



Charleston Chapter, Military Officers Association of America

September - Issue 8 2025

Published monthly, except July

Web site: [www.charlestonmoaa.com](http://www.charlestonmoaa.com)

**Join us to hear from Mr. Aaron Sales, PGA  
Director of Golf at *The Courses at Joint Base Charleston***

**Place:** Gilligan's Seafood Restaurant  
219 St. James Ave.  
Goose Creek, SC 29445  
(843) 818-2244

**Date:** Friday, September 26, 2025

**Time:** Social Hour 11AM accompanied by a cash bar.

**Lunch:** 12 Noon.

**Menu:** Choice between two *seafood* entrees:

Fried Shrimp: Hand-breaded and fried. *"Comes with 2 sides"*

*OR*

Lowcountry Stir-fry: Grilled shrimp, smoked sausage and shredded cabbage seasoned with mild Cajun spices. Served over a bed of red rice *\*Does not come with sides\**

*Those who can't eat or don't enjoy seafood can get a Gilligan's Deluxe Burger, topped with American cheese, lettuce, tomato, red onion, and pickles. "Comes with one side"*

*Sides options include French fries, coleslaw, or red rice*

Tea, coffee, and water are included. Stronger beverages are available for purchase.

Dessert will be Gilligan's own in-house made Key Lime Pie

**Cost:** \$30.00 per person. Make checks payable to Charleston MOAA. Indicate which entrée (s) you choose on your check.

**Dress:** Casual

**RSVP:** With VENMO our of service, contact Bud and bring check to luncheon or mail check to arrive NLT Monday, Sept 22, 2025. Allow plenty of time; USPS is very slow lately!

**Mail to:** CAPT Bud Schneeweis, 6 Wappoo Creek Pl, Charleston SC 29412.  
Direct questions to Bud at 703.300.0811 or [wschneeweis@verizon.net](mailto:wschneeweis@verizon.net).



# Legislative Summary

Submitted by: Bud Schneeweis



CAPT, USCG (Ret)

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



While DoD officials encourage those holding legacy (paper-based) identification cards with indefinite expiration dates to update to the new model, they have yet to “determine a termination date” for the older IDs.

This is in contrast to a June retiree newsletter published by the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS), which stated all retirees had until December 31, 2025, to update their cards to the Next-Generation Uniformed Services ID (USID) card before they became invalid for base access.

A revised DFAS article “correcting the inaccuracies” of the original was published online July 10, a DoD official told MOAA via email July 22. It does not include the December 31 deadline. The original PDF version of the newsletter remained on the DFAS site as of July 22.

“It’s important for USID cardholders to know these older paper-based forms of ID will eventually be terminated, and will need to be re-

placed by the new plastic-based USID card,” the updated version states. “This is true even if your old ID card has an INDEF expiration date on it.”

## FROM CAC.MIL: Renewing Your Uniformed Services ID Card

The DoD official told MOAA that the old cards “may continue to be used as the Department of Defense has not determined a termination date USID cards with indefinite (“INDEF”) expiration dates. Military retirees and beneficiaries with legacy ID cards with INDEF expiration dates are encouraged to update their USID cards to the new Next Generation USID card at their convenience.”

Previous guidance, provided to MOAA by the Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC) in March, had stated that the “INDEF” cards would face termination at some point in 2026. Military OneSource, an official DoD web resource, states in its frequently asked questions about ID cards that legacy USID cards of all types “will no longer be accepted for access to benefits, privileges, or DoD bases” in 2026.

Other DoD resources and social media pages

MOAA Charleston *Legislative Update for September 2025 Newsletter*  
(continued on page 5.)

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

*Nothing to report this month.*



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

## This month's interesting members biographical sketch

### LCDR Leo Chiasson, USN (Ret)



LCDR Leo Chiasson grew up in Boston, Massachusetts. He attended Boston University and graduated with a B.S. in Aerospace Engineering.

LCDR Chiasson joined the US Navy in 1980 as part of the Nuclear Power Officer Candidate (NUPOC) program. Upon graduation from Boston University, he attended OCS (Officer Candidate School) and was commissioned in October 1981. Following commissioning, he attended Nuclear Power training and Submarine Officer Basic Course (SOBC) and then received his first assignment on the USS George Bancroft (SSBN-643) (BLUE Crew), stationed in Charleston, South Carolina and operating out of Kings Bay, Georgia.

