

# *The South Georgia Voice*



*South Georgia Chapter  
Military Officers Association of America  
January, 2010*



[www.sgamoa.org](http://www.sgamoa.org)

## *President's Corner*

**By: Ron Borders, FMR CWO, USA**

Happy New Year! January brings the opportunity for us to get together again for dinner and an entertaining program. Make your reservations early and take advantage of the opportunity to treat your spouse to an evening out and socialize with friends with whom you share so much in common. Tammy and I appreciate the confidence you have placed in us and I say that from the perspective of running many campaigns and realizing to whom the votes were really cast. On a personal note: Our daughters are at UGA. Alex is a sophomore and Mallory is a Freshman.

## *Our South Georgia Chapter wins prestigious "5 Star Level of Excellence" Award*

Just two weeks after Georgia MOAA's 50<sup>th</sup> State Convention (superbly hosted by our South Georgia chapter) Maj. Don McArthur received MOAA's coveted "5 Star level of Excellence Award" at the National Organization's Annual meeting in San Diego, CA. Don was accompanied by Sara and they were guests of MOAA. Our South Georgia chapter was one of four Georgia chapters to receive the award and one of 50 nationwide. This was a very proud occasion for our chapter. Using objective and

subjective scoring, a panel of MOAA board members assigns ratings based upon documentation presented by the chapter. Our chapter has narrowly missed the "5 star" award in the past due to chapter members not joining the national organization or allowing their MOAA National membership to lapse. Scoring allots **ZERO** points (of a possible 25) if less than 95% of chapter members are also members of MOAA national. Please keep your MOAA National dues up to date and we'll contend for the "5 Star Level of excellence" award again in 2010.



**Don McArthur receives award from Gen. Richard Neal, USMC, Ret. MOAA Board Chairman.**

After their trip to San Diego, Don and Sara traveled to Columbia, SC, joining Buddy and Jean Johnson for South Carolina MOAA's first state convention. We were

joined in Columbia by CDR John Toler (GMOAA Immediate Past President), Col Chuck Davis (Atlanta chapter member and MOAA National Board Member), Maj Cal Posner (Atlanta MOAA President), Maj. Joe Crews (Savannah chapter President), Lt Col Sid Strickland, LCDR Bob Cutler, Ms Juanita Devlin, Ms. Gloria Moses (Savannah chapter members).

South Carolina's state President, BGen John Allen and wife Jodi attended our Georgia MOAA state convention here in Valdosta early in October. We received the following note from General Allen after their convention: *"From all indications, both financial and feedback, our first Conference was a success. I cannot tell you how much your attendance meant to the overall event. I truly thank you and all the Georgia delegation for your support"*.

During the SC Convention we were informed there are now 374,000 members of our MOAA National organization, 417 chapters and MOAA is the ONLY military association listed in the top 50 lobbying organizations. On the down side, there are approximately 135,000 homeless veterans and we are faced with many challenges including our growing national debt, a tendency to take extraordinary service for granted and ongoing wars.

***By: Don McArthur, Maj. USAF, Ret***

WOW!! 2010 has arrived. This is the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Valdosta. Let's plan to make this year the best ever. I hope you and family members had a super Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Congress was very busy during the holidays juggling health care options. We can only hope and pray that the outcome will work for America without bankrupting our nation.

You may have read in the Dec. issue of the MOAA magazine on page 38 that Congress approved legislation granting MOAA a federal charter. VADM Ryan recognized several bipartisan supporters of the charter. This gives MOAA a stronger voice and insures that MOAA leaders in every state will be able to participate on state-level veteran's councils.

Sept. 11-13, 2009 marked MOAA's chapter presidents' symposium (See page 42 Dec. issue). One major goal of the symposium was to introduce the idea of having a THE OFFICER PLACEMENT SERVICE (TOPS) liaison and networking capability at the chapter level which would offer a service to active duty members transitioning out of the military or retirees in their second careers. This addition to the chapter hopefully can attract new members to a chapter. If this position appeals to anyone in our membership to be our TOPS liaison representative, please let any board member know. National MOAA is pushing for each chapter to have a TOPS representative.

