



	<div><h1><i>THE STAR FORT</i></h1><h2><i>PATRIOT</i></h2><p><i>"Never Stop Serving"</i></p></div>			
Volume 24	March 2024	Number 2		
	<div><p>THE STAR FORT CHAPTER, SC12 Post Office Box 1501 Greenwood, South Carolina 29648-1501 http://moaasc.org/Star-Fort https://www.facebook.com/StarFortMOAA/ https://chapterdues.moaa.org/thestarfort Email: starfortmoaa@yahoo.com</p></div>			
<div><p>STAR FORT MOAA CHAPTER OFFICERS 2024</p><table><tr><td><p>PRESIDENT - Terry Greenfield TREASURER – Vacant MEMBERSHIP – James Morgan CHAPLAIN – George McKinney SURVIVING SPOUSES - Lianne Roberts & Pam Morgan</p></td><td><p>VICE PRESIDENT – Barry Gambrell SECRETARY – Michael Coleman LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS – Dennis Turner CHAPTER AFFAIRS - Vacant NEWSLETTER/WEB – Dennis Turner</p></td></tr></table></div>			<p>PRESIDENT - Terry Greenfield TREASURER – Vacant MEMBERSHIP – James Morgan CHAPLAIN – George McKinney SURVIVING SPOUSES - Lianne Roberts & Pam Morgan</p>	<p>VICE PRESIDENT – Barry Gambrell SECRETARY – Michael Coleman LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS – Dennis Turner CHAPTER AFFAIRS - Vacant NEWSLETTER/WEB – Dennis Turner</p>
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	<p><u>Disclaimer:</u> The Star Fort Chapter of MOAA is affiliated with the South Carolina Council MOAA and the national MOAA organization and all are nonpartisan.</p>			

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We are looking forward to Bambi Bullard SSG (R) USMC come to speak at our next meeting. We also will welcome some members of the Issaqueena DAR to join us. I guess this means we need to be on our best behavior?

I recently attended the state council meeting. Linda Caldwell and her new board hit the ground running as we had a full meeting agenda. National has picked Greenville 17-18 May to have a regional workshop. The details have not been sent yet but we hope to have it soon.

Three legislative issues for MOAA; Star Act, BAH restore to 100% & fight CBO cutting TRICARE. April is Advocacy in Action to meet with legislators regarding military bills.

For our May meeting (Memorial Ceremony @Grand Harbor) the board is asking some of the JROTC & C.A.P. awardees to join us as guests for dinner. I think this is a good community outreach. We will need some volunteers to man our tent at the Abbeville spring festival May 3 & 4. As we get closer we will post times. Our banner committee has begun to work on having banners placed in downtown Greenwood with November being the first of what we hope will be a twice a year displaying of the heroes in the area. Further plans would also include Abbeville, Laurens and McCormick.

I would like to seek out some members to help me explore the possibly of hosting a state meeting here in Greenwood. I think this exposure will be good for us and Greenwood. If successful, state could use Greenwood as part of its rotation of state meetings. These meetings bring the national representatives so it would give a lot of attention as a tourist spot. If you want to help with this please contact me.

Reviews are good so far in obtaining your retiree military ID card online. Once you have an established account with dslogin or ID.me.

Hope to see many of you at Howards' and Grand Harbor in May.

Terry Greenfield, LTC, USA-Ret
President

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South Carolina Legislators	
Senate	House
District 4 - Michael W. Gambrell District 9 - Daniel B. "Danny" Verdin, III District 10 – Billy Garrett Jr. District 18 – Ronnie W. Cromer	District 11 - Craig A. Gagnon District 12 – Daniel Gibson District 13 -- John R. McCravy III District 14 – Stewart O. Jones District 40 – Joe White



THE CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Greetings,

"**Three Wooden Crosses**" is a song written by Kim Williams and Doug Johnson, and recorded by American country music singer Randy Travis. The song describes four passengers – a farmer on vacation, a teacher seeking higher education, a prostitute and a preacher, both of whom were "searching for lost souls," on a mid-night bus traveling from the United States to Mexico. The bus is involved in a fatal accident when the bus driver does not see a stop sign and the bus is hit by an 18-wheeler which kills three of the four passengers. If you have not heard the song, I hope you take time to listen to it after reading this message.

