



The South Georgia Voice

South Georgia Chapter, Military Officers Association of America

March 2026 Edition

www.sgamoaa.org



President's Corner

I want to start by giving a big **thank you** to the people who helped make our February Chapter Meeting such a great one. First, thanks to **Rosetta Coyne** for the impressive photos in this month's newsletter. Second, thanks to **Don McArthur** for sharing beautiful music in the spirit of Valentine's Day. And finally, thank you to **Don & Sara McArthur** for bringing roses for the ladies—such a thoughtful touch. We are lucky to have members who share their time and talents to make our gatherings special.

Chapter By-Laws & SOP

Our Chapter leadership team has been working diligently over the past six months to update our **Chapter By-Laws** in alignment with current National and State MOAA standards and to develop a new Chapter **Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)**. We are reviewing membership guidelines, voting processes, and the structure and term lengths of the board, officers, and committees. Because By-Law changes require a majority vote, we plan to share our recommendations with the full membership before May 2026. Our SOP will outline our initiatives & Strategic Plan.

Strengthening Our Chapter

Our Chapter's strength relies on the energy and involvement of each member. Right now, we are facing a membership decline. Together, we can revitalize our Chapter and ensure it remains strong for years to come. Building functional **Membership and Program Committees** would be a great first start, so I encourage our members to serve on these committees and develop specific strategies to strengthen this initiative.

Prayers

Lastly, please keep the Conant, Piper, and Strand families in your thoughts and prayers during this time.

Tom McCracken

President, South Georgia Chapter, MOAA

Chapter Meeting – February 12, 2026

Guest Musician – Don McArthur

Don McArthur displayed his special musical talents by entertaining the audience playing “love” songs on the Cornet in the Valentine's Day spirit. The Cornet produces a warmer, broader, and more mellow tone, often used in brass bands, where the Trumpet creates a brighter, more cutting, and projection-heavy sound, commonly used in orchestras and jazz. The list of songs he played included:

“Love Me Tender” (Elvis Presley, 1956)

“My Heart Will Go On” (Celine Dion, 1997)

“If I Loved You” (Rodgers and Hammerstein's
Carousel, 1945)

“Unchained Melody” (Todd Duncan, 1955)

“Some Enchanted Evening” (Rodgers and
Hammerstein's *South Pacific*, 1949)

“Battle Hymn of the Republic” (Julia Howe, 1861)

“America The Beautiful” (Katharine Bates, 1895)

“You're A Grande Old Flag” (George Cohan, 1906)

“God Bless America” (Irving Berlin, 1939)

Chapter Members in Action



Don McArthur playing the Cornet



Nick & Patricia Lacey



Joan & Jack Scoggins



Don explaining the composition.



Charles & Letty Allen



Tom & Jill McCracken



Pam & Tim Oliver



Sara & Don McArthur



Steve & Rosetta Coyne



Ron Trammell & Ruth Dominicis



Peter & Rhonda Strand



Larry Bostic

Upcoming Events

03 Mar 2026	Chapter Board Meeting
12 Mar 2026	Chapter Meeting
21 Mar 2026	4 th Annual Wings & Things
24 Mar 2026	Chapter Luncheon
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

Chapter Luncheon

We are planning a Chapter Luncheon on Tuesday, March 24, 2026, from 1130-1330 at Mama June's Restaurant, Valdosta, GA. We wanted to plan a non-evening activity to bring our Chapter members together for fellowship. This will be in addition to our regular month Chapter meetings. Based on participation and feedback, we will continue to plan additional daytime events.

2026 Wings & Things Festival

This will be the 4th Annual Wings & Things Festival & Fly-in, featuring warbirds, antique military vehicles, food trucks, vendors, kids' zone, entertainment, car show, and a hot wing cook-off.

Military Related News Articles

MOAA Digital Edition

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

MOAA News Listings

<https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/news-listing/>

Military Times

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

Defense News

<https://www.defensenews.com>

Early Bird Brief

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

Defense Visual Information Distribution Service

<https://www.dvidshub.net>

Next Meeting Reminder

Meeting Reminder

The next South Georgia MOAA Chapter meeting will be held on Thursday, March 12, 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.

March Guest Speaker

Our March 2026 guest speaker will be Lt. Col. Alan Vaughn, Commander of Air Force ROTC Detachment 172 at Valdosta State University.

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.sgamoaa.org and select "Become a member."

Mailing Address

For written correspondence or donations, please use:

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