



# The South Georgia Voice

South Georgia Chapter, Military Officers Association of America

April 2026 Edition

[www.sgamoaa.org](http://www.sgamoaa.org)



## President's Corner

### Recognition

I would like to recognize several individuals whose contributions continue to strengthen our Chapter. Sincere thanks to **Rosetta Coyne** for the outstanding photos featured this month, and to **Peter Strand and Don McArthur** for leading last month's meeting in my absence. Additionally, thank you to **all our members** whose continued support of time, effort, and donations sustains our mission and long-term success.

### Chapter By-Laws & Standard Operating Procedures

Chapter leadership has completed a final draft of the Chapter By-Laws and will present it to the membership for review. A vote is planned for May 2026, with an overview of key updates to be provided at the April Chapter meeting.

### Strengthening Our Chapter

We need **Membership & Program Committees** focused on recruitment, retention, and delivering valued programs. Members willing to serve are encouraged to volunteer and help ensure the continued vitality of the Chapter.

### Chapter Luncheon

Thank you to all who participated. Based on the positive engagement, the Chapter plans to host similar luncheons quarterly to strengthen fellowship and camaraderie.

### Operation Epic Fury

Continue to closely monitor ongoing U.S. military operations targeting Iran. Since 27 February 2026, 13 U.S. service members have been killed. Please keep our deployed forces and their families in your thoughts and prayers.

Tom McCracken  
President, South Georgia Chapter, MOAA

## Chapter Meeting – March 12, 2026

**Lt. Col. Alan Vaughn, Professor of Aerospace Studies and Commander of Air Force ROTC Detachment 172 at Valdosta State University.** He was commissioned in 2009 after graduating from Clemson University. As an explosive ordnance disposal qualified career civil engineer, he has served in a variety of positions at a base level and at major command. His last assignment was as the Commander of the 765th Air Base Squadron (ABS), Lajes Field, Portugal before coming to Valdosta State University.



He spoke on what motivates the next generation of officers to serve. While many cadets initially pursue prestige, opportunity, or adventure, by the completion of ROTC many come to feel the legacy, valor, and responsibility carried by those who served before them. Data shows that roughly 80% of new service members come from military families, with most officers originating from middle-class households and shaped by teamwork through sports, scouting, and community involvement. The South continues to play a significant role in officer production. Ultimately, today's young officers are driven by a desire for

purpose, grounded in family, community, competition, and a moral compass focused on service to something greater than self. Please continue to encourage our young people.

**Chapter Members in Action**



Dan Tupy, Peter Strand & Don McArthur



Lt. Col. Alan Vaughn



Nick & Patricia Lacey

**Military Related News Articles**

MOAA Digital Edition

<https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/military-officer-magazine/military-officer-magazine-digital-edition>

Military Times

<https://www.militarytimes.com/news>

Defense News

<https://www.defensenews.com>

Early Bird Brief

<https://www.defensenews.com/ebb>

**Upcoming Events**

09 Apr 2026	Chapter Meeting
TBD	Valdosta HS JROTC Awards
TBD	Lowndes HS JROTC Awards
02 May 2026	VSU ROTC Awards
05 May 2026	Chapter Board Meeting
14 May 2026	Chapter Meeting
16 May 2026	GA MOAA Leaders Meeting
24-26 May 2026	Memorial Day, Sunset Hill
Jun-Aug 2026	Chapter Summer Break
7-13 Jun 2026	Boys & Girls State
25 Aug 2026	Chapter Board Meeting
10 Sep 2026	Chapter Meeting
08 Oct 2026	Chapter Meeting
12 Nov 2026	Chapter Meeting



Larry Bostic



Steve Coyne



Ruth Dominicis & Ron Trammell



Scott Marrone



Pam & Tim Oliver



Peter & Rhonda Strand



Sara McArthur & Rosetta Coyne



Joan & Jack Scoggins

## **Next Meeting Reminder**

### **Meeting Reminder**

The next South Georgia MOAA Chapter meeting will be held on Thursday, April 09, 2026, at Mama June's on Perimeter Road, beginning at 6:00 p.m. A meet-and-greet will take place from 6:00–6:15 p.m., followed by the Pledge and Blessing. Please take a moment to welcome guests and introduce yourself to members you may not know.

### **Guest Speaker**

Our April 2026 guest speaker will be Tim Oliver discussing the Civil Air Patrol (CAP), which is the official volunteer auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force, supporting communities with emergency response, aerospace education, and youth cadet programs.

### **RSVP**

Please reply “YES” or “NO” to Secretary Don McArthur:

☎ 229-244-7498

✉ sararmcarthur@gmail.com

### **Newsletter Submissions**

Send items for the newsletter as early as possible to allow for printing time:

✉ thomas.d.mccracken@gmail.com

### **About Our Chapter**

The South Georgia Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) is a non-profit, politically non-partisan organization affiliated with National MOAA, which is also non-partisan. To join the chapter, visit [www.sgamoa.org](http://www.sgamoa.org) and select “Become a member.”

### **Mailing Address**

For written correspondence or donations, please use: South GA MOAA, PO Box 5941, Valdosta, GA 31603