Reservation Form and information about our Chapter Holiday Banquet on Thursday, December 11th

Save the Date: Saturday, 31 January 2015, Veterans Awards Banquet. See page 5 for information.
**Chapter Election Ballot 2014**

Please fill out the ballot below, and send (to be received not later than 8 December) to:

Gainesville Chapter MOAA, PO Box 142423, Gainesville, FL 32614-2423

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Officers</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Write-In Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>President: John Menoski (Capt, USAF)</td>
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<td>Vice President: Tom Hennessey (COL, USA (Ret)</td>
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<td>Second Vice President: Vacant</td>
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<td>Treasurer: Dennis Wait (Maj, USMC, Ret)</td>
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<td>Secretary: Parker Lawrence (CAPT, USN, Ret)</td>
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<tr>
<th>Directors</th>
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<tr>
<td>Paul Albritton (BGen, USAF, Ret)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carter Nute (CAPT USN, Ret) (Immediate Past President)</td>
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<td>Candy Gleason (Member Spouse)</td>
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<td>Mickey Smith (CAPT USN, Ret)</td>
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<td>Bill Moore (CDR, USN, Ret)</td>
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<td>Walt Visniski (CDR, USN, Ret)</td>
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<td>John Knight (LT, USA)</td>
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Write in if you would like to be a director

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**Annual Dues**

Chapter By Law, Article VI—Dues, Section 1, requires that the annual dues for each Member and Auxiliary Member be recommended by the Board of Directors to the Membership.

The Board of Directors recommends:

- annual dues for Members remain at $15 per calendar year.
- annual dues for Auxiliary Members remain at $10 per calendar year

**Approve Board Recommendation _____ Disapprove Board Recommendation _____**

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**Chapter Elections for 2015 TERM**

Please consider volunteering to be on our Chapter Board of Directors, or serve on a Committee.
MOAA Holiday Dinner

Date: Thursday, December 11th
Time: Social Hour: 6:30—7:00pm
Dinner: 7:00—8:30pm
Location: Gainesville Country Club

Menu: Prime Rib or Grilled Salmon Plated Dinner with mixed green salad/sliced tomatoes, twice baked potatoes, mixed vegetables, breads and butter, and cheesecake dessert. Coffee, tea, and sodas included

Name: ____________________________
(print name for name tag)

Spouse/Guest Name: ______________________
(print name for name tag)

Number of Reservations: Prime Rib______ Grilled Salmon_____

Total Amount Enclosed ($30 per person): _______

[We need this by Friday, December 5th in order to give the Club our final headcount — Call John Menoski 386-462-7033 if you have any problem with this deadline]

RSVP with check made out to:

Gainesville Chapter MOAA
JOIN Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 1092, Alachua County

Contact:
President
Forest Hope
(352) 514-0270

Secretary
Fred Judkins II
(352) 642-6992

The VVA meets on the third Thursday of each month at 1830 in the American Legion, Post 16, Hall off NW 6Th street.

Next Meeting: Thursday, December 18 at 1800 (Social) and 1830 (Business). December Meeting will be in the VFW.

Vietnam Veterans of America.org - Go to web page

See Page 8 for More on MOAA’s Initiatives!
Hold This Date - On 31 January 2015, MOAA will celebrate, along with over 200 other Veterans in Alachua County. We will have MOAA tables. Call Jim or Candy Gleason at (352) 333-8974, or email gleason6@cox.net.
The “Veterans Helping Veterans” Golf Tournament was conducted on Saturday November 8th, at the Gainesville Country Club by the Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH) and the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA). Tom Hennessey, MOAA Vice President, and Senior Vice Commander in the MOPH, organized the partnership, and was a literal “one man band” in making this a very successful inaugural event.

Both the MOPH and MOAA pledged all proceeds to Veteran charities - MOAA pledged its entire share to the Gainesville Fisher House Foundation. Pictured above is Patti Fabiani of the Fisher House Foundation presenting a plaque to MOAA Chapter President John Menoski. The inscription reads:

Military Officers Association of America
Gainesville Chapter

Thank you for your generous support
Gainesville Fisher House Foundation
Helping Veterans, Military and their families!
Kanapaha Veterans Memorial Park was the location of the 2014 Veterans Day Ceremony. Of the many sights and sounds on a sunny, warm day, pictured below are three of our favorite groups - the Young Marines pictured in the bottom right picture, the Sea Cadets Color Guard in the top two pictures, and the Fort Clarke Middle School Band in the bottom left picture.

Our MOAA Chapter was represented by President John Menoski, Carter and Barbara Nute, Jerry Kennedy, and Jim and Candy Gleason in a MOAA booth on Veterans Row.
On November 18, MOAA ran two full page ads in *The Hill* and *Politico* newspapers urging senators to block Pentagon proposals to increase TRICARE pharmacy fees, cap military pay in 2015, and increase out-of-pocket housing costs for service members.

A special call to action from MOAA President Vice Adm. Norb Ryan, USN (Ret) to membership on the same day helped generate nearly 45,000 grassroots messages to the Senate on the issue.

Your efforts are paying off. Closed door negotiations between the House and Senate on the defense authorization bill stalled over whether to include the cuts in the compromise bill. Retiring House Armed Services Committee Chairman Howard “Buck” McKeon (R-Calif.) is fighting to block the cuts while retiring Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman Carl Levin (D-Mich.) indicated he still supports them.

The defense bill is expected to come to the Senate floor in the first week of December, but it’s unclear if the Senate will consider pending amendments or will once again pass a pre-negotiated version of the House bill.

It’s an encouraging sign that these provisions are causing enough concern on Capitol Hill to slow negotiations, but the fight isn’t over. Congress must complete negotiations and pass a defense bill before adjourning on Dec. 12, and your pay and benefits hang in the balance.

Join the fight to prevent the Pentagon from balancing the defense budget on the backs on those who serve. Send your senators a MOAA-suggested message asking them to side with the House proposal and block these short-sighted, budget-driven cuts. See moaa.org for the suggested message, and how to email it to our Senators.

**Groups Push Senators to Rethink Planned Cuts to Troop Pay, Benefits** *(Military.com)*

November 21, 2014 | by Brendan McGarry

Troop advocates led by the powerful Military Officers Association of America are pressing key senators to reconsider controversial budget proposals that would cut military pay and benefits.

Norb Ryan, president of MOAA, the nation’s largest officers’ association, said he’s concerned the final compromise on the 2015 defense budget may include proposals to reduce troop pay raises, housing allowances and pharmacy benefits. He’s calling for the Senate to debate the issue like it did this week for the proposed Keystone XL pipeline.

The House of Representatives passed its version of the 2015 defense authorization bill, which sets policy and spending goals. But the legislation stalled in the Senate.

Now, leaders of defense panels in both chambers are negotiating to bypass the normal legislative process to get the bill passed by the end of the year.

"I’m disappointed that they can’t take one day to have a healthy debate by all duly elected 100 senators,” he said during an interview on Thursday with Military.com. "The 435 representatives took the time to do it … Why can’t the Senate do the same?"

His group led a lobbying blitz in recent days to persuade senators on both sides of the political aisle to rethink the Pentagon’s plans to cut troop pay raises to 1 percent from the statutory 1.8 percent, curb basic allowances for housing (BAH) by 5 percent over three years, and increase Tricare pharmacy co-pays.

Last week, the organization flooded senators with letters urging them to support amendments that would block the proposals. This week, it took out advertisements in Capitol Hill newspapers *Politico* and *The Hill* with a similar message.

Ryan, a retired vice admiral who was once the chief of naval personnel, has also spoken out against the plans to multiple news outlets.

"It looks like DoD is throwing a bunch of stuff on the wall and hoping that something sticks,” he said. "They think we have to fund readiness by taking the money away from the people who are being asked to do more and more.

"The House Armed Services Committee, led by retiring Rep. Howard "Buck" McKeon of California, was silent on the troop pay issue, but opposed the benefits reductions. The House version of the bill doesn’t specify a pay raise of 1 percent, though it gives President Barack Obama the authority to set it at that level, which he has already vowed to do.

Continued on page 9
By law, the raises are supposed to keep pace with private-sector wage growth, measured at 1.8 percent in 2015.

Meanwhile, the Senate Armed Services Committee, headed by retiring Sen. Carl Levin of Michigan, backed such Republicans as Sens. John McCain of Arizona and Lindsey Graham of South Carolina – to help the Defense Department better manage automatic, across-the-board budget cuts known as sequestration.

Pentagon officials have said the changes are needed to curb personnel costs, which are budgeted at $177 billion in fiscal 2015, or more than a third of the department’s non-war budget of $496 billion. Including civilian personnel, the percentage rises to almost half of the spending plan.

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Army Gen. Martin Dempsey cited the latter figure this week at a defense conference in Washington, D.C., in arguing for why the Pentagon needs support from Capitol Hill to make the necessary reforms.

"The joint chiefs linked arms and said, ‘OK, we got it. We got to get our manpower costs under control to make the all-volunteer force sustainable,’’ he said. "But we're not getting any of them."

The Congressional Budget Office this month released a report showing the Pentagon’s base budget surged 31 percent to $502 billion in fiscal 2014 from $384 billion in fiscal 2000 in inflation-adjusted terms. "Several factors contributed to that growth,” it states. "The largest rate of growth was in the costs for military personnel, which increase by 46 percent over the period.”

Ryan argues that manpower costs consume about the same share of the defense budget as they did in the 1980s. The increased personnel spending helped eliminate a pay gap between the military and civilian sector, and expand troop benefits that improved the quality of the force, he said. What’s more, the rate of growth in personnel costs has actually declined since 2011, he said.

"Thank God the Congress had the vision to improve pay, to improve housing, to improve medical – the things that have sustained the all-volunteer force through these 13 years of war,” he said. "Now, we’re afraid all of that is going to be undone.”

Meeting with reporters in September, Sen. Levin said:

"We’re going to get an authorization bill one way or another, I’m confident of that, ideally with amendments.” But that appears to have changed.

The lawmakers held negotiations this week to craft a conference report, a fast-track maneuver that would skip the normal process of debating and voting on amendments. But they hit a stalemate over the personnel proposals and left town on recess Thursday before finishing the work. Congress is set to return in December for a couple of weeks before adjourning for the year.

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Groups Push Senators to Rethink Planned Cuts to Troop Pay, Benefits

Two years after Congress ordered the Veterans Affairs Department to increase access for service dogs to its facilities, the department is moving to alter its policies.

In a proposed change to regulations, VA plans to let service dogs into its facilities and medical centers as long as they are under the control of their handlers and the animal is trained to perform a task for a person with a disability, including physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disabilities.

Current policy holds that VA facilities are required to let in only seeing eye dogs; facilities managers have discretion to open their buildings to other dogs.

The proposed change is more liberal than a law passed in 2012, which required VA to let in seeing eye dogs, mobility dogs and other guide dogs that have been trained and accredited by an organization that evaluates guide dogs and service dogs.

If implemented, the new policy, published Friday in the Federal Register, would expand access for all types of service dogs, similar to the access provisions spelled out in the Americans With Disabilities Act for private businesses.

Under that law, businesses, state and local governments, non-profits and other entities that serve the public must grant access to all service dogs.

Establishments are not allowed to ask for any documentation that the animal is a service dog; they can only ask if the animal is needed for a disability and what task the animal has been trained to perform.
2014 Officers and Directors

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menoski@msn.com

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thenness2@juno.com

Treasurer
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Secretary
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Directors
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Walt Visniski (CDR, USN Ret) (352) 331-8553
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-Membership-
Roger Pierce (Maj, USAF Ret) (352) 378-7063
roger@piercepages.com

-Newsletter/TOPS Liaison-
Jim Gleason (COL, USA Ret) (352) 333-8974
gleason6@cox.net

MILITARY OFFICER’S WIVES (MOW) 2015

SOCIAL HOUR 11:30AM LUNCH 12:00 PM

Tuesday, 10 February 2015—Luncheon (Valentine’s Event), Gainesville Country Club. 12:30
Sunday, 12 April 2015—Spring Brunch, Gainesville Country Club. 1230

Thursday, 7 May 2015—Cinco De Mayo at Linda Vista
- (Name change from Mexico Lindo)—social 1800—Dinner 1830.

June/July/August—No events.

Monday, September 2015—Joint Luncheon with Rotary at Napolatano's—1200

Sunday, 11 October 2015—Brunch/Membership Drive, (Speaker: ) Gainesville Country Club —1230

Saturday, 7 November—MOPH-MOAA Golf Tournament, Gainesville Country Club 1300

Wednesday, 11 November—Veterans Day Picnic, Ginnie Springs—1430.

Thursday, 11 December 2014—Holiday Dinner, Gainesville Country Club. Social Hour 1830- Dinner 1900

GAINESVILLE CHAPTER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday, 27 January 2015 — Military Officer’s Wives (MOW) Luncheon—Gainesville Country Club

Tuesday, 24 March 2015—Military Officer’s Wives (MOW) Luncheon—Gainesville Country Club

Tuesday, May TBA 2015—Military Officer’s Wives (MOW) Luncheon —Gainesville Country Club

Tuesday 27 October 2015—Military Officer’s Wives (MOW) Luncheon—Gainesville Country Club
Chapter Board Meeting

Date: 9 December 2014

Time: 1900

Location: Queen of Peace Church, 10900 SW 24th Avenue [Enter the Church, and go to the right to the meeting room]

All Members, Perspective Members, Auxiliary Members, and Spouses are welcome.
MERRY CHRISTMAS

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Gainesville Chapter, MOAA
P.O. Box 142423
Gainesville, FL 32614–2423

We Thank Our Sponsors.

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Funeral Care
Jim Lynch
Veteran’s Representative
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jlynch@forestmeadowsfh.com

Ward & Ward
Attorneys and Counselors at Law

PETER H. WARD
(352) 375-4761
GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA 32607

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