



Aiken Chapter MOAA

The Courier March 2025



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*****All newsletters are sent by email.**

IN THIS ISSUE:

President's Message

Meet your member

volunteers -

COL Denny Moen, USA

News From Our Leaders

New members

March Meeting

Chapter Events

Surviving Spouse News

News from the VA

Veteran Assistance

News From National

Advocacy:

Military Relief Act

...AND MORE

Helpful Links



Happy St. Patrick's
Day

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Barbara McKnight

Thank you all for the great attendance we have been having at our meetings. Last month we broke a record number of over 75 attending. I think our speakers have all been excellent which has attributed to this surge in our attendance. Please if you have a speaker which you think would be of interest to our membership, please contact Jerry George who has charge of getting our monthly speakers. We value your input!

This month's speaker is one of our own, Col Rod (Roderick) Lenahan, USAF (ret). We are very excited to hear about the book he has published "Crippled Eagle: A Historical Perspective".

As always, I am requesting volunteers.

1. We would like to be able to do at least a quarterly dinner at the Fisher House in Augusta. Having done this, myself I would suggest a combined effort between members and/or surviving spouses. Please email me when you would like to put a dinner together. Give me the dates and who is participating.

2. We also still need to identify who is going to assist Jeannie Townes with the Newsletter and the Meeting Coordination.

3. On March 20, 2025, 5PM to 7PM we will host a gathering for new members. Ed Schneider and his wife Ann have cordially invited us to use their home. It will be appetizers, wine, and soft drinks. Anyone who has joined or going to join from January 2024 to present. If you have been a member but would now love to become more active in our chapter please contact me about joining us.

4. Dick Dewar will be heading the nomination committee for officers who will go off the board this year. If you would like to serve, please let him know.

5. We will once again be hosting the reviewing stand for the Memorial Day Parade. All are welcome to participate.

6. There are many more ways you can serve. You only have to raise your hand.

Once again let me say I have a wonderful board to serve with. They work hard to keep us going and thriving as an organization. Always take the time to thank them.

Barbara McKnight



NEVER STOP SERVING

Aiken MOAA's Monthly Featured Member

COL Dennis M. Moen, Ph.D., P.E.



Dennis M. Moen is a graduate of the United States Military Academy with a BS degree in civil engineering. He received his M.S. degree in electrical engineering from the University of Arizona and his Ph.D. in Information Technology from George Mason University. He is a licensed Professional Engineer (P.E.), a Senior Member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), a Life Member of the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association (AFCEA), a Life member of the VFW and MOAA.

Denny served 26 years in the Army with tours with the 173rd Airborne Infantry Brigade in Vietnam, Company Commander with the 26th Signal Battalion in Heilbronn, Germany, and Battalion Commander of the V US Corps signal battalion (17th Signal) in Frankfurt, Germany.

In 1987, Denny was nominated by the Army and accepted by the National Aeronautical Space Administration (NASA) for a Space Science Fellowship Program. He served on a team to begin the planning for space science programs for the Space Station. He also prepared a program plan for the development of a space science experiment called Gravity Probe-B, the first ever science experiment to demonstrate Einstein's theory of relativity. He also authored a study directed by President Reagan that identified all US space launch requirements for the following 15 years. During his final 10 years in the army, he served in numerous leadership positions to develop high-speed networking across the Department of Defense.

After serving in the US Army, retiring as a Colonel, he worked with two start-up companies, the first being Network Solutions, the original administrators of the .com, .edu, .org, and .mil Internet domains. In his second experience at a start-up company, he was the Technical Director and the project manager for Primus Telecommunications International where he successfully led the development and deployment of a global network offering the first Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) service for international calling. He also worked as a research engineer principal at Lockheed Martin corporation overseeing research in advanced wireless sensor networks and new adaptive Internet protocols.

In 2006, he started his own professional engineering services company providing consulting and research services to industry and government agencies. Today this family business is run by his son.

