



Charleston Chapter, Military Officers Association of America

May - Issue 5 2025

Published monthly, except July

Web site: www.charlestonmoaa.com

Come Learn with Your Chapter at *California Dreaming on the Ashley River*
We will hear from Ms. Shelly All, Esq., principal at Christensen & All law firm, who will address us about Elder Law in South Carolina, with an emphasis on Wills and Trusts

Join us at:

California Dreaming on the Ashely River
1 Ashley Pointe Drive
Charleston, SC 29407
(843) 766-1644



Date: Friday, May 30, 2025, 1100-1400

Choice between California Dreaming Salad *OR* among three sandwiches, all sandwiches served with fries:

1. *California Dreaming Salad* - Mixed greens, ham, turkey, cheddar and Monterey jack cheeses, egg, tomatoes, almonds topped with warm ham and bacon, house dressing; *OR*
2. New Orleans Po'Boy - Fried Shrimp, lettuce, tomato and tartar sauce on French bread: *OR*
3. Steak Burger - 10oz. shredded lettuce, pickles, red onion, tomato, cheddar cheese, CD signature sauce; *OR*
4. Blackened Mahi Sandwich - Toasted brioche, lemon, arugula, ripe tomato, curry mayonnaise, homemade pickles

A "surprise dessert" will be furnished.

Water and soft drinks will be available.

Cost: \$30 per person

RSVP: Check to arrive NLT Monday, May 26th, 2025

Please indicate your choice of entrees on your check or contact Bud personally.

Mail to: Bud Schneeweis, CAPT USCG (Ret.) 6 Wappoo Creek Place Charleston, SC 29412-2120, or pay by VENMO

For additional info, contact Bud @ 703.300.0811 or wschneeweis@verizon.net

Legislative Summary

Submitted by: Bud Schneeweis



CAPT, USCG (Ret)

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

MOAA's Mission Continues: Advocacy in Action 2025 Still Needs Your Support



CAPT Bud Schneeweis, USCG (Ret), Charleston Chapter's VP and Legislative Representative, Congressman William R. Timmons, IV (SC-4th District Representative and COL David Lobb, USA (Ret) S C Council of Chapters Legislative Director (Federal) meet in Washington for AIA.

MOAA's flagship advocacy event, *Advocacy in Action (AIA) 2025*, wrapped up last week after delivering an impactful presence on Capitol Hill.

More than 150 MOAA volunteers came together in the halls of Congress on April 9 to advocate for the service-earned pay and benefits relied upon by uniformed servicemembers, veterans, retirees, and their families. In a single day, our team of dedicated advocates met with lawmakers from all 50 states, visited over 325 congressional offices, and contributed a combined 1,200 hours of face-to-face advocacy.

These impressive numbers underscore one thing: When MOAA speaks, Congress listens. But our work doesn't stop here.

Our strength lies in our 350,000 members - and their families - across the country. Grassroots advocacy is key to the success of our message. Every voice matters, and yours can help reinforce the priorities delivered in person during Advocacy in Action.

Constituent messages sent directly after meetings with lawmakers help amplify our concerns and

Continued on page 5.

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



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

This month's interesting members biographical sketch

1LT Robert C. McKay, Jr., PE, USA (Former)

Robert "Bob" Clement McKay Jr. was born and raised in Charleston, SC. He graduated from The Citadel in 1967 with a degree in Civil Engineering and a commission as a 2LT in the US Army. Bob's entrance on active duty was deferred while he attended the University of South Carolina and graduated with a Master of Engineering degree. In 1969 he entered active military service at Ft. Belvoir VA. After completing the Engineer Officer Basic Training Course, he was assigned as an instructor of Soil Mechanics at the US Army Engineer School at Ft. Belvoir. In 1970 he was reassigned to the US Army Engineering Command Vietnam at Long Binh. There 1LT McKay was in charge of the Central Materials Testing Laboratory which provided soils, asphalt, and concrete testing in support of the US Army's road and airfield construction throughout the entire country.

After Bob's discharge from active duty, a strong desire for designing structures led Bob to a civilian job in the Design Division of the Southern Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command in Charleston, SC. Bob started in 1971 as a structural engineer, where over the next 10 years, he designed numerous waterfront and building structures at various Naval Bases in the Southeast. In 1975 he became a licensed Professional Civil Engineer. In 1981, Bob was promoted to head of the Cost Engineering Branch. The branch was responsible for preparing both planning and construction cost estimates in support of both military construction (MILCON) and Operation, Maintenance and Repair (O&MN) projects. In 1987 he was transferred to supervise the Design Management Branch. The branch was responsible for the establishment and monitoring of schedules and the determination of resources for all work assigned to the Design Division.

In 1991 Bob was promoted to Head of the Structural/Fleet Division of the Planning and Design Department and to serve as the Command's chief structural engineer. The Division provided planning, design, and structural engineering support to COMLANTFLT, NAVSEA, NAVAIR, and their activities in 26 states. Additionally, he supervised the Airfield Pavement Branch and the Worldwide Jet Engine Test Cell Branch. He was awarded the Department of Navy, Meritorious Civilian Service Award upon his retirement in September 2003.

Bob is a life member of The Citadel Alumni Association and a member of The Citadel Foundation's Leaders in Philanthropy; serves as the Awards Director and a board member of the Charleston Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America. He is a member and Past President of The Fellowship Society; a Past Presi-

dent of the Civil Engineers Club of Charleston; and a Past President of the Mason Preparatory School Parent Teacher Organization. He attends Harbor View Presbyterian Church, where he serves as an usher and member of the Buildings and Grounds Committee. Additionally, he leads the church's Wheelchair Ramp Building Team and volunteers at the James Island Outreach Food Pantry.

In 1967 he married his childhood sweetheart, Lynda McDowell Burbage. After 43 years of marriage, Lynda died in 2010. Together they raised two wonderful daughters, who in turn gave them four wonderful grandchildren. Bob's oldest daughter, Robin McKay Alexander, is a teacher at Orange Grove Charter School and resides in West Ashley with her husband, Brian, who



is the President of The Ruscon Group, with their three children. Bob's grandson, Brian Jr, is a senior at Clemson majoring in Accounting and will be graduating in May of 2025. Bob's granddaughter, Riley, is a sophomore Nursing major at Clemson, and Reese, a 7th grader at Orange Grove Charter School.

Bob's younger daughter



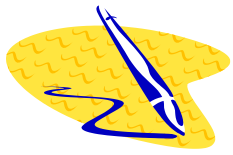
Continued on page 6.



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

The Citadel Joint ROTC Awards Ceremony

Bob McKay, Paul Lassanske and I were pleased and honored to attend The Citadel Joint ROTC Awards Ceremony in the Mark Clark Hall Auditorium on 27 March 2025.

The narrator welcomed everyone and asked them to stand for the arrival of the Official Party and remain standing for the playing of our National Anthem. The Citadel Chaplain offered the invocation. Gen Glenn Walters, USMC (Ret), President of The Citadel, addressed the audience.

Over 100 cadets received awards from thirty (30) different organizations. The cadets represented all four ROTC branches and were selected by the senior leadership of each branch. Each of the MOAA Awardees is under contract and will be entering military service upon graduation on May 3rd.



I was pleased to award the Military Officers Association of America Award to the US Army Cadet Brody McLaury. Cadet McLaury is majoring in Intelligence and Security Studies and is from Grosse Ile, Michigan. He is presently the Deputy

Regimental Commander.

Thank You

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

Current Toys for Tots Fund

\$ 631.28

The US Navy recipient is Cadet Noah Klepper. Cadet Klepper is from River-shore, Tennessee and is majoring in Cyber and Computer Sciences. He and his team were very competitive in the Palmetto Cyber Defense Competition.



Cadet Peter Monaco is from Millersville, Maryland and is majoring in Intelligence and Security Studies. He will be entering the USMC upon graduation.

Unfortunately, the US Air Force representative was out of town and will receive her award at a later date. Cadet Tatiana Demcovich is from Ocala, Florida and has a double major - Modern Languages (Spanish) and Criminal Justice. She is the Secretary of the Flying Club and is also the Palmetto Battery Commander.

The entire ceremony was conducted professionally and concluded with the singing of each of the service's song.

MEMORIAL DAY COMMEMORATION

MAY 26, 2025

MUSIC RECITAL: 11:00 AM PROGRAM: 11:30 AM

Guest Speaker
Rev. Rob Sturdy, Ph.D
St. Alban's Chapel, The Citadel

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

Military Officers Association of America, Charleston
Cane Bay High School JROTC
Honor Guard Piper, North Charleston Police Dept.

HONORED WEARTH BEARERS

Fredrick R. Hoose, Col, USA (Ret)
James J. Lombardo, CMaj, USAF (Ret)

St. Paul's Anglican Church
316 West Carolina Ave., Summerville

Y'all Come!

