



# The Volusia Officers Call

## West Volusia MOAA Chapter, INC. (WVMC)

An Affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America



**Vol 31, No 8, APR 2023**

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### **MOAA's Mission**

The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) is a nonprofit veterans' association dedicated to maintaining a strong national defense and ensuring our nation keeps its commitments to currently serving, retired, and former members of the uniformed services and their families and survivors. Membership is open to those who hold or have ever held a warrant or commission in any component of the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Space Force, Coast Guard, Public Health Service, or NOAA and their surviving spouses.



### **President's Perspective—**

Greetings to all. As we wrap up this year's meeting cycle, I want to update you on several Chapter activities and initiatives. First, thanks to everyone who has contributed to the Scholarship Fund Drive. This is an important community outreach made possible by your generosity. If you haven't already done so, please consider donating to this cause. Thus far, we have received and reviewed one scholarship application from University High School. We are also presenting certificates to deserving Cadets at the annual Leadership Awards ceremonies held in April. Our thanks go out to LTC Laura Wickett for her leadership and tenacity as our chapter JROTC Liaison. As a reminder, the Chapter Board for the 2023-2024 meeting cycle is being voted on at the April 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. My thanks to the new volunteer Board members. I could not do this without you.

The "Operation Camaraderie Picnic" is set for April 27, 2023, at Gemini Springs Park in DeBary. RSVP is required. Please refer to the information flyer included in this newsletter. Come Join us! Also, The Florida Council of Chapters (FCoC) Convention in St. Augustine is quickly approaching, from 19 to 21 May 2023. Again, RSVP online at the FCoC website no later than April 27, 2023.

*"And, as I know firsthand, there is always a simple yet profound benefit from just sitting down with a fellow service member. So many who came before all of us decided to join and help carry the mantle. Let's share our stories, let's share the benefits of membership, and let's all be recruiters of the next person who will be proud and excited to be a member of MOAA!"* Lt. Gen. Brian T. Kelly, USAF (Ret).

(continued on page 6)

WEST VOLUSIA MOAA CHAPTER  
LEADERSHIPOFFICERS**President:**

**MAJ Raul Gonzalez, FLARNG, RET**  
386-366-4473      majgonz@earthlink.net

**First Vice President:**

**LTC Laura Wickett, USA, RET**  
321-604-6694      lrwickett52@gmail.com

**Second Vice President: *vacant*****Secretary:**

**LtCol Twila Davis, USAF, RET**  
717-729-8281      flygirltltc@gmail.com

**Treasurer:**

**Maj Pete Durnell, USAF, RET**  
321-443-6264      petedurnell@aol.com

DIRECTORS

**Col Jim Winter, USAF, RET**  
386-801-1849      jwwinter42@gmail.com

**MAJ Shirley Burtnett, USA, RET**  
215-776-6599      2dtsailing@gmail.com

**Maj Mick Cotten, USMC, RET**  
386-490-7343      mickcotten@icloud.com

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

**1LT Raymond Parker, USA, FMR**  
305-775-4291      rap@phrst.com

APPOINTED POSITIONS**Chief of Staff:**

**Maj Curt Voelbel, USAF, RET**  
386-479-3400      LgtCurt@gmail.com

**Chaplain:**

**CH LtCol Christopher Hoffmann, USAFR, RET**  
863-398-6265      cahoffmann60@gmail.com

**ROTC/JROTC Liaison:**

**LTC Laura Wickett, USA, RET**

**Community Relations :**

**CW4 Tom Jackson, USA, RET**  
540-604-7163      Thoas.d.jackson@outlook.co

**Legislative:**

**CAPT Suzanne Bonner, USN, RET**  
386-738-7752      sable5662002@yahoo.com

**Membership:**

**Maj Curt Voelbel, USAF, RET**

**Personal Affairs :**

**LtCol Twila Davis, USAF, RET**

**Scholarship:**

**LTC Laura Wickett, USA, RET**

**Webmaster:**

**MAJ Raul Gonzalez, FLARNG, RET**

**Editor:**

**COL John Burtnett, USA, RET**  
215-776-6599      volusiaofficerscall@gmail.com

**Surviving Spouse Liaison:**

**Mrs. Lisa Hightower**  
386-216-3767      lisamh4550@yahoo.com

**MOAA Take Action Center -**

<http://takeaction.moaa.org>

**Legislative -**

Listed here are just 2 of the important issues requesting assistance from all MOAA Members. Go to MOAA National's Active Legislative Campaigns Advocacy page and help supports these vital issues:

