



# OFFICER'S CALL

## MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

BROWARD COUNTY CHAPTER, INC.

May 2015

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Spring has almost ended and summer will soon begin. It starts with Memorial Day on May 25th. This is the most somber of our military holidays as we honor those who served but have moved on to "Fiddler's Green." That is an Army Cavalry expression, as I'm sure there are similar expressions in all military specialties. Remember to decorate with flags and attend a ceremony. We will have our own at the membership luncheon on May 17.

In April, the MOAA representatives conducted the annual "Storm the Hill" event. MOAA's position about this event is documented on the MOAA Website. Fact Sheets are also located there. Use these as a backdrop for and contact with an elected official. As many of you know, Active Duty personnel are prohibited by law from "lobbying." This relates primarily to the second part of our mission—"Preserving Veterans' Benefits."

As for the first part of our mission—"Preserving National Security", COL (Ret) Jim Armstrong and his crew are finalizing the "Go Forward" plan for this effort with the Broward County JROTC. They are paving the way for the process we want to institute for the future. Everyone will have a voice.

This is our last Officer's Call newsletter before summer break, so everyone travel safely. On the other hand, if you are here for our August "Picnic", it will be at Lynne Warrick's condo on the beach (Aegean) August 15. I don't know what Phil Myers' committee is brewing up, but it will be fun.

Very Best, Steve



### UPCOMING EVENTS

- 9 May – 10am – 11am Board Meeting** | John Knox Village (Heritage Tower)
- 22 – 25 May Florida Council of Chapters** | Annual Convention – St. Augustine, Florida
- 15 Aug – 12:00pm – 4:00pm Annual Picnic** | Aegean, 1000 S. Ocean Blvd., Pompano Beach
- 29 – 31 Oct – MOAA National Convention** | Orlando, Florida



## FALLEN, BUT NOT FORGOTTEN!



### CHAPTER CONCERNS AND INFORMATION

Please provide illness or other caring information regarding our members to our **Chaplain/Personal Affairs Chairman or 3<sup>rd</sup> VP (Personal Affairs, Awards.)**

This recurring column will provide Chapter members with the opportunity to share joys and information with each other and strengthen the bond we have as brother and sister officers and families of our nation's military veterans.

#### **Chapter elected officers include:**

*President:* LTC Steven Bettner | USA  
954.942.3651

*1<sup>st</sup> Vice President:* LtCol David Harper | USAF  
954.249.8868; *Programs, JROTC, Funding*

*2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President:* 1LT Michael Hunt | USA  
954.439.8925, *Membership*

*3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President:* MAJ Fred Richards | USAF  
305.915.8322; *Personal Affairs & Awards*

*Secretary:* Jean Bettner 954-942-3651

*Treasurer:* LtCol Charles Radoy, USAF  
561.733.7276

*Chaplain:* LTC Ronald Burgess |USA  
954.450.8823

### REMEMBERING OUR FALLEN ON MEMORIAL DAY

Recently I was asked by a widow to lead a simple service of remembrance at the grave of her husband buried in Arlington Cemetery. It was the one-year anniversary of his death. As I walked to the grave site, I noticed several family members at various graves paying honors and grieving at their loss.

Walking by one grave was a young woman and several other family members and friends placing a blanket on the grave so the wife could sit. A wheelchair was there with a young Marine who had no legs. He slowly lifted himself up by his arms and sat down on the blanket. The wife gently stroked the tombstone and wept. I positioned myself by the tombstone where I was to conduct the service. The family gathered and we began. There were tears, smiles of memory, and solemn looks as I shared love, hope, and faith.

After I concluded I turned back toward the other graves and to my surprise, every eye of multiple families in the area was watching me and had been listening to my words. There were tears, smiles, and silent mouthing of "thank you."

I was so moved by the moment. I slowly went back to my car and noticed the Marine slowly lift himself up back into his wheelchair while the young wife slowly folded the blanket to depart. When I came close, she reached out and took my hand and through her tears, she smiled and thanked me for my words that meant so much in her pain.

As I drove away tears streamed down my face as I prayed, "Dear Lord, hold them in your hands."

Prayer for all the fallen:

Master, Help me to never forget the price that is beyond imagination paid by our warriors and their families. Humble me so that I always feel their pain, joy, and sacrifice. I pray they rest with honor silently on guard for You. Help me to be worthy. Protect and heal the hearts of their families and comrades. Amen.

C. Ray Bailey  
Chaplain (BG) USA  
Deputy Chief of Chaplains

**A Broward JROTC Primer** Originally, the Junior Officers Training Corps (JROTC) was established by the National Defense Act of 1916. The USA entered WW1 the next year. Interestingly, the original program was mandatory for high school students but the college program, now the mainstay of officer commissioning, was a volunteer program.

JROTC languished for several decades and in 1964 was expanded from the Army to all services. In the 1980's, it opened to female students. In the 1970's, the program was attacked by those that felt JROTC was inappropriate for high school students but it was saved after parents of the Cadets came to its defense.

The first Broward program was established at Fort Lauderdale High School (US Navy) in 1973. Under the influence of General Colin Powell JROTC was expanded in the early 1990s. In the 1993 expansion, Broward County grew to 14 programs. Today there are 30 JROTC programs in the Broward School District, 19 Army, 2 USMC, 5 Navy and 3 USAF. This number includes the Hollywood Hills Military Academy, one of only two public military schools in Florida and the only academy in South Florida.

2014-2015 saw 7,500 Broward student cadets, the largest enrollment in Florida. In fact, Broward Public School's JROTC is the largest in the USA with JROTC in every traditional high school. Broward High School's JROTC graduation rate for the last five years has been over 99% with over 70% going on to attend post-secondary educational pursuits.

JROTC is arguably the best high school program a student can take. These are our country's future leaders, military and civilian.

# JROTC

## Corner

- Jim Armstrong, JROTC Committee Chairman

## IN MEMORY OF

Oliver, Colonel Billie Lee (U.S. Army Ret.), 88, of Coral Springs, went home to be with the Lord on April 10, 2015. He was born in Jackson, Michigan and grew up in Bandana, Kentucky. He was the son of George Muir Oliver and Della Oliver Warren. Colonel Oliver was drafted into W.W.II and he continued to serve his country for 31 years with honor and distinction. He also served in both the Korean and Vietnam Wars. Upon his retirement from the military, he and his family made thier home in Coral Springs, Florida. Because he enjoyed seeing growth and progress in the city, he began a second career with Coral Ridge Properties as a real estate broker. In both of his careers, Bill experienced distinguished service recognition for outstanding achievements. He was preceded by his loving wife of 49 years, Ann R. Oliver in 2009. He is survived by his three children, Susan Lockmiller, Paula Bonczek and Billie Oliver Jr., their spouses, David Lockmiller and Gayle Oliver; and his five grandchildren, Jonathan Lockmiller, Caroline Lockmiller, Clara Bonczek, Halle Oliver, and Lindsey Burrows. Kraeer Funeral Home, 1655 University Drive, Coral Springs, will receive the family and their friends on Thursday, April 23, 2015, 5:00 – 8:00 pm. A celebration service will be held on Friday, April 24, 2015, 10:00 am at Church by the Glades, 400 Lakeview Drive, Coral Springs. Interment with full military honors will immediately follow at South Florida National Cemetery, Lake Worth. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donating to Church by the Glades Missions at [www.nppinc.org](http://www.nppinc.org).



**BILLIE LEE OLIVER**  
COLONEL | U.S. ARMY (RETIRED)

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOC. OF AMERICA,  
BROWARD COUNTY CHAPTER, INC.

P.O. Box 8552  
Deerfield Beach, FL 33443-8552



## THE LEGISLATIVE CORNER

*By Thaddeus Hamilton*

CHAPTER WEBSITE: [www.browardmoaa.com](http://www.browardmoaa.com)

**What if???** Our military men and women risk their lives around the world every day. The least that we can do is to take care of them and their families.

If Congress implements the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission Final Report (MCRMC), America will be “stiff arming” military service members, their families and military retirees.

Fast Forward to Year 2019. A National Security incident occurs half way around the world. Just as SSG Hamilton and his family are just sitting down to enjoy Sunday morning breakfast. His children, John 5, Mary 7 and wife Sue discuss preparation for church. The phone rings: “Bulldog, we move out in 3 hours.”

He tells his family he has to go. They ask where, when will you be back, what is going on? He can only say, “I love you” as he leaves.

Two hours later he and his team sit on an airplane ready to deploy. The command comes, “It’s a Go.” 16 hours later and 5,000 feet above the DZ, his team jumps into combat. The Unit eliminates the Threat. Ten hours and 2 KIA, 6 WIA, but the mission is accomplished.

Three months later, the team goes to their civilian doctors for medical treatment. The receptionist tells them, “I am sorry but your Health Care Insurance will not cover your visit.” There is a problem with your policy. It may take up to 30 days to find out what the problem is. The receptionist tells them it may take longer - that Health Care Insurance is the worst.

Congress could do this to the American military services members by passing the MCRMC Final Report. **Please tell Congress to vote “NO” on the MCRMC Final Report.**