

THE STAR FORT CHAPTER,  
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA  
Post Office Box 1501 Greenwood, South Carolina 29648-1501  
www.moaastarfort.org



# THE STAR FORT *Patriot*



**"SERVING THOSE WHO SERVE AMERICA"**

Volume 17 January 2017 Number 1

## ***President's Message***

Welcome 2017! Happy New Year! A new beginning filled with many opportunities for our Chapter, our military forces, and our Nation. New leadership at all levels of organizations and government provides an opportunity for positive change. That said, I'd like to thank our members, spouses, and friends for your support the last three years as your president. It has been a great ride, meeting new personnel at the State MOAA Council, members at other state chapters, and MOAA National. It has been an honor to serve in this capacity.

Your Board and Directors have supported me and the Chapter in an outstanding manner. No task was too hard and each have spent much time on the accomplishments of the last three years. Words cannot express my appreciation for their participation.

Our Chapter will install new officers at our meeting, Thursday, January 26. I ask your continued support for the new Board and Directors. New goals, objectives, and ideas will ensure success for our Chapter in the years to come. Our membership support is critical in the success of the Star Fort Chapter. Always remember, "Never Stop Serving."

I wish all a prosperous and healthy new year.

James Wheeler, COL  
President

## ***Chapter Meeting***

Date: Thursday, 26 January 2017  
Time: Social Hour 1830; Dinner 1900  
Location: Inn On The Square

**Menu:** Beef Brisket  
Mashed Potatoes  
Market Vegetables  
Chef's Dessert  
Coffee, Tea, etc.

**\$20.00 per person**

## ***MEETING DATES FOR 2017***

<b>Board Meetings</b>	<b>Chapter Meetings</b>
3 January	26 January
28 February	23 March
2 May	25 May
27 June	27 July
5 September	28 September
7 November	30 November

## ***TOYS FOR TOTS PROJECT***

Because of the generous donation of some of our chapter members, we were able to add to the magic of Christmas for some of Greenwood's children. We asked members to bring a ball/balls to the November meeting and many of you responded. The 26 balls you bought were turned over to the Salvation Army for delivery to children in the Greenwood area. Thank you very much for your support of this service project.

## THE CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

A new day. A new month. A new year.

If you are like me, as I change my calendar over to a new year, each of us has an opportunity to take a new look at the world around us; a chance to assess and evaluate where we've been and where we're going. This time of "spring cleaning" gives us an opportunity to review where we are physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually.

As we take that pause to look both behind us and in front of us, what do we see? If we are honest with ourselves, we will see some experiences we'd like to repeat and other events we absolutely do not wish to ever see again. Yet, while we think we can influence many occurrences in our lives, there are many experiences that are simply not in our control. Life just has too many variables.

So what do we do?

Solomon, son of David, the builder of the great temple in Jerusalem, one of the richest men ever to walk the earth and the writer of the Book of Proverbs, realized as he journeyed through life even he, despite all his power and wealth, could not control the pleasures of life. They were simply beyond his ability and understanding. And so he penned in several places in his book, Ecclesiastes, "Everything (in life) is meaningless, a chasing after the wind."

But as he grew older, Solomon seems to have discovered what he believed to be the key to life. His final thoughts should give each of us pause as we consider in our maturing years what life is really all about.

"Now (that) all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter; Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man." Ecclesiastes 12:13

Ed DeVos  
Star Fort Chaplain

## THIS MONTH'S PROGRAM

### Installation of Officers and Board Members:

Officers and board members selected to serve in the coming year will be installed in a ceremony that will be conducted by a charter member and former president, LTC Chuck Drake. Listed below are those members who have agreed to serve in the elected positions and we commend them for their service.

