



# The Volusia Officer's Call

*Military Officers Club of Volusia County*

*An Affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America*

WEB SITE: [www.moaaf1.org/Chapters/VolusiaMOAA/Default.aspx](http://www.moaaf1.org/Chapters/VolusiaMOAA/Default.aspx)



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### 2017 NEWSLETTER & WEBSITE

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**VACANT—Volunteer Needed!**

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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, Coast Guard, Public Health Service, or NOAA and their surviving spouses.



## The Prez Sez - -

Our first Luncheon at the Grand Villa of DeLand on September 5th went very well. Thanks to all who attended and to the Grand Villa Staff for making this a success. Our Guest speaker, Chief Daniel R. Hanes, provided us with a State of The DeLand Fire Department and answered many questions. In October our Guest Speaker is Mr. Jeffrey "Jeff" Bumb, Director of Volusia County Veterans Services. Jeff will bring us up-to date on Veterans Health Initiatives and services available through his office.

We currently stand at 54 members in our chapter. If you have not received a copy of the "Recruitment Letter", please pick one up at our next meeting. It is a simple, effective recruiting tool. What we do locally, as one of 400 MOAA Chapters, is instrumental in MOAA's advocacy on behalf of all veterans. So, the more members we have, the stronger our voice.

This VOC contains more information about MOCVC Board activity and upcoming events. We recently established an email address. It is [mocvc5@gmail.com](mailto:mocvc5@gmail.com). This is another way that you can communicate with the Board and be heard. As a reminder, you can also write to us at MOCVC, PO Box 997, DeLand, FL 32721. So please, come to our next Luncheon on October 3rd at the Grand Villa of DeLand. See You There.

MAJ Raul Gonzalez, FLARNG (RET), President



## The Chaplain's Corner - -

### "Beforeness"

By Tony Robinson - -

"Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer." - Psalm 19:14

Chances are good that you've heard this verse, or a version of it, prayed before many a sermon.

But it wasn't written with just that pregnant moment, when hope and anxiety brew and bubble in about equal proportion, in mind.

It's a prayer for every day, every time and every person. It's a prayer for living our lives, all our lives, before and unto God.

It seems to me that this is the peculiar way the Bible understands life. In every time and place, we live before God.

To the extent that our own understanding of life is shaped by the scriptures, worship and prayer, we too come to understand life as lived before and unto God. Life, you might say, as doxology. A song to God (sometimes more in tune than others).

But often and in some churches today, I get a different sense. It (Cont'd on Page 4)

**NOTICE:** The Volusia Officer's Call is published monthly (September-May) by the Military Officers Club of Volusia County (an Affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America [MOAA] and the Florida Council of Chapters [FCOC], MOAA. Opinions of writers is their own, and do not necessarily reflect the position of the organization. Also, please note that information in The Volusia Officer's Call is not necessarily endorsed by MOAA or FCOC.



### Community Relations - -

The Salvation Army still needs our bags of canned items to help restocking its pantry shelves. Please bring as much as you can carry, or you can put a couple of bucks in the can.

President Gonzales will recommend a veteran organization to replace the Humane Society.

See you all OCTOBER 3rd.

"Covey Bob" Wiltuck, Col, USAF (RET), CommRelChair



### Next Meeting Scoop - -

The next meeting of the MOCVC is on 03 OCT18 at the Grand Villa of DeLand at 350 East International Speedway Blvd., in The Theater Room. Our Social Hour will start at 1100 HRS, and be followed by our Luncheon Meeting at 1200 HRS.

The guest speaker this month is scheduled to be Jeff Bumb of the Volusia County Veterans Services Office, who has worked miracles with the VA. Jeff is always interesting, so feel free to invite a friend.

The menu that we have requested of is Garden Salad, Chicken Cordon Blue, Chef's Choice Veggie, Mashed Potatoes with Gravy, and Carrot Cake for Desert.

Cost of the luncheon is still \$11.00 per seating (including the servers gratuity), except **Lt Joe Leone, USA, FMR**, who will get his for **FREE**.

RESERVATIONS ARE IMPORTANT - - WE USUALLY HAVE TO PAY FOR THE NUMBER OF MEALS ORDERED - - so please contact Col "Covey Bob" Wiltuck, USAF (RET) at **386-740-1898** or [wiltuckr@bellsouth.net](mailto:wiltuckr@bellsouth.net). **He needs your reservations by NOON on FRIDAY, 28SEP18** - - so call or email Bob **TODAY!** And please let him know if you need a Diabetic Fruit Dessert - - we can handle it!

Also, those individuals who do not have a reservation are welcome. However, they will be issued an "Alternative Meal" card, which must be displayed on their table - - and, if alternative meals are required, the servers will be instructed to serve them the alternate meals.

