



PMOAA BEACON



*Home of the Blue Angels - Pensacola, FL
A 5 Star Chapter 2003 - 2019, 2021 - 2024*

*Printed Newsletter Award -
2008, 2010, 2011, 2019 - 2024*

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<https://pmoaa.org>

July 2025



President's Corner

We had a very busy and enjoyable June calendar for PMOAA and I hope you were able to participate in some of our activities such as the Picnic at The Oaks on June 12 and the combined meeting with the Baldwin County and Mobile chapters of MOAA in Daphne. Joe Bonner, President of South Alabama University and a former Congressman from Baldwin County gave an excellent talk on their University in Mobile. His goal is for South Alabama to be the most friendly and welcoming University in America for veterans, spouses and children. A down-to-earth guy with a very inspiring message.



Photo courtesy of
MAJ Molly Werner

June and July are also busy getting ready for the Scholarship Banquet on July 31 at PYC starting at 1730. The scholarship committee, led by Maj Charley Booton, have seven students selected for the \$3000 per scholar award, with a number of them from our UWF ROTC programs, Army and Air Force. We hope to have a majority of them present or represented by other family members. Please greet them and learn about their dreams and aspirations. We raise special children in this country and I find pride, inspiration and hope when meeting the younger generation.

A companion activity for the Scholarship Banquet is the Scholarship Raffle for which you all should have received a letter from PMOAA with five \$10 raffle tickets. Please return your tickets with the donation by the mid-July deadline to be able to participate in the drawing at the Banquet.

We have a special meal planned, which PYC always does a great job presenting, of Prime Rib and Chicken Piccata plus sides and dessert. Maybe even think

about bringing some of your retired friends who do not know about the Chapter but should.

Speaking of scholarships, the Board recently voted to begin again a longtime program PMOAA had in years past. There are nine Junior ROTC programs in many of the local high schools which we have been supporting by presenting awards to deserving cadets chosen by their high school at the end of each school year. This fall (2025) we will begin offering an annual stipend to each JROTC unit of \$500 to \$1000 (exact amount to be determined by JROTC Stipend Committee) to be used for miscellaneous supplies, special event support or other needs as determined by each Unit.

The "Big Ask" of you, our members, is to consider donating to the JROTC Stipend Fund to raise the \$5,000 to \$10,000 needed each year. Many of you have donated to the Scholarship Fund for our college student applicants. The great news is that the Anna Johnson Endowment fund now has a balance of over \$100,000 even though we have given away \$4,000-\$6,000 per year. It just continues to grow and is fully capable of supporting 6-8 college scholarships for a number of years. The Board and I are asking you to consider donating to the JROTC Stipend Fund each year in lieu of the college scholarships. Please call me if you have questions (479-651-0292).

Please sign-up early for the Scholarship Banquet on the website (pmoaa.org). There is no meeting in August. The next meeting will be September 18 at PYC starting at 1730.

See you all at the Scholarship Banquet on Thursday July 31 at 1730. Good times to be experienced with friends, shipmates, Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and Coast Guard!

Your President, Ken Pyle



LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

While this input is for the July issue of our award-winning newsletter, the articles are from the month prior as none of us know what the future will hold. As a volunteer at your National Naval Aviation Museum (along with our esteemed President and former IKE Shipmate Ken Pyle) I spend a couple of Sundays a month giving tours of the museum. In our newest building outside of the main building (called Hangar Bay One) hangs a Navy R-4D which in civilian service was a DC-3 and in Army a C-47. The one we have is equipped with skis for landing on snow and ice. These were used to support scientific expeditions in Antarctica in the 1950's. On October 31st, 1956, history was made in this aircraft when LCDR Gus Shinn, USN along with crew and passengers landed the aircraft at the South Pole. This marked the first visit by man in over 40 years and the very first by airplane. Until recently the Commander lived in Pensacola and was 102 years old when he passed.



Commander Shinn, third from left, with the crew and passengers who were on the first flight to land at the South Pole. Credit:...U.S. Navy

I have chosen a few articles from the weekly MOAA newsletters in May/June, I hope you enjoy them and take action where appropriate.

You can support those efforts by being part of the action. A way to do that is to sign up for the MOAA legislative alerts visit https://moaa.quorum.us/sign_in/.

To help you stay informed about issues, please consider subscribing to the MOAA Newsletter which is sent out two to four times per month on Thursdays via email. You can sign up for the newsletter at www.moaa.org. Please let me know how you think I can make this column better for you by sending an email to me at dave.mitchell@pmoaa.org.