## 2017 Chapter Officers & Board Members

President	LCDR Carol Scales
Vice President	
Secretary	COL Steve Page
Treasurer	LTC James Morgan
Chaplain	LTC Ed DeVos
Dir, Programs	
Dir, Membership	
Dir, Legislative Affairs	COL Fred McGuire
Dir, Chapter Services	MAJ Wayne Burton
Dir, Public Relations	LTC Joe Como
Dir, Personal Affairs	LTC Ed DeVos

## OPERATION "SWEETS & TREATS"



Thanks to those MOAA members who contributed cookies for the National Guard Christmas party December 4th. Well over 200 soldiers and their families attended and the cookies were "devoured" as lunch was delayed and everyone was hungry...we had dessert first! Soldiers and families alike expressed their appreciation and agreed we have some awesome bakers in Greenwood. I had an opportunity to bring Christmas greetings from the Star Fort Chapter of the Military Officers Association and to assure them that they are not forgotten as they deploy around the globe on our behalf. (LCDR Carol Scales, USNR-Ret)



**PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION**  
**January 21, 2017**  
**12:00 p.m.**

## **LIFE BEFORE COMPUTERS...**

Thought y'all mighty enjoy these changes in our everyday language. They prove the linguists' point once again: that languages are living, changing communications (except, I guess, for Latin, for which God be praised).

An application was for employment  
A program was a TV show  
A cursor used profanity  
And a keyboard was on a piano!

And a CD was a bank account  
And if you had a corrupted disk  
It would hurt when you found out!

Compress was what you did to garbage  
Not something you did to a file  
And if you unzipped anything in public  
You'd be in jail for a while!

Log on was adding wood to a fire  
A hard drive was a trip on the road  
A mouse pad was where a mouse lived  
And a backup happened to the commode!

Cutting, you did with a pocket knife,  
Pasting, you did with glue,  
The Web was where a spider lived  
And a virus was the flu!

Life Was Good Back Then!  
(Submitted by COL Fred Bosarge)

### **CVS LEAVES TRICARE But Walgreens is set to return to network.**

TRICARE Pharmacy contractor Express Scripts Inc. announced CVS pharmacies, including those in Target stores, no longer will process prescriptions for TRICARE as of December 1. However, Walgreens pharmacies will return to the TRICARE network December 1.

You might recall Walgreens left the TRICARE network in 2011 after Walgreens declined to accept TRICARE payment levels. After experiencing decreased revenue, Walgreens had a change of heart and has agreed to accept TRICARE payments.

Now CVS is balking over the same issue, and TRICARE maintains that pharmacies that don't

agree to the TRICARE payment can't be in the TRICARE network.

The return of Walgreens means the TRICARE network still will include the 57,000 retail pharmacies, and 98 percent of TRICARE beneficiaries will have a network pharmacy within 5 miles of their home.

Beneficiaries using CVS will be notified about how they can transfer their prescriptions to a nearby network pharmacy. Those who use certain specialty drugs will receive additional assistance. (*Military Officer Magazine, December 2016*)

### **SENATE SENDS NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT TO PRESIDENT FOR SIGNATURE**

WASHINGTON – U.S. Senator Lindsey Graham (R-South Carolina) made this statement today on the passage of the conference report to accompany the *National Defense Authorization Act* (NDAA). The final vote was 92-7.

*"I'm very pleased that the Senate overwhelmingly approved the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017.*

*"This legislation makes important reforms to the Military Health System. It streamlines the administration of the Defense Health Agency, expands telehealth capabilities for beneficiaries, reforms TRICARE healthcare plans, and establishes a Joint Trauma System designed to improve battlefield medicine. It also authorizes, contingent on appropriations, a 2.1% pay raise for all service members, and additional troop levels to address the threats that our nation faces. Finally, this important legislation directs the Department of Energy to continue construction of the MOX facility at the Savannah River Site.*

*"This bill has been hailed as the most significant reform measure for the Pentagon since the Goldwater-Nichols Act of 1986. Our Chairman and Ranking Member, Senator McCain and Senator Reed, have yet again delivered a bipartisan product the nation can be proud of and serves those in uniform well." (US Senate News Release, 8 December 2016)*

## **MOAA RESPONDS TO 2017 DEFENSE BILL**

Alexandria, Va. - President Barack Obama today signed into law the FY2017 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).