Our very own Charleston MOAA Club member Lt Col Paul W. Lassanske, USAF (Ret) is organizing a Memorial Day Commemoration Service to be held on Memorial Day, May 25, 2025 at St Paul's Anglican Church in Summerville, S. C. at 1100 hours.

The public is welcome and encouraged to attend in what is hoped to become an annual event to ensure that the community remembers and understands the real meaning of Memorial Day.

keep our issues front and center throughout the legislative cycle.

How You Can Help: Sign Up for MOAA's Legislative Action Center

One of the most effective ways to support MOAA's advocacy is by using our [Legislative Action Center](#). This free, easy-to-use platform empowers you to:

Stay informed on the latest legislative priorities and actions affecting the uniformed services and veteran communities.

Easily send messages to your lawmakers – personalized with your story – about the advocacy issues that matter most.

Track your outreach and see how your efforts contribute to broader campaigns.

It only takes a minute to get started, but the effect of your engagement can last far longer. [Sign up today](#) and help us turn in-person momentum into real legislative progress - join thousands of your fellow members by visiting the Legislative Action Center and making your voice heard.

More Than Medicine: Understanding the Value of VA Health Care

For generations, the VA health care system has embodied the nation's promise to those who have served. Operated by the Veterans Health Administration (VHA), it provides not only medical care, but also critical support to veterans, families, caregivers, and survivors while advancing the broader health of the nation through education, innovation, and emergency response.

The far-reaching contributions of the VHA, and its importance to the nation, stem from its four core missions: delivering health care, training and educating health care professionals, conducting groundbreaking research, and responding to national emergencies. Together, these missions make the VHA a cornerstone of veteran support and a vital national asset.

Rest in Peace Spouses

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

**CAPT Sandiford S. Bee, Jr., USCG lost his wife
Mary Ann on 11 April 2025**

Delivering Health Care

Serving more than 9 million veterans across more than 1,300 facilities, the VHA offers a full spectrum of health care services – from primary and mental health care to cutting-edge specialty treatments and services. To improve the quality of care and expand its services, the VA has in recent years:

Reduced Wait Times: Improved [access to primary and mental health care](#), often outperforming private-sector benchmarks.

Expanded Community Care: Used the [MISSION Act of 2018](#) to bolster its ability to refer veterans to non-VA providers when needed to access timely, specialized care closer to home.

Grown Telehealth Services: Experienced a significant expansion in its remote programs, with dramatic increases in access for rural and homebound veterans.

Adopted a Whole Health Model: Developed a [new approach](#) which helps veterans design personalized wellness plans including acupuncture, yoga, and nutritional counseling, allowing them to live fuller lives.

Supported Caregivers: Expanded caregiver support programs including its specialized [Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers](#), offering home-based services, training, respite care, stipends, and more to those caring for veterans with serious injuries.

Training the Nation's Health Workforce

The VA is not just a provider of care – it is a vital educator. Through academic partnerships with over 1,400 institutions, the VA trains the next generation of health care professionals.

Each year, approximately 120,000 medical trainees – including physicians, nurses, psychologists, and social workers – gain clinical experience by working in VA facilities. An estimated 70% of practicing U.S. physicians have trained in the VHA.

This hands-on training prepares providers for complex, team-based care environments and enhances the nation's overall health system capacity. These education programs equip providers to serve veterans from all backgrounds and communities.

VHA's mission also extends to continuous learning and professional development for its workforce. VA clinicians benefit from ongoing access to advanced training, cutting-edge research, and academic partnerships – ensuring they remain at the forefront of medical innovation and best practices to better serve veterans.

Driving Innovation Through Medical Research

The VA has long been a leader in advancing medical

knowledge with discoveries that benefit both veterans and the general population.

Pioneering Breakthroughs: VA research has led to major innovations including the first successful liver transplant, the cardiac pacemaker, and computer tomography imaging technologies. The VA was also a trailblazer in using barcodes as part of medication administration, a widely adopted tool to reduce medication errors.

Precision Medicine and Genomics: The VA delivers cutting-edge cancer care through genetic sequencing. In tandem with the Million Veteran Program — one of the world's largest health-genomics databases — VA researchers are uncovering connections between genes and chronic conditions such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), diabetes, and cardiovascular disease.

Mental Health Leadership: VA research has led to the development of evidence-based therapies like prolonged exposure therapy and cognitive processing therapy for PTSD. These treatments, first validated within the VA, are used widely throughout the U.S. mental health system.

Protecting the Nation in Times of Crisis

The VA's "Fourth Mission" serves all Americans — mobilizing department resources to aid in emergencies, disasters, and public health crises. Examples include:

COVID-19 Pandemic Response: During the pandemic, the VA provided critical support beyond its veteran patient base, treating non-veterans, deploying more than 4,000 staff, and distributing millions of vaccine doses through federal and community partnerships.