Also, if you are not aware, the Florida Council of Chapters (FCoC) publishes a newsletter every other month. It can be viewed here at <https://flmoaa.org/news/>

Your voice needs to be heard by our Florida Congressional Delegation. Please use some or all of the links available within this Legislative Affairs column and subscribe to the automatic notifications I mentioned above. The Pensacola Chapter of

MOAA is a member of the Florida Council of Chapters, FCoC at flmoaa.org and an affiliate of the [Military Officers Association of America \(MOAA\)](http://moaa.org) who together are the nation's largest and most influential association of military officers. We are an independent, nonprofit, politically nonpartisan organization. MOAA has several critical legislative issues they are championing. Become an advocate and **Take Action NOW!** at <https://moaa.quorum.us/>

In this issue:

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MOAA President: DoD Budget Boost Brings 'Opportunity' Amid Concerning Federal Cuts

(By: Kevin Lilley from May 22, 2025 MOAA Newsletter)

The first-ever proposed trillion-dollar defense budget offers "a lot of opportunity to do great things for quality of life for our military members," MOAA President and CEO Lt. Gen. Brian T. Kelly, USAF (Ret), said in a recent radio interview with Federal News Network, a discussion which also touched on MOAA priorities regarding veterans and military spouses in the face of proposed federal spending cuts.

Kelly told [The Federal Drive](#) host Terry Gerton that the budget plan "has some improvements to housing, [to give full allowance for housing](#) – we want to make sure that stays in there. That was something MOAA has been asking for and supporting for a number of years."

[RELATED: [What the Proposed \\$1 Trillion Defense Budget Means for Servicemembers, Families, and Retirees](#)]

"It will all come down to what happens with [reconciliation](#)," Kelly added in the interview, which aired May 15. "So we'll be paying a lot of attention and giving our thoughts, and providing help and support when we can."

'Efficiencies' and Earned Benefits

While DoD and VA budgets may not feel quite the impact of federal efficiency measures as other departments, Kelly stressed that service-earned benefits weren't immune from collateral damage.

"We certainly don't want to see those efficiencies, which we're appreciative of, and those savings, which we're supportive of, happen on the backs of those earned benefits for our military members, their families, our veterans," Kelly said.

The Federal News Network interview was recorded the day after Kelly and other MOAA leaders [met with VA Secretary Doug Collins](#); Kelly praised Collins' "focus on veterans" and noted the VA-benefit improvements MOAA and other veterans

groups have championed in recent years, including [generational toxic-exposure reform](#) and [better education benefits](#).

“A lot of work was done [to make] great strides forward for the veteran community,” Kelly said, “and you certainly wouldn’t want to see any of those things reversed or impacted as the result of hasty cuts or reductions.”

Federal Hiring in Focus

Asked about recent federal staffing cuts, Kelly stressed the need to continue programs “purposely put in place in the past by administrations, including the first Trump administration, that recognized that employment for our veterans is a key thing. It’s one of the things that they earned.”

“The same thing for our spouses: Recognizing that military spouses have a very high unemployment rate – 21%, way higher than the national average – it’s tough for them. Giving military spouses an opportunity to be employed helps us retain, helps us attract and recruit, members to the military.”

[TAKE ACTION: [Ask Your Lawmakers to Add Military Spouses to the Work Opportunity Tax Credit](#)]

While these programs may sometimes be “at odds” with staffing reductions, Kelly highlighted “an inherent strategic opportunity to keep [veterans and military spouses] at higher rates.”

The full interview is available at *The Federal Drive* [YouTube page](#) and via [its podcast feed](#).

Senate Hearing Spotlights MOAA-Backed Bill to Support Veteran Caregivers

(By: Terry Waters from May 29th, 2025 MOAA Newsletter)

A recent Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee hearing highlighted growing interest in a MOAA-supported proposal designed to provide critical transitional support for military caregivers.

The committee reviewed and discussed the Veteran Caregiver Reeducation, Reemployment, and Retirement (3R) Act alongside other legislation in a May 21 meeting, which featured testimony from the VA and various veterans service organizations (VSOs), including MOAA.

[TAKE ACTION NOW: [Urge Your Lawmakers to Pass the Veteran Caregiver Reeducation, Reemployment, and Retirement Act](#)]

“Despite their vital role, caregivers face significant financial, professional, and emotional burdens,” MOAA told the committee in written testimony. “Many forgo careers, retirement savings, and personal well-being to provide care.”

The 3R Act addresses key concerns raised by caregivers transitioning out of the VA’s [Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers](#) (PCAFC), including job reentry, retirement planning, health care access, and financial stability. These caregivers often sacrifice income, career advancement, and long-term financial security to care for their loved ones ... and are met with significant gaps in support.

The bill proposes a comprehensive package of support tools, such as job training assistance, counseling, continued health care coverage, and help with professional relicensing costs, all aimed at easing the shift into post-caregiving life.

What’s Next

With congressional interest building, the 3R Act represents an opportunity to ensure caregivers are recognized and supported long after their caregiving duties conclude. As this legislation progresses, MOAA continues to work closely with lawmakers to ensure the bill’s provisions reflect the real needs of military families.

“By offering education, employment, and retirement opportunities, the act would empower caregivers to achieve financial security while potentially reducing the federal government’s long-term economic burden by decreasing their future reliance on government assistance programs,” MOAA told the committee in written testimony.