The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) issued the following statement in response to the president signing the annual defense bill in advance of the holidays. "This is one of the most important and comprehensive defense bills passed in many years, and we are pleased with the broad consensus on compensation and healthcare," said MOAA president and CEO Lt. Gen. Dana Atkins.

Acknowledging the congressional achievement, Atkins said, "We appreciate the magnitude of effort by the Armed Services committee members. Even in this tough fiscal environment, Congress found a way to treat military people fairly, resolving hundreds of differences between their respective versions of the bill, accommodating MOAA's and The Military Coalition's recommendations on most of them.

Atkins also pointed out, "MOAA believes the health care reforms required in the new law are positive steps toward our goal of improving beneficiaries' access to quality health care and elimination of administrative hassles beneficiaries have experienced too often. "All in all, the vast majority of NDAA issues reflect the positive outcomes of our advocacy," Atkins concluded.

The 2017 NDAA puts into law new requirements spanning many of DoD's programs. Most notably, it will entail sweeping changes for the military health care system.

This legislation puts into law a number of MOAA's advocacy priorities. Specifically, it:

- Secures a 2.1 percent military pay raise versus the 1.6 percent pay raise proposed by the administration. The 2.1 percent pay raise matches the average American's, as measured by the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Employment Cost Index.
- Stops the force drawdown and actually increases manpower levels, especially for the Army, Air Force and Marine Corps.
- Requires an array of reforms to improve beneficiaries' access to timely and high-quality health care.
- Protects currently serving and retired beneficiaries from a variety of steep TRICARE fee increases proposed in the administration's budget.

- Rejects a Senate proposal to cut housing allowances by \$10,000 to \$30,000 a year for dual-military couples and other servicemembers who share housing.

- Provides needed survivor benefit improvements: (a) extending the Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance (SSIA) until May 2018 at \$310 per month, and (b) increasing Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) annuities for survivors of reservists who die during Inactive Duty Training, to match benefits provided for active duty deaths.

The long list of health care improvement requirements are aimed at addressing the systemic and chronic problems MOAA and others have highlighted with beneficiary access (appointments and referrals), quality of care and safety and consistency of care.

They include changes in contracting, appointment and referral processes and holding medical providers and commanders more accountable for productivity and consistency of beneficiary-centric care, especially in military facilities.

One major aspect affecting TRICARE Standard beneficiaries is a change to this program, effective Jan. 1, 2018, to a preferred provider organization called TRICARE Select. Another big difference is all non-Medicare-eligible retired beneficiaries will be required to formally enroll every year in either TRICARE Prime or TRICARE Select, starting in 2018. Previously, only TRICARE Prime required a formal annual enrollment.

The Prime option, though largely unchanged, will be modernized such that the majority of referrals to specialists from primary care managers will no longer be required to go through a cumbersome pre-authorization process. Pre-authorizations for urgent care also will no longer be required.

To learn more about the NDAA and how it affects you and your family, visit [www.MOAA.org](http://www.MOAA.org) to stay current on the latest developments. (*moaa.org/23 December 2016*)

**REAL ID**  
***From the Office of Rep. Mark Sanford***

Earlier this month, the Department of Homeland Security declared that five states were not following the requirements of the REAL ID Act: South Carolina, Pennsylvania, Maine,

## **VA COLLABORATES WITH IBM**

Oklahoma, and Kentucky. What this means is that South Carolina's driver's licenses will no longer be accepted at secure federal buildings or military bases starting on January 20, 2017, and on January 22, 2018, the Transportation Security Administration will no longer accept our state license at airports.

This is a huge deal. Contractors that work with military bases in Oklahoma are already buying expedited passports for their employees - at \$170.00 per document. Our state businesses could be in the same boat.