He has published numerous technical papers on new Internet protocols, communications systems and new concepts for healthcare information systems. He has also made technical contributions to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), the IEEE Health Care Informatics Standards, and the International Simulation Interoperability Standards Organization (SISO). As a lifelong volunteer of the IEEE, he has served as Chair and Treasurer of the local CSRA Section of the IEEE.

Denny currently is retired, though continues to provide advice to another start-up company developing visible light communications capabilities as a replacement for WiFi in specialized applications. He is a volunteer helping AFCEA with their annual weeklong National/International Cyber Conference held at the Augusta Convention Center. Four years ago, He was instrumental in starting a math tutoring program at the Hope Center in Graniteville which he continues to lead today, helping young people improve their scores on the Military AVSAB entry exam. The AVSAB program continues to grow working with the local recruiters for all military services enabling many young people that want to serve our Country become eligible by meeting the services entry requirements. He lives in Aiken, SC with his wife of 54+ years, Nancy. They have two children and 4 grandchildren.

NEWS FROM THE CHAPTER LEADERS

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

Malcolm Phillips, CPT, USA and his wife Kitty.

Total new membership 2025: 3

April is Month of the Military Child

The Aiken Chapter Board members have voted to sponsor 2 Aiken County Elementary schools during the designated week in April to honor children of active duty military attending Aiken Elementary and Chukker Creek Elementary

STAY TUNED!!



Thank you is in order! (*from the Courier Editor*)

Thank you to member, Karen Hatfield.

Karen volunteered to assist me with the Courier by having me submit the edited feed to her. However, I am finding that editing it directly into the Publisher template is easier than multiple steps. So for now I will continue this publishing duty but want to take time to acknowledge her selfless offer to our entire membership! When you see Karen at one of our meetings please say thank you.

And so, I am asking any member who is confident in working with Word, PDF and any other publishing software—it doesn't have to be Microsoft Publisher and who has a few hours each month to take over this service to please consider.

Thank you, also to Ruth Herrera and Dick Dewar!

Ruth has offered to arrive at meetings early and assist in table set up as well as name tags.

Dick will be printing our new member and guest Name Tags and Place Cards.

Thank you both for offering your time and efforts to make our meetings run smoothly and distribute the work load. The more hands on deck the more efficient and successful our meetings will be. This is a great opportunity to get to know every members not just those we sit with.

MARCH MEETING



Dress Code: Business Casual with Assigned Seating
\$30/person Checks preferred made out to Aiken Chapter
MOAA

Deadline for Reservation: Friday, February 28, 2025

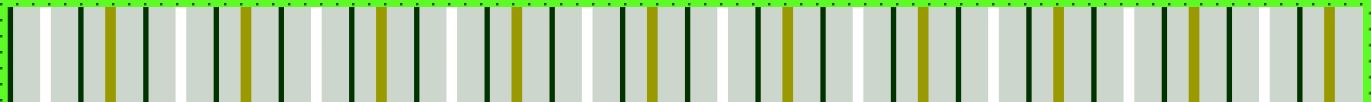
RSVP: Jeannetownes@gmail.com

CHAPTER EVENTS

March Meeting: March 5, 2025 *** Published member Rod Lenahan

Rod will discuss his book, *Crippled Eagle: A Historic Perspective* with a focus on the failed attempt to free the Iranian hostages.

ANNUAL DUES: You may pay your annual dues \$25.00 to Aiken Chapter MOAA at the meeting or mail your check to : Aiken Chapter MOAA 262 East gate Drive #239 Aiken, SC 29803



SAVE THE DATES

April Meeting: April 2, 2025 ***Trivia Night w/ local VSOs

April Community Support: ***Month of the Military Child

***Aiken and Chukker Creek Elementary Schools

May Meeting: May 7, 2025 *** JROTC Awards Banquet

June Meeting: June 4, 2025 *** Final meeting before summer break; program TBD



*JULY AND AUGUST:
SUMMER FUN
TRAVEL FUN
R AND R*

SNEAK PREVIEW: TRIVIA NIGHT 2025!