[RELATED: [MOAA Tracks Implementation of Key Veteran, Caregiver Benefit Reforms](#)]

Visit MOAA’s Legislative Action Center to urge your lawmakers to [support the 3R Act](#) and ensure military caregivers receive the long-term resources and recognition they’ve earned.

Space A-101: How (and Where and When) to register for Travel

(By: Kevin Lilley from June 11th, 2025 MOAA Newsletter)

Planning an adventure this summer and considering space-available (or Space-A) travel to save on the trip? You’re not alone: A recent MOAA webinar on the basics of this earned benefit topped out our virtual platform, with more than 1,000 eager travelers looking for expert guidance.

The May 28 webinar – hosted by Stephanie Montague, founder and president of the military travel-focused [Poppin’ Smoke](#) website – served as an introduction to the benefit. One of the many topics tackled: How to sign up (or register) for the benefit.

When to Register

Travelers have priority within their Space-A category based on when they sign up to travel, explained Montague, who is married to an Army retiree.

“If my husband signed us up for Space-A travel 50 days ago, even if an active duty family signed up yesterday, they’re still a higher priority than we are,” she said. “On the other hand, if other [Category 6 passengers](#) signed up two weeks ago, we’re higher priority than them if we’re competing for the same flight.”

Retirees can sign up at any point, with their registration valid for up to 60 days. Those on active duty can only sign up during their leave, and their registration can last through the end of their leave period.

For a breakdown of the Space-A eligibility categories from Air Mobility Command, [click here](#).

Where to Register

Do you have multiple options for departure points? Sign up for all of them, Montague said.

"There's no downside to signing up for a terminal and never trying to fly from there. You can sign up for every terminal in the world, if you want to," she said.

If you're living on the East Coast of the U.S. and planning a European vacation, for example, don't limit your selections to the nearest airport or installation – you can register at locations from Charleston, S.C., to Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., to keep all your options open.

How to Register

Montague outlined multiple options:

- **In person:** Perfect for those who live near a terminal. Be sure you get printed confirmation of the registration.
- **Online:** The [Air Mobility Command sign-up form](#) allows travelers to register virtually, but only at one terminal per form submission.
- **Email:** Montague recommends this method, where travelers can sign up at multiple terminals at the same time. Air Mobility Command offers an email directory of its passenger terminals ([click here and scroll down](#)); send the required information to the right addresses, and your sent email becomes your proof of registration.

"Do not sign up more than once, because your most recent sign-up is the one that's applicable," Montague said. "If you sign up a month ago and you think ... 'I want to be sure that they got it,' and you send it again, you've just lost your place in the virtual line."

More to Know

Check out the full webinar for details from Montague on:

- **Eligibility:** A breakdown of the Space-A categories, and how they factor into geographic restrictions and travel-priority levels.
- **Scheduling:** How to find flight schedules and track flights.
- **The Day Of:** What you need to do in the 24 hours before departure – everything from check-in procedures to luggage rules.

Beyond SGLI: Do You Have a Life Insurance Plan for After Service?

(This article by Kimberly Lankford originally appeared in the June 2025 issue of Military Officer, a magazine available to all MOAA Premium and Life members)

While serving in the military, you have access to low-cost life insurance through the Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI) program. You can get the maximum coverage of \$500,000 for \$31 a month, regardless of age or health. And premiums are set to drop to \$26 a month starting July 1, 2025.

[RELATED: [MOAA-Backed Bill Would Help VA Insurance Programs Keep Pace With Inflation](#)]

But SGLI coverage typically expires 120 days following separation from service, with a few exceptions. So do you have a plan for after you leave the military?

"If the servicemember has certain conditions or a disability that prevents them from maintaining gainful employment, they can apply for a free extension of their SGLI for up to two years following separation from service," said Timothy Sirhal, executive director of insurance service for the VA.

Some families need life insurance after SGLI ends. There are several options, including the VA's Veterans' Group Life Insurance (VGLI). But the rules and costs differ from SGLI.

[RELATED: [MOAAInsurance.com](#)]

You have one year and 120 days after separating from service to apply for VGLI. If you apply within the first 240 days, you don't have to answer any health questions. But if you apply beyond that period up to the maximum time frame, you must answer health questions and meet requirements for approval, according to Sirhal.

VGLI premiums increase in five-year increments and rise significantly as you get older.

You can receive the same level of VGLI coverage as you had for SGLI. You can also purchase up to \$25,000 more after a year and then every five years, up to the current maximum coverage of \$500,000, Sirhal said.

[FROM VA.GOV: [VA Life Insurance Options](#)]

If you're healthy, you might pay a lot less for a private life insurance policy. Under current VGLI rates, a healthy, nonsmoking 42-year-old man would pay \$151,560 for \$500,000 of VGLI over 30 years, said Lt. Col. Joshua Andrews, USAF (Ret), CFP®, advice director for USAA. For this servicemember, comparing VGLI costs to private policies might be beneficial.