Some may remember the bruising battle we fought over REAL ID when I was Governor. Together with then-Montana Governor Brian Schweitzer, a Democrat, we were successful in knocking out many of REAL ID's worst aspects, such as the de facto requirement for a national ID database in the original law. I believe that it is a system that's ultimately flawed due to the ways it violates the spirit of the 10th Amendment by circumventing the states in creating a national ID database. It didn't make much sense from a budgetary standpoint with a \$17 billion unfunded mandate on states. It also ignored the efforts we were making on the state level to make our IDs more secure.

I could go on, but the bottom line was that it was fundamentally flawed and a power grab by the federal government. We fought it for all we were worth and were successful in changing some parts of the proposal and deferring others.

Now, we need to fight it again. In that regard, we are currently leading a letter to ask the Department to grant us the same waiver as 17 other states and territories, which will give us more time to find a legislative solution. I have a couple of ideas, like creating a temporary extension or delaying some of the more burdensome regulations for a couple years to give the states more time, but nothing definite yet.

Accordingly, I will keep you updated on this front as things develop, but in the meantime, [the following article](#) from The Post and Courier has more on this....

Take good care,



Mark Sanford

In 2011, Jeopardy fans watched in awe as an IBM computer known as Watson (shown below) beat previous Jeopardy champions Ken Jennings and Brad Rutter. Today, a variation of Watson's revolutionary cognitive technology is helping VA cancer specialists treat patients more effectively.

Watson is on loan to the VA's precision oncology program, a result of President Barack Obama's cancer "moonshot" initiative. The technology will be used to analyze genomic information as well as sift through and scale down the overwhelming amount of clinical cancer data to help doctors determine the best treatment options. As many as 10,000 VA cancer patients are expected to benefit over the two-year period, says Steve Harvey, vice president of Watson Health.

"The challenge with precision medicine today is that there is too much knowledge being generated by physicians to be able to keep up," Harvey explains. "Last year, for example, more than 160,000 cancer studies were published on the website [www.pubmed.gov](http://www.pubmed.gov). So the challenge really becomes how can we go through that information quickly and make sense of it? That's what Watson is helping with."

Dr. Michael J. Kelley, the VA's national program director for oncology, says Watson will be extremely helpful in interpreting the results of DNA testing in cancer patients. "A lot of different data is needed to determine how to apply the results of that test to an individual patient," Kelley notes. "Watson aggregates large sets of data and organizes them in a way that can be applied to an individual patient's tumor's test results."

According to the VA, approximately 40,000 cancer cases are reported within the VA system each year. "The VA is the largest cohort of cancer patients in the United States," reports Harvey. "It represents about 3.5 percent of all cancer patients in the nation." (*Don Vaughan, Military Officer Magazine, December 2016*)

# **PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE BY-LAWS OF THE STAR FORT MOAA CHAPTER**

SUBMITTED TO: The General Membership of the Star Fort MOAA Chapter for approval at the January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2016 general meeting.

SUBMITTED BY: The Officers and Board of Directors.

RECOMMENDATION: This recommended change be approved by the Board, placed in the January 2017 newsletter, and presented to the membership for approval at the next general membership meeting, 26 January 2017, to be effective immediately.

## **I. Article IX Officers, Section 1.**

*Currently reads as:* The elective officers shall be a president, a vice president, a secretary, and treasurer, each of whom shall be a regular member of the chapter. The immediate past-president shall sit on the board as a non-voting member.

*Proposed Amendment:* To allow spouses of regular members and Auxiliary members to hold elective officer positions.

*Proposed Amended Shall Read:* The elective officers shall be a president, a vice president, a secretary, and a treasurer, each of whom shall be a regular member. At the discretion of the President and with the approval of the Board, up to two of these positions maybe filled by the spouse of a regular member or by an Auxiliary member.

*Rationale:* To promote stability on the Board of Directors.

## **OUR CHAPTER PRESIDENTS SINCE 1987**

1987	LtCol William L. Dodge, USAF	2002	BG Joseph O. Lax, Jr., USA
1988	LtCol William L. Dodge, USAF	2003	LTC James S. Hull, USA
1989	CDR Robert A. Walters, USN	2004	LTC James S. Hull, USA
1990	CDR Robert A. Walters, USN	2005	LTC James S. Klauber, USA
1991	<b>WHO WAS IT? LET US KNOW!</b>	2006	LTC Jerry W. Peace, USA
1992	LTC Charles E. Drake, USA	2007	COL Niles C. Clark, USA
1993	COL Niles C. Clark, USA	2008	COL Willis H. Burroughs, USA
1994	Maj John E. Griffin, USAF	2009	LTC Charles E. Drake, USA
1995	LtCol Jimmie L. Spencer, USAF	2010	LCDR Carol Scales, USN
1996	LtCol Jimmie L. Spencer, USAF	2011	LCDR Carol Scales, USN
1997	CH (LTC) Theodore R. Morton, Jr., USA	2012	COL Fred Bosarge, USA
1998	CH (LTC) Theordore R. Morton, JR., USA	2013	COL Fred Bosarge, USA
1999	LTC Charles E. Drake, USA	2014	COL James Wheeler, USA
2000	LTC Lewie E. Amick, USA	2015	COL James Wheeler, USA
2001	BG Joseph O. Lax, Jr., USA	2016	COL James Wheeler, USA

## PROJECTED OPERATING INCOME AND EXPENSE REPORT FOR 2017

Member Dues		\$1,340.00
67 Members at \$20 per member		
Projected Operating Expenses		
Fixed		
Post Office Box Annual Dues (Due December)	\$105.00	
Website Annual Dues		
MOAA State Council Dues at \$1 per member	\$ 67.00	
Newsletter printing and mailing X 6	\$690.00	
Variable		
3 Guest Speakers w/spouse Meals (Mar/Jul/Sep)	\$120.00	
Donations to Community Groups	\$150.00	
Christmas Entertainment Donation	\$150.00	
Supplies	\$ 50.00	
Total	\$ 1,332.00	
Remaining Funds Available		\$8.00

### NOTES:

1. Income is based on those members who paid dues in FY16
2. State Council dues are based upon current membership
3. Newsletter cost is based on the average for 2016

**REMINDER: Please don't forget to pay your 2017 dues if you did not pay them ahead of time. 36 out of 67 members have paid. If you are unsure, please call me, LTC James Morgan, (864) 543-2080.**

## **Next Secretary of Defense? Retired Marine Corps General James Mattis**

In 2013, General James N. Mattis retired after a 41-year Marine Corps career that included field commands in the Persian Gulf War, Iraq and Afghanistan. In the theater of combat, the hard-charging general was known by the call sign "Chaos." But it was his respect for history and studious commitment to training in strategy and tactics that earned him the moniker "Warrior Monk." As head of the Marine Corps Combat Development Command, Mattis furthered the efforts of MCCDC's Center for Lessons Learned and helped compile the U.S. Army/Marine Corps Counterinsurgency Field Manual. He rose through the ranks to head up U.S. Joint Forces Command in 2007 and to replace General David Petraeus at the helm of U.S. Central Command in 2010, with responsibility for ongoing U.S. military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. Since retiring, Mattis, 66, has been a visiting fellow at Stanford University's Hoover Institution and taught courses on various subjects at other colleges nationwide. He also plans to write a book about leadership. On Dec. 1, 2016, President-elect Donald Trump announced he had chosen Mattis to serve as his secretary of defense. For Mattis to be appointed, Congress would need to waive a federal requirement that candidates for defense secretary must not have been on active duty in the previous seven years. Congress granted such a waiver in 1950 to confirm General of the Army George C. Marshall as secretary of defense. (*David Lauterborn, Historynet.com, 1 Dec 2016*)