Just a friendly reminder about our continuing support of the three ROTC units for 2010, our chapter was generous in presenting each unit a \$500 stipend in spring of last year. Budget cuts continue in the school systems all over the state and continue to affect the ROTC units. Please -- consider a tax deductible gift to help

support these units. Our goal is to once again present each unit \$500 this spring.

Unfortunately, we lost another one of our WWII heroes on Dec. 12, 2009, when Billy Langdale passed away. He will be missed.

Let's support our new president, Ron Borders, and our chapter by attending as many of the monthly meetings as possible this year.

Also think about inviting someone you know who is MOAA-eligible to join our chapter. Retired folks are moving into our area and maybe in your neighborhood. It would be nice to build our membership by at least 10% in 2010. Hope to see everyone on January 14 at Rainwater Convention Center. Social time is 6 p.m. and we eat at 6:30.

### ***Vice Adm. Ryan named Association Executive of the Year.***

Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) President Vice Adm. Norb Ryan Jr., USN (Ret.), was named Association Executive of the Year by *Association TRENDS*, a national trade publication. The award recognizes Admiral Ryan's leadership of MOAA, including effective advocacy on critical military issues such as the Post-9/11 GI Bill, military pay and force levels, and meeting the healthcare needs of military and VA beneficiaries; hosting well-attended symposia that explored solutions on key military issues; and providing more than \$9 million to military children in the form of scholarships and grants, among other accomplishments.

"While I am extremely honored and humbled by this recognition, it really is an

award to MOAA as a whole, and recognizes the great work and dedication of everybody on the MOAA team, most especially our 374,000 members," said Ryan.

The award, announced by *Association TRENDS* this week, will be presented at the *TRENDS* Salute to Association Excellence award ceremony at the Capital Hilton Hotel in Washington DC on Feb. 23, 2010.

"This is a big deal in the association community because it is recognition of its own by its own," said Jill Martineau Cornish, IOM, *TRENDS* Executive Editor. This is the first time this award has been given to someone in the military community. It is also a big deal to me personally. *TRENDS* founder, my father, Col. Frank Martineau, USAF-Ret., was a member of MOAA. I am honored to recognize an association executive who has done so much for the military of our country."

*Association TRENDS* is the national newspaper for association executives and suppliers, providing the latest news, information and analysis in association management for the professional staff of international, national, state, regional and local voluntary groups.

MOAA is the nation's largest association of active duty, National Guard, Reserve, retired, and former military officers and their families and survivors, and the fourth-largest veterans' association. The association promotes a strong national defense by advocating equitable treatment of those who serve and have served their country in uniform.

## January Meeting

Our next meeting is Thursday January 14, **6:00 PM**, Valdosta - Lowndes Conference Center on Norman Drive. Dinner is at **6:30 PM**.

Greg Laffitte tells us about his experiences in Iraq and Afghanistan. You've read his reports from the combat zone in the Valdosta Daily times. We're delighted to have him as our speaker.

Please make your reservations through chapter secretary Buddy Johnson

Phone 229-561-0690(c) email [info@sgamooa.org](mailto:info@sgamooa.org)

**Not later than Noon Monday, January 11**

We are required to provide an accurate meal count three work days prior to the event.

Cost is \$20 per person.

**Sorry, we must bill no-shows and late cancellations**

<b>President</b> Ron Borders. Former CWO, USA,	<b>Vice President</b> Bill Piper, Former Capt USAF
<b>Secretary</b> Alton "Buddy" Johnson Lt Col USAF, Ret.	<b>Treasurer</b> John Salter, Former Capt. USAF
<b>Directors</b> Norm Conant, Maj. USAF, Ret. Jack Sinnott, Col AUS, Ret. Glenn Walden, Col USAR, Ret.	<b>Personal Affairs</b> Vacant.
<b>Chaplain</b> Rev. John McGowan Lt Col USAF, Ret	<b>Legislative Affairs</b> Vacant.
<b>Remembrances and Memorials Chair</b> Mrs. Jacque Clark	<b>Programs</b> <b>Dr. Hugh Bassham</b> , Former Capt. USA
<b>The South Georgia Voice Editor</b> Alton "Buddy" Johnson Lt Col, USAF, Ret.	<b>Membership</b> Vacant
	<b>Auxiliary Advisory Chair</b> Mrs. Rose Marie Sinnott

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