The USS George Bancroft was a fleet ballistic missile submarine and was the fourth ship of the US Navy to be named in honor of George Bancroft (1800-1891), United States Secretary of the Navy (1845-1846) and the founder of the United States Naval Academy. It was commissioned on 22 January 1966 and decommissioned on 21 September 1993. USS George Bancroft was one of the original "41 for Freedom" submarines during the Cold War.

Over the course of his 18-year career in the Navy, LCDR Chiasson was stationed on USS George Bancroft (SSBN643), USS Nevada (SSBN-733), and USS Maryland (SSBN-738). Both the USS Nevada and USS Maryland were in the New Construction process during LCDR Chiasson's time aboard. LCDR Chiasson was part of the crew that took the submarine through new construction sea trials and post construction workup and training. As such, he was a "plankowner" on both of these ships. A plankowner is an individual who was a member of the crew of a United States Navy ship when that ship was placed in commission. The origin of the term is the implication that a crew member was around when the

ship was being built and commissioned, and therefore has bragging rights to the "ownership" of one of the planks in the main deck.

Leo shared that his most rewarding assignment in the US Navy was being assigned to the USS Maryland submarine where he was the Navigation and Operations officer with one division officer reporting to him and about 20 personnel. Leo was one of the first of the crew to arrive at the ship and as such had the opportunity to participate in many activities that only occur once in the life of a nuclear submarine such as initial reactor criticality, initial sea trials, and the first launch of a Trident Missile.

As a further connection to South Carolina, LCDR Chiasson also was assigned to the University of South Carolina ROTC Unit in Columbia, South Carolina for two years as an instructor. Leo was also sent to Massachusetts Institute of Technology by the Navy and received an M.S. Degree in Ocean Engineering and an M.S. degree in Mechanical Engineering. His final assignment in the Navy was teaching at the United States Naval Academy in the Engineering department.

LCDR Chiasson taught for 8 years at the Naval Academy after retiring from Active Duty in the Navy in 1998. He then took a position with Boeing in Seattle, Washington for 12 years and was transferred to their Charleston SC Boeing location and retired in 2019.

LCDR Chiasson lives in Ladson, South Carolina and attends St. John the Beloved Church, a Catholic Church in Summerville. Leo volunteers with his church. He enjoys golf, reading, bird watching and football. He has two sons in the Baltimore, Maryland area and two grandsons with one additional grandchild on the way anytime! Highlighting our members for both their military service as well as their contributions to our community is important. Thank you, Leo, for being a member and supporting the Charleston MOAA Chapter.

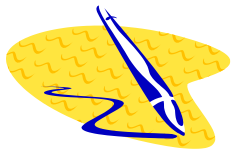


### Rest in Peace

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

*Thankfully, nothing to report this month.*





## President's Pen

**Editor's Note:** Please note that in the August issue on page 2 COL Fredrick R. Hoose, USA (Ret) and CAPT Dean Glace, USN (Ret) were incorrectly identified in the Memorial Day Service. Our apologies.

Welcome back!! It has been a long time since our last newsletter and also our last luncheon together. It is a great feeling to get back into the monthly routine of our newsletter publication and our monthly luncheons. Really looking forward to seeing everyone on Friday September 26<sup>th</sup> at

Speaking of our luncheons and getting back into our normal routine, "We have a problem!" Our VENMO account has developed an attitude and will not function properly; therefore, we are not able to use it to reserve our luncheon meetings or renew our memberships. Please keep an eye on our newsletter for more information and the date when we can start using VENMO again. Note on page 7 there is a note over the VENMO instructions letting everyone know that it is out of service.

