



The South Georgia Voice

South Georgia Chapter, Military Officers Association of America

September 2026 Edition

www.sgamoaa.org



President's Corner

Thank you for approving the Chapter By-Law updates during our 14 May 2026 membership meeting. Your efforts ensure our Chapter remains well-positioned to serve our members now and in the future.

Membership and Program Committees

We continue to seek volunteers to serve on the Membership and Program Committees. These committees play a vital role in member recruitment, retention, and the development of meaningful programs that strengthen our Chapter. If you are interested in serving, please contact a Board member.

Chapter Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)

The Board is updating the Chapter's Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) and the "About Us" section on our website. These updates will better reflect current Chapter operations, responsibilities, and procedures, ensuring our governing documents remain accurate and relevant.

Membership Outreach Campaign

Chapter leaders identify MOAA members, prospective members, and surviving spouses within our area. As part of our outreach mailing effort, we will invite them to attend our September 2026 meeting and learn more about the value of Chapter membership.

Supporting Our Deployed Forces

As military operations continue in the Middle East, we ask that you keep our deployed service members and their families in your thoughts and prayers. We are especially mindful of personnel from Moody Air Force Base and others serving forward in support of ongoing operations throughout the region.

Tom McCracken

President, South Georgia Chapter, MOAA

Last Chapter Meeting – May 14, 2026

Guest Speaker – Captain Alexandria “Lexi” Delapp, President, Company Grade Officers Council (CGOC), Moody AFB

Department of the Air Force Company Grade Officers' Council (DAFCGOC)

DAFCGOC is a volunteer-led organization representing more than 47,000 Air and Space Force lieutenants and captains. Through local councils at one hundred installations, members promote professional development, leadership, community service, and networking.



Capt. Delapp speaking to the Chapter

Partnering with the Moody AFB Company Grade Officers' Council (CGOC) creates a valuable opportunity for SGA MOAA to connect experienced military leaders with the next generation of Air and Space Force officers. Through mentorship, professional development, and community service initiatives, our members can share leadership lessons and career experiences while gaining insight into the perspectives and challenges facing today's junior officers. This partnership strengthens military and

community ties, promotes civic engagement, and helps foster a lasting tradition of service, leadership, and camaraderie across generations of military professionals.

Website: <https://dafcgoc.org/index.html>

Please join us in welcoming Capt. Delapp and her husband, Logan, to our Chapter. Capt. Delapp was recently promoted to captain and is currently deployed to the Middle East with the 322nd Air Expeditionary Wing (AEW). We thank her for her service and wish her a safe deployment.

National MOAA News

<https://www.moaa.org/>

MOAA Summer Advocacy in Action (AiA) 2026

This summer, MOAA chapters and councils are taking advocacy efforts directly to their communities, meeting with lawmakers and promoting legislation that supports servicemembers, veterans, retirees, survivors, and military families. **Key priorities include the Major Richard Star Act, military pay protections, veterans' benefits, and caregiver support.**

Reauthorize the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) for Veterans and Add Military Spouses

✓ WOTC works. It worked for Veterans and it will work for military spouses

✓ Retaining service members is directly tied to military spouse employment

✓ Investing in spouse employment costs less than replacing the service members they support

Restore GLP-1 Coverage for TRICARE for Life (TFL)

✓ Revoking coverage of GLP-1s for TFL has created a parity gap with younger TRICARE beneficiaries

✓ TRICARE is out of step with Medicare

✓ Please send a letter to DHA leadership urging reinstatement of GLP-1 coverage for TFL

Pass the Major Richard Star Act

✓ End the Wounded Veterans Tax: Combat-injured servicemembers should NOT forfeit earned military retired pay to receive VA disability compensation

✓ Turn Bipartisan Support into Action: The Major Richard Star Act has overwhelming support. Congress

must move beyond co-sponsorship and pass the Star Act

✓ Consider Every Available Path: Whether through standalone legislation, the NDAA, the Take Care of America's Veterans Act, or another viable vehicle, it is time to get the Star Act across the finish line.

<https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2026-news-articles/advocacy/from-moaas-president-help-bring-our-message-home-to-lawmakers/>

Georgia Council of Chapters News

<https://www.gamoaa.org/>

Dwight D. Eisenhower Army Medical Center (DDEAMC) Update

The Defense Health Agency (DHA) has reclassified DDEMAC, which will result in significant changes to its services, including reductions in inpatient care, major surgical capabilities, and emergency services.

Community stakeholders have expressed concerns about the potential impact on military beneficiaries, retirees, veterans, and their families who rely on the facility for healthcare.

Congress is currently considering legislative provisions related to the future status of DDEAMC. The U.S. House of Representatives included Sections 704 and 705 in the FY2027 National Defense Authorization Act (H.R. 8800), and similar language has been introduced in the Senate through S. 4784.

The current review period is scheduled to conclude on August 31, 2026. Continue to provide policymakers with information about the impact of these healthcare changes.

Barto Service Award

GA MOAA has nominated three people for its annual LTC (Ret.) Joseph C. Barto, Jr. Service Award. Established in 2014, this prestigious accolade honors individuals who exhibit extraordinary service, tireless dedication, and exceptional leadership in support of

active-duty military members, veterans, and local communities. The award celebrates those whose profound commitment to military advocacy and community betterment mirrors the lofty standards of leadership set by LTC Barto himself. Eligible nominees include community leaders, volunteers, and advocates who have made a measurable impact on the lives of service members and their families across the region.

Nominations are:

- ✓ **Sen. Chuck Payne (GA Senate)**
- ✓ **Rep. Josh Bonner (GA HOR)**
- ✓ **Commissioner Patricia Ross (GDVS)**

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Georgia MOAA Annual Conference

Athens Chapter is hosting the 2027 **Georgia in Athens, GA on 5-8 November 2026**. West Georgia Chapter will host the **2028 Conference in Carrollton, GA**

Upcoming Chapter Events

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
10 Sep 2026	Chapter Meeting
08 Oct 2026	Chapter Meeting
05-08 Nov 2026	GAMOAA Annual Conference
12 Nov 2026	Chapter Meeting

Military Related News Articles

MOAA Digital Edition

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

MOAA Legislative Action Center:

www.moaa.org/takeaction

Military Times:

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

Defense News:

<https://www.defensenews.com>

Early Bird Brief:

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

GA Department of Veterans Service

<https://veterans.georgia.gov/newsletter>

Valdosta Veterans Field Service Office

348 Enterprise Drive, Valdosta, GA 31601

<https://veterans.georgia.gov/locations/valdosta>

VSO (and Manager) Jason Lane

jason.lane@vs.ga.gov or 229-316-2970

VSO Tisha Hardy

tisha.hardy1@vs.ga.gov or 229-316-2970

Upcoming Chapter Meeting

Meeting Reminder

Our next chapter meeting is **Thursday, September 10, 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. Please reply to Secretary Don McArthur at 229-244-7498 or sararmcarthur@gmail.com

Newsletter Submissions

Send items for the newsletter as early as possible to allow for printing time to Tom McCracken at 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 <http://www.sgamoaa.org> and select "Become a member." For written correspondence or donations, please use: **South GA MOAA, PO Box 5941, Valdosta, GA 31603**

Roster of Chapter Officers

<https://www.sgamoaa.org/officers-directors>

Chapter Members in Action



Charles & Letty Allen



Stephen & Rosetta Coyne



Scott & Teresa Marrone



Rod Casey & Don McArthur



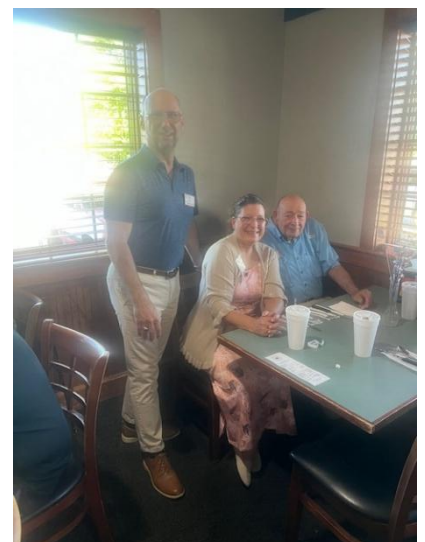
Dan Tupy



Stephen Coyne & Lexi Delapp



Jack & Joan Scoggins



Pete & Ruth Dominicus & Ron Trammell