But if a servicemember has preexisting health conditions, you might have to pay more for the private coverage or simply not qualify at all. In this case, VGLI might be a better option if you apply within the first 240 days.

Lt. Col. Amy King, USA (Ret), CFP®, the founder of Maryland-based [Instar Financial Planning](#), said VGLI can be helpful for those with health issues, especially if there's a need for extra short-term coverage.

"I've run across clients who need coverage for three to five years to pay off a mortgage, but they probably couldn't get through underwriting [for private insurance] without it being expensive," she said.

Consider assessing your life insurance needs, and shop around for a private policy before you leave the military. Then compare those costs to VGLI.

Kimberly Lankford is a financial expert based in Virginia and the spouse of a retired Army colonel.

'Task Scams': How to Steer Clear of This Growing Type of Fraud

(By: Kevin Lilley from June 17th, 2025 MOAA Newsletter)

So-called "task scams" – promising compensation for low-level online jobs but instead swindling victims out of personal data, or worse – have exploded in recent months, from less than 500 such scams reported to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) in all of 2021 to 20,000 reports in the first six months of 2024.

And unlike other types of job scams, they target individuals of all ages in all financial circumstances. Instead of a 40-hour workweek, they offer pay for repetitive tasks like rating videos



or applications, downloading or testing software, or similar easy-to-accomplish online duties. Some might even track the victim's "earnings" in an app as the initial jobs are accomplished.

Then, things turn south.

“At some point, the app or online platform will ask you to deposit your own money — usually in crypto — to complete your next set of tasks and to get your supposed (fake) earnings out of the app,” according to [an FTC consumer alert](#). “But if you make the deposit, not only is your real money is gone, you’ll never get those fake earnings.”

[JULY 15 MOAA WEBINAR: [Building Wealth Through Saving and Investing](#)]

There are variations on the theme: In some instances, the scammers may ask for bank account information as a way to transfer earnings, but instead sell or use those details to steal the victim's identity. Whatever the endgame, the scammers' work has paid off: Job scams (including task scams) cost a reported \$41 million in cryptocurrency losses alone in the first six months of 2024, up from \$21 million in all of 2023, per the FTC.

Think servicemembers and veterans are safe? Think again: Business- and job-related scams cost the “military community” – those in uniform and their family members, along with retirees and veterans – \$38.4 million in 2024, up from \$26.4 million the previous year. Victims lost \$2,800 on average in 2024, up from \$2,600 in 2023.

Stopping Task Scams

Along with traditional anti-scam advice [available from MOAA](#) and [other outlets](#), keep the following tips in mind when combating task scams:

- **Platform is key.** Real job offers won't come unsolicited via text messages, emails, or apps like WhatsApp. It's a reason to stop right from the start.
- **Don't pay to get paid.** This technique can be found in other scams, such as [multilevel marketing schemes](#), and should be an immediate red flag.
- **Follow the money (or don't).** Watch for promises of payments in cryptocurrency, and steer clear of any offer that involves gift cards. These payment methods can be all but untraceable, making it more difficult to recover losses after a scam.

If you've been a victim of a task scam or suspect you're being targeted, [file a report with the FTC](#).

**Compiled and Edited by
Captain Dave Mitchell, USN (Ret)**

Just a reminder, if you move, change your email address or phone number, please go on-line at <https://pmoaa.org>, log in with your user name and password and update your information. Or email membership@pmoaa.org with your current information.

The Surviving Spouse Assistance Committee Corner

The board approved the Cookbook project for the Surviving Spouse Committee. You can still submit recipes, but the deadline is July 15. Until then, you can submit recipes via the following:

1. Email the recipe to cookbook@pmoaa.org. This can be a copied, pasted or a photo of the recipe. Our committee can then type it in.
2. If you are computer savvy, we have a place to type (and only typed, not pasted) the recipes at:

<https://www.typensave.com>

Click on the login button on top at far right of screen:

The sign-in Info:

User ID: PMOAACookbook,

P/W: pickle985

Select: Recipe Pages, Then Select: Add Recipes

Our goal is to submit the cookbook in time to be published for the holidays. The targeted price of the cookbook should be about \$15, but we won't have a firm price until the cookbook is finalized and submitted. We are also now receiving advance orders and those can also be emailed to cookbook@pmoaa.org. You can also contact any of our committee members for further information.

<https://www.military.com/discounts> is a great link to help save money. Check out the dinning and travel discounts as well.

Also, the <https://www.military.com> site itself has a lot of information and links.

Looking forward to summer and some fun in the sun.

**Submitted by Judy Dickson, Chair,
Karen Vinson-VanHouter, Karin Wiseman,
Bill Mayer and Carol Olson**

Link to PMOAA Digital Asset & Quicklist files on our website:
<https://pmoaa.org/Surviving-Spouse-Assistance>

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BEACON Editor Needed by September

If you, or someone you know, would be interested in being the **BEACON editor, please contact any Board Member or send an email to Jean.Booton@pmoaa.org**

[illegible]

2025 PMOAA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Most member meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of each month except for June, July, and December. Board meetings are held at 1600 on the Tuesday following the member meetings (some exceptions apply). Locations are subject to change (PYC is Pensacola Yacht Club; Mustin is Mustin Beach Club on NAS Pensacola; Oaks is The Oaks on NAS Pensacola). Christmas Party will be at 1800 at PYC.

