

The South Georgia Voice



South Georgia Chapter
Military Officers Association of America
February 2023



January 12, 2023

Our first meeting of the new year was our first time to meet at Mama June's Restaurant on Perimeter Road. An abundance of selections of meats, vegetables, fruits, salad, and desserts was enjoyed.



Don McArthur, Chapter President, welcomed everyone and then went over some of the procedures we need to follow in our new location.

He also reminded us of the need to support the chapter projects which include the ROTC units, Boys and Girls State, and 2nd Lt Bars for the graduating seniors at VSU.



Valdosta Police Chief, Leslie Manahan was our speaker. She gave us some good insight into what is happening in the police department. She answered questions from the group. She spoke about the dedication of the officers and the recruiting needs. She said the community can help when they see unusual things in their location to help the police be aware of changes such as an unknown car in a place that is not normal.

Legislative News

As the legislative slate is wiped clean for the 118th Congress, grassroots support becomes even

more vital to achieving MOAA's advocacy objectives.

MOAA needs your help to keep momentum for existing priorities such as the Major Richard Star Act, which would benefit tens of thousands of combat-injured veterans and had the support of two-thirds of Congress at the end of last session. We also need your work on behalf of new objectives and emergent issues, often via immediate action to keep up with the stop-and-go pace of legislation. To keep connected, ensure you are signed up for *The MOAA Newsletter* and [register as an advocate](#) at our Legislative Action Center.

Here is a look at MOAA's priorities, in support of the 50th anniversary of our all-volunteer force and to address the challenges facing our uniformed community. Note: Our advocacy team remains active on many other issues not listed here; our priorities will be shaped throughout the year depending on concurrent successes or emerging issues that warrant an all-hands approach. Additionally, we share many interests with The Military Coalition and other stakeholder groups and leverage those relationships to expand our reach on Capitol Hill.

- **Compensation and Service-Earned Benefits**
- **Military Housing**

- **Health Care for Currently Serving and Retirees**
- **Health Care and Benefits for Veterans**
- **Service Families**
- **Survivors**
- **Guard and Reserve**

Compensation and Service-Earned Benefits

Problems: The ongoing recruiting crisis and unit level personnel shortages create a "do more with less" Personnel "Perfect Storm" for the force and further erode the quality of life for servicemembers and their families. DoD is in a war for talent and is struggling to recruit the force we need to defend our country.

Compensation and quality of life remain relevant to our nation's recruiting challenges.

Servicemembers deserve compensation competitive with the private sector. Congress has allowed the White House to shortchange troops in the past, leading to a 2.6% pay raise gap – something we cannot allow to happen again as servicemembers struggle to make ends meet.

Funding the government on time and strictly keeping to the congressional schedule seems to be a bridge too far for both parties and both chambers. This could lead to a federal shutdown, which would hit Coast Guard, U.S. Public Health Service, and NOAA servicemembers hard since their pay is not guaranteed like those in

DoD. We need to fix this: All eight of our services continue to work when the government shuts down, and our servicemembers deserve to be paid for their service.

MOAA also continues to advocate against offsets for some disabled retirees and veterans. Existing legislation places an unfair tax on retired pay to fund a servicemember's own disability.

Aviation History
From the Desk of Tim Oliver,
Member-at-Large and Military
Living Historian:

For those WW2 aviation history buffs, mark your calendars now! There will be a fly in of six Commemorative Air Force aircraft landing at Valdosta Airport on the afternoon of Wednesday, 15 February 2023. This includes the B-29 "Fifi", the B-24 "Diamond Lil", an AT-6 "Texan" and three other WW2 planes. Time of arrival is TBD.

These aircraft will be on display to the public at the old airport terminal on Thursday only, **16 February** from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Cost for static tours is \$20 for adults, \$10 for children ages 11 to 17, free for children 10 and under.

During the day, rides will be given to those wanting to experience flight in a historic WW2 military aircraft at a rather significant cost. Proceeds go to supporting the CAF mission of maintaining the aircraft and flying them around the country for the public to view up close.

The CAF aircraft are scheduled to depart on the morning of Friday, 17 February.

For more information on the event and/or booking a ride, visit the following URL:

Valdosta, Georgia |airpower-tour
(airpowersquadron.org)

Our local WW2 living historians, the 63rd Signal Battalion Reenactors, will be setting up displays of vintage WW2 Army Air Force equipment and memorabilia in front of the airport terminal on Thursday. This display is free of charge to the public and will include some vintage military vehicles.

Contact Tim Oliver at
(229) 561-5251 or
timothyaoiver@bellsouth.net for
more details.

Our meeting is Thursday, February 9. at Mama June's, Perimeter Road at 6 p.m.

We meet and greet from 6-6:15. *Introduce yourself to any guest or member you don't know.*

**Please make your reservations through chapter Secretary, Don McArthur
229-244-7498 or email sararmcarthur@gmail.com
PLEASE RSVP "YES" or "NO"**

Submissions for consideration to this newsletter are welcomed and should be sent to dandsmcarthur@bellsouth.net as soon as possible due to time needed for print.

Thanks to Don McArthur, Tim Oliver, Rosetta Coyne and MOAA website for info for this newsletter. SGAMOAA is a politically non-partisan, non-profit corporation affiliated with the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA). National MOAA is also non-partisan. www.moaa.org will take you to the Legislative Update and their "Take Action" section. To join the chapter go to the website www.sgamoaa.org and click on BECOME A MEMBER .

<p>The program for February will be music presented by Rev Andy Daughtry.</p>
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From:
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