



THE RETROSPECT

JULY 2018

TAMPA CHAPTER—A CHAPTER OF MOAA NATIONAL—A FIVE STAR CHAPTER 2002, 2004-2016

VOLUME 24, NUMBER 7

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

LEGISLATIVE LOWDOWN

OPERATION HELPING HAND

SPOTLIGHT

SERVICE NEWS

SCHOLARSHIPS

LUNCHEON BBQ MENU:

Cornbread
Coleslaw
BBQ Chicken
Mac and Cheese
Corn on the cob
Apple pie and Assorted Desserts

Upcoming Events

OUR BOARD WILL MEET AT
1000 on:
· 05 JULY
· 02 AUGUST
· 06 SEPT

LUNCHEON MEETINGS WILL BE HELD AT 1130 AT SURF'S EDGE ON:

· 12 JULY
· 09 AUGUST
· 13 SEPT

PUBLICATION DEADLINE FOR THE AUGUST ISSUE IS 25 JULY



COL ZIERES
PRESIDENT

The hallmark of our June 14th luncheon was a dual celebration of Flag Day and the Army Birthday. Each table was decorated with Army and American flags and a special cake brought into the dining room topped with camouflage frosting with the words, "HAPPY BIRTHDAY – US ARMY." All of the Army Officers stood up at attention and the whole room was filled with singing and personal pride, perfectly choreographed with the playing of the Army Song on our new sound system!

The other highlight of our June luncheon was the MOAA annual scholarship awards presentation. One of the greatest pleasures of being your chapter president is in giving financial aid to four very deserving high school graduates (scholarships valued at \$1500 each). This year's scholarship awards were presented to **Jamie Link** from Churchville Christian School in Churchville, MD who will attend Ava Maria University to pursue her career goal as an Attorney; **Garrett Dexter Stacy** from John Carroll Catholic High in Port St. Lucie will attend St. Leo University to study Criminology; **Amanda Stacy** from Laken heath American High School, England, will attend Ava Maria University to study Nursing; and **Crystal Purviance** from Chamberlain High School in Tampa will attend the University of Southern Florida. Her career goal is to become a Medical Doctor specializing in Anesthesiology. The first three students were sponsored by their grandfather, CW4 Gerald Stacy, USA (Ret) and MAJ John Massey, USAF (Ret) sponsored his granddaughter, Crystal Purviance, respectively. Congratulations to these fine young Americans and we wish them continued success in their academic studies as they pursue higher education career goals. Also, special thanks to our scholarship committee, (MAJ Gen Jim Jones and COL Bill Schneider), for taking time out of their busy schedules to vet all of our scholarship applicants.

I was pleased to welcome two coalition members who also joined us for lunch; seated at the head table were the Chairman of the Coalition, BG Hans Ilis-Alm from Sweden and COL Oleksandr Mikhnevych from the Ukraine. The balance of our program consisted of a very informative and timely presentation by the Communications Director of the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs, Steve Murray, Lt Col USAF (Ret). With more than 1.5 million veterans, Florida is the most veteran-friendly state in the nation. The Florida Department of Veterans Affairs is the premier point of entry for Florida veterans to access earned services, benefits, and support such as; free benefits and disability claims counseling, health care, including the Veterans Choice Act program; education and tax benefits, and employment services, to name a few. The 2018 Florida Veterans Benefits Guide (FDVA) pamphlets were placed on all of the tables that detail a long list of your Veteran's benefits and if you didn't get one, a copy has been posted online for your convenience and information at www.moaatampa.org. Again, a reminder to all that your July copy of the Retrospect will be e-mailed to you or you can go online to click on and download the current copy of the RETROSPECT Newsletter on our website, as well.

Stay safe this summer and a HAPPY 4th of JULY / INDEPENDENCE DAY to all!



**AS ALWAYS, "WE'VE GOT YOUR BACK —
—NEVER STOP SERVING —
TAKING CARE OF OUR TROOPS IS A
LIFETIME COMMITMENT"**

JULY DATES

- 1 JULY 1847—US postage stamps went on sale for the first time.
- 1 JULY 1943—taxes began to be withheld from paychecks.
- 1 JULY 1963—ZIP codes went into use
- 3 JULY — 11 AUGUST "Dog Days of summer"
- 4 JULY—Independence Day

Did you know? The White House will send your newborn a birthday card. Just send the following information: Baby's name, address, and date of birth to: White House Greetings Office, Room 39, Washington, DC 20500

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(continued on page 3)



CAPT DVORNIK
EDITOR

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OPERATION HELPING HAND UPDATE

Submitted by
Chairman, LTC JIM GRIFFIN USA RET

OPERATION HELPING HAND dinner for JULY will be held on 19 JULY AT 6:00 PM at the JAMES A HALEY VA HOSPITAL IN THE SCI DINING FACILITY (HERO'S CAFÉ). This month's sponsor will be USAA. We are all very grateful for all of the support provided by this truly superb organization.

Our special thanks to BOOZ ALLEN HAMILTON for their continued support of our monthly dinner and being a title sponsor for the BOB SILAH MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT.

I hope that you will join us and bring a friend and continue to support us with your time and donations for our active duty wounded and injured and their families who will be honored. Please come and plan to meet these WARRIORS and their families. You will be a better person- I guarantee it!

If you missed our 4th of JULY BBQ at GOLFER'S GRAIL- you missed a fantastic event with some of the best BBQ in the state thanks to our own GRILL MASTER-MR. BOB AHERN. JOB WILL DONE!

As always, a special thanks to our tireless volunteers efforts which enable us to consistently provide 96.5% of all of the monies donated to go to our wounded and injured and their families. The strong support of our local business community and their commitment to sponsor our dinner events, golf tournament, and provide generous donations throughout the year, along with the individual support we receive from numerous donors every month by way of checks, or on our website: OPERATIONHELPINGHANDTAMPA.COM insuring that the support for our mission will not be interrupted for as long as our assistance is required.

OUR TREMENDOUS GROUP OF VOLUNTEERS MAKE ALL OF THIS POSSIBLE!