MEMBER MEETINGS

July 31 – Scholarship Banquet PYC
 Aug 1-**NO MEETING**
 Sept 18 - **Dinner** PYC
 Oct 16 - **Dinner** PYC
 Nov 20 -Annual Biz Mtg PYC
 Dec 4 - Christmas Party (1800) PYC

BOARD MEETINGS

No Board Meeting
 Aug 26 El Patron
 Sept 23 PYC
 Oct 14 PYC
 Nov 18 PYC
 Dec 16 PYC

Menus and speakers TBD at a later date.

*Indicates a change of date

PMOAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

June 24, 2025

The meeting was called to order by President Ken Pyle at 1602 at the El Patron Mexican Grill. Board members present were: RADM Joan Engel, CAPT Meredith Yeager, LtCol Bob Nelson, CDR Susan Ulloa, LTC Karen Vinson-VanHouter, MAJ Molly Werner, Maj Charley Booton, CPT Dean Kirschner, Surviving Spouse Chair Mrs. Judy Dickson, and Beacon Editor Jean Booton. CAPT Sue Varenholt was excused.

May 2025 BOD Minutes – Mrs. Dickson requested a correction to the May minutes. She noted that the correct web address for submission of cookbook recipes or to pre-order a cookbook is cookbook@pmoaa.org. All members present approved the minutes as corrected.

Treasurer Report – Bank accounts balance for this month: Total Bank Accounts - \$26,779.50; Total Assets Accounts - \$102,192.24. LtCol Nelson noted that the balance increase was due to a generous contribution from a member to be awarded to two scholarship recipients pursuing a degree in a medical field. The account will be minus that amount following the Scholarship Banquet in July. The President called for approval of the Treasurer's report. Concurrence was unanimous. As website manager, LtCol Nelson related that members may have been unable to access MOAA/PMOAA website the past few weeks and mentioned that software was needed to override the glitch.

REPORTS

1st Vice President – LTC Vinson-VanHouter verified the speaker line-up at the member meetings for the remainder of the year. She stated she had 2-3 guest speakers for the first months of next year and requested suggestions from the Board for additional recommendations. Several names were proposed and LTC Vinson-VanHouter will follow up on those.

2nd Vice President Membership – MAJ Werner explained the purpose of the Near Real Time (NRT) report to the Board which is a list of MOAA members who reside in the local area but do not belong to the local Chapter. She noted that there were several duplications and when removed, the list left a total of thirty-three (33) potential PMOAA members. Efforts will be made to recruit each of them for membership in PMOAA. Total membership this month remains at 132.

Survivor Assistance – Mrs. Dickson attended the funeral services for Helen Peach, member spouse who passed away earlier this month. While there, she expressed condolences from PMOAA to Helen's husband, retired Navy CDR Ellis Peach, and offered assistance with information on navigating the legal and domestic issues associated with the death of a spouse.

Cookbook Project – the project continues to move forward. Over seventy (70) recipes have been submitted to date. The goal is to have approximately one hundred (100) recipes

United States Marine Corps Anniversary Edition

250

HEROES AMONG US
Speaker Series

2025

"Representing those who have distinguished themselves in combat from every generation and branch of the Armed Forces."

2025 SCHEDULE

MAY 29
GUEST OF HONOR
General William "Spider" Nyland, USMC
Marine Corps 250th Anniversary Night
Seville Quarter, 130 E Government St, Pensacola, Florida

JUN 26
Major General Richard Simcock, USMC
The Surge in Iraq
Seville Quarter, 130 E Government St, Pensacola, Florida

JUL 31
Captain Matthew Meilstrup, USCG
Coast Guard/Marine Team Night
Seville Quarter, 130 E Government St, Pensacola, Florida

AUG 28
Colonel Andrew Turner, USMC
Battle of Najaf, Iraq
Seville Quarter, 130 E Government St, Pensacola, Florida

SEP 25
Captain Lee Anne Savoia, USN, Medical Corps
U.S. Navy Medical Corps
Seville Quarter, 130 E Government St, Pensacola, Florida

OCT 30
MGySgt Larry McCartney, USMC
Khe Sanh Remembrance-Reunion Night
Pensacola Veterans Memorial Park, Bayfront Parkway near 9th Avenue, Pensacola, Florida

To make a donation to the "Heroes Among Us" fund, please contact: info@heroesamongus.org or call 1-800-875-2263. Make checks payable to "Heroes Among Us" or "Heroes Among Us Fund".

HEROES AMONG US: awarded the 2019 George Washington Honor Medal by the President's Foundation at Valley Forge.