**OUR NEW POLICY** is that you will be expected to pay for any meal that you reserve, but fail to show up for - - but excuses will be reviewed by the BoD on a case-by-case basis to determine if an exception should be granted.



### Second Dues Notice -

Members are again reminded that dues are now due for the year 2018-19. We believe that the \$30.00 Dues are reasonable. Please get a check or MO to Secretary Twila Davie as soon as practicable. Twila's address is 3355 Tesoro Circle, New Smyrna Beach, FL 32168 - - or, better yet, come to the October meeting and pay your dues when you check in.



### Last Meeting (05SEP18) - -

President, MAJ Raul Gonzalez called the meeting to order at 12:00 hours.

Attendance: 38

Rutha Corley gave the invocation followed by The Pledge of Allegiance.

MAJ Gonzalez welcomed our guests, Chief Dan Hanes and Division Chief LaGrange

Lunch was served - Fried Shrimp, French Fries, Green Beans, Tossed Salad, and Lemon Meringue pie for dessert.

MAJ Gonzalez introduced our guest speaker: Chief Dan Hanes Fire Chief, Deland Fire Department.

Fire Chief Hanes took the helm as City of DeLand Fire Department's Fire Chief in April 2018. Fire Chief Hanes has over 35 years working within the Fire Service industry comprised of management and leadership. He retired from the City of Fort Lauderdale as Battalion Chief with 28 years of service. He then went on to be Fire Chief for three years with the City of Fernandina Beach Fire Department. Most recently, he was Fire Chief for the City of West Palm Beach Fire Department.

Fire Chief Hanes previously served as President of the Fire Chief's Association for Palm Beach County where he implemented multiple processes for emergency response plans and firefighter health and safety. He was also assigned as the Bureau Chief of the City of Fort Lauderdale Fire Department's Logistics Bureau.

Fire Chief Hanes is a member of the Florida Fire Chief's Association, Volusia County Fire Chief's Association, International Association of Fire Chiefs, National Fire Protection Association, and Florida Fire Marshal's and Inspectors Association.

Fire Chief Hanes has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Organizational Leadership from St. Thomas University and an Associate Degree in Fire Science Technology from Broward Community College.

Chief Hanes first thanked all the Veterans for their service. He shared that his hero is his Father who is a WWII Veteran. Chief Hanes gave an overview of the Fire Department and its mission. He said they receive approximately 9,000 calls per year, 80% of those calls are medical, 15% are fire calls and about 5% are other issues- sink holes, broken water or sewer pipes etc. He stated an important part of their job is to insure the safety of the public and the safety of the fire department employees. There are 3 fire stations in Deland with 48 positions to operate 3-24 hour shifts covering 365 days per year. The personnel are all trained/certified in both fire and emergency medical services. He stated they are an "all hazards" fire department so if you are having a bad day give them a call.

MAJ Gonzales thanked Chief Hanes for speaking to the group today.

President Raul Gonzalez requested approval of the May 2, 2018 meeting minutes as published in our VOC. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as published. They were approved by all members present.

President Gonzalez called Immediate Past President Marshall Vance to the podium where he thanked him for his service to the club, read a letter from the FL Council of

Chapters which stated our club received the 5 Star LOE Awards and presented Marshall with a past president's pin.

President Gonzalez called for reports:

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer CWO2 Bill Hightower reported at the May 2018 meeting there was a balance of \$2,136.36, a couple bills were paid over the summer. After today's deposits and expenses there is a new balance of \$2,403.36. Maj Gonzalez asked for a motion to approve the report. A motion was made and seconded to approve the Treasurers report. A vote of approval was unanimous.

**Secretary's Report:** LTC Twila Davis asked the members to please update their contact information on the spreadsheet that is being passed around and to return it to her at the end of the meeting. She also stated since the May meeting she sent a get well card to CAPT Hank Clay and a congratulations card to CAPT Marshall and Dottie Vance on their marriage.

**Directors and Committee Reports:**

LTC Corley – Scholarships – in LTC Corley's absence MAJ Gonzales stated the board is looking at possible changes to the ROTC scholarship program. More information will be presented at October's meeting.

CDR George Christian - Legislative News: CDR Christian reported the TRICARE Retiree Dental Program (TRDP) also known as Delta Dental Plan for retirees will end December 31, 2018. The retirees who wish to continue dental and/or vision coverage will have to enroll in the Federal Employee Dental/Vision plan during "open season" which is Nov 12 - Dec 12, 2018. The website for more information is [www.tricare.benefeds.com](http://www.tricare.benefeds.com).

COL Wiltuck – Chief of Staff and Community Relations - nothing to report.

MAJ Curt Voelbel-Director-no comments.

CAPT Doug Speight –Director- nothing to report.

LTC Bill Johnson-Director- nothing to report.

CAPT Marshall Vance – immediate Past President apologized for not bringing the tickets for the 50/50 drawing and he introduced his wife Dottie.

MAJ Mick Cotton - reported he brought labels to the meeting for members to take with them and put them on the MOAA magazine and take the magazine to doctor offices, dentist offices, hospital waiting rooms, etc to use as a recruiting tool. He also stated he is working on finding a vendor to make the name tags and mentioned the price will be going up.

MAJ Curt Voelbel-Membership - Reported we currently have 54 members; the goal is 56 +. He stated he sends out an information flyer to potential members—about 25 flyers at a time. MAJ Voelbel stated the best method of recruitment is by word of mouth.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

MAJ Gonzalez stated the Veterans Day Parade is coming up and he has coordinated the use of a float and has sent the letter of intent to participate to the organizers. He invited all members to come out and participate. MAJ Gonzalez stated the Christmas Gala will be in December and there will be more information to follow.

MAJ Gonzalez stated we still need volunteers to fill positions of JROTC Liason, and Personal Affairs Chairman.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

MAJ Gonzalez mentioned we will drop The West Volusia Humane Society as one of the clubs charities. The Board is looking to replace it with a local veteran's group. More information will be presented at the October meeting and the membership will have the opportunity to vote on which group will receive the proceeds.

MAJ Gonzalez encouraged the members to take one of the flyers concerning the Wreaths Across America program and to participate as they wish.

MAJ Gonzalez announced the Florida Council of Chapters 2019 Convention will be hosted by the Tampa Chapter at the Safety Harbor Resort & Spa June 20-23, 2019. He encouraged any members interested in attending to register.

Next meeting will be October 3, 2018 at the Grand Villa.

Next Board of Directors meeting will be September 12, 2018 1000 hours at Woodland Towers.

MAJ Voelbel Closed with a benediction

1LT Joe Leone won the free lunch for our OCT 3, 2018 meeting/luncheon.

Meeting adjourned at 13:23 hours.

Respectfully Submitted,

LtCol Twila Davis, USAF, RET, Secretary

## ***Membership - -***

I, as your Membership Chair as well as being a Director continue to look for ways to grow our membership.

The MOCVC is no different than other service/volunteer organizations that struggle to gain new members and maintain current members from year to year. We have been very successful at meeting a net gain goal of 5 over the last several years but with your help, I believe we can better that.

At our last luncheon, I handed out "invitation mailers" for each of us to use as a recruiting tool. The mailers highlight the Seven Reasons to join. It would be best for you to memorize just a few so that you will be ready when a recruitment opportunity presents itself or better yet, when you create an opportunity! Although having a nice lunch and a few fun-filled Gala's are great selling points, using the Seven Reasons is much more effective because each one aligns with MOAA's purpose and goals.

Happy hunting!

Maj Curt Voelbel, USAF, RET, Membership Dir.

**Editor's Note:** As a courtesy to the membership, I am including a PDF of the "information Mailer" mentioned above as a separate attachment to my email forwarding this issue of the VOC. This applies to those members who have valid email addresses. Those on our "snail-mail" list will find the mailer inserted after page 4 of this issue.



**MOAA**

**Never Stop Serving - -**

## ***Legislative Matters - -***

**President Trump Approves Pay Raise For Troops,  
No TRICARE Fee Increases - -**



**Protect Servicemembers From Predatory Lenders - -**

The Trump administration is reportedly considering changes to how it enforces the Military Lending Act, a move that could make it easier for payday lenders to prey on servicemembers.

Since 2011, enforcement of the MLA has provided over \$130 million in relief to military families. But now, the agency tasked with enforcing the MLA is looking to dial back its monitoring efforts.

Send the White House a letter urging the administration to reconsider this proposal.

**Act Now To End The Widows Tax - -**

Surviving spouses of active duty or retired members who died of a service-connected cause are forced to forfeit \$1 of their military SBP annuity for each \$1 received in DIC. This offset wipes out most or all of the SBP check for a majority of survivors, including those whose servicemembers purchased the plan through deductions from their retired pay.

Tell your elected officials to end the widows tax.

**Be Cautious With Compensation Reform - -**

In a 2015 report, the Military Compensation and Modernization Commission noted modernization might benefit individual compensation programs, but "the overall structure of the current compensation system is fundamentally sound and does not require sweeping overhaul." The commission also recommended keeping the basic pay table in its current form and continuing the basic allowances for housing and subsistence (BAH and BAS).

**MOAA's COLA Prediction: How Much Your Retired Pay Will Go Up on Jan. 1 - -**

With the fiscal year coming to a close, we will soon know the final Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for retired pay and social security benefits. **Our prediction for the final COLA is 2.8 percent.**

In other words, starting Jan. 1, 2019, you would see an increase of roughly \$28 for every \$1,000 of retired pay you receive. (Active duty pay is calculated differently)

The August 2018 CPI is 246.336, 2.8 percent above the FY 2018 COLA baseline.

The CPI for September 2018 (the final month of the fiscal year) is scheduled to be released on Oct. 11, at which point we can confirm the final COLA.

Consumer Price Index (CPI) growth has slowed in the past couple of months, but has still shown the highest year-over-year growth in years. The largest contributing factors to this year's growth have been energy commodities, shelter (housing), and transportation services. Food prices, particularly away from homes, had a modest impact on CPI as well.

The weighting of each consumer category is calculated in accordance with a two-year-long survey that looked at family purchasing data through approximately 24,000 weekly diaries and 48,000 quarterly interviews.

Measured price changes on food products, clothing, housings costs, medical services, and other groupings determine the annual COLA. The calculation is made by comparing the average CPI from July through September of the current year to the average for the same months of the year prior.

**Editor's Note:** Having received no Legislative Update from MOAA, I have garnered the above from [takeaction.moaa.org](http://takeaction.moaa.org) and action may be taken by going there and doing our thing.

**CHAPLAIN'S CORNER** (Cont'd From Page 1 - - ) that life before God has been eclipsed by something else. The focus is elsewhere.

Less on God than on us.

And on the utopian human community we are supposed to be or create. Sociology trumping theology.

Personally, I go to church — at least in part — to get a break from me, from us. I go to remember God. I go to be reminded that I live always before and unto a gracious God. That is the shocking and precious reminder I most need.

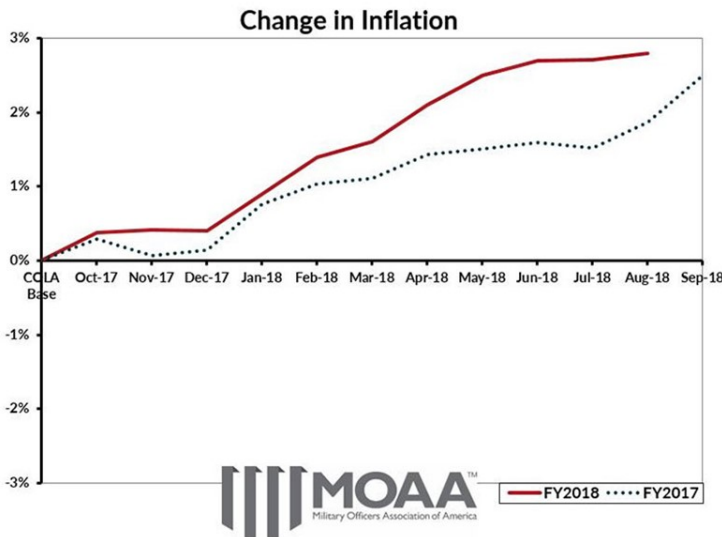
**Prayer:** May the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart, be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer. Amen.

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR:** Tony Robinson, a United Church of Christ minister, is a speaker, teacher, and writer. He is the author of many books, including *What's Theology Got To Do With It: Convictions, Vitality and the Church*. You can read Tony's "Weekly Meditation" and "What's Tony Thinking?" at his website, [www.anthonbrobinson.com](http://www.anthonbrobinson.com).

Chaplain Lewis Long III, USAF(Ret)

**NOTE:** The above United Church of Christ's "Daily Devotional" - - used with permission per Chaplain Long.

Editor



**Recent Happenings - -  
OUR NEW MEETING DIGS - -**



The Theater Room at Grand Villa - - our new meeting digs. The gentlemen at the Head Table are DeLand Fire Chief Dan Hanes (Lt) and Division Chief LaGrange. The blurred figure on the right is MOCVC Pres. Raul Gonzalez.

*Photo by The Editor  
Other Photos By Ernie Tauber*

**NOTE:** Ernie had camera problems on the 5th, but should have them fixed before the next meeting.

*Editor*



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Stop  
Serving!**





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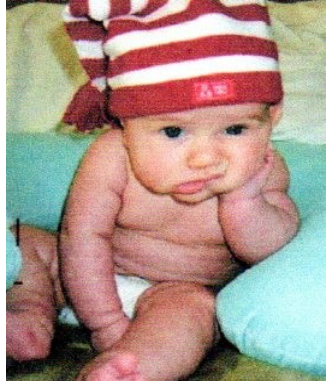
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***I'm Wondering - -***  
 How I finally finished this issue of your newsletter. Now I have to do the distribution. Enjoy.

Mick