LUNCHEON AT THE SURF'S CLUB ON 14 JUNE WITH THE SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEES

COL MARVIN J HARRIS COMMUNICATIONS AWARD PRESENTED TO CAPT DONALD DVORNIK, EDITOR, THE RETROSPECT



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JULY SPEAKER: SANTIAGO C. CORRADA

Submitted by LTC Griffin USA (Ret)

SANTIAGO C. CORRADA is an accomplished, recognized leader with over twenty five years of public service experience, with proven success in effectively and efficiently transforming the professional culture of many diverse institutions. His outstanding relationship building skills result in the resolution of highly complex issues through consensus. Corrada has the demonstrated ability to soundly and fiscally manage a convention center resulting in record surplus revenues. He has consistently elevated organizations to higher levels of productivity by empowering team members and stakeholders. Corrada is an intelligent, articulate, dedicated, loyal individual, driven to serve and deliver the highest, quality services.

Santiago C. Corrada officially began his position as President and Chief Executive Officer of Visit Tampa Bay in May of 2013 where he is responsible for providing oversight of all agency activities, managing day-to-day operations, and assuring a smoothly functioning, efficient organization. He serves as main spokesperson for the tourism and hospitality industry; ensures stakeholders coordinated efforts in collaboratively increasing visitation to the destination while maintaining open lines of communication with all industry stakeholders. Corrada coordinates effective marketing and sales strategies ensuring maximum return on investment. The organization has been awarded numerous marketing awards over past several years including four HSMIA Platinum Adrian Awards and most recently we were awarded three Henry Awards at Visit Florida's Flagler Award Ceremony. The Industry has experienced three consecutive record-breaking bed tax collection years.

Corrada received HSMIA's Top 25 Award for Extraordinary Minds in Hospitality, Sales and Marketing. He was also recognized as Hillsborough County's Hispanic Man of the Year in 2013.

With more than 20 years of public service and management experience, Corrada previously served as Chief of Staff for the City of Tampa. In this role, he coordinated and integrated the efforts of more than 50 City departments and divisions. In his tenure with city government, Santiago participated in bidding and hosting efforts for large meetings and groups including Super Bowl XLIII and the 2012 Republican National Convention. Additionally, during the Iorio administration, he served as Convention Center, Tourism, Recreation and Cultural Arts Administrator directly overseeing the day-to-day operations of the Tampa Convention Center, the cornerstone of Tampa's convention business.

Prior to joining the City of Tampa in 2004 as Neighborhood Services Administrator, Corrada served as the Director of Parks and Recreation for the City of Miami and spent 17 years in the Miami-Dade County School System.

His current Board Affiliations include The Florida Aquarium-Board and Executive Committee, Hillsborough County Hotel Motel Association-Board and Executive Committee, Outback Bowl, Straz Center for the Performing Arts, Tampa Bay History Center, Tampa Bay Hospitality Alliance Board, Tampa Bay Sports Commission, Tampa Hillsborough Film and Digital Media Commission, Tampa Museum of Art, Tampa Theatre, Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo-Board and Executive Committee.

Corrada graduated Magna Cum Laude from the University of Miami with a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology and Exceptional Student Education as well as a Master's in Education.



One of our guests for the June luncheon was COL Oleksandr Mikhnevych from Ukraine who was presented a plaque by our President, COL Carol Zieres, USA



TAPS—HONORS

D-Day veteran John Roman, center, and Army Maj. Gen. Mark W. Palzer, commander of the 79th Theater Sustainment Command, center left, salute for the playing of French and U.S. taps during the Utah Beach Federal Monument Ceremony in Sainte-Marie-Du-Mont, France, June 6, 2018.

DoD photo by Navy Chief Petty Officer Michael McNabb



TAMPA CHAPTER SCHOLARSHIPS



JAMIE LINK graduated from Churchville Christian School in Churchville, Maryland with a grade point average of 3.8. She made an oral presentation and defense of her senior academic project which was mentored by a professor at the Catholic University of America, Washington, DC. Jamie is a pianist and guitarist and participates in the Carroll County Choir. Her many extracurricular activities include working and volunteering at the Days End Farm Horse Rescue. She will attend Ava Maria University. Her career goal is to become an attorney. She is sponsored by her grandfather, CWO 4 Gerald Stacey, U.S. Army retired.



CHYSTAL PURVIANCE graduated from Chamberlain High School in Tampa with a grade point average of 3.6. She has been an honor roll student throughout her high school studies and is a member of the Marine Corps Junior ROTC National Thespian Honor Society. She has worked at the Grill 54 restaurant and still found time to accumulated over 75 hours of community service which included the Operation Helping Hand dinners at the Haley VA hospital. She will attend the University of South Florida. Her career goal is to earn an MD and become an anesthesiologist. She is sponsored by her grandfather, Major John Massey. USAF retired.



AMANDA STACY graduated from Lakenheath American High School, England, with a grade point average of 3.8. She has been an honor roll student throughout her high school studies and is the recipient of the 2017 Academic Enrichment Award. She has played varsity basketball, softball, soccer and cross country and was a member of the junior ROTC program. She will attend Ava Maria University to study nursing. Her career goal is to become a Team Physical Therapist and Nutritionist. She is sponsored by her grandfather, Chief Warrant Officer 4 Gerald Stacy. U.S. Army Retired



GARRETT DEXTER STACY graduated from John Carrol Catholic High School In Port St Lucie with a grade point average of 3.74. He has been an honor roll student throughout his high school studies. He is a member of the Alpha Peer Ministry and the Fellowship of Christian athletes. Garrett played varsity baseball, soccer and lacrosse and has earned a black belt in karate. He will attend St Leo University to study criminology. His career goal is to become a Forensic Scientist. He is sponsored by his grandfather, Chief warrant officer 4 Gerald Stacy, U.S. Army Retired.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Auxiliary Member, Maxine D Conway, Land O Lakes FL
 Auxiliary Member Barbara Godfrey, Lakeland FL
 MAJ GEN James. Jones USAF RET
 Col William A Schneider USA Ret
 FMR USAF CAPT Eric Hensen whose wife, Carla, died Recently. Carla was also the daughter of Scotty Cleland

FROM THE CHAPLAIN'S HEART



"PATRIOT"

SENIOR CHAPLAIN

One dictionary definition of "patriot" is "a person who loves and loyally or zealously supports his own country." For those of us who call America the country we love and loyally or zealously support we must remember the bases, the foundations, on which this nation was founded and on which the fifty-six signers of the Declaration of Independence pledged their lives, honor, and fortunes.

Those foundations are: equality and unalienable rights granted by the Creator, including life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. They were radical for the time and in watching television news and reading the newspaper they seem to be just as radical for many people today. Many do not believe in equality for all regardless of national origin, race, color, language, sexual persuasion, or religion. Many would deny the "unalienable rights" won on the battlefield of Lexington and Concord, Bunker Hill, Trenton, Cowpens, and Yorktown to immigrants, former prisoners, and those who hold differing opinions on social, economic and political issues.

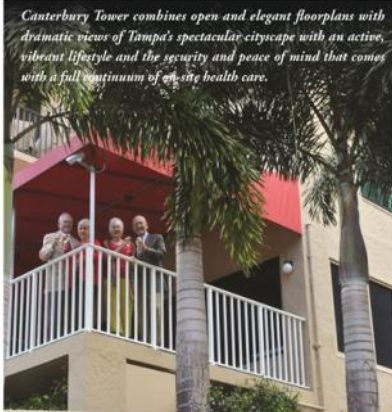
The 4th of July is the time for all Americans to celebrate our freedoms and to consider the fact that the majority of Americans today are descendants of post-Civil War immigrants and that people coming to America today are coming for many of the same reasons as did our forebears who were welcomed into the land of the free and the home of the brave.

Fly your flag on the 4th and on every day be loyal to the values that made us a great nation.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR MEMBERS BORN IN JULY

- 1 COL WILLIAM W GRAHAM USAF RET
- 2 MAJ GEN ROBERT TAYLOR USAF RET
- 7 LTGEN WILLIAM BEYDLER USMC AD
- 7 CAPT DAVID PESZKO USN RET
- 9 LTC JOHN CARROLL USA RET
- 10 FMR USAF CAPT WILLIAM CATOE
- 10 COL DONALD C HANTO USAF RET
- 12 MAJ GEN FRANK MOORE USAF RET
- 12 MAJ CHARLES ZIPPERER USA AD
- 14 LTC RONALD BUTTON JR USA RET
- 14 CAPT SCOTT POLLPETER USN RET
- 15 FMR USA CPT RICHARD REEVES
- 17 LTC ALAN BLANCHARD USA AD
- 20 COL WILLIAM F SMITH USAF RET
- 21 LCDR MICHAEL GOMEZ USN AD
- 22 MAJ J LYLE JAEGER USAF RET
- 23 LT COL HARRY ADAMS USAF RET
- 24 CAPT JOSEPH SOLOMON USAF RET
- 25 MAJ PAUL MAYER USAR RET
- 25 CAPT DAVID A WAMPLER USAF RET
- 25 CAPT JANICE R MCMORROW USN RET
- 27 COL JOSEPH PISTORIO USA RET
- 28 CHAPLAIN (COL) BERNARD H LIEVING JR USA RET
- 30 COL ALEXANDER H EVANS USA RET

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3501 BAYSHORE BOULEVARD
TAMPA, FL
canterburytower.org



LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS
By LTC Chris Hart USA (Ret)

JOB #1 - ADVOCATE

MOAA's highest priority is to serve as the leading advocate and voice for all members of the military community. This is achieved only by the active participation of its members in Chapters, and at the State and Federal levels.

AD - VO - CATE

1. (Noun) A person who publicly supports or recommends a particular cause or policy. "He was an uniting advocate of MOAA's legislative agenda." Synonyms: champion, supporter, proponent, campaigner, fighter, or crusader.
2. (Verb) Publicly recommend or support. "They advocated an ethical solution for Veterans health care". Synonyms: recommend, prescribe, advise, or urge.

The following are issues requiring our further investigation and advocacy:

- (1.) More TRICARE FEE increases could be in store. The latest proposal places a disproportionate burden on military beneficiaries.
- (2.) MOAA leadership supports bill to benefit Disabled Veterans. This is the most comprehensive concurrent receipt legislation currently in Congress.
- (3.) Private doctors are no faster than VA. Veterans Choice program has big challenges, GAO reports. It's up to us to...

AD - VO - CATE!

MOAA has teamed with seven other veterans service organizations in support of a compromise measure to consolidate several VA community-care programs and extend caregiver benefits - moves that could measurably improve the lives of millions of veterans.

The VSOs called on congressional leaders to support a compromise on Veterans Affairs legislation in a letter sent to lawmakers Monday night. Congress must pass a funding bill by Friday to avoid triggering another government shutdown.

"Military Officers Association of America fully supports efforts on Capitol Hill to include compromise provisions to consolidate and reform VA's community care programs as part of the omnibus spending bill being considered by Congress this week," said retired Lt. Gen. Dana T. Atkins, MOAA's president and CEO. "The provisions provide the needed health care and services for our veterans, families and their caregivers - VSOs, Congress and the administration have collectively been working hard to achieve over the past two years."

The bill, a bipartisan effort, would consolidate and reform several existing VA community care programs. It will also "ensure that veterans who cannot get appointments or services at the VA will have the choice to use qualified to community providers," the joint letter states.

The bill would also add transparency and stakeholder involvement in a large-scale infrastructure review of the VA. The intent of the review is to make more effectively deliver care to veterans.

Lastly, the bill would enable an expansion of the VA's comprehensive caregiver assistance program, created for caregivers of seriously injured pre-9/11 vets.

"It is our hope the necessary funding to reform community care, expand caregiver support to veterans of all eras, and infrastructure review in this legislation supports VA's delivery of health care to veterans and provides the necessary funding to executive the provisions, Atkins said. "MOAA looks forward to seeing the provisions enacted and working with Con-

LUNCHEON PHOTOS
By CW2 Thomas South USA RET



gress and the Administration to implement the reforms." MOAA has partnered on this call to action with the following VSOs: The American Legion, AMVETS, Disabled American Veterans, Paralyzed Veterans of America, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Vietnam Veterans of America, and the Wounded Warrior Project. Read the full letter here.

