying legislative priorities for each calendar year. While many priorities are retained in follow-on years, approximately four new priorities are added annually.

DSLO is working on a process to identify priorities that will span a two-year period to allow regional liaisons and supporting organizations, like MOAA, to achieve more progress, Valentino-Smith indicated.

This proposed change was well-received by MOAA leaders, as new issues typically may require nearly a full year worth of research and lawmaker-education efforts. MOAA leaders also stressed the desire to be proactive rather than reactive, which a two-year cycle would enable.

Legislative Summary continued on page 4.

Thank You

The following have renewed their membership for Five or More Years:

*CAPT David J. Le Blanc, USNR (Ret)
LTC Mark A. Peterson, USA (Ret)
LTC Thurman "Clay" Reynolds, USA (Ret)*



Steve Rowe, Realtor®



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

This month's interesting members biographical sketch

LTC Marc Peterson, USA (Ret)

LTC Peterson was born in Croix Chapeau, France and raised in Newport News, Virginia. His undergraduate degree is from Norfolk State University where he was a ROTC scholarship recipient and a Distinguished Military Graduate. He was commissioned a second lieutenant (Infantry) and joined the United States Army in 1985. Mark attained Master Degrees in: Human Resource Management, Leadership and Management Development; Procurement and Acquisition Management and Business and Security Management (all from Webster University, St. Louis, Missouri). He retired from the military in 2006 and joined the Department of the Army Civilian workforce in 2007 retiring in 2020.

Mark is the son of Jacob E. Peterson (SFC, Army retired) and Thelma T. Peterson (DAC, retired); he traveled all over the world with his father and mother until his father retired. Although born in France, the majority of his upbringing was in the Newport News, Virginia area. He was a member of the JROTC program at Denbigh HS in Newport News and then in ROTC at Norfolk State University where he graduated in December 1984. Mark spent 21 years and 9 months in the military (Regular Army and AGR). His primary fields of expertise were as an Infantry Officer, a Transportation Officer but the bulk of his career was as a Logistics Officer/Procurement Officer and Joint-Multi National Operations Officer.

Mark shared that his most rewarding assignment was in his deployment to Germany to support Operation Joint Guard in Tazsar (Intermediate Staging Base), Hungary where he played an integral role in the development of the Logistics/Property Book System for the entire Theater of Operations. Units were constantly being rotated in and out of this ISB for deployments lasting 9-10 months and personnel and equipment accountability was critical. This was a Multi-National Force located in Hungary, Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

In his personal time, he works out to keep himself fit. He volunteers with the SC 250 Berkeley County Revolutionary War Board. He enjoys his



work with the Research Committee very much. He will be using some of the historic archives in the Charleston Library system for his research and perhaps some other local libraries. He is also involved in the Del Webb Nexton Veterans Group composed of enlisted and officers of all

ranks and all branches of services in the community. He is a Life Member of the VFW, AMVETS, DAV, American Legion and Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. Mark learned about Charleston MOAA when he met COL Nick Anderson (Charleston MOAA Member) presenting JROTC awards to Cross HS; Nick had shared some information about our chapter; he also learned more about our chapter from LTC Paul Lassanske, USAF (Ret) (another Charleston MOAA Member) and a fellow Del Webb resident. Paul shared with Mark a Memorial Day Service he has developed and coordinated at St. Paul's Church in Summerville to be held on May 26, 2025 at 11AM. Another Charleston MOAA member, Col. Dean Glace, USAF (Ret) will be the bugler in the program.

Please welcome Mark when he is able to join us at our luncheons. He looks forward to meeting fellow officers and continuing to learn more about our benefits as veterans both through veteran representatives in the region as well as other veteran benefits with various companies. Mark is continuing to learn more about our low country region of South Carolina. Welcome aboard Mark and we look forward to learning more about your interests and certainly if we have an area of our organization that interests you would welcome your help as well!



Rest in Peace

Military Brothers and Sisters. Your Service to Our Country is Recorded and Honored.

Thankfully, nothing to report this month.



President's Pen

June 6th - D - Day! The 81st Anniversary is fast approaching. We need to make sure that dates like this are never forgotten. Our thanks go out to those very few WWII veterans that are still around that fought to ensure that we have the freedoms that we enjoy today. Also, remember that Father's Day follows on 15 June - a month after Mother's Day!

With the beginning of our summer break from the newsletter and our monthly luncheons, I need to apologize to our members. Beverly and I discovered that our home phone line, 843-875-4465, has been malfunctioning for a very long time. We were going through an AT&T upgrade of our system and they pointed out that our voice mail system was not functioning correctly. When we finally got it fixed, we had over 130 voice mail messages. Some of them were from our members - please excuse our not returning your messages in a timely manner. Our phones are working correctly now, so please do not hesitate to call if you have any questions or concerns.

Thanks to Bob McKay and Steve Rowe and our members, our ROTC and JROTC programs are progressing. Our medals, certificates and \$50 cash awards are welcomed by our cadets at The Citadel, at Charleston Southern, our twenty - six high schools and by our Naval Sea and Civil Air Patrol honorees. Our JROTC junior cadets receive a MOAA National medal and certificate and our senior cadets receive a MOAA National certificate and a crisp new \$50 bill. There are a few sites remaining and if you are interested in doing a presentation, please contact Bob and he will get you scheduled.

The South Carolina Council of Chapters has scheduled their Biennial State MOAA Council in Greenwood, South Carolina at the Inn of the

Thank You

**Lt Col Edward D. Knowles Toys for
Tots Benefits Program
29th Year**

Current Toys for Tots Fund

\$ 838.28

Square for 08 November 2025. All MOAA Chapter members are invited and encouraged to attend and hear from MOAA National representatives and other interesting speakers. More information to come. Hope to see a lot of Charleston MOAA Chapter members present.

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

Ernie

Legislative Summary continued from page 2.

Get Involved

Bringing MOAA State Legislative Exchange Forum leaders to the Pentagon signals an enhanced effort to find opportunities for our councils and chapters to engage with all levels of the process. We appreciate all those who have worked tirelessly on behalf of MOAA and the greater military and veteran community to advocate for changes and improvements at federal and state levels.

Ask Congress to Invest in Military Families and Pass the Military Spouse Hiring Act

A bill which would allow the Work Opportunity Tax Credit to cover military spouses was part of MOAA's recent Advocacy in Action work on Capitol Hill. MOAA members and staffers visited hundreds of legislative offices to stress the importance of the legislation.

Military Spouse Day - celebrated the Friday before Mother's Day - marks the contributions of military spouses that enhance readiness and the well-being of those in uniform. And while these spouses deserve recognition every day for the supporting role they play alongside their currently serving and veteran partners, we must do more to ensure they can overcome professional obstacles not faced by their civilian counterparts.

It's well established that military spouses face unique challenges advancing their careers, enduring frequent relocations and fewer employment opportunities in remote assignments. Spouse unemployment (21%, five times higher than the national average) and underemployment cause military families serious long-term financial challenges, from lost opportunity for a dual income to the inability to contribute to retirement. Most importantly for junior military spouses, it can mean an inability to launch their career. For this reason, MOAA National supports this issue.

Timberland High School Wolves Army JROTC Awards

Major Jimmie Abram, USA (Ret) and SFC Fritz Hodges, USA (Ret) have a very enthusiastic JROTC unit in St. Stephen, South Carolina. On 24 April 2025, the auditorium was filled with excited students and parents as the program started. The Adjutant brought the students and guests to attention as the national anthem was played on an electric guitar (a first time for me) and all were led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

As the numerous awards were presented, the audience, especially the cadets, gave an exuberant round of acknowledgement. SFC Hodges explained each of the awards as the presenters congratulated each recipient.

Cadet 1LT Akeirah Dodson was presented with the MOAA National Medal and Certificate for her work with the unit during the past year.



Cadet MAJ Nicholas Mitchum received the MOAA National Certificate and the fifty-dollar cash award for his support of the unit this past year.



SFC Hodges reported that the graduating seniors were well equipped to continue their education as well as to move into work places in the area. Several were already members of the South Carolina Army National Guard and were going to continue that service. There were also some going into the Active Army upon graduation.

There are 150 cadets in the program at Timberland High School and they are a strong unit. The instructors are very caring and capable of administrating this program for many years to come. I recommend that we continue to support them with our presentations of awards in the coming years.

BG Ernest D. Brockman, Jr. , USA (Ret)

Rest in Peace Spouses

For Your Support to our Military Brothers and Sisters. Your Service is Recorded and Honored.

Thankfully, nothing to report this month.

LUCY BECKHAM HIGH SCHOOL COAST GUARD JROTC AWARD CEREMONY

I was honored to attend the awards ceremony for the Lucy Beckham High School U.S. Coast Guard Junior ROTC on April 10, 2025, and on behalf of the Charleston MOAA Chapter. The ceremony was well attended by parents and friends of the cadets. It was quite impressive, taking place in the high school Performing Arts Center and lasting about an hour. I presented Senior Cadet Declan Holmes the MOAA Chapter's Outstanding Cadet Award and \$50 cash and Junior Cadet Isabella Prevuznak the National MOAA Medal Award. Several other service organizations presented award certificates to these same students as well as other student members of the CGJROTC unit.

CAPT Marvin J. Pontiff, USCG Retired



Senior JROTC Instructor LTJG Ron Blake congratulating Cadet Declan Holmes



CAPT Marvin Pontiff, USCG (Ret) with Junior Cadet Isabella Prevuznak

Hanahan High School Army JROTC Awards Ceremony

Saturday morning, April 5, 2025, the undersigned, representing the Charleston MOAA Chapter, presented MOAA Charleston's Outstanding JROTC Cadet Award and \$50 check to departing Hawk Battalion Commander, C/LTC Seth Parris (on my left) for his overall demonstrated excellence and leadership during academic year 2024-25.

Last year Cadet Parris advised he had been accepted by the Citadel as a member of the Class of 2029 however, he chose to attend Anderson University, Anderson, S.C. Prior to this event, C/MAJ Sofia Bolanos-Calle (on my right), Hawk Battalion XO, was promoted to C/LTC and became the incoming Battalion CO; She received MOAA's JROTC Award for her outstanding citizenship, personal responsibility, and service to the community and country.

In addition to MOAA, nearly twenty other national and local organizations, including AUSA, Military Order of the Purple Heart, and the NCO Association, presented awards to exceptional JROTC students. Of the 17 JROTC seniors graduating this year, one student was awaiting acceptance to West Point and had already been awarded a full Navy scholarship to attend the University of Florida. One graduating JROTC senior was planning to attend The Citadel and all but one student was planning to attend USC and other S.C. colleges.

About 80 family, friends, other students, and faculty attended the event which lasted almost two hours. Again, Hanahan JROTC student performance and achievements clearly reflected JROTC instructors, CSM Ronaldo Jordan's and Lt Colonel Yolanda Ellerbe's, outstanding instruction and genuine personal concern for all these future leaders.

Phil Bernstein Col-Ret, USA



Woodland High School Army JROTC Awards Program

I attended the Woodland High School's Army JROTC Wolverine Battalion Awards Program on Thursday May 8, 2025, at 6PM. The Woodland HS Army JROTC Program is led by Major John Logan, Jr, USA (Ret) and SFC Kevin Simpson, USA (Ret). Unfortunately, MAJ Logan was unable to attend and instructed SFC Simpson to conduct the ceremony as planned. SFC Simpson did an outstanding job! The program started promptly with the Wolverine Battalion marching into the gymnasium. The enthusiasm and morale were high as each of the three companies chanted their cadet creed. The gym was almost full of parents and friends, and they were cheering for them as well. This year the unit has about 108 cadets in the program which is an outstanding number.

A cadet moderated the program with different cadets participating. The Colors were posted and Pledge of Allegiance recited. An invocation was given at the beginning of the ceremony and benediction at the close of the ceremony.

The Harleyville, SC, American Legion Post 128 was also attending to present their award. The awards from the American Legion Post 128 and our MOAA Awards were presented first and then the ceremony continued with other scholastic, leadership, and recognition of their seniors. Numerous family members and friends were given an opportunity to take pictures of their cadets.

I presented our MOAA Chapter's Outstanding Cadet Award and \$50 cash to Senior Cadet Lieutenant Colonel Demetria Riley.



The National MOAA Medal Award was presented to Junior Cadet Captain Mercedes Breeland.



Mr. Michael White, Principal of Woodland HS, spoke and praised the cadets and the JROTC Leadership. Like SFC Simpson, he asked for another round of applause for the families that supported their cadets in their successful completion of the JROTC program. He shared a humorous note that rarely was a cadet ever called to his office, but if so, any punishment he gave was not as challenging as what SFC Simpson had in store for them when they returned to the JROTC area.

MAJ Logan and SFC Simpson have certainly developed a very strong JROTC Program at Woodland HS and I recommend we continue to support this JROTC unit throughout the years. The Army values of loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity and personal courage have been instilled in these young cadets.

COL Beverly R. Brockman, USA (Ret)

Charleston Chapter MOAA Membership Application Renewal Change of Address. Chapter Dues: \$10.00 a year for Regular membership. Surviving Spouse 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 _____

Member of National MOAA? Please provide your membership number _____

Your status : Retired Active Duty Reserve National Guard Former Officer Surviving Spouse Dues for Year (s) _____

How do you want to receive your newsletter US Mail (B&W) or E Mail (Full color)

VENMO PAYMENTS

Venmo payments can be made to the Charleston Chapter, Military Officers Association of America, by scanning the QR code below or by using the user name: @CharlestonMOAA.

Please indicate the purpose of the payment in the app's notes section:

- Chapter membership dues
- Lunch - provide names and menu choices
- Toys for Tots Fund
- Scholarship fund

Please email questions to our treasurer, Ron Kennedy, at charlestonmoaa@gmail.com.



Charleston Chapter, Military...
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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 and non-partisan.

Membership News

LATEST INFORMATION

Total Members - 210
Regular Members—178
Honorary Members - 4
Surviving Spouse Members - 27
Special Members—1
Members receiving the newsletter by email 137

CHARLESTON MOAA MEMBERS: We are continuing our recruiting drive for new members. If you are uncertain of your status, just e-mail me at brockman1982@att.net and I will verify if you are current for another year or more or— if you need to pay dues for 2025. My cell number is 704-300-8739, but an e-mail is usually the best and most efficient. We value your membership and appreciate your support of our chapter.

We are continuing to keep our dues at \$10 for Regular Members and no additional charge for spouses of Regular Members. The dues are \$5 for Surviving Spouses—defined as widows or widowers of Regular Members. Please make checks payable to "Charleston MOAA" and mail to Charleston MOAA, PO BOX 70421, Charleston, SC 29415-0421.

RECRUITING UPDATE - I respectfully ask everyone to think of our Chapter when you are meeting new folks in your community, neighborhood, church or other organizations. If they are interested in joining our Chapter, and meet the criteria, I will be glad to follow-up and share more information with them. Just provide my name, number and e-mail to them or send me an e-mail with their information and I will reach out to them.

ADDRESS/EMAIL CHANGES-Please keep me advised if you have a change to your address, phone or e-mail and I will update our records. When you have requested a newsletter to be mailed to you and your address has changed or you are on vacation, the Chapter must pay a fee to the Post Office for the newsletter to have the mail released. We will be glad to use your email during your time of travel only if you prefer.

We very much appreciate everyone's support of our Chapter and should you have any questions at any time,— feel free to call me at 704-300-8739 or e-mail me at brockman1982@att.net. I will be happy to answer your questions.

Thank you!
Beverly Brockman Col, USA (Ret)
Membership 2nd Vice President

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**Many improvements were recently made,
and the work continues.**