**Ask Your House Member to Support the Expanding America's National Cemetery Act**

A long-term legislative solution will preserve burial with military honors for countless elderly and women veterans who could lose that earned benefit – but only if MOAA members and others encourage their lawmakers to act. Outreach to your House member will help improve the chances for the Expanding America's National Cemetery Act (H.R. 1413) to be either enacted as standalone legislation or be included in the FY 2024 NDAA.

**Urge Your Legislators to Support Concurrent Receipt**

It's the start of a new Congress, and any legislation not signed into law during the previous Congress will need to be reintroduced. So contact your representative and senators and urge them to support the Major Richard Star Act, which would authorize combat-injured veterans to receive their full DoD retirement pay earned for years of service and their full VA disability compensation for lifelong injury.

Currently, these combat-injured (and often seriously disabled) veterans are subject to a cost-saving offset where their retirement pay is reduced for every dollar of VA disability received. To reduce earned retirement pay because of a combat disability is an injustice; the compensation for these injured veterans is not the place to achieve savings.

Prepared by CAPT Suzanne Bonner  
USN, (Ret), Legislative

***Last Meeting (1 MAR 2023) -***

President, MAJ Raul Gonzalez called the meeting to order at 1144 hours.

Attendance: 40

CH LTC Chris Hoffmann gave the invocation followed by The Pledge of Allegiance.

MAJ Gonzalez welcomed our guests and members: Ms. Pat Green, MOAA National Surviving Spouse Liaison; MAJ Lorraine Holland FCoC Area VP; member-CAPT Bob Maynard; Kathy Pugh, wife of member Col James Pugh and their guests Tammy McBride and Beverly Olsen.

Lunch was served: Chicken Alfredo with Broccoli, and Brownie with Ice Cream

MAJ Gonzalez asked Maj Curt Voelbel that the 50/50 drawings be done at this time. Followed by the members' free lunch drawing.

Col James Pugh won the free lunch for the 5 April 2023 meeting/luncheon.

MAJ Gonzalez introduced the guest speaker:

Jake Johansson began his career as an enlistee sailor in the United States Navy. He attended night school at Troy University and received his commission as an officer in 1989. He was winged as a Naval Flight Officer in 1991.

In his 35-and-a-half-year career he held numerous leadership positions at the line and staff level. He flew combat missions in support of multiple operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. He was the commanding officer of Patrol Squadron FOUR and they safely flew over 5000 hours of combat missions over Iraq without incident. His staff tours were with the Chief of Naval Operations in the Pentagon, and later in his career with the Commander, Naval Air Forces Pacific. He

was also personally selected by Vice President Richard B. Cheney as his Naval Aide for three years carrying the "football." He also was selected to command a Naval Base (Naval Support Activity in Norfolk, Virginia) and was responsible for 5 local naval bases of national importance. During these tours he was a guiding force in base operations, infrastructure development, military-civil collaboration, homeland security, ethics training and investigations, and leadership training. He has been awarded an Air Medal, Bronze Star, Legion of Merit and Defense Superior Service medal for actions in defense of our nation.

He has a Master's degree (honors) in Public Administration from Old Dominion University.

Prior to his election as your Volusia County At Large representative he was the City Manager of Port Orange, FL from August 2015 to December 2020.

He has served on multiple boards and committees in his military and civilian career.