Here's a Sneak Peek into the fun in store for our April annual combined VSO meeting when we host area VSOs to enjoy a "game night" for fun and prizes. This year will be Trivia and the prize may be the 50/50 share. Dinner is the usual \$30.00 and an additional \$5.00 to play Trivia. The \$5 game fee will go into our Charity account and the prize will be the 50/50 share. So put on your "smart beanies" [no phones, tablets or PCs] and come enjoy the fun! More information is to come. Try to answer these sample questions before reading the answers.

Apollo 11 was the space flight that landed the first humans on the moon. Name the men that comprised the Apollo 11 flight crew.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

(Answer: Neil Armstrong: Flight Commander and first man on the moon; Edwin (Buzz) Aldrin: Lunar module pilot and 2nd man on the moon; Michael Collins: Command Module Pilot that orbited the moon).

Match the famous people with their ships:

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Bonhomme Richard | James Cook |
| 2. Victory | Francis Drake |
| 3. Golden Hind | Charles Darwin |
| 4. Beagle | John Paul Jones |
| 5. Endeavor | Horatio Nelson |

(Answer: 1. Jones; 2. Nelson; 3. Drake; 4. Darwin; 5. Cook)

Surviving Spouse Corner

What to Know About National Cemetery Burials

Service members and veterans, and their spouses, are eligible for burial at national cemeteries. Also eligible are minor dependent children and, under certain conditions, unmarried adult children with disabilities. An eligible spouse and children may be buried in a national cemetery even if they predecease the veteran.

If you or a loved one are considering burial in a national cemetery, here are three helpful considerations:

Locate the nearest cemetery. The VA operates 156 national cemeteries in 42 states and Puerto Rico. However, not every state has a VA cemetery. To find a cemetery close to you, visit <https://gravelocator.cem.va.gov>.

[MOAA PUBLICATION: Your Guide to Military Burials]

Plan ahead. Make an emotional and stressful time less difficult by completing arrangements in advance. Learn more about the pre-need eligibility determination process, and fill out forms online, at this link. Other needed documents, such as a DD Form 214 or other separation documents, can be requested online.

Know your resources. Don't underestimate what the VA can do for you. You can learn more about VA burial benefits from local VA national cemetery offices, the National Cemetery Administration, and VA regional offices, toll-free at (800) 827-1000.

MOAA's publication *Preparing for the Loss of a Military Spouse* can provide further helpful guidance for getting your affairs in order. Premium and Life members can download the publication here.

As always, send me an email or call if you have any questions or need clarification,

Sharon Smoot, MOAA Surviving Spouse Liaison email: hanrahan88@yahoo.com 803-642-1292 (ok to leave message)



... HOW TO ACCESS THE AIKEN CHAPTER'S WEBSITE?

To access the website you must go through the SC Council's website (www.moaasc/aiken) BUT you can click on the link here: www.moaasc.org

... HOW TO OPEN IMBEDDED LINKS IN OUR COURIER?

Many of us are challenged by many of today's technological advances. We incorporate links into our documents to make it easier to access information. By placing the cursor just under the link and pressing the ctrl button on your keyboard a hand (with a finger pointing to the link) will appear. Then just one click and you are at the imbedded website.

News: from the VA

The 2025 Veterans Benefits Guide is now available

How much do you know about VA care, benefits and services? Don't miss out on what you've earned—check out the "2025 VA Federal Benefits Guide for Veterans, Dependents, Survivors, and Caregivers" handbook to learn more.

To read the entire article and learn more - Click this link below: [Benefits](#)

For the latest updates and information click this link and visit [VA's Disaster Help website](#).

We are currently experiencing an unprecedented hurricane season, impacting millions of Americans. As we face this and other natural disasters like tornados and historic flooding, it's important for Veterans and their families to know that the VA is here to help. In the wake of a disaster, here are some resources available to you.

For the **LATEST** VA News you can click the link below:

[VA NEWS](#)



VETERAN ASSISTANCE

Aiken County Veterans Affairs: Major Dwight Bradham is the Aiken County Veterans Affairs Officer. He and his team can be reached at (803) 642- 1545 or dbradham@aikencountysc.gov by email. If you have any veteran issues, please contact the office.

US Congressman Joe Wilson - Veteran Assistance: The local number to Congressman Wilson's Aiken County office is (803) 642-6416. His State Senate office also regularly assists veterans with many issues. The number is (803) 212- 6000.

Veterans Legal Clinic: The USC School of Law operates the Veterans Legal Clinic. Veterans can inquire about help with a legal problem by calling (803) 777- 2278





Reminders from national MOAA to remain non-partisan in everything concerning MOAA

Partisan Political Activities: As organizations exempt from federal taxation under Sec. 501(c)(19) of the Internal Revenue Code, MOAA and its affiliates must take care to avoid engaging in partisan political activities. Under IRS rules, we are prohibited from directly or indirectly participating in, or intervening in, any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for public office.

Divisive Social Issues: We are all aware of the divisive nature of the debate over today's leading social issues – protesting during the national anthem at sporting events, racial justice, public protests, and the conduct of law enforcement officers. These are issues over which many Americans have deeply held, but differing, personal beliefs. This is also true within the military community among the ranks of active duty and retired officers and within MOAA itself.

MOAA leaders have an obligation to keep this in mind when communicating on behalf of MOAA or its affiliates. Suggesting that MOAA only supports one side of a deeply divisive issue sends a message to those with a different belief that MOAA is not for them. See the complete statements from MOAA: (click this link) [MOAA - MOAA Guidance on Partisan Political Activities](#)

More from MOAA NATIONAL



NATIONAL MOAA's LEGISLATIVE MISSION: MOAA's greatest mission is to improve the lives of those who serve and their families, which is achieved largely through the tireless advocacy efforts taking place in our nation's capital. For more than 90 years, MOAA has supported legislation that benefits the uniformed services community and has remained equally vigilant when fighting to stop legislation that threatens our livelihood. The larger our numbers, the greater our voice. [Legislative Accomplishments](#)

NATIONAL MOAA's ADVOCACY IN ACTION: Please visit the national MOAA website (www.moaa.org) to learn more about MOAA's Key Advocacy Issues. Click on the Advocacy tab at the top of the homepage. Learn about such topics as Legislative Action Center and Accomplishments; Health Care; Family Issues; Guard and Reserve Issues; COLA; State Report Card; News and Advocacy Leaders. The webpages have contact information and forms to help you reach out to your Congressional Representatives to advocate for these and other important issues. In this current issue Corey Titus reports that MOAA plus 15 other Veteran Service Organizations (VSO) ask top federal administration to reinstate the Military Lending Act (MLA). Read about the letter sent to Russel Vought, head of the Office of Management and Budget who is also acting as director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau asking him to reinstate the MLA and allow the bureau's Office of Servicemember Affairs to return to work. To read the entire article.

[Click on Advocacy](#)

KEEP CONNECTED: ensure you are signed up for The MOAA Newsletter and register as an advocate at the Legislative Action Center. Here's the link .

[MOAA: Legislative Advocacy Center](#)



Important Links

Listed here are several links to contacts that members and friends of Aiken Chapter may find informative or helpful.

MOAA National: [MOAA](#)

Aiken Chapter MOAA: [Aiken](#)

****Please Note an application to Aiken Chapter is on the Home Page as a PDF

Department of Veteran Affairs: [DVA](#)

Aiken County Veterans Affairs: [ACVet](#)

Aiken County Veteran's Council: [ACVC](#)

Lindsay Graham's Website: [Graham](#)

Joe Wilson's Website: [Wilson](#)