GUY BROTHERS ROOFING & SIDING

SEVILLE QUARTER

June-September Seville Quarter 1800 hours

available before the book order goes to print. Mrs. Dickson continues to receive volunteers eager to assist on the project. Members are reminded to submit their recipes online at cookbook@pmoaa.org, or by mail to the PMOAA address using the recipe form which will be available at the next few member meetings. Cookbooks may also be pre-ordered there as well.

Scholarship Committee – The Scholarship Committee has selected seven individuals who will each receive a \$3000 award at the Banquet on July 31 at PYC. Maj Booton has sent all the information about the selectees to LtCol Nelson for the website and will be forwarding emails to the winners notifying them of their selection and providing instruction/information regarding the awards Banquet. The two local ROTC Commanders and their guests will be invited to attend. A call was made to the office of District 01 Florida Representative, the Honorable Jimmy Patronis, requesting his presence at the event but he is otherwise engaged that evening. A substitute from his staff may participate in his place. Maj Booton will be submitting brief biographies of each scholarship recipient as well as a summary of their career aims to the printer for the banquet programs. CAPT Pyle congratulated Maj Booton and his Committee on a job very well done as indicated by the significant increase in scholarship applications received than in the past few years.

Beacon – All items for the July Beacon must be available to Mrs. Booton by end-of-day Friday, June 27. PMOAA is still in need of someone to take over the production of the newsletter when her term ends in September.

OLD BUSINESS

JROTC – President Pyle reiterated the proposal to form a JROTC Fundraising Committee to help raise \$7,000- \$10,000 annually to support the seven high schools in Escambia and Santa Rosa with JROTC programs. He is requesting that a volunteer step up to Chair the Committee and lead the effort. The Treasurer noted that undesignated funds are available to support the programs with awards this Fall but fundraising is needed going forward. During a past Board meeting, a motion was made, and approved by all present, to use the 50/50 raffle monies to support JROTC since scholarship monies are ample. However, the amount collected would not be sufficient to support the units. A proposal was made to present JROTC donations as an option to the members and the Board approved. Members will certainly still be welcome to choose the Scholarship Fund for their donation. CPT Kirschner requested that a plaque acknowledging PMOAA's support of the JROTC units be presented to each unit. His request met with approval.

Joint Meeting – PMOAA joined Baldwin and Mobile County Chapters of MOAA on June 19 at The Waterfront Restaurant in Daphne, AL. The speaker was University of South Alabama President, Joshua R. Bonner, who commented on USA's achievement earning the "Military Friendly Gold Standard" as

well as other areas USA's educational excellence impacts the Gulf Coast communities, such as healthcare.

Surviving Spouse Status Discussion – Postponed from the last Board meeting, the topic was discussed and voted on by the Board members present at this meeting. Recent practice had been that a surviving spouse does not inherit the "join date" of the deceased military member, who may have been with MOAA/PMOAA for decades. This practice ignores the surviving spouse's past participation in the Chapter and makes that person ineligible for consideration as an Honorary Life Member in adherence to the By-laws. A motion was proposed to make the "join date" of the military member become the join date of the surviving spouse upon the military member's death. RADM Engel approved the motion and it was seconded by Maj Booton. The motion carried with unanimous approval by the Board.

Honorary Life Membership (HLM) Committee – During the last Board meeting there was discussion and an approved vote on a proposal to dissolve the HLM Committee and grant the Board of Directors discretion to grant lifetime membership to a nominated member. Minor changes were necessary to the official letter to the member notifying him/her of HLM status, and to the phrasing of the By-law change. The changes were completed, discussed, and approved by the Board members at this meeting. The general membership will have the opportunity to vote on the changes at the Business Meeting in November.

Barrancas Memorial Day

Ceremony- LTC Vinson-VanHouter represented PMOAA and called the names of those Chapter members on the Taps roster. Quite a few PMOAA members were present at this solemn and poignant event.

Our Community Salutes (OCS)

Pensacola – The purpose of this event was to recognize new enlistees to the military, most of whom were recent high school graduates. Nearly 100 young men

and women raised their hands and pledge to protect and defend our country, which is an impressive number out of Escambia County high schools. Marine Corps recruits made up the majority of new enlistees followed in numbers by the Air Force, Army, and the Navy with the least number of recruits, except for the lone Guardian recruit to the Space Force, a young woman. Guests of honor included Florida First Lady Casey DeSantis and Florida District 1 State Representative Michelle Salzman. The Navy Band from NAS was present, opening the event with the National Anthem and closing with the anthems of the five services gaining the new enlistees. The USCG anthem was also played out of respect for those participants in the audience who were Coast Guard veterans. MOAA is a major sponsor of





Our Community Salutes. CDR Ulloa attended the event for PMOAA.

NEW BUSINESS

Christmas Party – CPT Kirschner requested permission to add item to the agenda and it was granted. The discussion focused on last year's poor attendance and a proposal to invite The Krewe of Avant Garde, a local military social organization, to participate jointly in the festivities. Several PMOAA members are also members of Avant Garde and the two separate parties may have contributed to last year's low attendance due to having to choose one group over the other. A motion was made by MAJ Werner to sponsor a joint Christmas event with Avant Garde. The motion was seconded by LTC Vinson-VanHouter. All Board members approved and the motion carried.