The South Carolina Council of Chapters is gearing up for the 2025 South Carolina State Conference to be held on Saturday 8 November 2025 from 0845 until 1500 hours at the Inn on the Square in Greenwood, South Carolina. There are pre - Conference activities scheduled for Friday 7 November for your enjoyment: There is a golf tournament at the Greenwood Country Club beginning at 1300 at a cost of \$55 per player. There are two tours offered for free: one at the 96 National Historical Site and another tour at Museums & Art Center. There is a dinner at the Inn on the Square at 1800 hours for \$35 per person. The cost of the Conference

## Thank You

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

***Current Toys for Tots Fund***

**\$ 1,147.28**

is \$40 per person and it is open to all members of MOAA Chapters. To register on line with a credit or debit card go to website: [www.grandstrandmoaa.org/event-6275140/](http://www.grandstrandmoaa.org/event-6275140/) Registration. NOTE: the Grandstrand Chapter is handling the registration for the Star Fort MOAA Chapter. For questions, email: [tgreenfield@wctel.net](mailto:tgreenfield@wctel.net). Cell/text (864) 377-9053. I hope to see many Charleston MOAA members present for this Conference.

Keep an eye on the newsletter for more information coming out of the Star Fort MOAA Chapter concerning the Agenda for the meeting.

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

*Ernie*

Ship Commissioning for Novices continued from page 6.

ship and bring her to life!" as systems are activated.

### Key Roles:

**Prospective Commanding Officer (PCO):** the officer who will command the ship and hosts the commissioning ceremony.

**Prospective Executive Officer (XO):** assists the PCO and is responsible for hoisting the colors and pennant.

**Ship's Sponsor:** A civilian, often a woman, who has a connection to the ship or its namesake, and give the final order to "man our ship."

**Significance:** The commissioning ceremony marks the ship's official entry into the US Navy and its readiness to fulfill its mission.

It is a time -honored tradition, rooted in naval history, and a proud moment for the crew and the Navy.

The ceremony is typically attended by dignitaries, family members of the crew, and those with ties to the ship or its namesake.

have also put out information citing a December 31 changeover deadline, which has led to some cardholder confusion.

### **Renewing Your Card**

Full details on the DoD ID card system are available at MOAA's ID card resource page, to include:

Eligibility guidelines.

A guide to renewing your card, including mail and online options.

What to bring when you renew your card.

How to update a dependent's card.

How to update your information in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS).

Cardholders with questions regarding their ID, or facing trouble with the online renewal or appointment process, can contact DMDC at (800) 538-9552. If applicable, be ready to provide an online application number and any error messages received.

### **Understanding DoD Health Care: 3 Dates That Shaped Your Benefit**

The origins of the military health care benefit can be traced back nearly 70 years. Over the intervening decades, the system took on multiple names, evolved in response to DoD and public sector health care system changes, and faced multiple (and ongoing) funding and staffing threats.

The establishment of TRICARE and TRICARE For Life (TFL), along with other military health system reforms, has directly impacted your access to care and the value of the military health care benefit. Protecting that benefit from disproportionate out-of-pocket cost increases and ensuring it evolves to keep up with new technology, treatment protocols, and high-quality benchmark health plans is a top priority for MOAA.

Keep up with MOAA's work in this and other advocacy areas by visiting our new-look Legislative

### **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.

Action Center. And check out these three key dates to the formation of your current health care coverage:

### **Military Health Care: Past, Present, and Future**

Join Karen Ruedisueli, MOAA's director of Government Relations for Health Affairs, on Aug. 14 at 2 p.m. Eastern for a free webinar on the history of your health care benefit, current challenges, and how MOAA is engaging on your behalf.

Topics include key legislative milestones, the dual mission of the military health system, and a review of key MOAA priorities, to include improving access to care for military treatment facility (MTF) patients and blocking disproportionate TRI-CARE fee increases. Attendees will be able to ask questions about the benefit. Register today!

#### **June 7, 1956**

**What:** President Dwight D. Eisenhower signs the Dependents' Medical Care Act of 1956.

**So What:** The law codifies the eligibility for space-available military treatment facility (MTF) care for active duty family members, retirees and their families, and survivors. It also establishes coverage for civilian medical care (with cost sharing) for active duty families. Eisenhower supported the legislation as part of his push to "strengthen the career service."

#### **Sept. 30, 1966**

**What:** Congress approves the Military Medical Benefits Amendments, which provides civilian care coverage (with cost sharing) for working age retirees and would lead to the creation of the Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Uniformed Services (CHAMPUS).