He and his wife currently own and operate Core Concepts Leadership consulting specializing in keynote speaking, executive coaching and organization leadership training. They are facilitators of the Port Orange, South Daytona, Daytona Beach Shores Youth Civic Leadership Training Experience and the Southeast Volusia Leadership program.

He was elected to the Volusia County Council and started serving in January 2023. He has a four-year term.

Mr. Johansson stated he grew up in western New York. He joined the Navy after High School and it was the best decision he ever made. The military opened many doors of opportunities for him.

(continued on page 4)

***Last Meeting - continued from page 3***

He encouraged every veteran to connect with the younger generation and share their story. Our country needs the younger generation to understand the importance of serving in the military.

Mr. Johansson ran for County Council because he realized the county could improve in many areas and he felt he could bring positive change to the Council by implementing the 5 C's: Communicate, Collaborate, Cooperate, Common Sense, and Compromise.

He listed areas that need the Council's attention: Coastal Restoration, Fix Infrastructure, Preserve and Conserve Resources.

MAJ Gonzalez thanked Mr. Johansson for speaking to the Chapter today and presented a certificate of appreciation to him.

MAJ Gonzalez asked if there were any corrections to the 1 FEB 2023 Meeting Minutes as posted in the Volusia Officer's Call (VOC). Motion was made to accept the minutes as published by LTC Laura Wickett and seconded by Ms. Lisa Hightower. Motion carried.

MAJ Gonzalez called for reports:

Secretary's Report: LtCol Twila Davis-nothing to report

Treasurer's Report: Maj Pete Durnell reported a balance as of 1 MAR 2023 of \$ 5777.91. Treasurer's report is given for informational purposes and is subject to audit.

Directors and Committee Reports:

LTC Laura Wickett -1<sup>st</sup> VP – nothing to report as 1<sup>st</sup> VP.

2nd VP- vacant -

Maj Mick Cotten -Director-excused.

Col Jim Winter -Director- excused.

MAJ Shirley Burtnett -Director -nothing to report.

LTC Laura Wickett- Scholarship Chair- LTC Wickett stated the JROTC award ceremonies are coming up and she is looking for members to attend and assist in presenting the awards. Please contact her if you are interested. LTC Wickett stated the letters for scholarship applications and leadership awards have gone out to the four local high schools Senior Military Instructors and Guidance Counselors.

CAPT Suzanne Bonner -Legislative Chair – nothing to report.

Maj Curt Voelbel –Chief of Staff and Membership Chair– we have 54 current members our goal is 58. Encouraged everyone to invite prospective members. Maj Voelbel stated he is working on the Slate of Officers for 2023-2024. There is an opening for a Legislative Affairs Officer. Please contact Maj Voelbel if interested.

CW04 Thomas Jackson- Community Relations- nothing to report.

Past President- 1LT Ray Parker- excused.

CH LTC Chris Hoffmann- Chaplain- CH Hoffmann stated many people feel like they don't have anything to offer. CH Hoffmann stated we are all sinners but we all have something to offer and you can make a difference. God has a greater plan for each of us.

COL Jack Burtnett – Editor –nothing to report.

Ms. Lisa Hightower – Surviving Spouse Liaison- nothing to report.

(continued on page 5)

***Last Meeting - continued from page 4*****OLD BUSINESS:**

MAJ Gonzalez stated the planning committee is working on the Spring Event: "Operation Comaraderie" scheduled for 27 April 2023 1000-1500 at Gemini Springs Park. RSVP to CAPT Suzanne Bonner.

MAJ Gonzalez stated we are conducting a WVMC Scholarship Fund Raiser. To keep donations private, members received an envelope in the mail with a donation card and return envelope. MAJ Gonzalez reported there has been a very good response and about 40% of our members have replied.

LTC Wickett stated our Chapter has been invited to the ROTC Military Ball. If you are interested, please contact her. So far, she has 6 RSVPs for this event.