Review of By-laws – RADM Engel requested that all Board members take some time to read, review, and recommend any changes, particularly on scholarship program issues, in order that the Board have time for discussion and preparation of edits to the By-laws for approval by the general membership at the November business meeting.

Membership Meetings

PMOAA membership will meet again on July 31 at PYC for the Scholarship Awards Banquet from 1730-2000. The menu will include a prime rib carving station. There will not be a membership meeting in August.

The Board of Directors will not meet in July. The next Board meeting is scheduled for August 26 at 1600 at El Patron Mexican Grill.

In September, the dinner meeting will be on the 18th at PYC, 1730-2000. The speaker will be Surviving Spouse Committee Chair, Judith Dickson and focus on nutrition and growing your own fruits and vegetables.

President Pyle adjourned the meeting at 1728 hours.

Respectfully Submitted,
Susan E. Ulloa, Secretary



Florida District 1 State Representative Michelle Salzman
At Our Community Salutes



Florida First Lady Casey DeSantis



Above photos are courtesy of CDR Susan Ulloa



Barrancas Memorial Day Ceremony

Happy 4th
of
July





2025 PMOAA MEMBERSHIP SIGNUP / RENEWAL FORM

(Please Print)

Existing members – only information changes
needed)



Today's Date: _____

FULL NAME: (Last) (First) (Middle)

RANK/SERVICE:

Circle:

Active Duty Retired Reserve Guard Former Surviving Spouse

SPOUSE/SIGNIFICANT OTHER:

ADDRESS:

PHONE NUMBER: (Home) (Cell)

EMAIL ADDRESS: (For Official Chapter Communications/Use)

Member of National MOAA: **Y / N**

My MOAA Number is: _____

Life member: **Y / N**

[] If not a member of MOAA National, please check here to
receive a **FREE Basic MOAA** membership.

**Please check all PMOAA activities in which you, or your
spouse, can assist:**

<input type="checkbox"/> Chapter Officer	<input type="checkbox"/> Website Administrator
<input type="checkbox"/> Chapter Director	<input type="checkbox"/> Membership Recruiting
<input type="checkbox"/> Survivor Assistance Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Beacon Editor
<input type="checkbox"/> Accounting/Finance	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Relations/ Advertising
<input type="checkbox"/> ROTC/JROTC Liaison	<input type="checkbox"/> Program/Event Coordinator
<input type="checkbox"/> Scholarship Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Photographer
<input type="checkbox"/> Legislative Affairs	

PMOAA Membership Dues:

\$30.00/year (E-Beacon)

\$42.00/year (Mailed Beacon)

SCHOLARSHIP CONTRIBUTION

JROTC DONATION

TOTAL ENCLOSED

Make check payable to **PMOAA** and mail to:

PMOAA Membership

P.O. Box 17728

Pensacola, FL 32501-7728

July Scholarship Awards Banquet Thursday, 31 July 2025

Social: 1730-1815

Meeting Opens: 1815-1830

Dinner begins: 1830

Pensacola Yacht Club

[1897 West Cypress Street](#)

Pensacola, FL 32502

Cost is \$45 per person

Buffet Menu

Herb Crusted Prime Rib Carving Station

Chicken Piccata

Vegetable Medley (Asparagus, Cherry Tomatoes & Squash)

Rosemary and Mascarpone Mashed Potatoes

Cesar Salad with Croutons and Parmesan Cheese

Warm Dinner Rolls with Whipped Butter

Dessert – Chef's Choice

Coffee, Iced Tea and water

Cash Bar available

Please R.S.V.P. by Sunday, 27 July 2025 to
LtCol Bob Nelson (Ret)

On line at [31 July Dinner RSVP](#)

Email: rsvp@pmoaa.org or

Phone: 719.322.4130

Dress: Business Casual

No Exceptions. Meals are ordered based on accepted
reservations. Phone/email/web reservations are
considered committed. *US Mail reservations or
payments not accepted. **Web Reservations – Be sure
you receive an email confirmation, otherwise your
reservation was not recorded.** If you didn't RSVP,
please do not attend.*

**If you need help with your plate please do not
hesitate to ask!**

Deadline for RSVP is: 7/27/2025

****TAPS****

Mrs. Helen Peach

CAPT Royal Connell, USN (Ret)

2025 PMOAA SCHOLARSHIP AWARD WINNERS

LT Omar Selland Scholarship: Cadet William Schreiber



William Schreiber is a Business major at the University of West Florida. He is a cadet in Air Force ROTC and actively involved on campus. William is pursuing a commission as a United States Air Force officer. His goal is to become a pilot and serve his country through aviation. He is passionate about leadership, discipline, and public service. Cadet Schreiber is

sponsored by his grandfather, Capt Frederick Schreiber, USAF (Former)

