

The South Georgia Voice



South Georgia Chapter
Military Officers Association of America
October 2023



September 2023 Meeting

Christie Moore, CEO/President of the Valdosta Lowndes Chamber of Commerce spoke about Hurricane Disaster Relief after Idalia passed through Valdosta. The County has been approved for help with the clean up to pick up the large piles lining the roads in the city and county and surrounding areas.

She told us about holding the attention of the state leaders so that South Georgia is not forgotten.

We have three main industries that are important for the economic impact. South Georgia Medical Center, Valdosta State University, and Moody AFB are critical.

Moody AFB will get F-35s to replace the A-10s. This is important to keep Moody off any future base closure list.



She also spoke about Valdosta-Lowndes ONE which brings together private and public partners, to create an environment ripe for positive development and economic opportunity in Lowndes County.

Presentation of National MOAA Challenge Coin



Barbara Conant was looking on as Don McArthur presented the National MOAA Challenge Coin to her husband, Norm Conant, retiring Chapter Board Member. Norm has served on the board since South Georgia Chapter was chartered in August 2005.



Peter Strand, our newest member, joined us for the first time. Ron Allen invited him. Peter is a Former Captain in the USAF.

Please be aware of new folks to invite others to join our chapter. Information on Life membership can be found at moaa.org. It is based on age.

Photos from September Meeting



Ron Allen, Letty and Charles Allen



Tim and Pam Oliver, Dan Tupy



Patricia and Nick Lacey



Roger Pace and Ron Allen

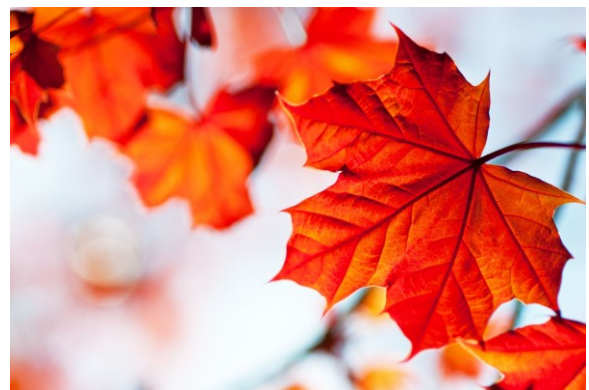
Some Current National MOAA Advocacies

National MOAA joined Advocacy groups offering fixes in the fight against food insecurity for military families to author a September letter to Congress recommending much-needed improvements to DOD's plans for addressing food insecurity in the ranks. Many service members and military families are struggling with some level of food insecurity according to DOD.

There is an urgent need to strengthen the BNA Basic Needs Allowance for qualifying service members including the Guard and Reserve members on active orders. Unfortunately, even with that uptick, the BNA helps less than 3,000 service members.

A new House bill would help protect the TRICARE Pharmacy benefit. Hundreds of TRICARE beneficiaries have reached out to MOAA citing problems caused by the shrinking TRICARE Pharmacy network.

Additionally, a new House bill will require a DOD report on the network to Congress—a report offering the data lawmakers need to better understand the reduced networks impact on military families, retirees and their families, and survivors.



Happy Fall!

Final COLA Prediction: Where the 2024 Increase Could Land

With just a few weeks before final calculations can be made, the annual cost-of-living allowance (COLA) for military retirees, VA disability recipients, Social Security beneficiaries, and others receiving certain federal payments for 2024 is settling in at a higher-than-expected figure . . . one that's still well below last year's

adjustment.

MOAA predicts the upcoming COLA will be 3.2%, down 5.5 percentage points from last year's 8.7% increase. It's the smallest figure in three years, but it's just the fifth time in 20 years the adjustment has reached 3% or higher.

(National MOAA News Release)

Donations to Chapter Projects Needed

As mentioned at last month's meeting, if the chapter wishes to continue to support ROTC scholarships/Grants and Boys and Girls State. The membership needs to financially support these projects. We have a smaller membership than we had before COVID so everyone needs to be generous.



JetZero, a Long Beach, California, company will build the Air Force AKC-46 size blended-wing body flight demonstrator. The concept allows 30-50% range gains versus tube-and-wing aircraft and will inform future tanker or airlifter designs. They aim to complete the build in 2026, with flight testing to begin in 2027. Mobility aircraft account for about 60% of all the fuel consumed by the Air Force, already the largest fuel consumer in the Defense Department.

Our next meeting is Thursday, October 12, 2023,
at Mama June's on Perimeter Road, Valdosta, GA 31602.

We meet and greet from 6-6:15. The Pledge followed by the Invocation is at 6:15.

Then we proceed to the buffet.

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, and MOAA 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 local chapter go to the website www.sgamoaa.org and click on BECOME A MEMBER.

Our guest speaker will be Tim Oliver. He will cover the early stages of pilot training in Georgia prior to and during WWII.

From:
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