Disaster Response Teams: Using a specialized personnel system, the VA is able to rapidly mobilize clinical staff to respond to wildfires, hurricanes, and other large-scale emergencies.

National Health Infrastructure: VA medical centers serve as federal coordinating centers as part of a larger national disaster medical system response, ensuring surge capacity for mass casualty or pandemic scenarios — a role crucial to U.S. preparedness.

MOAA's Commitment to Improving the VHA and Honoring Veterans

These four missions form the backbone of a system that not only honors veterans with world-class care, but also serves the nation through cutting-edge medical education, groundbreaking research, and vital emergency response capabilities.

Like all large health care systems, the VA faces challenges. MOAA acknowledges the need for continued reform to simplify the system and ensure veterans can more easily access the care and benefits they've earned.

We remain steadfast in our commitment to work alongside VA Secretary Doug Collins and Congress to drive meaningful, veteran-centered improvements that enhance quality, increase transparency, and ensure timely access to care.

By preserving and strengthening VA health care, we not only honor the sacrifices of our veterans — we invest in the health, resilience, and well-being of the entire nation.

Your Voice Matters: Share With MOAA

Have you experienced the benefits of VA health care? Do you have thoughts on how to improve the VHA system? We're eager to hear from you. Reach out to MOAA's legislative team at legis@moaa.org to share your experiences and recommendations.

Bob McKay's Bio (continued from page 3).

ter, Ginnie McKay Hamby (deceased in 2009) and her husband, Brandon, currently a Lieutenant with the Summerville Police Department, had one of Bob's granddaughters, Carson, who is now a sophomore at the Charleston Math and Science Charter School.

Bob enjoys watching sports, researching family genealogy, visiting with friends, and traveling around the world with Citadel Alumni groups. Bob has been a member of the Charleston Military Officers Association for 10 years and has assumed the position as Director of Awards and manages all of the ROTC and JROTC award presentations for two colleges and over 27 different JROTC programs located in seven SC counties. He coordinates the production of the certificates, which includes the production of the packets for the volunteers to the completion of professionally prepared articles and photographs of each presentation. Bob submits each of them to our chapter newsletter editor so that all chapter members may understand the work of the chapter. Bob, thank you for your significant contributions and selfless donation of time and talent to the success of the Charleston MOAA Chapter, a chapter bearing the legacy of many generations of military officers in all branches of service since 1955.

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...
 @CharlestonMOAA



OFFICERS and BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT	BG Ernest D. Brockman, Jr., USA (thru 2026)	843-743-4379	ebrockman@att.net
1st VP PROGRAMS	CAPT Bud Schneeweis, USCG (thru 2026)	703-300-0811	wschneeweis@verizon.net
2nd VP MEMBERSHIP	COL Beverly R. Brockman, USA (thru 2026)	704-300-8739	brockman1982@att.net
PAST PRESIDENT	Col. Rudy Smart, (USAF) (thru 2026)	843-834-0474	r2smart1@gmail.com
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DIR AWARDS	1LT Robert C. McKay, USA (thru 2025)	843-810-2526	mckaybob@att.net
DIR PERSONAL AFFAIRS			
DIR. LEGISLATIVE	CAPT Bud Schneeweis, USCG (thru 2025)	703-300-0811	wschneeweis@verizon.net
DIR. T.O.P.S/PUBLICITY	Col Ronald J. Kennedy, USAF (thru 2025)	843-568-7406	ron.j.kennedy@gmail.com
ASST AWARDS DIR	COL Steve Rowe, USA (thru 2025)	843-303-7438	srowe@carolinaone.com

REPRESENTATIVES TO THE BOARD (Appointed by the President)

CHAPLAIN	Col Mark Barnes, USAF	843-327-8138	emarkbarnes@me.com
EDITOR			
SCHOLARSHIP/Web Site	Col Rudy Smart, USAF	843-834-0474	r2smart1@gmail.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 and non-partisan.

Membership News

LATEST INFORMATION

Total Members - 208
Regular Members—165
Honorary Members - 4
Surviving Spouse Members - 38
Special Members—1

Members receiving the newsletter by email 130s

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

Thank You

*For your gift in support of
Chapter programs:*

*LTC Ellen C. Beckmann, USA (Ret)**s*

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Chapter and MOAA
information?**

**Or you need to update your
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**Many improvements were recently made,
and the work continues.**