

The South Georgia Voice



*South Georgia Chapter
Military Officers Association of America
January, 2012*



www.sgamoaa.org

Happy New Year!

2011 was a successful year for our chapter. Hopefully everyone had a super Thanksgiving and Christmas.

National Convention

Bill Rupright and Buddy Johnson at the National MOAA Convention in October in San Antonio where the four star banner was presented to our chapter



Sympathy

Our sympathy to the family of Col. Richard May in his death and to Glenn Walden in the loss of his sister.

Thanks

The chapter also received a letter from Laura Lerdall, Deputy Executive Director for Operations, That Others May Live Foundation, thanking us for

the \$300 donation toward the second annual golf tournament held at Kinderlou Forest Golf Club. As you may know these donations go towards the mission of providing critical aid to the families of Fallen Rescue Heroes.

Hopes and Dreams

On Monday, Nov. 28, 2011, Bill Rupright, president of South GA MOAA, presented a check to Mike Randall, Director of Hopes and Dreams. Other members shown in the picture attending the presentation are Buddy Coleman, Don McArthur, and Tim Oliver.



The chapter recently received a letter from Mike Randall thanking our chapter for our November donation of \$500.

Any financial support goes toward the operating expenses to help our returning warriors.

Nov. 10, 2011, Meeting

Col. Richard Erickson from *National MOAA* spoke at our November meeting. He awarded Don McArthur a National MOAA Leadership Medal and presented Sara a Proud Military Spouse pin.



Welcome New Members

Our new members since our last meeting are John Clark, LCol, USA (Ret) and Mrs. Doris Johnson. Please introduce yourself to them.

Summer Meetings

During our September business meeting, we forgot to report that our board had approved not having summer meetings during June, July, and August. This

concept is followed by most of our GA chapters and other MOAA chapters. Our attendance is reduced during the summer months due to vacations.

March 2012 Meeting Night Change

Remember last February, we had to meet in the far corner hall at the Convention Center? This year the same organization has reserved the entire center on our March meeting night. Therefore, we will meet on the third Thursday which is March 15, 2012. Please mark your calendar accordingly. March is the only month we will have this change.

January 12th Meeting

Our program will be Mr. Don Wood of Pepsico. He spent a career traveling to various countries including Russia.

The mission of Pepsico is to be the world's premier consumer products company focused on convenient foods and beverages.

Tidbits from National MOAA

If you are a lifetime member, your membership will transfer to your spouse if you predecease him/her. Be sure your spouse is listed with MOAA so your membership lives on. Connect your spouse to MOAA by visiting www.moaa.org/welcomespouse

or call 800-234-6622 to update your spouse's information. If you are not a lifetime member, consider an upgrade. The rates are as follows:

50 and under: \$589; 51-55: \$555
56-60: \$523; 61-65: \$479;
66-70: \$426; 71-75: \$366;
76-80: \$301; 81-85: \$229;
86-90: \$163; 91-95: \$101;
96-99: \$61

For more information call 800-334-6622 or email msc@moaa.org which is the member service center.

Community Projects

Please keep in mind that our chapter is still supporting our local three ROTC units: VSU, Lowndes High, and Valdosta High. Cutbacks in their budgets have increased each year due to economic woes. There are four months left to help fill their "stockings" with a generous stipend. Let your heart be your guide.

In summary our chapter has done well in supporting our community projects. Let's make 2012 be an even greater year.

Looking ahead to February 9 Meeting

The Lake City, Florida, chapter of MOAA has been invited to attend our Feb. meeting. Hope you will make special plans to

attend. There will be a music program presented by Joe Prichard, Lowndes County Manager, accompanied on piano by his wife, Becky.

Author among us—Carolyn Abell

One of our local chapter members is a newly-published author. Following years of research, Carolyn Abell has had her historical account of

Tift County veterans who have died in wars published. The book is a compilation of facts, photographs, and family stories of 83 veterans from all branches of the service, who paid the ultimate sacrifice. It includes one Medal of Honor recipient, 1LT Harold "Pinky" Durham, who died in Vietnam. The book also covers the stories of 12 World War II veterans who were held as prisoner of war. Entitled "Some Gave All: Personal Stories of Sacrifice," the 377-page book was published by Family Heritage Publishers.

'I didn't write the book for personal gain,' Abell states. 'Since the Tift County Genealogical Society holds the copyright, they also receive all profits from the sale. I just felt this very important part of local

history should be preserved.'
The book has been well-received in Tift County. A local resident wrote a letter to the editor of the Tifton Gazette, praising the work. 'This book has touched my heart like no other...Once I started it, I couldn't put it down,' Nancy Golden declared."

Please see Carolyn for more info about her book, or e-mail her at carbell1020@mchsi.com.

Our next meeting is Thursday, January 12, 6:00 PM, Valdosta – Lowndes (Rainwater) Conference Center on Norman Drive

Please welcome our guests and ask them to join you for dinner.

Dinner is served at 6:30 PM

Please make your reservations through chapter secretary, Don McArthur 229-244-7498 or email dandsmcarthur@bellsouth.net

We are required to provide an accurate meal count two work days prior to the event. Cost is \$20 per person which includes gratuity, drinks, and taxes..

Sorry, we must bill no-shows and late cancellations

January speaker is Mr. Don Wood of Pepsico.

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