THE STAR FORT PATRIOT

"Never Stop Serving"

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THE STAR FORT CHAPTER, SC12
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STAR FORT MOAA CHAPTER OFFICERS 2025

PRESIDENT - Terry Greenfield
VICE PRESIDENT – Chris Pate
SECRETARY -- Joseph Roberts
TREASURER – Michael Coleman
CHAPLAIN – George McKinney
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS – Dennis Turner
MEMBERSHIP – James Morgan
SURVIVING SPOUSES -- Pam Morgan and Lianne Roberts

Disclaimer: The Star Fort Chapter of MOAA is affiliated with the South Carolina Council MOAA and the national MOAA organization and all are nonpartisan.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A lot of upheaval in the political world, but one thing is certain - we need to make sure whoever is in office hears us. Our voices for veterans and families need to be loud and clear. I think the one constant about MOAA is that we work hard to tell whoever will listen that we need to take care of our own.

Many bills still need passing, especially the Richard Star act and the Take Care of Vets act. Always check your MOAA web page for legislative actions that need addressing. Formatted letters are ready for you to click on and send. And when we have our lunch with local legislators, please take time to drop by and engage with these folks here at home. As of now, January 5th 2027, 11:30 at TW BOONS, is our next legislative lunch.

Closing out the year we have Star Fort Chapter elections coming up with nominations in September and elections at the November dinner meeting. RJ Gore, Army Chaplain and Dean of Seminary at Erskine College will be our guest for September. Then the Christmas dinner with the Salvation Army Band, collecting for the US Marine Corps program TOYS FOR TOTS, and a Blessing Table for donations of clothing and other needed items (list to come in next newsletter).

Prayers to all who are having health issues or suffering the loss of a loved one. See all soon.

Terry Greenfield, LTC, USA-Ret
President
864-377-9053

"Knowledge comes, but wisdom lingers" - *Lord Tennyson*

"Never Stop Serving" & Everyone is a Recruiter

THE CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Greetings,

James 3:9-10
With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the likeness of God; from the same mouth come both blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be this way.

About three weeks ago, I was following my normal routine of checking the obituaries in the morning. I noticed one for an individual I only knew from their professional reputation and decided to read it. To my surprise about half way through the obituary, I came across the word "hate." Even though the word was used towards an inanimate object, it caught my attention. It also evoked a negative feeling within me. Not so much about what they had said, but how they had influenced someone to use that word in their obituary. I do not know the soul or the heart of the individual whose obituary I read, but hopefully hate was not what they meant.

How often have we used this word or others like it incorrectly and how are we influencing those around us when we do? This one obituary has given me pause to reflect on what words I use. I have begun to choose my words more carefully and deliberately. I guess you could say I have begun to engage brain before mouth. I believe more in the world need to do this, given the climate we live in today.

The following are a list of words and how many times they appear in the KJV bible

Grace – 170 – courteous or goodwill
Joy – 165 – a feeling of great pleasure or happiness
Praise – 248 – express warm approval or admiration of
Wisdom – 234 – the quality of having experience, knowledge or good judgement
Faith – 247 – the conviction of things not seen
Hope – 129 – a feeling of expectation or desire
Love – 310 – a feeling of deep affection

My challenge to you is to choose a few positive words to use every day and positively influence those around you.

George McKinney, Chaplain
Star Fort Chapter

MEMBERSHIP REPORT – Jim Morgan

Our membership now stands at 41, and SSP members at 14. LTC (Ret) Richard Fortune and 1LT Ashley Able joined our chapter and attended the July dinner. The Star Fort table at Veterans Appreciation Day at the Vet Center on July 16th helped us reach out to the community, and we met additional potential new members.

If you know of a possible new member, please email me at morganjp1@yahoo.com or phone me at 864-543-2080. New members can also get membership applications at our web site, https://moaasc.org/Star-Fort.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Mike Coleman

Beginning Balance, 1 August 2026:	$5611.93 (plus $4176.73 in Veterans Banners fund)
Income:	$300.00 (plus $340.00 income into Veterans Banners fund)
Expenses: (May dinner, liability ins.)	$300.00 (plus $00.00 expenses from Veterans Banners fund)
` Ending Balance, 30 June, 2026:	$5611.93 (plus $4,516.73 in Veterans Banners fund)

SURVIVING SPOUSES NEWS

We really enjoyed getting together in August for fun and fellowship! ***Our next lunch meeting will be on Saturday, October 10th at R Place Restaurant at 11:30 a.m.*** *All spouses are welcome. If you would like to*

*learn more, call Pam Morgan (**864-993-8304**) or Lianne Roberts (**864-543-2116**). Please **RSVP** about joining us for lunch by Thursday, October 8th.*

Board Meetings 2026	*Chapter Meetings 2026*
	24 September
27 October	**19 November**

September Dinner Meeting at Inn on the Square

Thursday, September 24, 2026 – Social Time at **1730,** Dinner at **1800**

Program: The speaker will be R. J. Gore, Chaplain COL, USA (Ret.) Dr. R. J. Gore served as a Professor of Systematic Theology (now Emeritus) at Erskine Theological Seminary for 30 years and served 20 years as Dean of the Seminary (now Emeritus). He served nearly three decades in the Army as a Chaplain in numerous locations including service as a Group Chaplain, 172d Corps Support Group in Balad, Iraq, from December 2003 to December 2004, He was awarded the Bronze Star for Meritorious Service and retired in 2015 as a Colonel. He has published a number of books including *Covenantal Worship* and *Getting Started*, and edited Erskine's publication about its 180-year history, *Celebration*. His new book coming out this fall is titled *Covenantal Preaching.* He and his wife Joan have three children.

Menu: Beef tips, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Salad, Rolls, Peach Cobbler, Coffee, Tea.
Dress: Business Casual with Star Fort MOAA shirts or Military polos.
Cost: $35.00
Reservations: mail to **PO Box 1501, Greenwood SC 29648** by Friday, September 18th. If it is too late, call LTC Terry Greenfield at **(864) 377-9053**.

July Dinner Wrap-Up

New member Ashley Able and her husband Jeremy with Jim Dominck

Ed and Susan De Vos, Diane and Fred Easterlin with new member Richard Fortun and his wife Kathleen (on the right).

Our July dinner meeting was held at Inn on the Square on Thursday, July 23, 2026. After the Pledge of Allegiance and National Anthem, Ed De Vos gave the invocation, and two new members were welcomed into our chapter. **1LT Ashley Able, ANG** has served as a flight nurse and currently serves as a logistics officer in the Air National Guard. **LTC Richard Fortun, USA (Ret**) served 35 years as a Chemical Corps officer in the U.S. Army Reserve and Ohio National Guard, retiring in 2017. He later retired from Ford Motor Credit in March 2026 and now works as an Assistant Vice President in Commercial Lending at South State Bank.

After dinner, Terry Greenfield introduced his guest, **SCMOAA President LTC Jim Albert, USAF (Ret)**. Next, he explained that our original speaker had to cancel, so **Capt. W.G. "Bud" Schneeweis, USCG (Ret)**

helped us out by filling in at the last minute. Bud is a 1973 graduate of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy who has served in command and key staff positions including Chief of Coast Guard Public Affairs and Commander, Coast Guard Recruiting Command. Following retirement in 2001, he joined the Personal Affairs Staff at MOAA (then TROA). On September 11, 2001, he was presenting a Transition Assistance brief at the Pentagon when the building was attacked. He served on the MOAA staff for 11 years and then served as First Vice President of the Charleston Chapter and as Legislative Affairs representative for the SC Council of Chapters.

He spoke to us about the importance of developing and sustaining local MOAA chapters. He discussed the difficulties of recruitment and praised our chapter efforts such as Operation Make Contact and reaching out by attending local veterans' events. He also offered ideas that were successful for other chapters.

From left: Mike Coleman, Bud Schneeweis, Terry Greenfield, Jim Albert, Chris and Suzy Pate, and Winnie Coleman.

CHAPTER NEWS

Hometown Heroes Banners: We will be putting up the banners on Friday, September 11th, meeting at 8:30am at the Arts Center. If you would like to help, email Terry Greenfield at tlgreenfield13@gmail.com.

Nominations: Star Fort Chapter Board of Directors nominations are **due in September**, with voting to occur at the November meeting. Please contact anyone on the Board if you are interested in serving.

Adopt-A-Highway: Star Fort Chapter's next litter pickup along E. Cambridge will be Sept. 26th at 9:00 am.

American Legion Auxiliary Pasta Dinner: MOAA members are invited to this dinner which will be held on Tuesday, September 15th at 5:30pm at the Greenwood Veterans Center. Tickets are available at $10 apiece. For more information, contact Lianne Roberts at 443-306-1469.

US Marine Corps Band Concert: MOAA members are invited to this free concert sponsored by SCMOAA and Francis Marion University on Wednesday, October 7th at the FMU Performing Arts Center, 201 S. Dargan St. in Florence. A reception begins at 5:30pm and the concert starts at 7:30pm. Information: call 203-509-8555.

The Star Fort Surviving Spouses group had a great time getting together for lunch at R Place in August. We shared a lot of stories about our adventures moving to new locations as military spouses.

Left to right: Dana Ellis, Joyce Hughston, Helen Haendle, Lianne Roberts, Pam Morgan, Monica Turner, and Glenda Horton.

"Never Stop Serving" & Everyone is a Recruiter

Joe Roberts, Jim Morgan, and Joe Como staffed the SF MOAA table during Veterans Appreciation Day at the Veterans Center on July 16th. They enjoyed talking with veterans and possible new members, as well as handing out MOAA pens and homemade snacks. Fred Easterlin visited with Jim and Joe in the third photo.

TAKE ACTION BILLS! Top Advocacy in Action (AIA) Issues

Restore TRICARE for Life coverage of GLP-1 medications. Military retirees and their families enrolled in TRICARE for Life (TFL) lost coverage of GLP-1 medications in 2025, even though younger TRICARE beneficiaries who meet the same clinical criteria continue to receive coverage. Medications are not covered for cosmetic purposes; they require medical approval.

The Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) has played a key role in keeping veteran unemployment rates closer to civilian levels. Originally designed to support "job seekers who have consistently faced barriers to employment," this definition clearly applies to military spouses, who have faced sustained unemployment rates of 20% or higher for over a decade.

Secure a vote on the Major Richard Star Act, which would authorize combat-injured veterans to receive their earned DoD retirement pay for years of service and their VA disability compensation for lifelong injury. Currently, these combat-injured (and often seriously disabled) veterans are subject to a cost-saving offset—often described as a "veterans' tax"—where their retirement pay is reduced for every dollar of VA disability received.

Advance more than 20 standalone MOAA-supported bills, bringing reforms the association has championed in the 119th Congress (and in several previous sessions) on behalf of servicemembers, veterans, caregivers, survivors, and their families. More than 60 provisions in the Take Care of America's Veterans Act address veterans' benefits, health care, education, transition assistance, caregiver support, and survivor benefits. Four of these provisions are long-standing priorities for MOAA:

- **Major Richard Star Act**
- **Veteran Caregiver Reeducation, Reemployment, and Retirement (3R) Act**
- **Love Lives On Act**
- **Justice for ALS Veterans Act**

FEDERAL LEGISLATION

S. 3168 - Shutdown Fairness Act -Allows the Pentagon and the Department of Homeland Security to continue paying servicemembers during any future funding lapse.

H.R.9105/S. 4646 - SAFEGUARD Veterans Act of 2026 - To reinstate criminal penalties for persons charging veterans unauthorized fees relating to claims for benefits under the laws administered by the Secretary of VA.

H.R.3726/ S.3119 - Fisher House Availability Act of 2026 - expands eligibility for temporary lodging at a Fisher House to additional individuals receiving medical care or treatment at a VA or non-VA facility or those accompanying individuals receiving such treatment.
H.R.8732 - Pensions for Retired Uniformed Servicemembers Act - to pay retired pay from the Department of Defense Military Retirement Fund to retired members of the commissioned corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and of the Public Health Service.
H.R.6038 - Improving Veteran Access to Care Act - directs Secretary of VA to establish an integrated project team to improve the process for scheduling appointments from the VA.
H.R.6024 - BRAVE Act of 2025 - To improve mental health services of the VA.

BILLS OF INTEREST to Veterans, Servicemembers, and Families in SC

H 4605 – to amend the South Carolina laws so as to enact the "veteran suicide and mental health crisis response act"; and by adding section 25-15-50 so as to create guaranteed immediate mental health crisis access for veterans, establish mobile veteran crisis response teams, require same-day suicide intervention care statewide, and to provide for funding and accountability. House Committee.
H.4600- A bill to amend the South Carolina Code of Laws by amending Section 12-37-220, relating to property tax exemptions, so as to exempt a certain percent of the fair market of an owner-occupied residential property if the owner is a Veteran with a service-connected disability. House Committee.
H.4575- A concurrent resolution to memorialize the United States Congress to adopts the Major Richard Star Act to allow all medically retired service members to receive full access to their retirement pay and benefits. House Committee.
H 4700 - to amend the South Carolina code of laws by amending section, relating to the home and vehicle property tax exemptions for disabled veterans, so as to allow disabled veterans who are not totally and permanently disabled to claim a percentage of the exemption equal to the percentage of the disabled veteran's service-connected disability. House Committee.
H3943 – 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. However, the amount of the credit may not exceed five thousand dollars each year. House Committee.
H.4812- A bill to amend the South Carolina Code of Laws by amending Section 12-6-1171, relating to the Military Retirement Income Deduction, so as to include a qualified retirement plan for an officer of the Commissioned Corps of the United States Public Health Service and the Commissioned Corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in the definition of "retirement income". House Committee.
H.3463- A bill to amend the South Carolina Code of Laws by amending Section 12-37-220, relating to property tax exemptions, so as to provide that certain surviving spouses are eligible for the exemption. House Committee.
S.0754/H 4811 - A bill to amend the South Carolina Code of Laws, relating to use of facilities free of charge by disabled Veterans, so as to allow any South Carolina resident who is a Veteran to enter any state park free of charge.

<u>Secretary of Veterans Affairs</u> – MG Todd McCaffery

Senator Michael W. Gambrell
Senator Daniel B. "Danny" Verdin, III
Senator Billy Garrett Jr.
Senator Ronnie W. Cromer

Representative Craig A. Gagnon
Representative Daniel Gibson
Representative John R. McCravy III
Representative Luke Rankin
Representative Joe White

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RESERVATION FORM

YOUR NAME: _____

I will attend the Sept 24, 2026 meeting at Inn on the Square. Social Time: **1730**; Dinner: **1800**	$35.00
I will have __Guest at $35.00 each.	$
Donations	$
TOTAL ENCLOSED	$

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: **Star Fort Chapter, MOAA.**
PO Box 1501, Greenwood SC 29648
MAIL IT TODAY!

RESERVATION DEADLINE DATE: **Friday, Sept 18, 2026**
(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: