



The RETROSPECT

TAMPA CHAPTER — A FIVE STAR CHAPTER OF MOAA NATIONAL

JUNE 2020

VOLUME 26, NUMBER 3

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

COL CHARLES DALCOURT USA RET

GREETINGS!



Highlights

We have another achievement to lend excitement to the times. Our Chapter received notice that we were awarded a Community Outreach Grant by the MOAA Foundation. This grant provides funds to support impactful work within our local military and veteran-family community. Thanks to Ken Martin for his diligence in pursuing this opportunity and his continued commitment to advancing our causes and contributions to our community.

Another positive point for the chapter is the addition of Gayle Hill, President of UpHill Marketing Group. Gayle has replaced Melissa Marrison as the new web manager. As such, Gayle is responsible for compiling and publishing this newsletter. She also facilitates the updates to our web page, social media sites, and modifications to the newsletter between publications. Gayle works hand-in-hand with Carol Zieres, Tom South, and our new addition to the editorial team, Sara Marks. Yes, your team

is growing! Sara has graciously agreed to come aboard as our Assistant Editor and will assume responsibilities as the Editor in time.

We remain optimistic and excited about the Chapter's progress and potential. Thanks to all for the hours of effort dedicated towards keeping the Chapter focused forward.

Embracing Team

Last month we announced The MOAA Foundation's COVID-19 Relief Fund to support military and veteran families. I'd like to personally thank those that both considered and contributed to this effort. You are and remain a very generous group and supporter of MOAA National.

I ask you all to continue uplifting others through phone calls, visits, letters, and prayers. We with experience leading, enduring, and facing the consequences of chaotic events know that we should draw nearer to others during crisis...[\(cont'd p. 5\)](#)

Greetings to all! I pray that all our MOAA Tampa Chapter members and all that are reading this month's newsletter are doing well. Even more, I hope that you have been able to enjoy life and family to the greatest extent over the past month. I appreciate you remaining engaged...staying connected via phone calls, video conferences, our newsletter, and our Chapter's Facebook page. We have adapted well to the myriad changes thrust upon us; more will come. Thanks for your continued support and consideration.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

DUE TO THE COVID-19 OUT-BREAK, MOAA TAMPA CHAPTER IS TAKING PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES TO HELP STOP THE SPREAD OF THE DISEASE, AND HAS ELECTED TO CANCEL ALL EVENTS THROUGH JUNE 2020.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ALL AGAIN SOON!

REMINDER:

PUBLICATION DEADLINE FOR THE JULY ISSUE IS 25 JUNE 2020



LEGISLATIVE LOWDOWN

BY LTC REGINALD WILLIAMS, USA RET

For more information, visit MOAA National's Legislative Action Center



As I formulate this article, Lawmakers at the federal and state levels continue to develop and endorse bills that address issues important to the military and veteran community. I will highlight some of the issues MOAA is advocating — focusing on healthcare and the DoD and VA budgets as our nation continues to combat the Coronavirus pandemic.

Here's How TRICARE Is Expanding Telehealth Coverage During the COVID-19 Crisis

TRICARE announced temporary policy changes May 19 that expand access to telehealth care. After hearing about telehealth barriers from our members, MOAA urged the Defense Health Agency (DHA) to increase telehealth options for beneficiaries.

The move comes as providers across the nation's health care system are concerned patients with chronic conditions or other

medical issues are not seeking care. Some patients, particularly those with underlying conditions, may fear visits to provider offices will expose them to the coronavirus. Others don't want to contribute to an overburdened health system. Still others are concerned about costs.

Three important changes to telehealth coverage will allow more of these beneficiaries to access needed health care services. Some details on the changes, which went into effect May 12 and will remain in place through the end of the COVID-19 national emergency:

1. TRICARE will cover audio-only telehealth visits, consistent with Medicare's coverage expansion during COVID-19. This allows beneficiaries to consult providers who typically don't offer telehealth services and expands access for those beneficiaries who

don't have video capability or broadband internet service.

2. TRICARE has eliminated out-of-pocket costs for covered telehealth services. This copay/cost sharing waiver applies to all covered in-network telehealth services, not just services related to COVID-19.

Coverage changes will not be retroactive. For instance, if you had an audio-only telehealth visit before May 12, that claim will not be reimbursed by TRICARE.

Changes to regulation involving publication to the Federal Register usually take months to implement. DHA expedited the process due to the urgency of expanding access to care while beneficiaries try to limit their person-to-person contacts. If you have concerns about visiting a doctor or other provider's office, consider a telehealth appointment. cont'd p2

LEGISLATIVE LOWDOWN cont'd: -- ACT NOW: Urge Your Lawmaker to Sign a Bipartisan Letter Aimed at Ending Military Medical Cuts

Reps. Bill Posey (R-Fla.) and Kathy Castor (D-Fla.) are circulating a congressional letter urging House Armed Services Committee Chairman Rep. Adam Smith (D-Wash.) and Ranking Member Mac Thornberry (R-Texas) to ensure the FY 2021 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) includes language to stop planned cuts to military medical capacity.

WTheir letter clearly articulates MOAA's position: The COVID-19 pandemic demands that medical readiness requirements be reassessed and updated with lessons learned based on our nation's response to the coronavirus emergency. Reps. Posey and Castor circulated the letter for sign-on by other House members.

"Even before the COVID-19 emergency, we had concerns about downsizing the [military treatment facilities]," the letter reads. "Specifically, our constituents raised concerns about how the civilian community will absorb new patients with TRICARE. ... The Defense Health Agency needs to complete a review on how proposed reductions in care facilities will affect beneficiaries. This review should be completed before there is a reduction in medical billets or reduction in MTFs."

All plans to reduce military health system capacity must be re-evaluated in light of lessons learned from the whole-of-nation response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Congress and DoD must reassess planned cuts to military medicine based not only on surge capacity to address a national health emergency, but also the role of military medicine in medical research and development, as well as pandemic prevention efforts.

House Bill Would Improve Support for Military Special Needs Families

MOAA's efforts to improve support for special needs families gained traction with the introduction of H.R. 6148, the TRICARE ECHO Improvement Act. Reps. Tom Cole (R-Okla.) and Elaine Luria (D-Va.) introduced this important bill that would improve consistency of support for mobile military families.

MOAA has advocated for improvements to TRICARE's Extended Care Health Option (ECHO) program for several years, including in testimony at the House Armed Services Personnel subcommittee hearing in February.

ECHO serves a relatively small population of the most severely impacted military special needs families, including individuals with intellectual disabilities, serious physical disabilities, and autism spectrum disorder.

Congress established ECHO as a substitute for state Medicaid Waiver services that are often unavailable to mobile military families. Medicaid Waiver programs provide in-home services and supports to those who would otherwise require care in an institutional setting. Many states have lengthy waitlists for their Medicaid Waiver programs, leaving military families unable to access services when they PCS from one state to another, moving from waitlist to waitlist.

Because ECHO is intended to fill a gap for families unable to obtain Medicaid services, Medicaid Waivers should serve as the benchmark for ECHO covered services. However, the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission reported that ECHO coverage falls short relative to Medicaid Waiver services.

The TRICARE ECHO Improvement Act would make significant improvements to align ECHO coverage with Medicaid, including increased respite care levels as well as coverage for vehicle and residence adaptations - services covered by most state Medicaid programs.

"MOAA is pleased to support the TRICARE ECHO Improvement Act," said Lt. Gen. Dana Atkins, USAF (Ret), MOAA President and CEO, in a news release announcing the bill's introduction. "This important legislation fixes coverage gaps in TRICARE's Extended Care Health Option, a critical resource for special needs military families who are unable to access State Medicaid Waiver programs. Increased ECHO respite hours and other coverage enhancements will greatly assist families who face many challenges navigating military life while also caring for their special needs family members."

"We thank Rep. Cole and Rep. Luria for introducing this bill that has the potential to help so many special needs military families."

What Will Possible Budget Cuts Mean for Your Pay?

First, the good news: Servicemembers can expect a 2021 pay raise close to last year's 3.1% increase despite overwhelming financial uncertainty, a top House lawmaker recently told reporters.

But while Rep. Mac Thornberry (R-Texas), ranking member on the House Armed Services Committee and a former committee chair, said he expects the 3.0% raise included in the White House's February budget proposal to stay put, there are no guarantees - this year, or especially in the coming years.

The last four military pay raises have matched the Employment Cost Index (ECI) benchmark used, by statute, to set a fair figure. Learn more about that process, and why MOAA tracks it so closely, here, but remember: The ECI figures are guidelines, not requirements.

Defense Secretary Mark Esper already has expressed concerns that coronavirus-related belt-tightening "may lead to smaller defense budgets in the future," according to a May 4 U.S. Naval Institute News report. This could put pressure on White House budget-makers or Congress to disconnect military pay from ECI in an attempt to make up some of the lost funds.

Protecting military pay remains a key MOAA priority, especially as

past Congressional Budget Office reports on ways to cut the federal deficit - which will increase after coronavirus expenditures - have included suggestions to cap the military raise below the ECI.

Compensation can't be sacrificed for other budget needs - doing so undermines retention, leading to a less-experienced, less-capable force. It also further hampers recruitment efforts, which have suffered during the COVID-19 pandemic.

MOAA will continue to work with legislators to ensure both pay and benefits for servicemembers remain strong in coming years.

This Change in Law Would Prevent Some Military Families From Going Hungry

More than a dozen advocacy groups, including MOAA, asked congressional leadership last month to help more military families qualify for federal nutrition assistance by removing their Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) from income calculations.

The current calculation for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) "creates an artificial and unnecessary barrier for military families," reads a letter sent last month to majority and minority leaders in both the House and Senate. "While civilian Americans scramble to stock their kitchens (during the COVID-19 pandemic), thousands of low-income military families are turning to food pantries for aid to put food on the table."

Several coronavirus-connected factors have stressed the financial situations of some of the most vulnerable military families, the letter points out:

- The overall economic downturn has made military spouses - already an underemployed demographic - more susceptible to layoffs or pay cuts.
- Closures of schools and child care centers have made it difficult for parents in dual-income families to continue working.
- Thousands of military families trapped between PCS moves by DoD's stop-movement order have faced additional expenses, from multiple rent or mortgage payments to storage costs.

Removing BAH from SNAP calculations "would ensure that more military families qualify for SNAP, reducing their food insecurity, eliminating unnecessary stress and anxiety for the service member, and thereby contributing to optimal mission readiness," the letter states.

House Bill Would Provide Relief from TRICARE Pharmacy Copays During COVID-19 Crisis

MOAA continues to make progress toward a possible TRICARE pharmacy copay waiver during the COVID-19 national emergency.

Reps. Lisa Blunt Rochester (D-Del.) and Elaine Luria (D-Va.) have introduced H.R. 6573, the Help our Heroes Access Medicine Act, authorizing DoD to waive TRICARE prescription copays during national emergencies.

While the legislation stops short of mandating a copay waiver, it outlines the decision criteria Congress expects DoD to use in evaluating a waiver during such emergencies. By doing so, it makes the intent of Congress clear: TRICARE mail order pharmacy copays should be waived under the current circumstances.

The bill not only gives DoD flexibility in using the authority to waive copays, but also ensures officials can use this legislation in future national emergencies.

As Congress considers the next round of coronavirus stimulus legislation, MOAA is reaching out to the Senate side to encourage a companion bill.

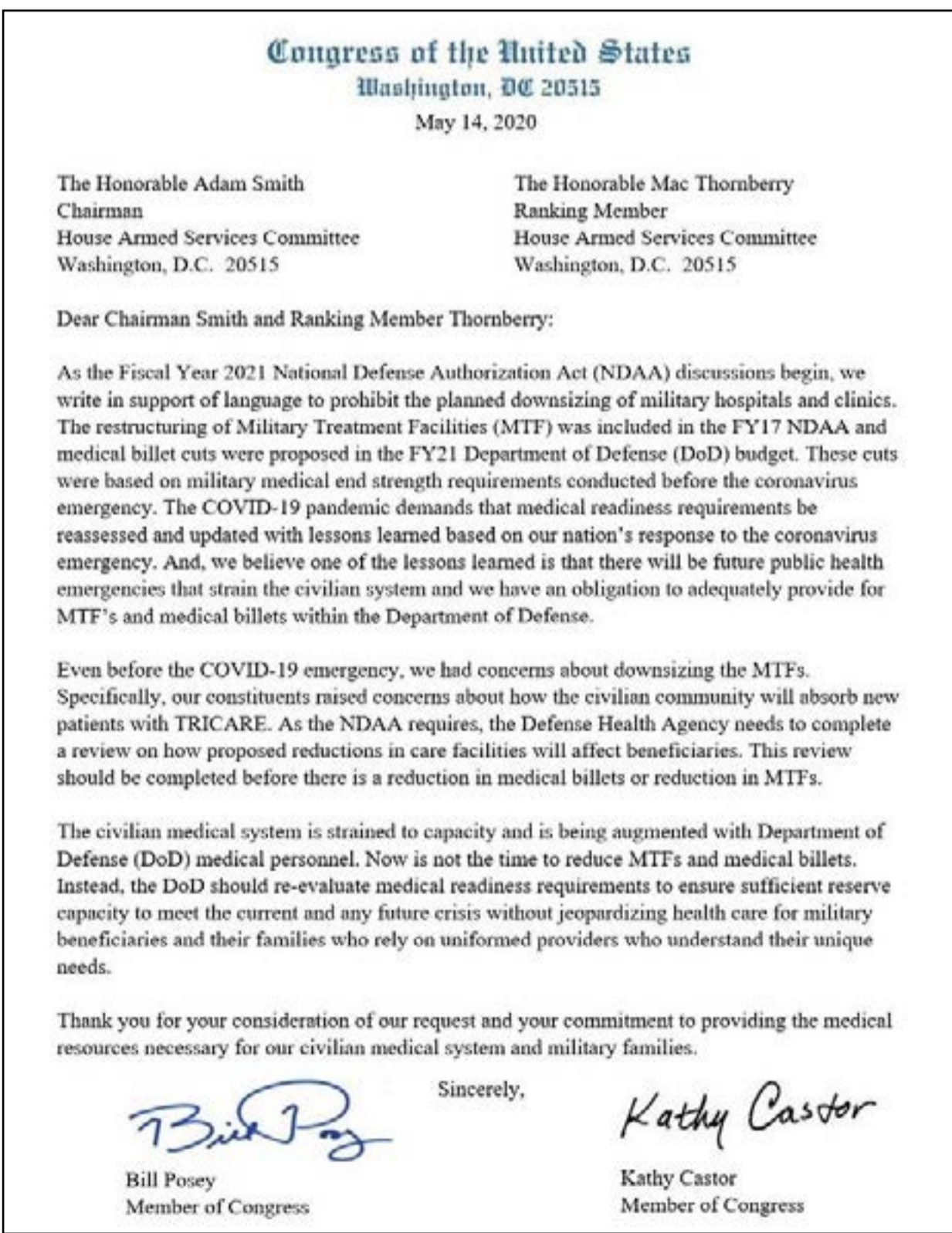
[\[TAKE ACTION: Ask Your Lawmaker to Support H.R. 6573\]](#)

[\[DONATE: MOAA's COVID-19 Relief Fund\]](#)

[\[STORMING THE HILL: MOAA's Virtual Storming the Hill 2020\]](#)

[MOAA Take Action Center](#)

Sources: MOAA, May 2020 Military officer Association of America; www.moaa.org, Karen Ruedisueli and Kevin Lilley; Military Times, May 2020



THE TAMPA CHAPTER OF THE MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA (MOAA)

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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 MOAA and their surviving spouses.

Tampa Chapter



Military Officers Association of America

TAMPA CHAPTER MISSION:

To maintain a strong national defense and to ensure our nation keeps its commitments to currently serving, retired, and former members of the uniformed services and their families and survivors.

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Notes from the Editor: Col Carol Zieres USA Ret



This year marks the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II. We're looking for some interesting stories to publish in a special column relating to World War II Veterans over the next several months for the Retrospect newsletter. First priority

Covid-19 world pandemic, I hope you stay safe and in good health.

Carol Zieres, COL, USA (Ret)
Editor

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OUR EDITORIAL POLICY:

MOAA National, the Florida Council of Chapters, and the Tampa Chapter are nonpartisan organizations. Our chapter membership is open to all Military officers (Commissioned and Warrant), including

Active Duty, National Guard, Reserve, former officers, and spouses/surviving spouses of military officers. Our luncheon meetings are held at 1130 hours every second Thursday of each month at the Surf's Edge Club on MacDill AFB.

ON THE WEB:

Tampa Chapter <http://moaatampa.org>

Communications directed to specific board members may be made by accessing their contact Information listed under "ABOUT MOAA TAMPA CHAPTER" and "LEADERSHIP."

A password protected MEMBER DIRECTORY is posted on the website under the "MEMBERSHIP" category

FL COUNCIL: www.moaafl.org

MOAA NATIONAL: www.moaa.org

OPERATION HELPING HAND: www.operationhelpinghandtampa.com

TAKE ACTION: <http://www.moaa.org/Content/Take-Action/Top-Issues/Top-Issues.aspx>

As a member of MOAA, you are entitled to exclusive member benefits and discounts. Find out more about our member-only services and offers or explore the topics that most interest you.



is given any Tampa Chapter member who served during World War II; we invite you to submit a short story or memory of a particular experience you had during the war. Photos are encouraged as well. This month's edition of the Retrospect features 95-year old WWII Veteran, Francis Xavier O'Connell, a French Legion of Honor Medal recipient, who just recently became a new member of our chapter. Although the numbers of the Greatest Generation are dwindling all too quickly, we will never forget the sacrifices they made for our freedom. May their memories be eternal; I invite you to contact me via e-mail (carolzieres@yahoo.com) if you wish to share your story in an upcoming newsletter. As I write this message on this Memorial Day of 2020, this is a day for all Americans to take time to honor and remember the sacrifices of all our fallen heroes. We owe them and their families a debt of gratitude. Please remember our Gold Star Families, families of fallen service members, not just this weekend but always. Other highlights of this edition of the Retrospect include: a Memorial Day Tribute to those Tampa Chapter members who left us in 2018-2019, the U.S. Army's 245th birthday, and MOAA names five Scholarship award recipients. As we continue to navigate this

UPDATE OPERATION HELPING HAND



LTC JIM GRIFFIN
Chairman, OPHH
"As long as we are needed, Operation Helping Hand will be there..."



Let me begin by saying that I hope you and your families are safe and healthy and that all of your individual efforts have helped us turn the corner back to some form of stability for us all.

All of the OPERATION HELPING HAND vital programs of service to our wounded and injured and their families have continued without any interruption. We continue to provide assistance for the requests submitted by the social workers, we have updated and added the gift cards and coupons for the WELCOME BAGS, and the EXECUTIVE COUNCIL stands ready to act upon any requests received. The only major change in our month to month agenda is that we are unable to honor the wounded and injured at our MONTHLY DINNER.

A very comprehensive letter from JOE BATTLE, DIRECTOR, JAMES A HALEY VA, provided the path we must follow and what we can expect in the future. He stated that just as FLORIDA is taking a phased approach to reopen the state, JAMES A HALEY VA will also do a phased approach. This will limit the number of patients who come to the facility for health

care, everyone will be required to wear a face covering, strict entry point health screening, including taking of temperatures, for all prior to entry to the VA. The VA will continue to limit visitors, visi-



tations are still prohibited in the COMMUNITY LIVING CENTERS, SPINAL CORD INJURY UNITS and other inpatient locations.

Changes are being made to the waiting areas, check-in desks and other common spaces to encourage physical distancing, a 6-foot separation between others where possible, additional space between seating, and frequent cleaning of high-touch surfaces like doorknobs, handrails, countertops and seating areas.

All of these conditions, combined with the fact that our honorees are in the very highest high risk group on the planet clearly point to the realistic fact that it will be a while before we can safely provide a monthly dinner for our wounded and injured and the dedicated supporters of OPERATION HELPING HAND.

OPERATION HELPING HAND will need your continued support to allow us to continue our vital program of service to our wounded and injured and their families. This support can be through donations by checks or by using the website (OPERATIONHELPINGHANDTAMPA.COM). We are hoping for our next event to be JULY 4 BOB AHERN BBQ SPECIAL. Details will follow. STAY SAFE AND BE WELL!

OUR TREMENDOUS GROUP OF VOLUNTEERS MAKE ALL OF THIS POSSIBLE!

Message From The President: Cont'd from P.1

...you don't isolate yourself or others. Although labeled "social distancing," we acknowledge the physical inference and seek to ensure all are socially engaged. I challenge all to reach out to someone new this month in a manner you feel comfortable.

Moving Forward

Currently, all our MOAA Tampa Chapter meetings are suspended. I delayed finalizing this missive until receipt of updated information regarding The Surf's Edge Club's outlook. Unfortunately, our luncheons at the Surf's Edge Club or face-to-face meetings in

general at establishments on base will not resume within the next few months. Moving forward, the Board of Directors will develop a plan and format for virtual meetings and will provide feedback via email and our website; so, stay tuned.

Closing

There's a lot going well in our chapter. As the World, our Nation, the state of Florida, and our local communities continue to adapt and learn how to manage both the COVID-19 pandemic and its associated challenges, we should stay focused on our mission, advocacy, values,

and opportunities to serve. Many of you are survivors and know how to win. Our society has gaps that need to be filled with sage insight and experience-based guidance. I encourage you to do your part to continue pushing our Nation forward. Please stay engaged and share the intellectual capital you richly possess.

I close encouraged by God's provision for this organization and the knowledge of who you are. Thank you for bearing standards and values that don't erode. Thank you for your resilience and care. Thank you for all you do for this team and others. All the best!

HOW TO JOIN THE TAMPA CHAPTER

Come to a luncheon (2nd Thursdays) at 1115 at the Surf's Edge Club on MacDill Air Force Base and ask for Membership Chairman COL William A Schneider USA RET OR [download our brochure](#) and mail the application accordingly with payment.

You can email Col Schneider at TampaMOAA.Membership@gmail.com

Our Tampa Chapter Membership Application is found on our website, or in this edition of The Retrospect on [Page 8](#).

NOTE: to be eligible for membership in the Tampa Chapter, one must be a member of MOAA National or join National at the same time the Chapter is joined.



Have you "liked" our Facebook page? Visit us on Facebook at [@TampaMOAA](#) where you can scroll through our photo albums, like and share our posts, and stay up to date on Tampa Chapter news and events.



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

CHAPLAIN (COL) BERNARD H LIEVING JR USA RET

I have been working in my head to find anything positive that may

come for our culture as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic. While leafing through one of my favorite books, (meaning I did not give it away when I retired), *The Life You've Always Wanted*, by John Ortberg, I found what I believe might be for me a starting place for that positive in the days ahead.

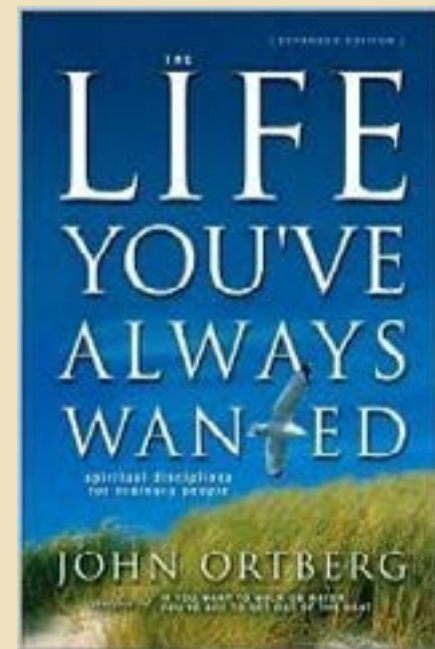
Ortberg points out that we live in a time of "hurry sickness" which has symptoms some of which I must admit are part of my everyday life. They include "constantly speeding up daily activities;" reading and talking faster, and when listening exaggerating our understanding by nodding faster to get the talker to speed it up." "Multi-tasking is another symptom of hurry sickness. I often watch the TV news while catching up on my e-mails, playing a game on my Pad, talking with my wife, or being on the phone with family or friend.

Ortberg goes on to say the "lives of hurry-sick people lack simplicity." We tend to be

clutter prone, whether in accumulating things or living lives cluttered by not being able to say "no." "Superficiality," the trading of wisdom for information and depth for breadth, is another symptom which Richard Foster, another favorite author, describes as distraction, "being consumed with muchness and many-ness."

Two other closely related symptoms are "inability to love" and "sunset fatigue." Ortberg says love and hurry are incompatible. "Love takes time and time is one thing hurried people don't have." Hurried people often bring work home with them or are so fatigued at the end of the day that "those who need our love the most, those to whom we are committed end up getting the leftovers." we are just too tired, drained, or preoccupied to love those closest to us.

Perhaps, just perhaps, during these days through which we are living, we can slow down with our lives in ways such as actually driving within the speed limit; eating food more slowly; and getting in the longest line at the grocery store. Ortberg suggests we practice waiting every opportunity we have.



Finally, he suggests we practice solitude. The smaller gatherings we may attend, social distancing, and home confinement give us the opportunity to let go of and be freer of the cultural forces that have made us who we have become. Henri Nouwen, the 3rd "favorite author of this article, wrote, "in solitude I get rid

of my scaffolding." Said another way, we might use the experiences we are being forced to live these days to get rid of the "stuff" we use to keep ourselves propped up, and to see ourselves as important and okay.

Yes, this new way of living our lives is very different and hard to get used to and yet we can make something positive out of it to live our lives less hurry sick when we get to the new normal, whatever that may look like.

The Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance (SSIA)

Information shared by Ms. Renee Brunelle
Tampa Chapter Surviving Spouse Liaison

The Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance (SSIA) is a benefit for surviving spouses who receive a Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) annuity that is offset



by a Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) payment from the VA. SSIA is now a permanent* benefit. The benefit will now be paid at up to \$323 per month plus a cost-of-living adjustment each calendar year. SSIA is never used to repay past due SBP premiums. If the spouse annuitant is entitled to SSIA, we

will pay the SSIA, even when there are past due premiums.

DIC payments to children do not affect SBP child annuitant payments, so child annuitants are not eligible to receive SSIA.

How Remarriage May Impact a Spouse SBP Annuity

Spouses maintain their eligibility for SBP until death, as long as they do not remarry before the age of 55. If the annuitant remarries before age 55, annuity payments will stop.

However, if the annuitant's marriage later ends for any reason, even after age 55, the annuity payment will restart from the date the marriage ends, once DFAS is notified.

When a surviving spouse remarries after age 55, but prior to age 57, DIC payments stop. If the spouse's SBP payment was previously reduced or eliminated because of DIC, the full SBP payment may resume. The spouse must first repay all of the SBP premiums that were refunded when DIC

first began. These premium repayments may be made out of the SBP annuity payments the spouse would otherwise receive, however, the entire repayment must be made before a spouse annuitant will receive any SBP annuity funds.

Spouse annuitants who remarry after age 57 are entitled to receive full SBP and DIC benefits at the same time. This is the result of a 2009 court** decision. According to the ruling, DFAS is not required to deduct DIC payments from a monthly SBP annuity if a spouse is entitled to both benefits and has remarried after age 57.

How to Notify DFAS of a Change in Marital Status
Annuitants are responsible for notifying DFAS of any changes to their marital status.

To notify us of a remarriage prior to age 55, please complete the following form and mail or fax it with a copy of your marriage certificate to DFAS U.S. Military Annuitant Pay:

1. COE (Annuitant Certificate of Eligibility)
To notify us of a remarriage after age 55, please complete the following forms and mail or fax to DFAS U.S. Military Annuitant Pay:

1. DD 2656-7 (Verification for Survivor Annuity)
2. IRS W-4P (Withholding for Pension or Annuity Payments)
3. Direct Deposit start-up form

To notify us of a marriage termination to restart an SBP annuity, please complete the following forms and mail or fax to DFAS U.S. Military Annuitant Pay:

1. DD 2656-7 (Verification for Survivor Annuity)
 2. IRS W-4P (Withholding for Pension or Annuity Payments)
 3. Direct Deposit start-up form
- Reasons Spouse SBP Payments May Be Temporarily Suspended

Each year, we mail spouse annuitants under age 55 a Certificate of Eligibility (COE). We use the information we request on the COE form to de-

termine an annuitant's continued eligibility for monthly payments. If we don't receive the COE by the deadline on the form, we will suspend all payments until we receive a properly completed COE (see instructions).

If you have not received a COE from us within the last year and feel you should have, please call us to request one at 800-321-1080 or download a COE from our Forms page.

If you are age 55 or over, you are no longer required to complete and submit an annual Certificate of Eligibility (except for those receiving hard copy checks in a foreign country or those who have a permanent disability). You should no longer expect to receive the annual COE once you reach age 55. Your eligibility to receive annuity payments will continue without submitting the COE. What initiates the SBP benefit and what does a beneficiary have to do?

The designated SBP beneficiary becomes eligible to receive SBP benefits on the day after a service member's death. The first step a beneficiary must take to initiate SBP benefits is to report the death. Please visit our Reporting a Death page for step-by-step instructions.

*SSIA was made permanent in The National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for FY2018. The NDAA contained a provision to amend section 1450 of USC Title 10 to permanently extend the authority to pay SSIA with an annual cost-of-living adjustment.

**2009 U.S. Court of Appeals decision in the matter of Sharp, et.al. v. the United States
Note: The information on this website is provided to explain typical situations regarding retiree and annuitant benefits. For details and exceptions, please see applicable laws, financial management regulations, and instructions.

Source: DFAS Webpage: Page updated on Dec 23, 2019

MEMORIAL DAY TRIBUTE - TAPS

This Memorial Day, we remember those Tampa chapter members who left us in 2018-2019

2018

Dr. William J. Lennox, LtGen USA
Clifford Engle, COL, USA
Ronald Buchert, Col, USAF
Robert Buckley, LtC, USAF

Geraldine Krause - Spouse of Donald Krause, MAJ, USA
Lucia Anderson - Spouse of Delane Anderson, LtC, USAF

Gary Snow - CW03, USA
Milton Steadman, Col, USAF
Howard Hise, Capt, USMC
Ronald Harpe, CWO, USAR
Joseph Antonetti, LT, USNR
Michael Bihr, COL, USA

2019

Harry Livingston, LTC, USA
Cliff Greenside, 1LT, USA
Raymond Norman, Col, USAF
Thomas E. Bowen, BGen, USA
David Bond, Maj, USMC
Hester Daly, Surviving Spouse
Priscilla Sarver, Surviving Spouse

Helga Estep - spouse of Ronald Estep, COL, USA
Onalee Jean Norman - spouse of Raymond Norman, Col, USAF
Eric Hensen, Capt, USAF
Robert Rans, Honorary Member

BULLETIN BOARD

CARING FOR OUR "SHUT-IN" MEMBERS

Our Chapter wants to become aware of members who are hospitalized, homebound, in care facilities or just plain sick and has provided a way for you to inform us. Please contact CDR Geoff Harrington USNR Ret at (813) 926-7988 so that he may call or send cards to let them know they are missed.

Alternatively, you may send an e-mail to:

TampaMOAA.Secretary@gmail.com

CDR Geoff Harrington USNR, Ret, Sick Call Chairman

JUNE 2020 DATES OF IMPORTANCE

6 June - D-Day Anniversary of the World War II Allied invasion of Normandy, France, aka D-Day (1944)

14 June - National Flag Day - On 14 June 1777, the Flag Resolution was signed, making the current stars and stripes the National Flag of the United States of America

14 June - United States Army Birthday. Since its official establishment, June 14, 1775 --more than a year before the Declaration of Independence -- the U.S. Army has played a vital role in the growth and development of the American nation. Drawing on both longstanding military traditions and recently introduced professional standards, it won the new republic's independence in an arduous eight-year struggle against Great Britain. At times, the Army provided the lone symbol of nationhood around which patriots rallied.

20 June - Summer Solstice marks the beginning of the summer season in the Northern Hemisphere.

21 June - Father's Day is the day to recognize, honor, and celebrate the sacrifices and accomplishments of fathers. In 1910, the Washington State Governor declared Father's Day on the 19th of July. It then became a permanent federal holiday in 1972 when President Richard Nixon proclaimed the third Sunday in June would be known as Father's Day.

25 June - Anniversary of the start of the Korean War (1950).

ARTICLES OF INTEREST



The U.S. Army was founded on 14 June 1775, when the Continental Congress authorized enlistment of expert riflemen to serve the United Colonies for one year.

Since 1775 Congress has also prescribed the organization and structure of the Army. This includes various branches into which Soldiers can be assigned. In many cases these branch distinctions are reflected in the Army's system for designating units and in the U.S. Army Regimental System. The Army Organization Act of 1950 (enacted 28 June 1950) set forth the legal basis for the various basic and special branches in the current Army (see Title 10, United States Code, Sections 3063 and 3064). It also permits the creation of other branches as the Secretary of the Army considers necessary. See the note below for more information on The Army Organization Act of 1950.

In recognition that many of today's branches have existed since 1775 and in order to enhance esprit de corps, the Army recognizes official branch birthdays (see Department of the Army General Orders, No. 19, dated 31 October 1978 and subsequent announcements). Listed below are the Army's basic and special branches currently in



existence, their birthdays, and the relevant authorities. Links are also provided for additional information about each branch's unique heraldic items, which are maintained by The Institute of Heraldry (TIOH).

NOTE: The Army Organization Act of 1950 was enacted on 28 June 1950. A full copy of the Act was published in Department of the Army Bulletin No. 9, dated 6 July 1950. The changes the Act had on the Army's branches and the titles of the various branch chiefs were announced in Department of the Army General

Orders No. 23, dated 20 July 1950 (as amended). Finally, an article from the August 1950 edition of Army Information Digest discusses the Act's major changes. All three of these documents are available below for the convenience of our users.

When the American Revolution broke out, the rebellious colonies did not possess an army in the modern sense. Rather, the revolutionaries fielded an amateur force of colonial troops, cobbled together from various New England militia companies. They had no unified chain of command, and although Artemas Ward of Massachusetts exercised authority by informal agreement, officers from other colonies were not obligated to obey his orders. The American volunteers were led, equipped, armed, paid for, and supported by the colonies from which they were raised.

In the spring of 1775, this "army" was about to confront British troops near Boston, Massachusetts. The revolutionaries had to re-organize their forces quickly if they were to stand a chance against Britain's seasoned professionals. Recognizing the need to enlist the support of all of the American seaboard colonies, the Massachusetts Provincial Congress appealed to the Second Continental Congress in Philadelphia to assume authority for the New England army. Reportedly, at John Adams' request, Congress voted to "adopt" the Boston troops on June 14, although there is no written record of this decision. Also on this day, Congress resolved to form a committee "to bring in a draft of rules and regulations for the government of the Army," and voted \$2,000,000 to support the forces around Boston, and those at New York City. Moreover, Congress authorized the formation of ten companies of expert riflemen from Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia, which were directed to march to Boston to support the New England militia.

George Washington received his appointment as commander-in-chief of the Continental Army the next day, and formally took command at Boston on July 3, 1775.

John R. Maass

Historian

US Army Center of Military History

Department of the Army Bulletin, No. 9, dated 6 July 1950.

Department of the Army General Orders, No. 23, dated 20 July 1950 (As amended by AGO No. 38, dated 10 November 1950).

"Army Organization Act of 1950" by LTC G. Emery Baya. Army Information Digest (August 1950), pages 23-37.

Space Force flag unveiled in Oval Office, presented to Trump

President Trump on Friday was presented with the newly unveiled official flag of the U.S. Space Force (USSF) — the first official flag of a new U.S. military service in 72 years. "This is a very special moment," Trump told reporters and gathered military leaders in the Oval Office. He also signed the 2020 Armed Forces Day Proclamation.

Trump directed the Pentagon to establish the Space Force in 2018, calling for "American dominance in space" — a theme he went back to on Friday. "China and Russia, perhaps others, have started a lot sooner than us, we should have started this a long time ago but we've made up for it in spades," he said.

Trump signed the FY 2020 National Defense Authorization Act in December, which created the USSF, announcing also that General John Raymond would be the first chief of space operations for the force. On Jan. 23, he announced the official seal of the USSF. According to a senior administration official, the flag is derived from the Space Force's seal, which features a silver delta symbol surrounded by two constellations cast against the dark blue of outer space.



"The flag takes the key and central elements of the seal and places them on a black field fringed in platinum with the words 'United States Space Force' and Roman numerals MMXIX (2019) below," the administration official said. It was manufactured by the Defense Logistics Agency's "Flag Room" in Philadelphia, the same entity that has made the president's personal flags.

The unveiling of the flag comes as the five-month-old Space Force is accepting applications for eligible active-duty personnel to transfer into the service. The service released a slick new recruiting video last week.

"Space is going to be the future ... and already, from what I'm hearing, we are the leader in space," Trump said.

Source: <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/space-force-flag-unveiled-in-oval-office-presented-to-trump>



MOAA TAMPA CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP FORM DUES: \$25.00

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(There is no dues requirement for active duty personnel or surviving spouse)

MOAA National Annual Dues:

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**You can bring this completed form to any event or you can
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**NOTE: MOAA NATIONAL DUES MUST BE PAID SEPARATELY
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SNAPSHOTS TAKEN DURING THE COVID-19 QUARANTINE

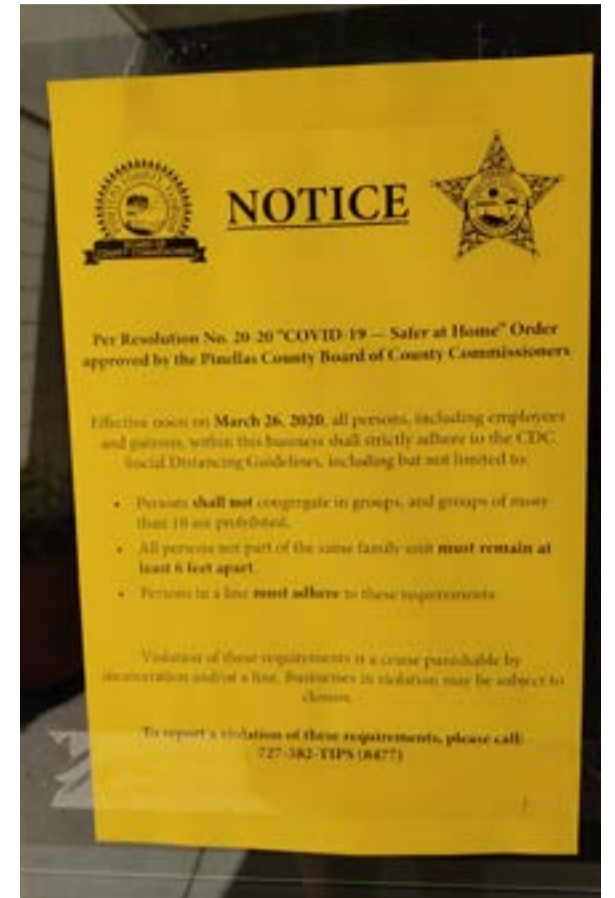
Photos submitted by MOAA Tampa Chapter Members



Renee Brunelle at Liberty Manor after dropping off three carloads full of donations from Pathfinder's downsizing of a client's home



Bob Sawallesh taking his morning walk



Sign of the times



The late Major Travis Brunelle bonding with his dog, Leo, in Afghanistan



Sara Marks paddle boarding on the Weeki Wachee River



Sara Marks paddle boarding on the Weeki Wachee River



Carol Zieres poses in her front yard after being awarded, "Garden of the Quarter"



Steve Swift participating in a virtual graduation with the US Naval Academy

SNAPSHOTS TAKEN DURING THE COVID-19 QUARANTINE

Photos submitted by MOAA Tampa Chapter Members



This is a picture of the inside of the MacDill AFB commissary on April 9, 2020. Paper products and cleaning supplies were totally sold out!



Bill and Georgia Schneider pose with grandson, Jacob, at a virtual graduation with The Citadel and is sworn in as a 2LT in his back yard.



This photo was taken outside the 6th Medical Group building at MacDill AFB back in early April. A Covid-19 prescreening tent was set up outside the clinic to take our temperature and prescreen for symptoms of the Coronavirus before permitting anyone to enter the building.



Louise Shumate self-isolates



Barbara Brotherton jogging in her neighborhood



Dick and Shirley Helveston at a Drive-Thru Safari adventure

HAVE YOU VISITED OUR WEBSITE?

WWW.MOAAATAMPA.ORG

The MOAA Tampa website is a comprehensive and valuable tool that you can use to make the most of your MOAA Membership. Some of the things you can find on our website include:

Events Calendar: We have a new “Events” page where you will find an updated calendar, displaying our upcoming MOAA events, as well as events happening with Operation Helping Hand. Click on our [Events Page](#) to check it out!

Photo Gallery of Events: This is our photo gallery, where you will see all of the photos during our luncheons, special meetings, conventions and more! If you’ve had your picture taken at our events, you can likely find it by scrolling through our [Photo Gallery!](#)

Newsletters: Here you will find the latest volume of The Retrospect, our award winning Tampa Chapter Newsletter. You can also access archived versions of The Retrospect for reference and research. In addition, you can find archived versions of the Military Spouse News-letter, which has been merged into The Retrospect starting in August 2019. Visit [The Retrospect](#) page to read on!

Member Directory: You can access an electronic version of our Member Directory on our web-site. The list is password protected for safety of our private information, but MOAA Tampa Chapter Members can be provided the password to access. You can also download an Excel version of the list once permitted into the page. Check out the [Member Directory](#) now!

WWW.MOAAATAMPA.ORG



New Member Profile: Francis Xavier O’Connell CWO4 US Army (Ret.)

Francis Xavier O’Connell, born August 9, 1924 in Cranston Rhode Island, is the youngest of 6 brothers, 4 of whom served in the US Army. After graduating from Cranston High School, Francis enlisted into the Army and completed his basic and advanced artillery training in Fort Bragg, NC.



ashore near St. Tropez and fought their way inland to Meximieux. This was the fourth amphibious landing for Francis. In September 1944, in the heat of battle, his unit relieved another Forward Observer group. During this process, Francis’s unit became surrounded by Panzers and German infantry and taken prisoner. As prisoners, they were loaded on trucks and trains and sent to Germany. Along the way they were frequently strafed by friendly aircraft. After 9 months of captivity Francis was freed when Allied forces took the area. When freed, his unit made their way on foot to Bremerhaven and eventually sent back to the U.S. by ship.

After returning home, weighing 80 lbs. and suffering from extreme malnutrition, Francis spent 3 months in a hospital to regain his health. Francis entered Brown University where he earned a

Upon completion of training Francis was shipped to Casablanca where he joined the 45th Infantry Division. His division trained for battle alongside the first appointed U.S. Special Forces. In August 1943, he went by ship to Sicily and was part of an amphibious assault landing where they met initial stiff resistance prior to securing the island.

In September 1943 the 45th Infantry Division moved onto Salerno for another assault landing and difficult fighting. After a successful campaign in Salerno in early 1944 his unit was shipped to Anzio for another amphibious assault landing. The Battle of Anzio was a bitter campaign, where they fought their way to Rome, eventually taking Rome in June 1944.

After a brief R&R his unit shipped to Southern France where they went

bachelor’s degree in business administration. He rejoined the Army in 1949 and was promoted to Warrant Officer. In this capacity Francis served in an Intelligence Division in numerous duty stations in the U.S. and internationally in Germany, Saudi Arabia, Ecuador and Brazil. In 1984 CWO4 Francis O’Connell retired from the Regular Army and continued in the 63rd Division of the U.S. Army Reserves as a Personnel Officer until 1989.

Francis resides in Lutz Florida where he is an active member of Disabled American Veterans and enjoys his passion for music, friends and family.

Francis, who is devoutly religious, has never wavered in his firm belief that he survived the war and being a POW through the power of prayer from his mother, Theresa O’Connell.

MacDill Air Force Base Performs Tampa Bay Flyovers

To honor Tampa Bay’s front-line healthcare workers in the pandemic, MacDill Air Force Base launched a KC-135 Stratotanker to fly over 12 major hospitals in the region.

“This community goes out of their way to honor our sacrifices,” said Air Force Col. Stephen Snelson, commander

Petersburg before returning to the base over downtown. Some of the hospitals in the flight path included Tampa General Hospital, Brandon Regional Hospital and the Bay Pines VA Healthcare System.

The aircraft provides aerial refueling capability for the United States Air Force and routinely



of the 6th Air Refueling Wing. “This is an honor for us to be able to display our gratitude to these warriors who protect our base and this community from this horrible virus.”

The approximately hour-long flight path was determined with the Federal Aviation Administration, accommodating hospitals along that path, a spokesman said. The KC-135 took off about 9:30 a.m.

The KC-135 departed from MacDill with plans to head south toward the Sunshine Skyway Bridge, according to a release.

MacDill says they will be “performing some training requirements for an hour” hence the 9:30 am departure and the start of the loop at about 10:30 a.m.

The aircraft headed back northward along Tampa Bay, then turned south and followed Interstate 75 to Sarasota, then turned north again through St.

departs from MacDill for training and refueling missions along the Gulf of Mexico and the southeast region.

Active-duty and reserve teams from the 6th Air Refueling Wing and the 927th Air Refueling Wing stationed at MacDill piloted the flight.

Other bases have performed their own flyover salutes to healthcare workers including the Air Force Reserve’s 94th Airlift Wing at Dobbins Air Reserve Base, which flew the C-130H3 Hercules aircraft over North Georgia hospitals and the 96th Test Wing at Eglin Air Force Base that sent a four-ship formation of fighter aircraft over Okaloosa County medical facilities on May 14.

Source: <https://www.tampabay.com/news/health/2020/05/12/macdill-air-force-base-to-perform-tampa-bay-flyovers-friday/>



CLASS OF 2020: SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Congratulations to the five recipients of the 2020 MOAA Tampa Chapter Scholarships! Each high school graduate will receive a \$1200 scholarship award. Congratulations to the Class of 2020!



OLIVIA TERRY

Olivia graduated from Mountain Charter High School with a 3.6 GPA and was an Honor Roll student throughout her four years. She was editor of the school's Student Voice. Her community service included volunteer work for the Filter of Hope International Missions and as an Officer for the Wonderbook Bible Camp. She will attend the Coastal College of Georgia and hopes to pursue a career in teaching. Olivia is sponsored by her grandfather, LTC Bob Sawallesh.



MATTHEW NEWCOMB

Michael graduated from Riverview High school with a 3.8 GPA. He received the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Rising Star Award. He has earned a Certification in Microsoft Word and PowerPoint and is a member of the National Honor Society. His community service included over 200 hours of service for Habitat for Humanity. He will attend Florida State University and hopes to pursue a career in Professional Sports Management. Mathew is sponsored by his father, LTC Michael Newcomb.



TANNER HEATH

Tanner graduated from Plant High School with a 3.5 GPA. He is a member of the National Honor Society and won first place for Dramatic Interpretation in Latin Forum. He was a varsity wrestler throughout his four years. His community service included Mission Trips to Tennessee and North Carolina. He will attend Auburn University and pursue a career in Building Construction. Tanner is sponsored by his grandfather, CDR Terrill Heath.



AUDREY STEADMAN

Audrey graduated from Plant High School with a 3.8 GPA. She is an Advanced Placement Scholar with Distinction and a member of the National Honor Society. She was four member of the varsity lacrosse team. Her community service included Teen Volunteer at St Joseph's Hospital and Tampa General Hospital. She will attend Florida State University and pursue a career as a military doctor. Audrey is sponsored by her grandmother, Kolleen Steadman, surviving spouse of Colonel Milt Steadman.



BENJAMIN SANNEY

Benjamin graduated from Cambridge Christian High School with a 3.5 GPA. He is a member of the National Math Honor Society and the Spanish National Honor Society. He was a member of the football, basketball and bowling teams. His community service included Baptist Mission trips and the Tampa Youth Travel League. He will attend Cornerstone University in Grand Rapids, Michigan and pursue a career in Finance. He is sponsored by his grandfather, Maj. James Healan.

WWII VETERAN SPOTLIGHT

FRANCIS XAVIER O'CONNELL

CWO4 US ARMY (RET.)

There were times during World War II when Francis Xavier O'Connell wasn't sure he'd live to see another sunrise. To this day, the 93-year-old feels certain it was his mother's prayers that kept him alive during dangerous times on the battlefield and through his captivity as a prisoner of war.



He still has the rosary beads she gave him, and some of the letters she wrote to him during the war.

Recently, he was inducted into the French Foreign Legion of Honor by the French government for his contributions during World War II.

The distinction is France's way to express gratitude to American veterans who fought alongside France during the Second World War.

French Brig. Gen. Thierry Ducret presented the award to O'Connell during a July 14 ceremony in St. Petersburg, said Carolyn Matthews, O'Connell's niece.

Ducret, France's representative to MacDill Air Force Base's Central Command International Coalition, was just one of several high-ranking military officers at the event, she said.

O'Connell graduated from Brown University after his stint in the U.S. Army, and then rejoined in 1949, going on to have a lengthy military career.

The Lutz man was astounded when he heard the French government wanted to honor him. Like so many others during World War II, O'Connell joined the Army in 1943, right after graduating from high school in Cranston, Rhode Island.

It was the thing to do, said O'Connell, the youngest in a family of six boys — four of whom served in the Army.

After enlisting, O'Connell trained at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, and then was shipped to Casablanca where he joined Company F in the 179th Infantry, the 45th Division.

From there, his division went by ship to Sicily to be part of an amphibious assault landing. O'Connell worked as a forward observer — scouting out enemy locations and reporting the targets he found.

After Sicily, the 45th Infantry moved into Salerno for another assault. His unit then was pulled offline briefly before heading to Anzio for another amphibious assault landing.

The Battle of Anzio was a bitter campaign — with fighting nearly all of the way to Rome.

(cont'd on p. 13)

WWII VETERAN SPOTLIGHT

(Cont'd from p. 12)

After a brief rest period, the unit was shipped to Southern France, where it went ashore at St. Tropez and fought its way inland to Meximieux. In the heat of the battle, his unit relieved another forward observer group and got too far ahead of the battalion. They were captured.

Despite being a prisoner of war, O'Connell considers himself fortunate. "Two-thirds of the regimen were killed," he said, noting there are 1,800 in a regimen. After he was captured, he and the other prisoners were moved in boxcars from Frankfurt Germany, over to Munich. And, while that was happening, he said, "our own (American) aircraft would bomb and strafe everywhere the Germans moved."



They were taken to a prisoner of war camp in a town called Moosburg, about 40 some-odd miles north of Munich, he said.

In the morning, he and other prisoners would be trucked to Munich to fill in bomb craters in the railroads, he said. The Germans would make

sure the American prisoners saw the civilian casualties of war.

"They had their bodies lined up on either side of the street. Then they would march us through the streets to see them," O'Connell said. He said he caught a lucky break when he and group of men were chosen to go to a work camp at Vilshofen, a small town in northern Germany, near the port town of Passau.

"We worked in a forest, cutting down trees," O'Connell said. The prisoners slept on straw-lined mattresses in a barn, and there wasn't much to eat. We ate boiled cabbage and potato dumplings. It was just two meals a day," he said.

He was at the work camp for several months before the Germans forced the prisoners to begin marching toward Austria. "They knew the Americans were coming," O'Connell said. "They were trying to clear us out of there and bring us somewhere else." They were liberated during that forced march.

"We were freed by the 16th armored division," O'Connell said.

"They were coming through southwest Germany." After being freed, O'Connell and the other soldiers walked to Bremerhaven where they were processed at a tent city before catching a ship back to the United States.

At the time, O'Connell weighed 80 pounds.

He was sent to a country club that had been converted to a medical facility, to recuperate. It was three months before the Army would allow his family to see him. Reuniting with his mother is a moment that O'Connell will never forget.

"You won't believe how happy it was," he said. "She almost fell over, when I put my arms around her."

A plaque with this quotation hangs in Francis Xavier O'Connell's apartment in Lutz:

45th Infantry Division

"Whatever destiny may hold for our great country, however long that great country's military history may continue, readers of the future will search long before finding a chapter more brilliant than that written by the quill that was dipped in the blood of the Thunderbirds."

Francis O'Connell and his niece would also like to thank all the members who sent him letters while he is still under lockdown/quarantine at his senior living facility. It has meant a great deal to him to hear from our MOAA chapter members.



Letters are still welcomed for those who would like to send him a letter his address is: CWO Francis O'Connell, 18440 Exciting Idlewild Blvd #210, Lutz, FL. 33548

Brig. Gen. H.J.D. Meyer, Dec. 7, 1945

Published August 16, 2017

Source: <http://lakerlutznews.com/lln/?p=49178>

NATIONAL GUARD COVID-19 UPDATE: TROOP LEVEL AT MORE THAN 46,500, 86 PERCENT ON TITLE 32 ORDERS

The number of Guard troops mobilized in the effort to cope with the coronavirus pandemic is once again increasing. There are more than 46,500 Air and Army National Guard professionals supporting the COVID-19 crisis response at the direction of their governors as of afternMonday afternoon. That's an increase of about 1,500 troops since Friday. In addition, 44 states, three territories and the District of Columbia have now been approved for use of federal funds for state missions under Title 32. As of Monday morning, 884 Guard troops had tested positive for COVID-19, according to the latest figures provided by the Pentagon. That was an increase of 42 from Friday.

Of those troops activated in the COVID-19 response, 39,900 are currently under orders authorized for Title 32 502(f) status, said Army Master Sgt. W. Michael Houk, a spokesman for the National Guard Bureau. That's an increase of about 2,500 troops since Friday. "As states amend orders and issue new ones based on their needs this number will keep moving," he told Military Times. "Also based on response needs, as determined at the state level, some orders may remain under state active duty."

The status, ordered by President Donald Trump, means the federal government is picking up 100 percent of the cost, with control remaining in the hands of governors. It also means that those troops — risking their health and that of their families by being on the front lines of the coronavirus fight — receive healthcare and increased housing allowance equal to active duty and reserve troops doing the same work.

There was an initial catch. Only troops on 31-day orders were eligible for the increased benefits. That problem, however, was since fixed by Trump and now states are going through the process of either initiating or amending those orders to meet the 31-day requirement for increased troop benefits. In addition to those on Title 32 orders, there are also about 6,600 Guard troops across the nation on State Activated Duty who are not receiving increased benefits.

The current National Guard COVID-19 response missions include, but are not limited to:



- *Augmenting medical staff at hospitals, nursing homes and assisted living facilities to protect our most vulnerable populations;
- *Supporting warehouse operations and logistics efforts to help deliver and distribute lifesaving medical equipment and critical supplies;
- *Delivering and distributing food in hard-hit communities and supporting food banks;
- *Working with industry and civilian partners to satisfy demand for personal protective equipment used by essential staff and first responders;
- *Providing mortuary affairs assistance as needed, Guardsmen conduct this important mission with respect and dignity;

- *Building, staffing, and outfitting alternate care facilities to alleviate stress on medical infrastructure;
- *Manufacturing, sewing and distributing masks and other personal protective equipment for mission essential personnel;
- *Full-time 24 hour state Emergency Operations Center staffing to synchronize National Guard efforts with local and state mission partners to execute an effective response;
- *Providing timesaving support to local law enforcement, freeing officers to perform their duty in the communities they serve;

- *Conducting traffic control support and helping manage foot traffic in public spaces and community shelters;
- *Manning call centers to be a knowledgeable and calming voice;
- *Providing vital PPE training and delivery to civilian first responders;
- *Conducting force health protection assessments to ensure our Guardsmen are cared for;
- *Performing mobile testing, sample delivery and processing;

- *Providing support and symptoms screening to testing facilities and passenger terminals;
- *Disinfecting facilities crucial to the bottom line mission of saving lives

(cont'd p. 14)

(cont'd from p. 12) Here are the latest updates of National Guard actions across the United States and its territories:

California

The California National Guard has packed more than 15 million meals to serve to the state's most vulnerable populations since its initial activation.

The Florida National Guard has more than 2,700 soldiers and airmen in a mobilized status. The FLNG continues supporting community-based testing sites, and mobile testing teams throughout Florida. To date, this effort has resulted in 126,251 tests being completed. Additionally, more than 120 FLNG medical professionals are supporting the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' alternate care facility at the Miami Beach Convention Center.

Indiana

The Indiana National Guard helped test 10,000 randomly-selected citizens at 18 sites throughout the state to help Indiana better understand the extent of COVID-19 in the state's population.

Kansas

The Kansas National Guard worked with "The Out Reach Program" to help assemble 1 million boxed-meals to distribute to food banks across Kansas.

Maryland

More than 1,300 members of the Maryland National Guard continue supporting the state's effort to combat the spread of COVID-19. Additionally, more than 700 additional Maryland citizensoldiers and airmen are in an enhanced readiness status, capable of reporting to duty within a matter of hours. Health and medical specialists from the MDNG's medical detachment, 224th and 104th Area Support Medical companies have assisted at more than 60 nursing homes and children's facilities. About 30 MDNG members are supporting the Maryland Department of Health as part of the state's COVID-19 mitigation and suppression efforts, with multi-discipline assessment teams helping to safeguard the citizens at nursing homes and other facilities across the state. Col. Eric Allely, MDNG State Surgeon, has been tapped to serve as the Emergency Safety and Compliance Officer for nursing homes. He is responsible for ensuring these facilities comply with state law and safety protocols. Maryland Guardsmen are supporting food distribution missions throughout Baltimore and Frederick counties, the city of Baltimore, and on the Eastern Shore.

Additionally, the MDNG is supporting the Baltimore City Department of Aging, the Maryland Department of Transportation, and the Salvation Army with the distribution of more than 7,000 meals to 43 senior facilities throughout the state. Cyber specialists from the Maryland National Guard, Defense Force, and Department of Information Technology are assisting in the protection of virtual communities providing critical information related to COVID-19. Recently, Howard County's Department of Technology and Communication Services announced a collaboration with the MDNG's Joint Cyber Security Task Force to increase the county's cyber protection during the pandemic state of emergency. This partnership will bring additional support, augment Howard County's existing capabilities, and raise cybersecurity readiness during this time of increased vulnerability. The MDNG continues to support Marylanders in need of screening at Prince George's Health Clinic, Pimlico Race Course, Rawlings Conservatory, Maryland State Fairgrounds, vehicle emissions centers and the state house.

Additionally, the Maryland Air National Guard continues to process and distribute pieces of medical equipment and PPE from the Strategic National Stockpile. To date, these airmen have processed more than 3 million essential pieces of medical supply and PPE.

Michigan

More than 1,040 Michigan National Guard soldiers and airmen are actively supporting the state's COVID-19 response, with an additional 5,000 service members ready to assist. Across 24 counties, members of the National Guard are supporting requests from local communities and state agencies. Response missions include food distribution; screening operations (reception and staging); supply and logistics management; state Emergency Operations Center staff augmentation; and alternate care facility support. Joint Task Force - Michigan includes Guardsmen, coordinating response efforts across the state.

New York

The New York National Guard has more than 3,635 personnel on mission, across six joint task forces statewide to support state and local governments with logistics management and warehouse operations. They also provide medical staff at New York City hospitals and testing sites. NYNG members continue to manage Javits as the unified command post for the multi-agency response. The Javits New York Medical Station, placed at the Javits Convention Center, is now phasing out. More than 1,095 patients received care at Javits NY Medical Station.

*New York Air National Guard pararescue airmen, 106th Rescue Wing, who are trained as emergency medical technicians, are also assisting in city hospitals.

*The NYNG is supporting the alternate care facility at the South Beach Psychiatric Center on Staten Island. Additional forces are providing support at three other potential alternate care sites on Long Island or Westchester.

*NYNG is supporting 15 drive-through testing sites, providing administrative and logistical support, medical support at select sites and mask-fit

testing services.

*Guardsmen conducted 5,146 tests May 2. The sites are: State University of New York Stony Brook; Jones Beach State Park; Staten Island (adjacent to Staten Island University Hospital); Glen Island State Park in Westchester County; Anthony Wayne Service area in Rockland County; Lehman College and the Bay Plaza Mall in the Bronx; Aqueduct Racetrack in Queens; Linden Blvd. in Brooklyn; SUNY Albany; Niagara County Community College in Sandborn; SUNY Binghamton; Griffiss International Airport in Rome; and Monroe County Community College in Rochester. Soldiers and airmen are collecting samples and providing general-purpose support at the testing locations.

*National Guard personnel continue packaging and distributing food today in the Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens, Staten Island and Manhattan in New York City, and in Yonkers. They provided 234,418 meals May 2. To date, soldiers have distributed nearly 5 million meals.

*Similar food distribution missions are underway in Westchester County, where Guardsmen distributed 2,234 meals May 1, and have provided 97,628 meal packages since the start of the mission. In Albany County 3,011 meals have been provided to quarantined residents as of May 1.

*NYNG soldiers and airmen have been working at the regional food bank in Latham, and have prepared 225 pallets of food for shipment across northeastern New York.

*Soldiers helping to process and ship goods at the regional food bank in Schenectady delivered 3,406 meals May 1.

*New York soldiers and airmen continue conducting logistics missions, including warehousing and commodity distribution of medical supplies at six sites in the Hudson Valley, the Albany area, and Mohawk Valley.

*Hand sanitizer delivery to areas in the lower Hudson Valley is ongoing, with 429 gallons delivered May 2. A total of 50,946 gallons of sanitizer have been delivered to local governments.

*The National Guard continues to provide logistics support to the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner of New York City where 250 National Guard personnel are working with members of the Medical Examiner's Office to assist in the dignified removal of human remains, when required. The support mission also includes assistance to the Westchester County Medical Examiner, and the Orange County Medical Examiner.

*NYNG soldiers continue to man phones at two New York City call centers, including one for the New York City Division of Veterans Services. Soldiers also continue to provide administrative support at two New York City 911 call centers.

*Soldiers and airmen continue packaging COVID-19 test kits for the New York State Department of Health at the Wadsworth Laboratory in Albany. They assembled more than 10,750 kits May 2 for distribution across the state. The team has built 514,310 testing kits since starting the mission.

West Virginia

More than 700 members of the West Virginia National Guard are on duty supporting the state's COVID-19 response. To date, WVNG has completed 816 missions across the state. Guardsmen provided PPE training to Children's Home Society in Romney, area healthcare facilities and retail establishments. To date, this team has trained 3,552 personnel at 83 medical or long-term care facilities and 684 businesses.

In addition to training, this team have also conducted 279 COVID-19 tests for lane support and 2,508 tests as a part of their response mission. Biological indicator results from a pilot project testing the sanitization of HVAC systems through aerosolized hydrogen peroxide show that test was validated at 99.999% effective. Guardsmen recently conducted this test at the Federal Aviation Administration building in Charleston. This team will work to refine the process and plan to conduct additional testing at long-term care facilities this week for further evaluation and validation.

West Virginia Guard personnel continue assisting in sanitization lanes for first responder and public transport vehicles. They have sanitized 274 vehicles, including ambulances, police vehicles and public transport buses in Huntington and Charleston. Task Force Sustainment, dedicated to receiving and moving critical supplies across the state, continues its mission of distributing PPE to various county emergency managers. This team delivered PPE supplies to 28 counties May 1, and delivered supplies to all 55 of the state's counties last week. To date, they have delivered more than 1 million items across West Virginia.

Guardsmen assisted packing 1,514 box meals at the Mountaineer Food Bank and 5,200 pounds of frozen food at the Facing Hunger Food Bank in Huntington May 1. In addition, they delivered 4,000 meals to Putnam County. To date, they have packed 103,767 meals and delivered 69,877 meals to assist those facing food insecurity in the state.

WVNG medical personnel, augmenting the Department of Health and Human Resources' regional epidemiology teams, supported 205 voluntary COVID-19 mapping engagements and expedited three transfers to the state lab. To date, the state's seven regional epidemiology teams have conducted more than 4,935 voluntary COVID-19 mapping cases.

Wisconsin

Approximately 30 Wisconsin National Guard citizen-soldiers provided support to the Wisconsin Department of Health Services in Alma with a community-based drive-through testing site May 1, testing nearly 200 residents.

Source: <https://www.militarytimes.com/news/coronavirus/2020/05/04/national-guard-covid-19-update-troop-level-at-more-than-46500-86-percent-on-title-32-orders/>

MOAA TAMPA CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP SURVEY 2020: CHANGE IN LUNCHEON LOCATION AND SPEAKER/TOPIC SUGGESTIONS

Dear MOAA Tampa Chapter Member,
In order to bring you the best value and even greater social ex-perience during the MOAA Tampa Chapter Luncheons, the Board of Directors is considering changing the meeting location for the Chapter’s monthly luncheons.

Some of the reasons for changing the location are to:

- eliminate the need for vetting base access to members and guests to get on base
- improve the quality of the food and beverage service for the cost involved
- enhance the audiovisual support
- provide greater flexibility to accommodate the growing needs of our Chapter



We are interested in knowing how the general membership feels about meeting off base. Please take a moment to complete your response below:

If you are in favor of moving the location, please recommend off-post venue(s) for the Board to consider. Provide the name of dining establishment, contact person and phone number or email (if known):

We are interested in your suggestions for specific topics or guest speakers that the Tampa Chapter Pro-grams Officer consider for the calendar year 2020. Provide a BRIEF description of topic, contact person’s name and phone number/email address:

Your Name and Contact information:

Send your completed form/information to:
Dick Siegman at dicknick2@msn.com
or bring to the next Chapter Luncheon.

THANK YOU for your input.
MOAA Tampa Chapter Board