

# The South Georgia Voice



South Georgia Chapter  
Military Officers Association of America  
September 2023



## May 2023 Meeting

Bruce McPherson, the Survivor Benefits Counselor at Moody AFB, shared with us the importance of contacting his office for help with requirements dealing with the loss of a spouse. He deals with military benefits. You must have the DD Form 214 and medical records available to survivors. You should also organize wills along with bank and savings accounts and other important papers for your survivors, but that is not handled by his office.



Cadet Cason Smith receiving our chapter's Scholarship from our Chapter Vice-President, Larry Bostic.



## VSU ROTC Awards Banquet

On Saturday, April 29, Larry Bostic attended the Valdosta State ROTC Banquet. He presented our chapter's \$500 Scholarship to Cadet Cason Alden Smith.



Larry also presented the National MOAA Medal to Cadet Grant Lopez.

Our chapter provided the 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Bars for the commissioning ceremony on Saturday, May 6, of the nine graduating seniors.



Larry Bostic and Nick Lacey with Col Sean Baerman, 23rd Fighter Group Commander, who was the speaker at the VSU ROTC Awards banquet.

### WWII Flight Training Museum Douglas, GA

On Saturday, April 29, Tim Oliver conducted guided tours of the WWII Flight Training Museum in Douglas, GA. Pam Oliver also helped sharing about how the cadets were trained by qualified women pilots.

The aviation cadets received 9 weeks of training giving them hands-on experience needed for more advanced schools for flying specific aircraft.



Don and Sara McArthur were able to take one of the tours and view the other displays on the campus.



Aircraft used in the training of WWII pilots were still flying. The PT-17 was flown in Douglas during WWII.

### May 13, 2023

The State Mid-Year meeting of the Presidents of GMOAA and Board was held in Warner Robins. The President of GMOAA, Barry Gardner, presented the Five Star Award for our chapter's website to Don McArthur. Our webmaster is John Michael Henderson.





Don McArthur receiving our chapter's 5 Star Website Communication Award from Barry Gardner.

### Laying Flags on Sunday, May 28



Don and Sara McArthur and Charles Allen helped lay flags on graves of veterans.

### Memorial Day, Monday, May 29, 2023

The speaker this year was Col. Cook, 23<sup>rd</sup> Wing Commander at Moody AFB.



The 21-gun salute included our own Tim Oliver among C Company, 62nd GA Volunteers.

The Memorial Day Service ended with the playing of "Taps" by Don McArthur.



### Moody AFB Will Get F-35s to Replace Its A-10s

The DOD announced plans in June of this year for Moody to host the F-35A Lightning II starting in Fiscal Year 2029, replacing its A-10 Thunderbolt IIs that are slated to be retired.

Air Force also announced that Gowen Field Air National Guard Base, Idaho, will transition to the F-16 in spring 2027.

The selections will not be finalized until environmental impact analyses are complete in the fall of 2025 and spring of 2025 respectively. According to an Air Force release, the plan is to retire six of Moody's A-10's in Fiscal 2024 if Congress approves the service's request to cut 42 across the fleet. From there, the other 48 A-10s at Moody would be retired through Fiscal 2028 and replaced by two squadrons of F-35s.

(Air & Space Forces Magazine June/July 2023)

### Business Meeting

As a reminder our September meeting is a business meeting.

The following officers are recommended:

President: Don McArthur

Vice President: Larry Bostic

Secretary/Treasurer: Don McArthur

Board of Directors:

Dan Tupy, Tim Oliver, Scott Maronne



Our next meeting is Thursday, September 14, 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](mailto:sararmcarthur@gmail.com)**

**PLEASE RSVP—"YES" or "NO".**

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

Thanks to Don McArthur, and *MOAA Strategic Plan 2022-2026* 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](http://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](http://www.sgamoaa.org) and click on BECOME A MEMBER.

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Our guest speaker will be Christie Moore

President and CEO of Valdosta-Lowndes Chamber of Commerce

From:  
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