LT Omar Selland Scholarship: Cadet Gwen Montano

I am a psychology major and Army ROTC cadet with a minor in military science, aspiring to serve as an officer in the Medical Service Corps or Military Intelligence. Passionate about mental health and leadership, I aim to bridge the gap between those who struggle and their access to meaningful support. My background in personal training and coaching young children has deepened my interest in mental health psychology. Cadet Montano is sponsored by her father, LCpl James Montano, USMC (Former) and mother, SSgt Kristina Avery, USAF (Former)



Anna Johnson Scholarship: Ms. Alexis Dillard



Alexis Dillard is a mathematics major at the University of Kentucky with a passion for education and student success. She currently works as a Student Program Coordinator, where she supports the university's tutoring programs by leading training initiatives and managing key professional development projects. Alexis aspires to earn her doctorate and become a university professor

with the goal of making higher education, more accessible and engaging. Her work reflects a deep commitment to leadership, collaboration, and academic excellence. She's honored to be recognized as a scholarship recipient and looks forward to continuing her academic journey. Ms. Dillard is sponsored by her father, MAJ Frank Dillard, USA (Ret).

LT Omar Selland Scholarship: Cadet Kaulana K. Pabo



I am a senior Army ROTC cadet at the University of West Florida majoring in Public Health with a minor in Military Science. I aspire to serve as a leader in both military and public health settings. My professional goals include improving access to care and promoting health education in underserved communities. I plan to pursue graduate studies

and relevant certifications. As a lifelong learner, I am committed to continuous growth and meaningful service. Cadet Pabo is sponsored by her father, CSM Theodore Kaula Pabo, USA (Ret).

CDRs William and Shatzi Clemons Scholarship: Cadet Anthony C. Jeter, Jr

I am currently a senior at the University of West Florida studying to receive my Bachelor's in Exercise Science. I am projected to graduate in May of 2026, where I will commission as a 2nd Lieutenant in the United States Air Force. There I will receive training to be a 13X, which is an Aerospace Exercise Physiologist. Following training, I plan to enroll in a Masters program to further my education and studies. Cadet Jeter is sponsoring himself as an active ROTC student.



Anna Johnson Scholarship: Ms. Rachel Chandler



Rachel Chandler is a sophomore at Baylor University double majoring in Supply Chain Management and Corporate Innovation & Entrepreneurship. She is studying to complete her bachelor's degree with the highest honors. Rachel's undergraduate plans include a summer study abroad program in Japan, deciding whether to minor in Japanese, and securing an internship. Once she obtains a bachelor's degree, Rachel aspires to use that degree to work in corporate America. Ms. Chandler is sponsored by her father, Lt Col Charles Chandler, USAF (Ret.).

CDRs William and Schatzi Clemons Scholarship: Ms. Stephanie Conroy

My name is Stephanie Conroy, and I am a student at East Carolina University pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. I aim to become a mother-baby RN and possibly a Nurse Practitioner in the future. As the daughter of a Navy officer, the Pensacola MOAA scholarship means a lot to me. It honors my family's service while supporting my education. I am extremely grateful for this opportunity and look forward to using it for good. Ms. Conroy is sponsored by her grandfather, CDR James Conroy, USN (Ret)



JROTC / SCHOLARSHIP DONATION FORM

Please accept my/our gift of \$_____ to support the PMOAA JROTC / Scholarship Fund (Please circle one).

This gift is being made in honor of, or in memory of:

Donor Information:

Name

Address

Phone

Email

Please send an acknowledgement to:

Name

Address

Phone

Mail your donation payable to:

PMOAA, P.O. Box 17728 Pensacola, FL 32501

Thank you for your support!

President CAPT Kenneth Pyle USN (Ret) (2025-2027)	
1st Vice President LTC Karen Vinson-VanHouter USA (Ret) (2025-2027)	DIRECTORS
2nd Vice President MAJ Molly C Werner USA (Ret) (2024-2026)	Director RADM Joan M Engel USN (Ret) (2024-2026)
Secretary CDR Susan Ulloa USN (Ret) (2024-2026)	Director CAPT Sue Varenholt USN (Ret) (2024-2026)
Treasurer LtCol Robert Nelson USMC (Ret) (2024-2026)	Director Maj Charles Booton USAF (Ret) (2024-2026)
Immediate Past President CPT Dean Kirschner USA (Former)	Director CAPT Meredith Yeager USN (Ret) (2025-2027)
Survivor Assistance Committee Chair Mrs. Judy Dickson, Surviving Spouse	Director Mrs. Judy Dickson (2025-2027)
Beacon Editor Mrs. Jean Booton	Chair, Scholarship Committee Maj Charles Booton USAF (Ret)
For further information: Info@pmoaa.org	Membership information at: Membership@pmoaa.org Scholarship Information and mailing: Scholarships@pmoaa.org



Pensacola Chapter, MOAA
P.O. Box 17728
Pensacola, Florida 32501-7728

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