MAJ Gonzalez stated the FCoC 2023 Convention will be held at the Renaissance Hotel World Golf Village, St. Augustine, FL May 19-21, 2023. Registration closes April 27, 2023.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Our next luncheon meeting will be 5 April 2023. The Chapter will be visited by CAPT Jim Carman, a representative from MOAA National at our April meeting.

MAJ Gonzalez stated our Chapter has been asked to host the 2024 FCOC Annual Convention 12-15 May 2024. The Board of Directors have approved our participation in this event. We are looking for 15 people to help with this event. Please see Maj Pete Durnell if you can help with this event.

**GOOD OF THE CHAPTER:**

LTC Wickett stated the Barracks of Hope, a shelter for homeless veterans, is in need of personal hygiene items i.e., toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, deodorant and twin size sheets.

She suggested our Chapter support this cause. This will be discussed at the Board of Directors meeting next week.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

There will be a Fall Festival honoring Veterans in SEP 2023. They will be presenting Quilts of Honor and are looking for nominations. LTC Wickett has more information.

LTC Wickett announced the VA Clinic on Dunn Ave is in need of Hormel Complete meals to hand out to veterans in need. POC is Tony Diana LTC Wickett announced the American Legion Post 187 is hosting a Children and Youth Program on 1 April 2023.

Executive Board Meeting will be held on 8 March 2023 1000 hours at the Debary Country Club. Members are welcome to attend.

Next luncheon meeting will be 5 April 2023 at Debary Country Club.

Meeting adjourned at 1318 hours.

*Prepared by LtCol Twila Davis, USAF, (Ret)  
Secretary*

***Corley's are Honorees***

LTC Milton Corley, USA, Ret., and Rutha Corley have been selected as Honorees during Black History Month by the Greater Union Life Center of DeLand. The Corley's were selected because of their long, devoted community advocacy. To read more see the Beacon newspaper's article of March 16-22, 2023. The article highlights their excellent contribution to the community.

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## WVMC MARCH Guest Speaker



Jake Johansson, retired Navy CAPT and Volusia County At Large representative on the Volusia County Council, gave a very informative and entertaining talk at the March luncheon. Pictured at left, Shirley Burtnett and President Raul Gonzalez present a certificate of Appreciation to Jake Johansson.

Photo by Jack Burtnett

## Information from the Vice President

1. Here is a recap of the Veteran's Council of Volusia County's monthly meeting: NE Chapter of American Gold Star Mothers, Fall Festival, September 23 is taking nominations for Quilts of Honor. Remembering Heroes is having their 2nd Annual Pig Roast, April 29, at 2K Ranch of Bunnell, Donations: \$25.00 for Adults, Children 6 and under are Free. Contact Cathy Heigher for both events: 386-931-8323'

2. The Veterans Clinic on Dunn Ave. Daytona Beach is in need of Hormel Complete Meals. Meals can be bought on Amazon, and can be delivered to Tony Vianna, Veteran's Service Officer. These meals are given to homeless veterans who are destitute.

3. The homeless shelter for Veterans, The Bar-rack of Hope on Seagrave Avenue, Daytona Beach, is in need of twin bed linens, personal grooming supplies, wash cloths and towels.

4. American Legion Post 187 is hosting a Children and Youth Day, April 1st. The Post is located at 415 W. Voorhis, Deland.

LTC Laura Wickett, USA, Ret  
1st Vice President

## Slate of Officers for 2023

The following Slate of Officers and Directors for MOAA Chapter (FL30) is proposed for terms that will begin at the May 2023 meeting. Your vote will be for the elected officers only, the others will be appointed by President Gonzalez. Before voting, Maj Voelbel will ask for any additional nominations from the floor.

### ELECTED POSITION

President	MAJ Raul Gonzalez
1st Vice	LTC Laura Wickett
2nd Vice	CAPT Suzanne Bonner
Secretary	LtCol Twila Davis
Treasurer	MAJ Pete Durnell
Director	Col Jim Winter
Director	Maj Mick Cotten
Director	MAJ Shirley Burtnett

### APPOINTED BY PRESIDENT

Chaplain	LtCol Chris Hoffmann
Chief of Staff	Maj Curt Voelbel
Membership Chair	Maj Curt Voelbel
Scholarship Liaison	LTC Laura Wickett
Legislative Chair	LTC Michael Galaty
Surviving Spouse Liaison	Mrs. Lisa Hightower
Newsletter Editor	COL Jack Burtnett
Webmaster	MAJ Raul Gonzalez
Personal Affairs	LtCol Twila Davis
Community Relations	CWO4 Thomas Jackson

Immediate Past Pres. 1 Lt Ray Parker

Maj Curt Voelbel, USAF, RET  
Chief of Staff

## President's Perspective—continued from page 1

There are many ways to enhance the "local chapter" experience. But the best way I know is to get involved! We are unique but our shared service unites us. See you at the meeting.

*Raul Gonzalez*

MAJ Raul Gonzalez, FLARNG, RET  
President

## Membership -

Have you invited anyone to our April 5 Luncheon yet? We hope to see them there! Recruiting is really that simple, merely tell your story! So what else does it take; well, much like all successful actions it takes being consistently intentional. Help us reach our goal of having 58 members of which we are currently 4 short. We have accomplished this in prior years, let's make it happen again.

*Maj Curt Voelbel, USAF, RET*  
*Membership*

## The Chaplain's Corner -



### Making it through suffering

Every parent dreads the thought of having to bury their child before them. It seems to upset the natural order of things. Yet, we know that sometimes children are born into the world with limitations. I have met a number of parents who realize their child won't make it into adulthood. Yet, they want their child to experience life proper to their age and experience. We are fortunate to have organizations like Give Kids the World that want children, even with death dealing illnesses, to experience the thrills of a theme park.

We know that in this life we all have limitations. We may not visit every place on our "bucket list." We might not get to see the Northern Lights, or whatever we wish we could see in person. Yet when it is a child that has a life threatening illness, that list is very short.

For those of us who profess a Christian faith

we believe that Jesus Christ came to this earth to show us that God has not given up on us. We are not alone. We know that an eternity awaits us with things that we can only imagine now.

Even if you don't share that faith, within the breast of every human being is a belief that we have a destiny that is greater than we can imagine this side of death. This time of year, we remember the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We ponder how we can be loved by a God that we have turned away from so often.

May this spring and the hope of the season remind you that you are loved and that you have a destiny. Be open to surprises!

*LtCol Chris Hoffmann, USAF, RET*  
*Chaplain*



The next meeting, 5 Apr, will be held at the DeBary Country Club, 300 Plantation Club Drive, DeBary, FL 32713. The meal will be salmon filet glazed in a sweet Thai chili sauce, Chef's vegetable and starch along with rolls, coffee or tea. There will also be Chef's choice of a small dessert. The lunch cost is **\$24** per meal. We ask that you either pay by check or with cash (exact change helps) at the door. The guest speaker will be MOAA's Vice President, Council/Chapter and Member Support (National MOAAA), Capt. Jim Carman, USN, (Ret),

Please bring your unexpired pantry items for the Salvation Army and your donations for Barracks of Hope.

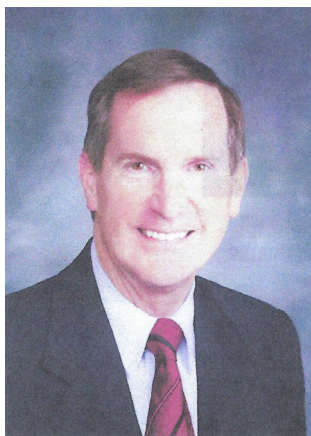
**Upcoming Meeting: 5 APR 2023**  
**Following Meeting: 3 MAY 2023**  
**Upcoming Board Meeting: 12 APR 2023**

Meetings are held at the DeBary Country Club, 300 Plantation Club Drive, DeBary, FL 32713. Social hour starts at 1100 hrs., lunch served at 1130 followed by an interesting guest speaker, then a short business meeting.