Everything in life happens for a purpose and the final point of the song, "It's not what you take when you leave this world behind you, it's what you leave behind you when you go."

The farmer left a harvest, a home, 80 acres, and the faith and love for growing things in his young son's heart. And the teacher left her wisdom in the minds of lots of children, and did her best to give them all a better start. What did the preacher leave? He left a bible and a question "Can't you see the promised land? He witnessed to the prostitute who changed her life and who shared the bible and Gods love with her son. And in turn he continued to share the good word with others.

What you leave behind you when you go: that is a powerful focus to give meaning to the seemingly trivial things we go through in life. They are indeed not trivial. They all have meaning in that they contribute to something very important. They contribute to what you leave behind you when you go. And that is something that lasts forever.

1 Corinthians 7:17

*Nevertheless, **each person should live as a believer in whatever situation the Lord has assigned to them, just as God has called them. This is the rule I lay down in all the churches.***

George McKinney, Chaplain

Star Fort Chapter

SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL & CHAPTER WEBSITE - We have a page at the South Carolina Website under the Chapters section. We have a Membership application there if you have a friend that wants to join. There are several pages with pictures of our events. Here is the URL <http://moaasc.org/Star-Fort>



THE STAR FORT CHAPTER PURCHASING NEW CHALLENGE COINS IN 2024!

The Star Fort Chapter is planning to purchase NEW Challenge Coins in 2024. The proposed coin is pictured to the right. If you are interested in purchasing one or even a couple, let a board member know. They should be \$10.00 or less for each coin. The coins will be 2 inches.

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Next Meeting: Thursday, March 28 starts at 11:30 AM at Howards on Main!

JANUARY MEETING WRAP-UP



COL Ted Janosko, MOAA National Council & Chapter Affairs Committee Chair, was our guest speaker at our January luncheon meeting. Since retiring from active duty in 2005, he has served in leadership positions such as president of the Southwest Oklahoma MOAA Chapter, and he is a past president of MOAA's Oklahoma Council of Chapters. He is active in volunteer activities supporting the military and veterans, including the board of directors of the Armed Forces YMCA. He currently serves on MOAA National Board of Directors (BOD where he is Chair of the Council and Chapter Affairs Committee. He discussed how important chapters and MOAA are to support using active duty and veterans. He emphasized using the AiA section of the MOAA website to help get bills passed. COL Janosko was then presented a Star Fort Challenge Coin by Star Fort President Terry Greenfield.

MEMBERSHIP

It is that time of year again "Chapter Dues". Members can pay for 1 year, 2 years or 3 years, and a lot of members have taken advantage of this opportunity. If you have questions about your membership dues, please feel free to email Jim Morgan at morganjp1@yahoo.com. If you know a possible new member, have them contact Jim Morgan by email at morganjp1@yahoo.com or call him at 864-543-2080. They can also get a membership application at our web site, [South Carolina Council of MOAA - Star-Fort](http://SouthCarolinaCouncilofMOAA-StarFort.com). Here are the names of the folks who need to pay 2024 dues. - Dominick J, Ellis J, Lightsey B, Morton T, Pitts G, Simpson J, Smith J, Wood J, Sturkey W, Woodbury G.

STAR FORT MEMBER IS GRAND MARSHALL OF VETERANS DAY PARADE!

A major error on this newsletter's editor part last newsletter. Star Fort Member LTCOL Joe Como was the Grand Marshall for the Veterans Day Parade in Greenwood in November. LTCOL Como has been very active in Memorial Day and Veterans Day activities. This honor was well deserved and he always represents the Star Fort Chapter in a very positive light. Bravo Zulu Joe!!



IMPORTANT INFO – We change the November meeting to a Dinner Meeting and moved it to Wednesday vice Thursday. This was to book a nice venue at a reasonable price.

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2024 Meeting Dates

Board Meetings	Chapter Meetings
	28 MAR - Lunch
30 APR	23 MAY - Dinner
25 JUN	25 JUL Dinner
27 AUG	26 SEP - Dinner
29 OCT	*20 NOV – Dinner*

The March Meeting

MEETING PLACE – the March 28 meeting will be held at Howard’s on Main.