<http://www.moaa.org/Content/Take-Action/Top-Issues/Retirees/MOAA-Joins-Fight-For-Spending-Bill-to-Support-Millions-of-Veterans.aspx>

JAHVH DEDICATES VIRTUAL REALITY ROOM

By Ed Drohan



Recreation Therapist Jamie Kaplan guides Jason Silah through a demonstration of the virtual reality driving system as Katherine Silah, his mother, watches. The Bob Silah Virtual Reality Room was dedicated in honor of retired Navy Capt. Bob Silah, founder of Operation Helping Hand, Jason's father and Katherine's husband. Silah passed away in August 2016, but not before working to get the funds needed for the new room.

Hospital and community leaders gathered Thursday to dedicate a new virtual reality room to the man who was instrumental in turning the room from a dream to reality.

The Bob Silah Virtual Reality Room was dedicated in the Polytrauma Center and is named for the retired Navy captain who founded Operation Helping Hand, an organization that has been providing monthly dinners and other financial support for active duty wounded and injured members since 2004. To date OHH – part of the Military Officers Association of America – has hosted 169 consecutive dinners honoring those patients. Silah passed away in August 2016.

Silah's wife, Katherine, and Son, Jason, helped dedicate the room by removing a cover over a bronze plaque outside the room. Operation Helping Hand provided the funding for all the virtual reality computers, headsets and other equipment in the room, as well as for a dedicated high-speed internet connection for the equipment.

According to Recreation Therapist Jamie Kaplan, planning for the Virtual Reality Room has been going on for five years. It started when former JAHVH chief of staff Dr. Edward Cutolo asked Kaplan to research what would be needed for the room.

"I started doing research and I was looking at all different treatments, modalities, and all the different patient populations that we could see using virtual reality, and I got excited," Kaplan said. "I went to Bob, and you know something, the first time I was disappointed, but not for the reason you may think. Before I could even make my argument or give my case, he said, 'Sure, whatever you want, you got it.' He told me that if it's for our Veterans, if it's for our active duty guys and it's going to make their treatment better, and it's going to make their lives better, you got it."

The new room includes virtual reality headsets, high speed computers and gaming systems, along with assorted accessories. Several of the systems are on carts that can be moved to a patient's room if the patient can't come to the Virtual Reality Room. Among the activities the equipment can be used for are a flight simulator, driving simulator and virtual shooting ranges.

Patients receiving virtual reality therapy navigate through digitally created environments and complete specially designed tasks often tailored to treat a specific ailment, Kaplan explained. It can be used to treat ailments ranging from PTSD to opioid management.

"Tools like this will help our patients manage their pain. It will facilitate all kinds of treatments for them. It will help alleviate PTSD symptoms, and I could go on and on," said JAHVH Director Joe Battle. "We want this room to be a legacy to Bob, and the special way we can honor his commitment to all those who have fought the battle."

Katherine Silah, who said she and Bob would have been celebrating 50 years of marriage this year, said she was excited about the room and the large number of people who came out to help honor her husband. Her son was thrilled as well.

"I'm a little overwhelmed and very, very proud," Jason Silah said after the ceremony. "I didn't know what to expect when I came out. It's really amazing."

<https://www.tampa.va.gov/TAMPA/features/Dedication.asp>



THE NEW MEMBER
SPOTLIGHT IS ON
COL SANDY PUFAL USA
(Ret)



Sandy was born and raised in Buffalo, NY. She became a Licensed Practical Nurse after completing high school.

In 1977, she joined the Army Reserves, and attended Boot Camp at Camp McClellan, AL.

She graduated from Trocaire College of Nursing in Buffalo and promoted to 2nd Lieutenant in 1980.

Over the decades, Sandy earned bachelor's and master's in health care administration, and Bachelor's in Nursing and a master's in nursing education. She is a graduate of the resident Army War College

Sandy served in the Army Reserve's in Buffalo, Miami, and Jacksonville, before joining the AGR program.

Her assignments went from an evacuation Hospital in Oakland, Ca; a personnel manager officer in St. Louis, Mo; Operations Officer for the Army Reserve Surgeon's Office in Atlanta, Ga; RTS-Med Clinical Training Coordinator in Augusta, GA; Medical Readiness for the SE Regional Medical Command at Fort Gordon, Ga; Medical Advisor for the Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs, Pentagon, and retired from The Army Reserve Medical Command in Pinellas, Park, FL, as the Professional Coordinator for Medical Services.

Sandy is currently semi-retired and is an Adjunct Professor for Chamberlain College of Nursing, teaching Information Systems in Health Care online. She spends her free time, relaxing, remodeling her home, playing cards, and caring for animals.



Marine Corps Capt. George Jones, the current operations officer for 3rd Marine Division, stands in front of his work building at Camp Courtney, Japan, April 18, 2018. Marine Corps photo by Sgt. Carl King

CAMP COURTNEY, Japan—In 2002, Marine Corps infantryman Sgt. George Jones told an interviewer that his dream was to retire as an officer in the Marine Corps. Jones, a Liberia native, had by then survived a civil war in his home country, emigrated to the U.S. and joined what he called, “The best looking service in the world.”

“In 1994, I came to America as an 18-year-old kid with my parents,” said Jones, the 3rd Marine Division’s current operations officer. “We came to America because it was my dream to visit the United States and at the time they were the only ones offering refugees the chance to resettle.”

Jones said that while his family was in Liberia, they stayed pretty close to an American embassy. This familiarization led to his wanting to become a Marine at a very young age.

“It was obvious why I joined the Marine Corps,” Jones said. “I like a challenge, and I wanted to be one of the best of the best.”

When he arrived in the U.S., Jones started paying for college out of his own pocket, but realized it was very expensive. He returned to his dream of becoming a U.S. Marine and stopped college to enlist, attending boot camp at Parris Island in South Carolina.

While an enlisted Marine, Jones was able to apply to the Broadened Opportunity for Officer Selection and Training program and earned his commission. The program has since been supplanted by the Marine Corps Enlisted Commissioning Educational Program.

Jones has now been an officer for eight years. His Marines say he has been a great influence. “My first impression of Capt. Jones was that he was one of the most thorough and articulate Marines I had ever met,” said Master Sgt. Michael Lester, the logistics operations chief for 3rd Marine Division. “My saying about him is that ‘pressure makes diamonds,’ because that’s what he does. He puts pressure on you, because he’s going to make you shine.”

Now with only two years remaining until he retires, Jones has proven to himself and the world that anyone can achieve their goals if they pursue them.

<https://www.defense.gov/News/Article/Article/1551266/face-of-defense-west-africa-native-fulfills-dream-in-marine-corps/source/GovDelivery/>



Equine Line

Marines ride horses with Mongolian youth at Five Hills Training Area, Mongolia, June 17, 2018, during Khaan Quest 18, a multinational exercise designed to strengthen international peace support capabilities.

Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Heidi Kroll
<https://www.defense.gov/Photos/Photo-Gallery/igphoto/2001934262/source/GovDelivery/>



Coast Guard Reenlistment

Then Coast Guard Chief Petty Officer Bob Trainor reenlists on “PA” Lighted Buoy in the Straits of Juan de Fuca near the state of Washington while stationed aboard USCGC Fir (WLB-213) Feb. 5, 1986.

Courtesy photo.

WASHINGTON -- One fateful evening in 1974 after dropping his girlfriend at home in Shelby County, Alabama, Bob Trainor heard a U.S. Coast Guard radio ad that would change his life. “Within those 60 seconds, I was hooked,” Trainor said. “I visited the recruiter the next day and within a couple of months was on my way to Alameda, California.” Trainor decided to join the Coast Guard because he wanted to drive boats and save lives. Little did he know at the time he was about to become a lifelong “Black Hull” sailor who would help maintain the U.S. Aids to Navigation system, or ATON—the buoys and beacons that help to keep mariners and the U.S. economy on course.

The Coast Guard maintains over 48,000 buoys and beacons across more than 25,000 miles of the U.S. navigable waterways that make up the U.S. Marine Transportation System. The Coast Guard ATON system mitigates maritime transit risks by promoting the safe, economic and efficient movement of vessel traffic. The U.S. MTS contributes more than \$4.6 trillion to the U.S. economy annually.

“Joining the ATON community was blind luck, but once assigned to the Coast Guard buoy tender Rambler in 1975 out of Mobile, Alabama, I never looked back,” said Trainor, who was born in White Plains, New York, and raised in upstate New York and Massachusetts before moving to Alabama, while still in high school.

Trainor served 24 of his 31 active-duty years in the Coast Guard’s ATON mission. Of his 18 years of sea duty, he served on seven different ATON cutters and two Aids to Navigation Teams, including two commanding officer tours and one officer-in-charge tour. From the Gulf Coast to the Pacific Northwest to the East Coast, he traveled thousands of miles and helped maintain thousands of the buoys and beacons that safely guide mariners transiting the MTS.

Early in his career on the Corpus Christi-based construction tender Anvil, Trainor and his crewmates demonstrated the multi-mission capabilities of ATON cutters following the 1979 blowout of a Campeche Bay, Mexico, oil rig. Working from sunup to sundown for six weeks, the Anvil crew set oil containment booms across many of the inlets along the coast to protect Texas wetlands.

ATON units also perform search-and-rescue missions. While on the Seattle-based seagoing buoy tender Fir, Trainor, then a chief petty officer, and Chief Warrant Officer Tom Murray rescued a man and his young son who were stranded on a rock island in Deception Pass, Washington, after their boat crashed into pieces on the rocks.

While serving as the commanding officer of the Coast Guard Cutter Sledge, a Baltimore-based construction tender, Trainor helped to restore the ATON system in the waterways of North Carolina, Virginia and Maryland following the 1999 Category 4 Hurricane Floyd. For three weeks following the hurricane, Sledge traveled more than 1,200 miles,

(Continued on page 8, see **COAST GUARD**)

(COAST GUARD, continued from page 7)



USCGC Fir (WLB-213) passing Tillamook Rock Light, Oregon coast.

rebuilt 45 beacons and corrected many other ATON discrepancies, restoring several critical waterways.

“There is a sense of accomplishment when a construction tender spuds down at severely damaged range light and within a few hours you’re underway with new aid to navigation in your wake lighting the way for our nation’s mariners,” Trainor said.

Trainor retired as a chief warrant officer in 2006. He then went to work as a civil servant at Coast Guard Headquarters here. He was assigned to the Office of Navigation Systems, Aids to Navigation and Position, Navigation and Timing Division.

As a Coast Guard civilian, Trainor capitalized on his experience to help shape policy and introduce initiatives, improving both the design and maintenance of the ATON system. In addition, he helped shape global ATON standards as a committee member of the International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities. One of his most memorable contributions was the establishment of range project in the Delaware River that vastly improved ship transits through a narrow bridge. One of the Delaware Bay Pilots commented, “You guys just made the most dangerous part of the river much safer.”

From the Coast Guard Headquarters to the Black Hull fleet, Trainor has helped to make U.S. waterways safer, more efficient and resilient. “Saving lives is the foundation of everything the Coast Guard does,” Trainor said. “From actual rescues to keeping drugs out of the country, to maintaining a system of signals to mitigate transits risks, all Coast Guard missions aim to save lives.”

More than four decades after he joined the Coast Guard, Trainor retired for a second time, wrapping up his 43 years of uniformed and civilian Coast Guard service during a ceremony here in May 2018. His wife Cynthia, who was his girlfriend in 1974 on the night he heard the life-changing radio ad, was there with him.

<https://www.defense.gov/News/Article/Article/1550567/coast-guard-veteran-dedicates-43-years-to-keeping-mariners-safe/source/GovDelivery/>

WORLD WAR II VETERANS HOLD REUNION AT CAMP BLANDING JOINT TRAINING CENTER

By Army Staff Sgt. Carmen Fleischmann
Florida National Guard

STARKE, FL—For years, veterans of the Army’s 66th Infantry Division have reunited to reminisce about their time together fighting in World War II, to share stories of how their lives have changed since then, and to recall fond memories of those brothers they lost along the way.

They have taken many journeys together, but none as impactful as their June 15 return here to the Camp Blanding Joint Training Center for their final reunion.

The 15 veterans of the 66th “Black Panther” Division and their families were welcomed to the Camp Blanding Museum by post commander, Army Col. Matt Johnson, who shared how he was personally impacted by their stories.

Upon taking command of Camp Blanding in 2015, Johnson said he would enjoy a morning run past the troop billeting areas on Quincy Avenue which just happened to be located behind what used to be the headquarters for the 66th Infantry Division.

“I remember vividly on those first mornings as I ran through the area, how I observed the concrete foundations and the red brick chimneys that still remain there today,” Johnson said. “It stirred within me the desire to learn more about the history of this post and the soldiers and civilians who once trained and served here.”

Johnson ran his usual route again on the morning of the reunion to prepare for his meeting with veterans that trained at his post all those years ago.

“I could still imagine the voices and the sounds of men rising early, preparing for another day of training at Camp Blanding. I thought of what you experienced then and what we experience today,” he said.

Johnson said he was also touched by the story of one of the veterans in attendance, Cyril Reshetiloff, who served in Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 262nd Infantry Regiment. Reshetiloff was onboard the S.S. Leopoldville, a Belgian passenger ship that was torpedoed and sunk by a German submarine as it was crossing the English Channel to deliver members of the 66th to fight at the Battle of the Bulge.

While Reshetiloff was able to climb his way out of the wreckage and (Continued from page 8, Veterans)

swim to safety, the 66th Infantry Division lost 14 officers, including two battalion commanders, and 784 enlisted men in that attack.

Instead of continuing to the original battle, the Black Panther Division was assigned to fight 60,000 Germans along the French Atlantic coast. They later

(Continued on page 9)



Veterans of the Army 66th Infantry Division pose for a group photo during the division’s final reunion and site dedication at Camp Blanding Joint Training Center’s museum in Starke, Fla., June 15, 2018. The 66th division was activated in 1943 at Camp Blanding. After training, the division deployed to England and afterward fought German forces in Europe. The division finished the war in Koblenz, Germany, in 1945. While in Germany, the division conducted occupation duty and provided security at German prisoner-of-war camps.

Florida National Guard photo by Army Staff Sgt. Christopher Vann

(Continued from page 8)

relocated to Koblenz, Germany, following the German surrender in May 1945, where they conducted occupation duty and provided security at German prisoner-of-war camps. The men who left to continue the fight after Leopoldville consider the sacrifice made by their fallen brothers to have saved their lives.

Army Capt. Kimberly Quinn enjoys a laugh with World War II Army veteran John Dietz following the 66th Infantry Division's final reunion and site dedication held at Camp Blanding Joint Training Center's Museum in Starke, Fla., June 15, 2018. Florida National Guard photo by Army Staff Sgt. Christopher Vann

Jerry Roetigers, President of the Panther Veterans Organization, and one of the young men who trained at CBJTC and went on to fight with the 66th Infantry Division, said the PVO has boasted as many as 2,500 members since it was created in the 1960s. He recalls emotional moments when the PVO went to Europe and placed a wreath at the location where the Leopoldville was sunk, and later when they placed one at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The members of the 66th Infantry Division have been honored for their sacrifice and praised for their legacy. Their final reunion at Camp Blanding was no different. Dozens of soldiers, airmen and civilians turned out in the hot summer sun to pay their respects to the brave men of the Black Panther Division. Several World War II-era vehicles led the convoy of buses around post, bringing back memories of the unit's time here, but also providing a reminder of how much time has gone by.

Choking back tears, Roetigers said, "None of this would have ever happened if our buddies on the Leopoldville didn't give their lives. They gave their lives for us. It kept us out of the Battle of the Bulge, and who knows ... we all might have been buried in Belgium."

Roetigers had his grandson, also named Jerry and a veteran who served in Iraq, read an article written by his friend and previous PVO President Frank Bartino, and the current CEO of the Panther organization, Lenore Angelo, titled, "Roses in December." The heartwarming words remembers comrades that fell during the war and have passed away since.

Just before laying a wreath on the monument, each of the 12 Black Panther Division veterans in attendance received a 66th Infantry plaque and a CBJTC challenge coin.

The veterans noticed on their tour of Camp Blanding that while the post has changed tremendously over the years, the spirit of sacrifice and service remains.

During the ceremony, currently serving Florida National Guard soldiers and airmen stood proudly as they donned the same style "Black Panther" Division patches as the heroes who have gone before them wore when the 66th Infantry

Division was activated on April 15, 1943.

"We are very proud of the 66th Infantry Division's record in World War II, and we are extremely pleased that you have come home in 2018," said the president of the CBJTC Museum Association, George Cressman.

<https://www.defense.gov/News/Article/Article/1553405/world-war-ii-veterans-hold->



American and Spanish paratroopers descend onto a drop zone as the sun rises near Zaragoza, Spain. June 23 2018
Army photo by Lt. Col John Hall



BLUE SEA

The Ticonderoga-class cruiser USS Antietam steams alongside the Navy's forward-deployed aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan during a fueling at sea in the Philippine Sea, June 21, 2018. The Ronald Reagan is the flagship of Carrier Strike Group 5 that protects and defends the collective maritime interests of allies and partners in the Indo-Pacific region.

Navy photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Kaila Peters
<https://www.defense.gov/Photos/Photo-Gallery/igphoto/2001935334/source/GovDelivery/>

Senate Passes Defense Bill

June 20, 2018

In an 85 to 10 vote, the Senate on Monday (June 25) passed its version of the FY 2019 National Defense Authorization Act. The sprawling legislation must now be reconciled with the House, which passed its version of the bill in May.

The bill authorizes a 2.6 percent military pay raise, matching both the administration's request and what House lawmakers passed. The raise, consistent with private-sector wage growth, would be the biggest pay raise for servicemembers in eight years.

<https://www.moaa.org/Content/Take-Action/Top-Issues/Currently-Serving/Senate-Passes-Defense-Bill--Here-Are-The-Key-Takeaways.aspx>



Army Capt. Kimberly Quinn enjoys a laugh with World War II Army veteran John Dietz following the 66th Infantry Division's final reunion and site dedication held at Camp Blanding Joint Training Center's Museum in Starke, Fla., June 15, 2018.

Florida National Guard photo by Army Staff Sgt. Christopher Vann

AIMING HIGH AT MORE THAN 200 MILES PER HOUR

By Air Force Airman 1st Class Greg Erwin
18th Wing



Conor Daly, driver of the No. 17 U.S. Air Force Recruiting Service Thom Burns Racing Honda, prepares to put on his helmet on pit road during "bump day" at Indianapolis Motor Speedway, May 19, 2018. The entry for Conor Daly was the first time the U.S. Air Force has sponsored a car in the Indy 500.

Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Greg Erwin

INDIANAPOLIS, June 21, 2018 — On the surface, it may be hard to see how the Air Force and auto racing are similar. Upon closer inspection, however, the themes of teamwork, perseverance and excellence ring true in both worlds. For race car driver Conor Daly, support from his team – and support from the Air Force – may have helped fuel the most gratifying race of his young career.

The crown jewel of North American auto racing is the Memorial Day weekend Indianapolis 500, and this year's running was the 102nd event. Daly's effort in the Indy 500 was fielded by Thom Burns Racing, in the No. 17 car, and sponsorship from the U.S. Air Force Recruiting Service. With the partnership, the car's livery – or paint scheme – was made up to look like an F-16, mirroring the Air Force Thunderbirds aerial demonstration team.

Before hitting the track, one of the perks of the sponsorship for Daly was getting a chance to visit Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada, to fly with the Thunderbirds. Throughout the visit, Daly was able to get a better look at what makes the United States Air Force the world's greatest.

"The big theme I got from my ride with the Thunderbirds was teamwork," he said. "That's one thing we also have here in racing. It's one of those things where everyone has to do their job, everyone has to execute, and when that happens, good results will come."

All in the Family

Good results seem to be in his genes -- to say racing is in the family would be an understatement. Daly is the son of former Formula 1 driver and current TV analyst Derek Daly. His mother, Beth Boles, is married to the president of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, J. Douglas Boles. Being the son of a driver who raced in the premier auto racing series comes with a high set of expectations, but a lack of funding can derail fulfilling those dreams. As with many other sports professionals, this has been Daly's struggle toward consistently maintaining a ride. Fortunately, one race Daly has frequently qualified for is

the Indianapolis 500. This year's attempt was the most difficult yet, but sponsorship from the Air Force enabled the team to qualify for the race. Daly's car owner, Thom Burns, an Indianapolis-based contractor and military veteran, has been trying for years to put together a program to work with the Air Force in the Indy 500.

"We've tried to get the Air Force deal for a couple of years, but they had been focused on NASCAR and other sports," Burns said.

This year, the pieces fell into place for Burns to land the sponsorship. Once in place, the process to acquire bodywork, a chassis and an engine were expedited, thanks to a partnership with full-time team Dale Coyne Racing. With the partnership of Coyne, and sponsorship from the Air Force, the only missing piece was a driver -- insert Conor Daly.

"I've had multiple people message me since we announced the deal," Burns said. "Every single one has said that Conor is the best driver I've ever had. ... That means a lot."

Being a one-off effort – or not a full-time team – the team was stretched thin on funding and resources, making the attempt much more difficult at times during the Indianapolis "Month of May" racing. Much like the Air Force however, in times of stress, the team found a way to complete the mission.

The Bump Line

On qualification day, also known as "bump day," 35 entries were vying for the 33 starting positions. After making multiple changes to the car, a stoppage for rain, and some late qualification session drama, the No. 17 team found themselves on the right side of the bump line when the gun was fired signifying the end of the session.

The dream of being in the top 33 had been met; the team would be competing in the 102nd Indy 500. The elation from the members of the team, Daly's family and Daly himself showed just how important making this race was to each of them – especially when they were representing the Air Force.

After another week of preparations, the day of the race came and went. Daly was able to keep the car clean and played the best strategy possible for the one-off effort, coming home in 21st place of the 33-car field. Daly and his team were able to enjoy the accomplishment of making the world's biggest race – while representing the world's greatest Air Force.

"It's an honor to represent the U.S. Air Force. It's an incredible group of people," Daly said. "I'm a very passionate American, I try to be the most American guy I can be, and to be able to have this red, white and blue car that looks like a Thunderbird and on Memorial Day weekend – it's a perfect partnership and we'd love to do more in the future with the Air Force."

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#inbox/FMfcgxvwzlcZvWllxpvNgKLMGtnndsGZ>

Arlington National Cemetery to Open 27,000 New Gravesites

The Millennium Project at Arlington National Cemetery will open for new burials soon. More than a decade of construction, funding delays, and redesign are complete. But these 27,000 new gravesites will only extend the active life of the cemetery, which buries an average of nearly 30 service members or spouses per day, for a few more years.



ARMY NATIONAL GUARD PILOT DEFIES LIMITS

By Army 1st Lt. Nadine Wiley De Moura, 100th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment



Army 2nd Lt. Liliana Chavez poses in front of a helicopter at McAllen International Airport. Army photo by 1st Lt. Nadine Wiley De Moura

MCALLEN, TX—In a small, green-pastured yard enclosed by barbed wire in Tamaulipas, Mexico, just three hours south of the Texas-Mexico border, 6-year-old Liliana Chavez marveled at the sight of crop-dusters flying over her home and dreamed that one day she, too, could fly. Eighteen years later, Army 2nd Lt. Liliana Chavez smiled as she recalled the memory that propelled her forward. “I grew up in a rural area where we didn’t have running water” Chavez said. “We had outhouses, so no toilets. And, the first time I saw a shower I was in second or third grade. I grew up in the projects.”

