



# OFFICER'S CALL

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

BROWARD COUNTY CHAPTER, INC.

*November 2015*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



This has been a very busy month for our Chapter. For those of you who did not make it, the Vietnam Moving Wall event in Coral Springs was wonderful. Of the four night ceremonies, our Chapter had three presentations by our members, all Vietnam Veterans. Our Chaplain, Ron Burgess, delivered the invocations. Thanks for the great participation. There is an article inside the newsletter. That event led directly into what became "Veteran's Week" as we had the pleasure of participating in several events, both at high schools and civic events. We also participated in the proclamation

event at the County Commissioners' meeting. This has led to other efforts within the community which will further the Chapter goal of increasing our visibility.

In late October, David Harper and Jasmine, Thad Hamilton, and Jean and I went to the MOAA National Convention to accept the Five Star streamer on behalf of the Chapter. It was a great affair and Florida was well represented. The streamer now flies on our Chapter Flag--another accomplishment for our Chapter. We continue to reap the rewards of performance.

**We still need a volunteer for the Chapter Treasurer position.** This does not require an accountant, merely someone who can handle a checkbook. The only time commitment will be at the end of the fiscal year when we formulate our budget and close out the year. The Treasurer will be in the middle of all the action.

Another upcoming activity for 2016 will be to aggressively recruit new members. We have spent considerable time getting our infrastructure in place and refining our message---What We Do. Now we are primed to grow and 2016 is going to be very exciting for us.

Best,  
Steve

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**5 Dec – Board Meeting:** 10am – 12pm | John Knox Village, Hibiscus Room | Pompano Beach

**6 Dec – Annual Christmas Brunch:** 12:30pm – 3:00pm | Lighthouse Point Yacht-Racquet Club, 2701 NE 42<sup>nd</sup> Street

--**Bring:** 1) Unwrapped toy for up to 12 years of age; 2) Bottle of Adult beverage for Raffle



## A Distinctive American Holiday

### 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

Thanksgiving is a distinctive American holiday; there is nothing like it elsewhere in the world. It celebrates neither a savage battle nor the fall of a great city. It does not mark the anniversary of a great conqueror or the birthday of a famous statesman. It does not commemorate the writing of a historic public document or the launching of a new constitution. The American Thanksgiving Day is the expression of a deep feeling of gratitude by our people for the rich productivity of the land, a memorial of the dangers and hardships through which we have safely passed, and a fitting recognition of all that God in His goodness has bestowed upon us.

In early New England it was the custom at Thanksgiving time to place five grains of corn at every plate as a reminder of those stern days in the first winter when the food of the Pilgrims was so depleted that only five grains of corn were rationed to each individual at a time. The Pilgrim Fathers wanted their children to remember the sacrifice, suffering and hardship, which made possible the settlement of a free people in a free land. They wanted to keep alive the memory of that long sixty-three-day trip taken in the tiny *Mayflower*. They desired to keep alive the thought of that "stern and rock-bound coast," its inhospitable welcome, and the first terrible winter which took such a toll of lives. They did not want their descendants to forget that on the day in which their ration was reduced to five grains of corn, only seven healthy colonists remained to nurse the sick, and nearly half their numbers lay in the "windswept graveyard" on the hill. They did not want to forget that when the *Mayflower* sailed back to England in the Spring, only the sailors were aboard.

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





# CHAPTER HAPPENINGS

## MOAA National Convention

The MOAA National Convention was held Halloween weekend in Orlando, FL. Our Chapter had five representatives, Steve and Jean Bettner, David Harper and Jasmine, and Thad Hamilton. The big highlight of the affair was when they were awarding the Streamers to the State of Florida Council and Chapters. For some reason, our Chapter is first in line behind the State Council, and when our state was called, everyone was looking for John Morrison from State. After a few minutes, John came across the floor with the assistance of Marc Oliveri. The entire crowd stood up and applauded as John approached the dais. It was a very poignant moment. Below are a few shots of the proceedings.



Steve and Jean awarding a Broward County Certificate of Appreciation to Victoria Twynne, the contact at National MOAA who has been a great supporter of our Chapter.



GEN Charles T. Robertson, USAF (Ret) MOAA Chairman of the Board presents the five-star streamer to LTC Bettner, USA (Ret) Chapter President.