Menu Fried Chicken Fried Okra Mac & Cheese green beans
Sweet/Unsweet tea, water Dessert - Cake

Lunch will be **held at 1130**

Social time will begin at **1100**, followed by a **buffet lunch** at **1130**. **Program** starts after lunch.

Cost: \$25.00: Please mail your reservation **ASAP** to arrive at **PO Box 1501, Greenwood SC 29648** on or before Monday, March 25, 2024. If it is too late to mail, call LTC Terry Greenfield at **(864)377-9053**.

Dress & Setting: Star Fort MOAA shirts or Military polos are encouraged for Dining.

“BRING A BOOK TO SWAP” A table will be set up to swap old books” Star Fort Book Club”.

March Program

Our guest speaker will be Bambi J. Bullard. She retired from US Marine Corps where she served as a staff NCO, Drill Instructor (2 tours), Recruiter, and in the Offices of the Secretary of the Navy, Pentagon & White House Liaison. She has degrees in Political Science, World & American History, Technology, Business Management, & Business Administration. She presently is Owner/Board Member of The Paintball University, a sports industry consulting company, an American Legion member, Honorary Regent, Carolina Gold, SCDAR, established SAFE HARBOR RETREATS (Women Veterans Resources & Retreats, Inc.) serving as Director, SCDAR, Treasurer, State Chairman Club, SCDAR District VI Sergeant At Arms, member of Rolling Thunder Chapter SC3, South Carolina state facilitator for the Women’s Programs being developed at the VA office in Columbia, trained Pathfinder in the Palmetto Pathfinder Program for the VA, and South Carolina Ambassador, representing the Military Women’s Memorial, Arlington, VA. She has also been Treasurer, Carolina Gold Chapter, SCDAR, Vice Regent & Acting Regent, Carolina Gold Chapter, SCDAR, and Established Grand Strand Women Veterans of America, Chapter #51, & served as Organizing Chapter Commander.

We are sure she will have some great information for our chapter members. Hope to see you there!!

MOAA Legislative Priorities 2024

MOAA’s priorities, in support of the 50th anniversary of our all-volunteer force and to address the challenges facing our uniformed community. Note: our priorities will be shaped throughout the year depending on concurrent successes or emerging issues that warrant an all-hands approach.

1. Protect Veterans From “Claims Sharks”
2. Preserve Earned Burial Benefits
3. Support Children of the Fallen and Disabled Veterans
4. Improve Survivors' Benefits
5. Support Military Sexual Trauma Survivors
6. Expand and Support Services for Aging and Disabled Veterans
7. Allow Surviving Spouses to Remarry and Retain Benefits

We need your engagement on these topics, which are described in detail at

[MOAA | Legislative Action Center \(quorum.us\)](https://www.quorum.us).

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CHAPTER NEWS

MOAA STAR FORT SURVIVING SPOUSES



Our Surviving Spouses and Spouses group had a great time getting together for lunch on February 10th at R Place. We will do it again on Saturday, April 13th at R Place, and all spouses are invited to join us. It is primarily a social time, but we also share information of interest to military spouses. If you would like to come or have questions, please call either Pam Morgan at 864-993-8304 or Lianne Roberts at 443-306-1469. We look forward to seeing you there!

Photo of February 10th lunch: Ann Pendergrass, Anne Drake, Joan Perry, Lianne Roberts, Pam Morgan, Mary Alice Hall, Sarah Mundy, Helen Haendle, Monica Turner

STAR FORT CHAPTER EMAIL AND FACEBOOK

– The chapter now has an email. Have a friend email us if they want to join the chapter. Email address: starfortmoaa@yahoo.com

GET YOUR FRIENDS TO JOIN MOAA!!

Your support through PREMIUM membership is more important now than ever. We could see proposals to cap pay raises, dramatically increase TRICARE pharmacy fees. Joining MOAA allows your voice to be heard where it matters most.

DATES TO REMEMBER!

Mar 28, 2024 –Star Fort Lunch Meeting
Howards on Main 11:30 AM

Apr 30, 2024 – Board meeting
Greenwood Veterans Center

May 23, 2024 –Star Fort Dinner Meeting
Grand Harbor 6:00 PM

STATE LEGISLATION

SC VETERANS COALITION 2024!