**So What:** After Congress passed legislation creating Medicare in 1965, working age uniformed services retirees were the only beneficiary segment without coverage for civilian medical care. Congress responded with the Military Medical Benefits Amendments that extends civilian coverage to non-Medicare eligible retirees and their dependents. The amendments also allow DoD to con-

tract with civilian facilities, greatly expanding care options for beneficiaries. In the mid-1990s, CHAMPUS would become TRICARE Standard.

### Oct. 30, 2000

**What:** The FY 2001 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) becomes law.

**So What:** The legislation expands TRICARE retail and mail order pharmacy coverage to Medicare-eligible retirees (and their spouses and survivors) as of April 1, 2001, and allows those beneficiaries with Medicare Parts A and B to be part of what would become known as TRICARE For Life.

### MOAA COLA Watch for 2025

#### **The Latest**

The June 2025 Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W), released July 15, 2025 was 315.945, 2.3% above the FY 2025 baseline of 308.729. July 2025 figures will be announced Aug. 12.

The CPI-W figures from the end of this fiscal year (July, August, and September 2025) will be compared to the FY 2025 COLA baseline to calculate the 2026 COLA.

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**Charleston MOAA Chapter  
Personal Affairs Director  
Paul W. Lassanske  
LtCol, USAF (Retired)**

Hello fellow members... I am pleased to have the opportunity to offer assistance to The Charleston-MOAA Chapter members as Personal Affairs Director of the Charleston Chapter. Acting on MOAA's challenge to "Never Stop Serving," assisting members, their spouses or extended family in time of crisis or need has been a major focus of my 12 years of leadership in local and State Chapters.

I will keep you informed through the Chapter's newsletter with updates about facilities and services. Drawing on a library of publications and personal experience, my commitment to you is that our Chapter will be prepared to respond to members in need. When needs are satisfied and the job is done, the reward of smiles and gratitude makes it all worthwhile! And that's what "keeps me going!"

## Ship Commissioning Information for novices

To share a bit about the ship commissioning process in the Navy for our members that may have served in other branches of the military, here are the main steps involved:

1. **Pre-Commissioning Activities-Pre-Commissioning Unit (PCU):** A crew is selected and begins training aboard the ship at the construction site, forming the Pre-Commissioning Unit.
2. **Training and Familiarization:** The crew, including the commanding officer and other officers and enlisted personnel, learn the ship's systems and how to operate and maintain it. The crew also oversees and certifies the testing done by the shipbuilder to accept the ship's systems for the Navy.
3. **Sea Trials:** The ship undergoes rigorous testing to ensure its systems and performance meet specifications.
4. **Builder's Acceptance, and Final Contract Trials:** These trials, conducted by the shipbuilder and then the Navy, ensure the ship is ready for service.
5. **Move Aboard:** the crew moves aboard the ship, and the commissioning process transitions from construction to operational.

Next is The Commissioning Ceremony:

1. **Transfer of Custody:** The shipbuilder officially turns the ship over to the Navy.
2. **Acceptance:** The ship's prospective commanding officer accepts the ship on behalf of the Navy.
3. **Formal Announcement:** A Navy leader officially places the ship into commission, announcing it to the attendees.
4. **Raising the Commissioning Pennant:** the prospective commanding officer orders the commissioning pennant to be hoisted, signifying the ship's entry into active service.
5. **Reading of Orders:** The commanding officer reads the orders appointing him to command.
6. **Manning the Rails:** the crew lines the ship's rails, and the sponsor gives the order to "Man our

Ship Commissioning Information for Novices continued on page 4.

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 \_\_\_\_\_

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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) \_\_\_\_\_

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## 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.

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<b>ASST AWARDS DIR</b>	COL Steve Rowe, USA (thru 2025)	843-303-7438	rsrowe@carolinaone.com

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<b>CHAPLAIN</b>	Col Mark Barnes, USAF	843-327-8138	emarkbarnes@me.com
<b>EDITOR</b>			
<b>SCHOLARSHIP/Web Site</b>	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 - 209  
Regular Members—168  
Honorary Members - 4  
Surviving Spouse Members - 36  
Special Members—1

Members receiving the newsletter by email 132

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](mailto: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](mailto:brockman1982@att.net). I will be happy to answer your questions.

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

**Thank You**  
*For your gift in support of  
Chapter programs:*

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

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