Chavez, 24, is an aeromedical evacuation officer who flies UH-60 Black Hawk and UH-72A Lakota helicopters for the Texas Army National Guard’s 2nd Battalion, 149th Aviation Regiment. She said her accomplishments are far beyond what her 6-year-old self could have imagined. “I have been wanting to fly since the first time I saw an airplane, but I kind of put that dream aside, since I thought it was very competitive,” Chavez said. “It was like dreaming to be a movie star; you put it aside because you think it will never happen.” Despite the obstacles that Chavez and her family endured as immigrants during their journey, Chavez realized her dreams were more of a reality than she thought. “I came here as a permanent resident,” Chavez said. “My dad worked his butt off to get us all here the correct, legal way, and now I am a citizen.”

Upon moving, to Pharr, Texas, with her parents, Chavez and her older sister went to school in the Pharr-San-Juan-Alamo Independent School District. It was during her high school years that Chavez discovered her love for a disciplined military structure when she joined the Junior ROTC. Chavez graduated fifth in her high school class with an associate’s degree under her belt, and she landed a two-year Texas Armed Services scholarship to the University of Texas Pan-American, where she joined the ROTC program and majored in biology. “In ROTC, I got the opportunity to go up for the aviation board,” she said. “I put in the packet . . . and was selected.”

Chavez graduated from flight school and survival, evasion, resistance and escape training. SERE is a 21-day training requirement for all pilots and Special Forces members that tests the limits of the participants’ mental and physical fortitude to prepare them to evade capture and survive extreme conditions and unforgiving elements while maintaining the military code of conduct. Chavez said SERE training was the most challenging experience she has faced in her life.

During her lowest moment during the training, Chavez recalled, she started laughing, even though there were tears coming out of her eyes. “It was tough, but I always had a positive attitude,” she said. “I tried to sing and make something positive out of a crappy situation.” Chavez credited her father’s work ethic as the reason she is so driven to overcome the challenges she faced during SERE training. “My dad—he is really motivating,” Chavez said. “He works in construction, in roofing. He would come back home just burned and blistered—every day, nonstop—and he never complained.” Chavez said she admires her father and that he is the force that continues to keep her on track. “I always stop to sit down and think, Would this make my dad proud?” Chavez said.

Silvano Chavez, Liliana’s father, also frequently expresses his pride for his daughter when talking to his friends. “I tell my friends that Liliana is on another level; she isn’t just any normal college graduate; she is way more than that,” Silvano said. “Liliana serves as an example that if you work hard and persevere you can get to where you want to be.” Silvano was one of 14 siblings, and he never had the opportunity to finish his education or go to college. He started working at age 13 to help provide for his large family. He said he taught his three daughters that if you want to do better in life, you need to focus and take every opportunity that you have. Chavez remembered being one of three women and the only Hispanic woman in her flight school class. “There is a challenge in being a Hispanic woman and being a minority—that’s two things,” Chavez said. “But now, I think it’s a great thing because we can actually go all the way to the top.”

Chavez said that she overcomes discrimination the same way that she conquered her challenges during SERE training: with humor. “I just play along with it. I say, ‘So what?’ Chavez said with a laugh. “I’ll prove a point. I’m Mexican, I’ll braid my hair. I embrace every stereotype, and I think that’s the way to do it instead of being thin-skinned.” Regardless of all the challenges she has faced, whether it was getting through college, financial setbacks, discrimination, or SERE, Chavez said, she never saw failure as an option. “My main drive was not to disappoint my father,” Chavez said. “I wanted to finish school and do amazing things for him. Also, I want to eventually pay him back for all he has done for us.”

Chavez, a lean 5 and a half feet tall, walks ruler-straight and with purpose, radiating positivity, while also having a steadfast command presence. “The leader I hope to be: I expect to touch many, many lives,” Chavez said. “I am already a joyful leader, always looking at the positive side. I am always smiling, I don’t want to be bitter. If you aren’t happy and have a moody face, that is contagious.” When Chavez talks about flying, her face lights up, and her voice exudes an energetic rhythm. “I want to fly a fixed-wing [aircraft]; I want to fly it all,” she said.

Jessica Chavez, 27, Liliana’s sister, said, “I feel really proud, she loves what she does,” “Every time she talks about it, you can see a little spark—the glow in her eyes, the spark in her face.” Her sister displays strong character everywhere she goes, even in the way she stands, Jessica added.

Chavez reflected on where she would be in life had her father not brought her and her family to the United States. “I would be living a sad life; probably with like, five kids, not in school, not educated or maybe something even worse—just the way stuff is down there,” she said. With a smirk on his face and standing very straight, Silvano crossed his arms and shook his head in disagreement with his daughter’s statement. “If we hadn’t come here, nothing would be different,” Silvano said. “I would have wanted them to keep up with their education, and if Lily were in Mexico, she would move somewhere else and still succeed, because that is the way she is.”

Although she has achieved success, Chavez said she still has many dreams to fulfill. “My other plan is to go back to school for earth and coastal sciences, diving and studying earth forms,” Chavez said. “I want to be an astronaut too, one day.” Chavez said working in the community where she was raised is a reminder of all the people who have shaped her life. “I would never have thought I would be in this position to make a difference or implant a seed in their brains so they can actually grow their ideas and be something,” she added.

Sitting up straight on the end of her office chair, both hands on her knees, Chavez leaned forward and passionately voiced her message to other girls who have big “movie-star dreams” like hers. “I’d tell them don’t limit yourself. The sky is actually not the limit -- you can be an astronaut if you want to.”

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#inbox/FMfcgxvzwzlfscwqjtMgGrWFDksSKQDWM>

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Chapter luncheon will be held at the Surf's Edge Club on 12 JULY;



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Please contact us with any questions.

Chairman: LTC Chris Hart, USA (Ret.), 813.765.5832, c3ihart@gmail.com **CoChairs:** LTC Doug Andrews, USA (Ret.), 813.857.7089, fda6890@yahoo.com

COL Lewis VanDyke, USA (Ret.) 703.984.9289, vandykel@verizon.net

We meet monthly in conjunction with the Tampa Chapter’s luncheon at the Surf’s Edge Club on MacDill AFB.