H3115 Disabled Veteran Income Tax Credit - A veteran who has a disability rating issued by the United States Department of Veteran Affairs is allowed a nonrefundable income tax credit equal to the product of his disability rating percent and his income tax liability. not exceed five thousand dollars each year. This will set precedent for all States if it passes; SC is first state to propose this specific tax credit. House referred to Committee on Ways and Means. No movement!

H 3588 Free College Tuition for the Children of Certain Wartime Veterans - Up to four children of a wartime veteran, upon application to and approval by the SC VA, may be admitted to any state-supported college, university, or post high school technical education institution free of tuition so long as his work and conduct is satisfactory to the governing body of the institution.

We were informed a couple Senators will file a bill to include PHS and NOAA officers under retirement tax exemptions. This will amend current SC Tax exemption law to Change Armed Forces to Uniformed Services.

We need to prefile a bill to ban unaccredited organizations from assisting service members with their disability claim in return for a portion of their proceeds.

SOUTH CAROLINA COUNCIL WEBSITE

We have pages at the South Carolina Website under the Chapters section. We have a Membership application there if you have a friend that wants to join. Check it out!!

<http://moaasc.org/Star-Fort>

NEWSLETTER ADS

The ads will run in the newsletter for all of 2024. The cost is \$30 for business card, \$60 for a ¼ page and \$100 for a ½ page ad. Thank you for your support!!!

IMPORTANT INFO – We change the November meeting to a Dinner Meeting and moved it to Wednesday vice Thursday.

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FEDERAL LEGISLATION

Visit [MOAA Legislative Action Center](#) website to contact your legislators on individual “Take Action” messages.

Ask Your Lawmakers to Avoid a Government Shutdown and Finish the Appropriations

Process - Ask your lawmakers to pass the budget: Failure to do so could result in disruptions to services, furloughs for federal employees, and other unintended consequences.

Urge Your Elected Officials to Pay Service Members During a Government Shutdown -

Legislation in both chambers seeks to ensure members of the uniformed services, active and reserve components, and civilian employees continue to receive pay in the event of a government shutdown.

Urge Your Legislators to Pay Full Housing Costs for Servicemembers -

Servicemembers and their families living on-base have their BAH cover 100% of the rent and utility costs. Those off-base only have BAH cover 95% of rent and utilities. Our nation expects 100% from our servicemembers, so please help us ensure they get 100% of their housing allowance by supporting BAH restoration.

Urge Your Legislators to Support Concurrent

Receipt - Contact your representative and senators and urge them to support **The Major Richard Star Act**, which would provide concurrent receipt for servicemembers unable to complete 20 years of service due to combat-related injuries. Help ensure these men and women get their full service-earned retirement, as well as their disability compensation from the VA.

Tell Congress You Oppose TRICARE for Life Fees -

A recent CBO report includes two proposals among its options to cut the deficit that would increase costs for seniors using the TRICARE for Life (TFL) benefit. Although these are just concepts, not legislation, it's important to let Congress know we strongly oppose any plans to reduce the earned TFL benefit.

Ask Your Lawmakers to Support the Expanding America's National Cemetery Act -

Help MOAA stay in the middle of this important conversation – Contact your elected officials and urge them to support the Expanding America's National Cemetery Act.

Contact Your Legislators to Protect Veterans from Claims Sharks - The GUARD VA Benefits Act will restore criminal penalties for scammers attempting to take advantage of vulnerable veterans.

Visit takeaction.moaa.org to send a message to your senators or representative
Or call Capitol Switchboard: 1-866-272-6622.

MOAA NEWS

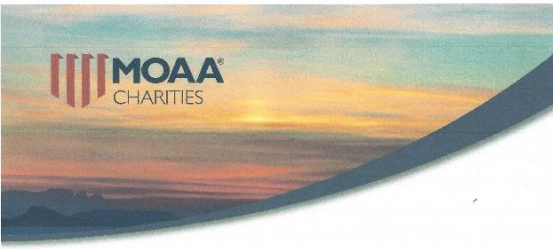
Here are our Advocacy in Action topics:

1. **Major Richard Star Act** - combat-disabled retirees with fewer than 20 years of creditable service may concurrently receive, without reduction, veterans' disability and retired pay
2. **Governing Unaccredited Representatives Defrauding VA Benefits Act/GUARD Benefits Act** - imposes fines on individuals for soliciting, contracting for, charging, or receiving any unauthorized fee or compensation with respect to the preparation, presentation, or prosecution of any claim for Department of Veterans Affairs benefits.
3. **Military Spouse Hiring Act** - expands the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) to include the hiring of a qualified military spouse
- Health Care and Benefits for Veterans Service Families**. - to improve dependent coverage under the TRICARE Young Adult Program.
4. **Pay Our Troops Act** - To make continuing appropriations for military pay in the event of a Government shutdown.