### Guest Speaker's Bio -

**Capt. Jim Carman, USN (Ret), CAE**

Vice President, Council/Chapter and Member Support (MOAA National).



As MOAA's Vice President, Council/Chapter and Member Support, Capt. Jim Carman, USN (Ret), is responsible for planning and executing member support functions to include oversight of MOAA's 400 geographic and virtual councils, chapters, and satellite affiliates; operation of MOAA's Member Service Center; planning and execution of

MOAA's career transition support services, finance and benefits education programs, caregiver support program, surviving spouse engagement program, and annual membership events; and works with the General Counsel to support MOAA's national board of directors. He also conducts career transition and benefits education facilitations and council and chapter visitations in support of MOAA's advocacy, leadership, education, and service missions.

#### CAREER HIGHLIGHTS:

- Commanded two Navy operational units, Patrol Squadron Ten and Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing Ten, while serving as a Naval pilot.
- Selected to serve two Vice Presidents as a member of the White House Staff.
- Currently leads the Member Support Group at MOAA, the strongest team with whom he has ever served.



### From the Chief of Staff -

Regarding **Veterans Causes**, your Board has decided to support Barracks of Hope in Daytona Beach. They provide transitional housing for up to 9 months to male and female veterans who have struggled with homelessness, addiction, and mental health. Single occupancy rooms are provided, along with mental health counseling, case management, and three meals per day. In 2019, Barracks of Hope served 52 veterans and helped move 28 into permanent housing.

**Please bring to each luncheon "Hygiene Bags" filled with Toothpaste, Brush, Shampoo, Soap, Deodorant, etc. in a plastic Zip bag.**

Your Board has also decided to donate funds from our "Veteran Causes" bucket donations to Project Vet Relief. This is sponsored by the Florida American Legion and they offer support to veterans in need. Web site: [projectvetrelief.org](http://projectvetrelief.org); Phone number 407-295-2631.

*Maj Curt Voelbel, USAF, RET*  
*Chief of Staff*

### Member Responsibility for Luncheons

We have been having a problem and need your help. People have been committing to come to the WVMC luncheon and not showing up. When we order the meals based on the number of people who have said they are coming, we must pay for them whether everyone shows up or not. Five people who committed did not show up for the January luncheon. The Items to Note on the last page of the VOC has been carrying the following message, "People making reservations for the luncheon/meeting are expected to pay unless they cancel their reservation before the Friday prior to the luncheon."

We cannot continue to absorb these losses. We expect those who have committed to showing up to pay for their meals.

If there is a legitimate reason, please notify Maj Curt Voelbel at [LgtCurt@gmail.com](mailto:LgtCurt@gmail.com) or call him at 386 479-3400, ASAP. If he has time to cancel the reservation, he will; if not, he will bring the situation to the Board of Directors for disposition.

*President MAJ Raul Gonzalez, FLARNG (Ret)*



**JOIN WEST VOLUSIA MOAA CHAPTER  
FOR OUR SECOND OUTDOOR  
OPERATION  
CAMARADERIE  
PICNIC**

**Thursday, April 27, 2023, 10 AM to 3PM**

**Gemini Springs Park, Pavilion # 5  
(37 Dirksen Drive, DeBary, FL 32713)**

**Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, Sides & Fixings.**

**Soft Drinks included.**

**(Wine & Beer Allowed- Bring your own. No Glass Containers & NO HARD LIQUOR)**

**\$10.00 per person (pay at park)**

**Park Entrance is FREE**

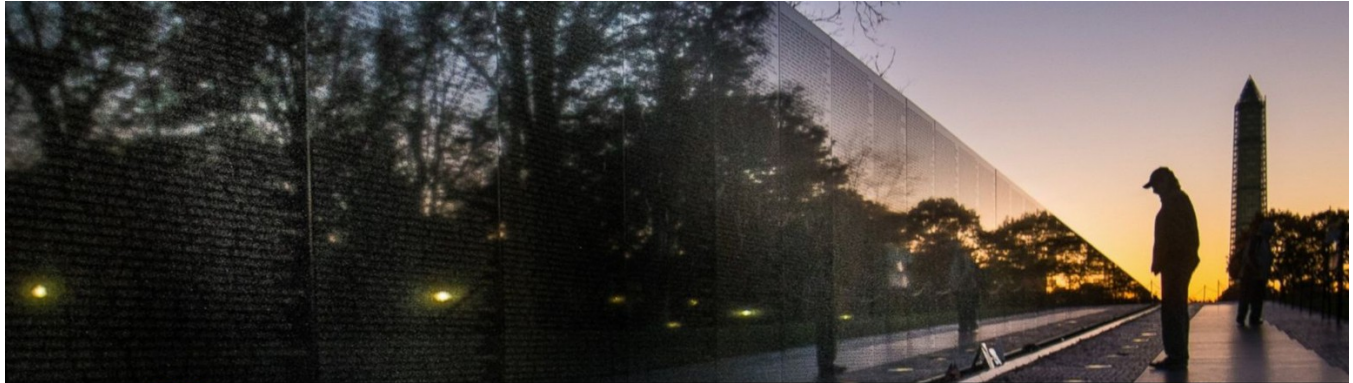
**RSVP: CAPT Suzanne Bonner 912-339-0988**

**Or e-mail [sable5662002@yahoo.com](mailto:sable5662002@yahoo.com)**

**RSVP NO LATER THAN 24 APRIL 2023**







# NATIONAL VIETNAM VETERANS DAY CEREMONY



Join Orlando VA Healthcare System and local, state, and national dignitaries for a recognition ceremony to thank and honor all United States Armed Forces Vietnam Era Veterans and their families with active-duty service between November 1, 1955 and May 15, 1975, regardless of location.

**Wednesday, March 29, 2023,  
11:00am - 12:00pm**

**Orlando VA Medical Center**

13800 Veterans Way  
Orlando, FL 32827

- \* Ceremony will be held at the Central Florida Veterans Memorial Park next to the Chapel. RSVP for this event is required. Please scan the QR code below!



VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs  
Veterans Health Administration  
Orlando VA Healthcare System



**The Volusia Officers Call**  
**West Volusia MOAA Chapter, INC.**  
*An Affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America*



### Items to Note -

#### Free Meals

Those attendees who win a free lunch from the "ticket drawing" will only be able to claim their free lunch at the NEXT meeting.

To help us serve you better, we are asking all members to send copies of their DD 214 to our Secretary, LtCol Twila Davis at (email): [flygirltcd@gmail.com](mailto:flygirltcd@gmail.com). If you feel more comfortable, redact your social security number.

*Notice: WVMC does not endorse any of the paid advertisers.*

If you are receiving this via U.S. Postal delivery and if you have email, we can get the VOC to you more quickly and at less expense to WVMC. Please let the editor know your email by contacting him at [volusiaofficerscall@gmail.com](mailto:volusiaofficerscall@gmail.com)

Check out OUR website at [www.moaafll.org/Chapters/VolusiaMOAA](http://www.moaafll.org/Chapters/VolusiaMOAA) It has a lot of information and links to useful information for all vets. The website gives guidance about how prospective members can join MOAA and WVMC.

***National MOAA and the West Volusia MOAA Chapter are nonpartisan organizations.***

New name tags reflecting the name change for our organization are available from MAJ Raul Gonzalez at the monthly meetings or by contacting him at: [majgonz@earthlink.net](mailto:majgonz@earthlink.net). The cost is \$15.

People making reservations for the luncheon/meeting are expected to pay unless they cancel their reservation before the Friday prior to the luncheon.



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[raulgsells@gmail.com](mailto:raulgsells@gmail.com)  
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**DeBary Country Club**

The Perfect Venue For Special Occasions.  
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Contact: Ms. Lynn Ribaud  
 386-668-11705 x1 [Lynn@debarycc.com](mailto:Lynn@debarycc.com)