LTC Dave Harper USAF (Ret) and LTC Thad Hamilton USA (Ret) meet with GEN Dennis Via, Commanding General, USA Materiel Command





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

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

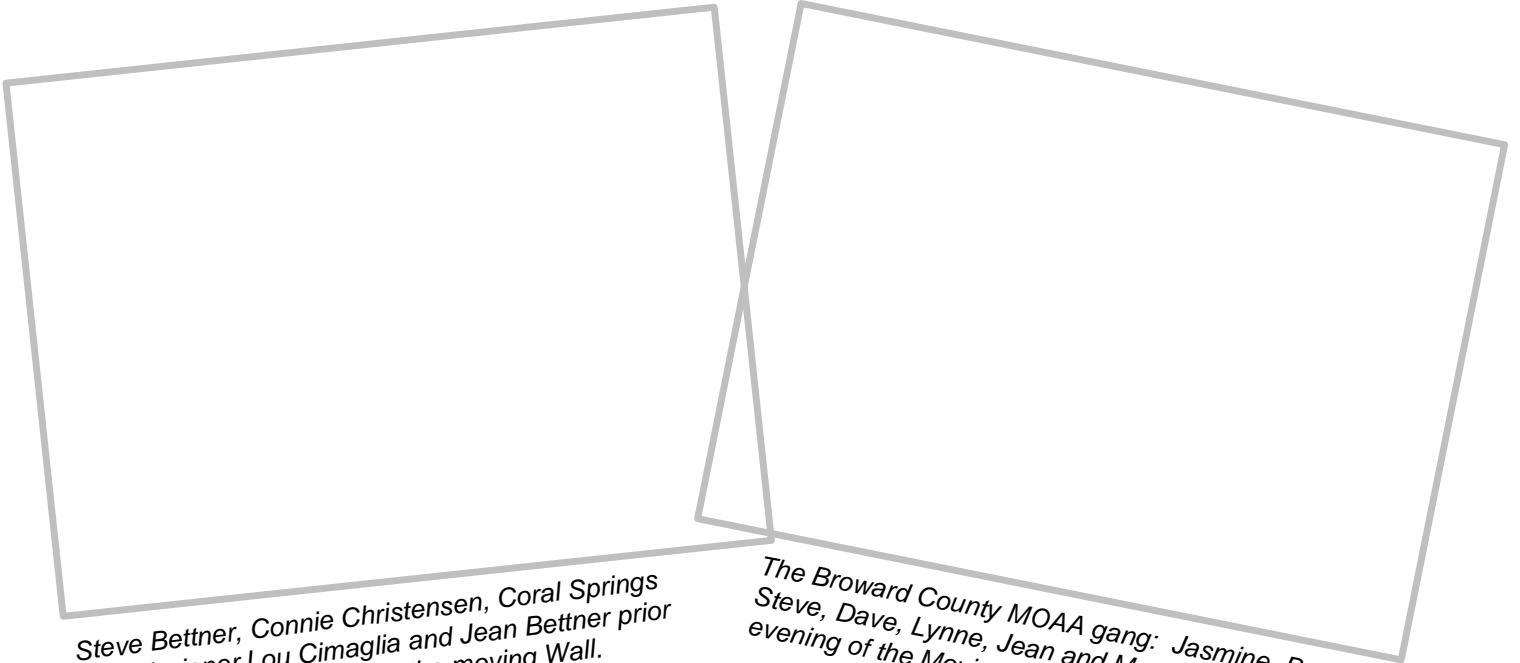
Veteran's Day, 2015. The Yacht Club was kind enough to invite us to join them in their celebration of Veterans' Day. We came dressed for the occasion, and it was a stellar evening. The Yacht Club staff treated us like royalty, as usual. We owe the entire Club staff and the Blue Gavel Club a big "Thank You" for a wonderful evening. We even had our new sign and Chapter Flag --with five star streamer---present. Thanks to those Members who could make it.





## The Moving Wall in Coral Springs, FL

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Steve Bettner, Connie Christensen, Coral Springs  
Commissioner Lou Cimaglia and Jean Bettner prior  
to Connie's speech at the moving Wall.

The Broward County MOAA gang: Jasmine, Barbara,  
Steve, Dave, Lynne, Jean and Mary before the final  
evening of the Moving Wall event on October 25

*The moving wall after sunset with Bagpipes playing "Amazing Grace".  
Look for more pictures on our Facebook page!!*