****We need your engagement on these topics, which are described in detail at**

[MOAA | Legislative Action Center \(quorum.us\)](https://quorum.us).

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Support Your MOAA Charities

Cash

You may contribute to the MOAA Scholarship Fund or The MOAA Foundation in memory of a loved one, friend, or colleague, or to commemorate a special occasion. Each Fund will acknowledge your gift by sending a letter to the person(s) you designate. Please be sure to include the appropriate names and addresses with your gift.

Checks can be mailed to:

MOAA Scholarship Fund
PO Box 1824
Merrifield, VA 22116-9917

The MOAA Foundation
PO Box 1555
Merrifield, VA 22116-9917

You can also donate online using a credit card at www.moaa.org/donate

Securities

It may be to your financial advantage to give marketable securities – stocks, bonds, or mutual funds – instead of cash as a gift to the MOAA Scholarship Fund or The MOAA Foundation.

Any securities you have owned for more than 12 months that have increased in value since you bought them are subject to long-term capital gains tax when you sell them. However, if you make a gift of these securities to The Scholarship Fund or The MOAA Foundation, you can save twice – once when you receive a charitable deduction for the securities' fair market value as of the day of transfer, and again when you avoid the taxes on capital gains. Consult your financial advisor regarding the details of such a transaction.

For more information and instructions on how to transfer your securities to the MOAA Scholarship Fund or The MOAA Foundation, email our Development office at development@moaa.org or call (800) 234-6622.

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Hospice & Palliative Care of the Piedmont has achieved a 5-star reputation, making it the only hospice organization in our service area to receive this honor. Our exceptional quality of care is assessed through patient and family surveys conducted by The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid, and this esteemed rating is a testament to the high standards we uphold. To view our 5-star rating or to view others, please visit <https://www.medicare.gov/care-compare/>.

Nancy Hart Wicker, MD
Medical Director

HOSPICE & PALLIATIVE
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Piedmont*



Support Your MOAA Charities - Checks can be mailed to: **MOAA Scholarship Fund** PO Box 1824 Merrifield, VA 22116-9917 **The MOAA Foundation** PO Box 1555 Merrifield, VA 22116-9917 You can also **donate online** using a credit card at www.moaa.org/donate It may be to your financial advantage to give marketable securities – stocks, bonds, or mutual funds – instead of cash as a gift to the MOAA Scholarship Fund or The MOAA Foundation. For more information and instructions email our development office at development@moaa.org or call (800) 234-6622.

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**Your ad could be
here!!**
\$30.00 Business Card!
\$60 for Quarter Page!
\$100 for Half Page!

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RESERVATION FORM

YOUR NAME: _____

I will attend the March 28, 2024 meeting at Howard's on Main Social Hour: 1100 ; Lunch: 1130	\$25.00
I will have _____ Guest(s) at \$25.00 each.	\$
I would like to donate the following amount to help cover the expense of awards and guest speakers. Every Donation Helps!	\$
Membership Dues at \$20.00 for 1 year or \$35.00 for 2 years or \$50.00 for 3 years! (PAY YOUR 2024 DUES NOW).	\$
TOTAL ENCLOSED	\$

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: **Star Fort Chapter, MOAA.**
MAIL IT TODAY!

RESERVATION DEADLINE DATE: **Monday, March 25, 2024**
(If it is too late to mail, call LTC Terry Greenfield @ **(864)377-9053**.)



THE STAR FORT CHAPTER
The Military Officers Association of America
P.O. Box 1501
Greenwood, SC 29648-1501

THIS ISSUE OF THE STAR FORT PATRIOT IS FOR:

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED