The Lantern

Palm Beach-Martin Counties Chapter
Military Officers Association of America
www.moaafl.org/chapters/PBMCC



November 2026

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF MOAA - PBM

One the great honors of my life and career has been to serve this club as its President for five years (not consecutively). And that honor gave me the opportunity to work with some of the finest and most honorable people in my life. Each of you have treated me with great respect and compassion, especially while I was going through a difficult time in my life.

But I have decided not to continue as your leader because of my health which is not as good as it was when I first served. Wait! I'm not blaming being President for the frailty of my body (LOL).

Of course, Bev and I will continue being active, especially since I now move to the position of Immediate Past President. That means that I will continue as a member of the Chapter Board of Directors.

We will hold our Chapter's Annual Meeting On November 19 at 6:00 pm at Paddy Mac's Restaurant. During the event, we will eat some of the finest Irish food available in the area then hold our meeting with the main purpose of electing our new Chapter officers. You already know how much I enjoy Paddy Mac's!

Our Chapter has received positive national recognition during my tenure as president, not because I was president but because our club has done so much to be recognized for. I believe that our greatest accomplishment during the past six years has been the establishment of the JROTC awards and scholarship program. With the help of Paul Loschiavo and other volunteers, we even turned our scholarship into a 501(c)3 organization to allow donations that may be deducted for tax purposes. Of course, I will continue working with that project after I leave office.

I am also proud that our members have been active in The Advocacy in Action Program of MOAA National. This is a favorite of mine since I believe deeply that as a citizen in is our duty to active in telling our representatives our opinions on the major issues surrounding the US military. I pray that all of you will either continue or join in keeping our national

representatives informed of your opinions on these critical topics.

Finally, I wish to thank you all for this privilege. And I want to encourage you to get or stay active in MOAA PBM. This organization is truly one of the best chapter in the nation. You may not realize it, but our chapter is highly respected and noted at the national level at the MOAA headquarters. Being president has allowed me to meet and get to know some truly amazing people at that office.

With that, I will turn the Presidency over to the new president to be voted on November 20, Marc Oliveri, who has previously served as President. Please give him the support you gave me.

Herb



Officers

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1st Vice President .....open

2nd Vice President....open

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"Sharon" 561-906-6051 Colrbj@cs.com

Secretary .....open

Immediate Past President....Col Robert James, USA
"Sharon" 561-906-6051 Colrbj@cs.com

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VA Hospital Liaison....Maj Evelyn Henry, USAF

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Programs/Speakers...open

Communications .....open

Webmaster.....Col Paul Loschiavo, USMC
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Chairpersons:

Dinner Greeters & 50/50 .....open

Surviving Spouse Liaison
Carol Walsh

Chaplain.....LTC Herb Sennett, USA
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Nametags ....

Surviving Spouse Liaison

Col Paul Loschiavo USMCR (Ret)

For the last few months, Bob James has been trying to get people to volunteer to take a job for next year.

Keep in mind that the term "job" is really a stretch. The time devoted to any of our jobs is measured in hours-per-month. Hardly…heavy lifting.

One job that MOAA National and the Florida Council of Chapters put much emphasis on, but which we have been unable to fill until now, is Surviving Spouse Liaison or SSL.

When a chapter member passes on and leaves a spouse, it's the job of the SSL to help the surviving spouse.

The majority of the time, when a member passes on, the retired male officer leaves a wife who is suddenly faced with connecting with multiple government agencies. If the wife had been on a military base, it was years ago, and occasionally, the only connection a second wife has with the military is her military ID.

Terms like "DFAS" and "SBP" are meaningless to most people in the first place. Add in a very trying, stressful situation, and it becomes intimidating.

Fortunately, chapter member Carol Walsh has agreed to take the job. She is uniquely qualified.

First, Carol's a woman. As most of our surviving spouses are ladies, this helps much.

Then, she's a retired Navy Nurse. As a Navy officer, she's already familiar with military acronyms. (I'd bet she could bowl us over between Navy and medical acronyms.)

As a nurse, she spent her career caring for people. This is an infinitely better background for helping a surviving spouse than, say, infantry.

The other part of her job will entail educating us on how to get prepared. For this, you'll see her articles in this Lantern and occasionally, she'll talk at chapter events.

I am already feeling warm and fuzzy with Carol Walsh being the SSL!

Speaking of being prepared - over the last five months, I've had two family members and one chapter member pass on.

Besides the normal grief in these events, in all three cases, a family member mentioned "Boy, it would be nice if we could get into his phone."

Keep in mind that not even the FBI can break into an Apple phone without the password.

Guys… right now, have your spouse or a trusted person put your password in their contact for you. There are a bunch of other things we should all do but this is the simplest, quickest, extremely important thing that you can do. If that person is within earshot, it takes less time than reading this article.

As Nike says - Just do it!!



moaapbm.org

Visit our chapter website

A New Online Home for Our Chapter

By Marcantonio Oliveri
Website Creator and Webmaster

The Palm Beach-Martin Counties Chapter has a new website: **moaapbm.org**. I created it to bring our chapter's activities, resources, and opportunities together - and to make it easier for members and prospective members to become involved.

My goal is to make the website a useful extension of our chapter family: a place to find fellowship, prepare for important decisions, support others, and put MOAA's principle of **"Never Stop Serving"** into practice.

Meet Grant and Grace

Two features give our website a personal welcome: **Grant**, our AI chapter membership guide, and **Grace**, our AI survivor support guide.

Grant helps answer the question, "Why should I join a local chapter?" National MOAA membership supports a powerful voice in Washington. Local chapter membership adds friendships, community involvement, and opportunities to serve close to home.

A prospective member might ask Grant, "I served as an officer but did not retire from the military. Is there a place for me?" Grant can explain that a full military career is not necessary to belong and introduce the fellowship and service opportunities within our chapter. Visitors can also ask about joining, dues, and the reasons to participate.

I included Grant because a welcoming conversation can make taking that first step easier. He helps explain what we mean by **"camaraderie with a purpose."**

Grace offers a starting point for survivor support and planning. Following the loss of a spouse, even knowing what to do first can feel overwhelming. Grace helps visitors navigate the chapter's survivor materials, planning guides, and contact resources.

Questions might include, "What should I do first?" "Where can I find information about reporting a military retiree's death?" or "How can I prepare important information for my family?" Grace can point visitors toward relevant materials and explain possible next steps.

I included Grace because families deserve a compassionate, accessible starting point. She complements the support of people and official agencies. I encourage members to explore these resources before a crisis, when there is time to gather documents and discuss wishes.

Turn Concern Into Action

Under **Legislation**, our **Action Center** connects members with opportunities to support MOAA's advocacy.

Protecting military benefits requires continued participation. Whether the concern involves health care, earned benefits, or support for military families and survivors, members can find links to actionable issues and ways to contact their elected representatives.

For example, when MOAA asks members to speak up about a proposal affecting military health care, the Action Center provides a starting point for reviewing the issue and contacting congressional offices. Adding a personal explanation of how a proposal could affect your family or those you served with can make that message more meaningful.

The strength of many begins with the action of one. Your voice matters. When members and chapters across the country participate, those individual messages reinforce a shared call for action. Our chapter's participation strengthens MOAA's advocacy for the entire military community, both officers and enlisted members.

Find Your Place on the Website

The website's categories reflect the different ways we participate in chapter life:

Events: Find upcoming gatherings, learn the details, and register. From Officers' Calls to our Toys for Tots dinner, these events offer opportunities to renew friendships and welcome new faces.

Membership: Explore the reasons to join our local chapter and find sign-up and renewal information. Invite a former colleague or neighbor to visit and meet Grant.

Personal Affairs and Surviving Spouse: Access survivor planning materials, checklists, and wills resources. Organizing contacts and family information today can make difficult responsibilities more manageable later.

JROTC: Learn how our chapter supports cadets through recognition, MOAA medals, scholarships, and donations. Helping young people develop leadership and pursue their goals is a meaningful way to continue serving.

News and The Lantern: Find chapter news and current or past newsletters. Stay connected even when you cannot attend a meeting.

Resources: Locate useful references, including information about chapter officers' responsibilities and VA survivor resources.

Chapter Leaders: Learn about the officers who serve the chapter and find chapter contact information.

Please visit **moaapbm.org**, explore a category that interests you, and return as we continue developing the site. Try a question for Grant or Grace, check the next event, and visit the Legislative Action Center.

Most of all, share the website with someone who could benefit from becoming part of our chapter family. Our uniforms may be put away, but our friendships, experience, and commitment to service still have much to offer.

An Invitation to Other MOAA Chapters

To members and leaders of other MOAA chapters: if you would like a similar website for your chapter, I would welcome the opportunity to discuss your needs. A chapter website can help welcome prospective members, keep current members informed, support community service, and encourage participation in MOAA's advocacy.

Please contact me, **Marcantonio Oliveri**, at **ltcolmarc@gmail.com**.

Palm Beach-Martin Counties Chapter
Military Officers Association of America
Never Stop Serving

MOAA Jobs

Col Bob James US Army (Ret)

Hey folks, Marc Oliveri has once again stepped forward to be our President. All our other jobs are small compared, but important. Marc will provide energetic leadership. Let's back him up.

Our local Chapter is significant: we support 350,000 members nationally that have the attention of all our politicians.

Dave Fischler will be the VP for Programs. Paul Loschiavo will stay on as Secretary, Data and Web man, and director of JROTC, and what would we do without him! Skip Barnes will continue with the Newsletter, an important means of staying in touch. And I will continue as Treasurer. Personal Affairs will be Rich Wennet. Gary Russ will take care of Legislative Affairs.

The one vacancy unfilled is VP for Membership. We have prospects from National, JROTC PMS, and there are veteran organizations we have not tapped into.

When I was Membership, I went to my homeowners association, asking for any veteran military officers to join us. I wrote letters to 26 former members.

As the outgoing Immediate Past President, I am urging someone to step forward. This position should not be unfilled.

Dave has activities already planned for 2027 that should entice new members.

Call Marc Oliveri if you can help: (561) 425 2859

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Upcoming Events:

Nov: Board of Directors meeting, Nov 5th, 11am
Chapter Annual Meeting, Nov 19th, 6pm at Patty Mac's

Dec: Board of Directors meeting Dec 3rd, 11am via zoom
Toys for Tots Dinner/Holiday Dinner at the Marriott, Dec 10th, 6pm

Mission Statement:

The Palm Beach - Martin Counties Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA PBM) is an independent organization of current, former, and retired officers of the eight uniformed services incorporated under the laws of the State of Florida. We are affiliated with and follow the ideals of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA National) and the Florida Council of Chapters of MOAA (FCOC of MOAA).

The overall purpose of MOAA is **Advocacy** on behalf of all military people in front of Congress.

On a local level, the members of this chapter share share *camaraderie with a purpose* in the brotherhood of arms. We routinely support multiple high school JROTC Programs and Toys-for-Tots, as well as gathering for social events on a monthly basis.

For more information about the chapter or to join the chapter, send an email to moaapalmbeach@gmail.com and simply ask for a membership application.

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Editorial Policy: All content provided by MOAA National, the Florida Council and this Chapter is nonpartisan.