



THE RETROSPECT

OCTOBER 2018

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

VOLUME 24, NUMBER 10

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

OPERATION HELPING HAND

SERVICE NEWS

CONGRESS FUNDS HUGE VA BILL

LUNCHEON MENU:

Pretzel bread
Fall Salad
Bratwurst
Roasted Potatoes
Sauerkraut
Black Forest Cake
and Assorted Desserts

Upcoming Events

OUR BOARD WILL MEET AT
1000 on:
-04 OCT
-01 NOV
-06 DEC

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

ON:
-11 OCT
-08 NOV
-13 DEC

UNIFORM CHANGE TO COATS IN NOVEMBER

PUBLICATION DEADLINE FOR THE NOVEMBER ISSUE IS 25 OCTOBER



COL ZIERES
PRESIDENT

Last month at our luncheon, the Tampa Chapter ushered in a special tribute and salute to the United States Air Force's 71st birthday with a cake and special recognition of all our Air Force members who proudly stood up at their tables while we played the Air Force Service song.

Other highlights from the luncheon included the introduction of FIVE newly joined chapter members; we welcomed CAPT PHILIP FRICKE, LTC MATTHEW MULARONI, LTC TEMARKUS BROWN, MAJ RYAN ATKINS, and LT DAVID HOPPE in to our chapter!

Also, we were honored to have two new SNR Coalition Officers accompanied by the new Chairman of the Coalition, BGEN HENRIK LARSEN join us for lunch: BGEN FERNANDO GRACIA HERREIZ from Spain and BGEN TROND LUNDBERG from Norway. Including our Coalition partners from CENTCOM C CJ5 in our monthly luncheon program is what makes the Tampa Chapter so unique from all of the other chapters in the Florida Council of Chapters.

The other unique branding of our chapter is in the relationship we enjoy with the JAMES A. HALEY VA HOSPITAL (JAHVAH), and the support given to the active duty patients and their families; support provided entirely by donations of money and many great volunteers' time and talent through our 501©3 charitable organization, OPERATION HELPING HAND. We were privileged to again have the (JAHVAH) Medical Center Director, MR. JOE BATTLE as our luncheon speaker. JOE BATTLE and his VA staff continue to be strong voices and supporters of OPERATION HELPING HAND and MOAA TAMPA CHAPTER. His update of all the expanded VA facilities that are being upgraded to provide quality healthcare to veterans no matter where they currently reside was truly enlightening.

One subject that he touched on that particularly sparked my interest as an Artist, was the new Whole Health program initiative that treats the patient using a holistic approach, including art and music therapy. The JAHVAH recently hired a full-time Clinical Art Therapist to provide this service to patients and is already making tremendous impact on their physical rehabilitation, mental health and well-being.

This leads me to my last point, OPERATION HELPING HAND, MOAA TAMPA CHAPTER in partnership with JAHVAH and ST. PETERSBURG COLLEGE (SPC) will host the SIXTH Annual STAR SPANGLED ART SHOW at the SPC Tarpon Springs Campus during the month of NOVEMBER. This art show is a full gallery exhibit of fine artworks by military veterans you won't want to miss. Some of the paintings you will see on display are from the wounded patients undergoing the art therapy program at the VA Hospital. I invite you to join us for the Artist's reception on Saturday, November 17th from 3-5 pm in the campus Fine Arts Building where you may meet some of the artists participating in the art show. Look for an announcement—flyers for the 2018 Star Spangled Art Show on the tables at the October luncheon or check the chapter website: www.moaatampa.org for details and more information.

“AS ALWAYS, WE’VE GOT YOUR BACK-NEVER STOP SERVING-TAKING CARE OF OUR TROOPS IS A LIFETIME COMMITMENT”

DATES TO NOTE

1—**World Vegetarian Day** seeks to bring awareness to the health benefits of living a vegetarian lifestyle. Educational programs which highlight environmental issues and ecological projects, as well as campaigns for the humane treatment of animals occur around this day. World Vegetarian Day, an informal holiday created by the North American Vegetarian Society in 1977, is celebrated annually on October 1st.

8—**Columbus Day** is the celebration of the arrival of Christopher Columbus in the Americas on October 12, 1492.

9—**Leif Erikson Day** serves to honor Viking Explorer Leif Erikson and celebrate Nordic-American Heritage. Erikson is believed to have been the first European to set foot on the North American continent, having done so nearly 500 years before Christopher Columbus.

13—**Birthday of the United States Navy (1775)**

31—**Halloween**, also called All Hallow's Eve, occurs on the eve of the Western Christian celebration of All Hallow's or All Saints Day - a day set aside to honor all the Saints of Christendom.

4—**November —Daylight Savings time ends** (set your clock back one hour)

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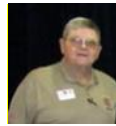
(Board is continued on page 3)



CAPT DVORNIK
EDITOR

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**OPERATION HELPING HAND UPDATE**

Submitted by LTC JIM GRIFFIN USA RET
Chairman, OPHH

Our SEPTEMBER MONTHLY DINNER was the largest crowd this year. The attendees were well rewarded by an exquisite dinner provided by EDIBLES FROM ETHYL.

Some very special guests from the CENTCOM COALITION were in attendance lead by the GERMAN members of the COALITION.

Donation presentations were made by MICHAEL JOHNSON, WAYNE SMITH, AND LYNN SMITH OF THE GROUND WATER ASSOCIATION. We thank them for their continued support.

Also presentations were made by the MARINE CORPS LEAGUE OF THE VILLAGES, and the VETERANS GROUP AT ASTON GARDENS. Without the support of groups like these we would not be able to do what we do. THANK YOU ALL!

Our 18 OCTOBER DINNER is sponsored by the LUCAS|MAGAZINE LAW GROUP. THE CATERER is LUPTON'S which means we will have yet another superb dinner to look forward to in OCTOBER.

I would like to provide you with update on WHAT YOUR DONATIONS DO: The year to date requests from the social workers assigned to the patients and their families that were approved by the EXECUTIVE COUNCIL are \$48,318.04. In addition, twenty four (24) flights were approved for family members to fly in to visit patients once the patient was cleared to have visitors.

Thanks for every dollar that you donate, all of this is made possible. It is impossible to measure the true value that your donations bring to these families. WE THANK YOU!

With a volunteer base that is tireless, we are able to consistently provide over 96.5% of all the monies donated to our wounded and injured and their families.

None of this could be possible without the strong support of our local business community and their commitment to sponsor our dinner events, golf tournament and, in addition, provide generous donations throughout the year. We also appreciate the individual support that we receive from hundreds of donors every month. All of these donations insure that the support of our mission will not be interrupted.

**OUR TREMENDOUS GROUP OF VOLUNTEERS MAKE
ALL OF THIS POSSIBLE!****CONGRESS CLEARS WAY TO FUND LARGEST
VA SPENDING BILL IN HISTORY**

By: CDR René Campos, USN (Ret)

These last few weeks Congress has feverishly worked to pass a number of spending bills to ensure the federal government is funded when the new fiscal year starts Oct.1.

Among a series of spending measures sent to President Trump last week was the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) appropriations. The VA will receive its full budget for FY 2019 and partial advance funding for FY 2020 to assure continuity of veterans' health and disability, education, survivors, memorial and other benefit payments between fiscal years.

The appropriations bill is the VA's largest spending bill in history, providing more than \$197 billion for health and benefits programs-over \$86 billion in discretionary (mostly medical-related programs) and over \$110 billion in mandatory benefit payments.

Key provisions contained in the bill:

- + Funding to support the new VA MISSION Act, including additional funding for community care, expansion of VA's comprehensive caregiver services and money to modernize medical facilities.
- + Expanding mental health services, including integration of mental health with primary care services through telehealth, medical centers and community clinics.
- + Directing more resources to the delivery of care in rural communities.
- + Funding to redesign VA's health care delivery system to better meet the needs of women veterans.
- + Funding for a variety of treatment and prevention programs targeting opioid abuse, substance disorders, and justice outreach for homeless veterans.

(Board, continued from page 2)

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OCTOBER SPEAKER: HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY SHERIFF, Chad Chronister

Sheriff Chronister is a veteran law enforcement officer who has served with the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office since 1992. He has a bachelor's degree in criminal justice and a master's degree in criminology from St. Leo University. He is also a graduate of the FBI National Academy's 260th Session.

Sheriff Chronister became the top law enforcement officer in Hillsborough County on Sept. 30, 2017, upon his appointment by Governor Rick Scott. The Sheriff commands an office with an authorized strength of 2,466 sworn employees and 1,051 civilians. The current annual budget is \$418 million.

Sheriff Chronister has held numerous positions throughout his career, most of which were in covert and latent investigative capacities. He began his law enforcement career assigned as a patrol deputy. Sheriff Chronister has been a SWAT operator, Environmental Enforcement detective, Warrants Unit detective/supervisor, Narcotics Section detective/supervisor, Intelligence Unit detective/supervisor, Dignitary Protection Detail supervisor, deputy commander of the Community Outreach Division, and commander of Patrol District III. He was most recently the Colonel in charge of the Department of Operational Support. Sheriff Chronister is also co-chairman of the Regional Domestic Security Task Force, Region IV Tampa Bay.

Sheriff Chronister credits his family and faith for his personal and professional successes. Of particular note was his grandfather, Jack Bentivegna. "Nanu" Jack instilled in him a passion for service to others, to work for the greater good and to always fight the good fight. Sheriff Chronister's desire to enter law enforcement was sparked by his grandfather's mentoring. Nanu Jack spoke from a position of experience, having served his country as a decorated Marine in combat missions at Guadalcanal, Iwo Jima and Guam during World War II. Nanu Jack passed away in 2013, but his spirit and legacy live on.


<http://www.hcso.tampa.fl.us/getdoc/78095f58-757c-4a97-84a7-3ff798c6489a/Chad-Chronister.aspx>

PERSONNEL UPDATE


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LTC RONALD BUTTON JR USA RET, 3306 EL MONTE CT, TAMPA, FL 33614-2725

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 MAJ TEMARKUS BROWN, 11326 Hidden Valley Lane, Riverview, FL 33569-6516

 LT DAVID HOPPE USNR, 3319 W. Marcum S, Tampa, FL 33611-5423

 LTC MATTHEW MALARONI USA AD 5305 Match Point Place, Lithia, FL 33547-3968

 LT TALBOT

DEATH OF MEMBER

Our sympathy is sent to Bonnie Bihir whose husband, Col Michael W Bihir USA Ret, 10954 96th st, Largo, FL 33773-4440, died on Saturday, September 8, 2018

ITEMS AND SOCKS FOR VA PATIENTS

We will collect comfort items for patients at the James A. Haley VA Hospital at the October luncheon: tooth brushes, tooth paste, pocket combs, denture paste, disposable razors and shaving cream. Do not include mouthwash or after shave lotion.

Also purchase white tube socks to serve as "foot warmers" for hospital patients. Please bring a package or two to the November luncheon.

Our hospital representative, Mary Ellen Harlan, will place a collection container at the door of the Surf's Edge Club and she will deliver them to the hospital.



(COL) BERNARD H LIEVING JR USA RET, SR CHAPLAIN
OF THE TAMPA CHAPTER, MILITARY OFFICERS
ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

1 October
LT COL JOHN ALTENBURG USAF RET
CAPT HARRIS HALVERSON NOAA AD

2 October
COL GREGORY P HOLDER USAFR RET

4 October
LCDR C COLE JEFFRIES USN RET

7 October
LTC RUTH E BRYSON USA RET
FMR USA 1ST LT CLIFF GREENSIDE

8 October
LTC THOMAS MCINNES JR USA RET
MAJ GUY OTTO USAF RET

9 October
FORMER ARMY CPT ROBERT SHEA

10 October
LT CARLOS WILSON USCG AD

12 October
LT COL EMILY E FARKAS USAF AD

14 October
CAPT JOHN MCQUIGG USAF RET

15 October
LTC DARYL MANNING USA RET

16 October
LTC ALLAN BERG USA RET
LTC MARTIN HEUER USA RET
1LT JOHN MEACHAM USA AD

17 October
LTGEN GEORGE TRAUTMAN USMC RET

18 October
MAJ OWEN BREWER USAF RET

21 October
CDR LARRY F GOLDEN USN RET

22 October
CWO4 TERRY MCLAUGHLIN USN RET

23 October
COL LYNETTE ARNHART USA RET

25 October
LT COL RALPH DELGADO JR USAFR RET

28 October
BRIG GEN ARTHUR DIEHL USAF RET
LT COL GERALD MARTAS USAF RET
COL CLARENCE TROWBRIDGE USA RET

31 October
CDR ARTHUR FISHER USN RET
1LT VICTOR PRATO USA AD

Over the past six weeks I have spent countless hours in our garage working my way through dozens of boxes of books and all kinds of papers dating as far back as 1967, the year I entered active duty as an Army chaplain. I have filled my City of Tampa recycle bin to the brim five times; have made numerous stops at the Salvation Army drop-off point; gave several boxes of books to the six members of my church's pastoral staff; and have paid UPS about \$80 to shred hundreds of those Army pay vouchers, copies of PCS orders, and my deceased 1st wife's medical records. All had, of course, my social security number on them.

I still have to make decisions about the numerous plaques, pictures, and other memorabilia collected from the fourteen different posts and units I served in my twenty-seven years. I am doing this to keep my three children from having to sort through and make decisions about all this "stuff" when I am no longer around.

How full is your garage or closet or rented storage space these days? Perhaps you are not a saver of such things and your children or estate executor will not have any issues dealing with your left-behinds. I salute you!

There is, however, another part of our lives we all need to ensure we keep cleaned out; that is our spiritual lives. C.S. Lewis suggested we picture our lives as a house and just like the houses in which we live, our spiritual houses often need cleaning. Thankfully, God's love and grace are more than sufficient to clean out those long harbored grudges, to scrub clean the trash of unconfessed wrongs, and to take away those negative feelings we have about those who differ from us in race, color, language or religion.

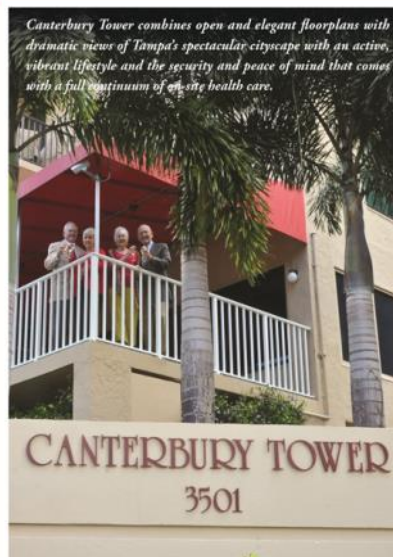
Our first step in cleaning spiritual garage, closet, or storage space is to recognize that there is cleaning that needs to be done and then we allow God to work God's cleaning power to do the work that only God can do. Let's get busy!

(Spending bill continued from page 2)

The veterans spending bill was part of a larger package of bills providing funding to three other federal agencies, defense for military construction, water and energy, and the legislative branch. The minibus appropriations package represents the first time in over 10 years Congress has sent more than one spending bill to the president before the end of the fiscal year.

<https://www.moaa.org/Content/Publications-and-Media/News-Articles/2018-News-Articles/Advocacy/Congress-Clears-Way-to-Fund-Largest-VA-Spending-Bill-in-History.aspx>

utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=TMNsend&utm_content=NC+AFHR+1+ERet+L+NC



It's your life—
so bring it with you!

As we age many people are anxious about making a move. They are concerned about the downsizing and apprehensive about leaving a familiar home they've always known. Most of all there is the fear that the life and lifestyle they've so enjoyed will change. To that we say, "Nonsense!"

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Call 813.837.1083 to schedule a tour.



3501 BAYSHORE BOULEVARD
TAMPA, FL
canterburytower.org



RAYS GAME PHOTOS



SEPTEMBER LUNCHEON

ROBINSON HS NAVY HONOR GUARD



LUNCHEON GUESTS

Pictured left to right: Brig. General Lundburg, Norway, Brig General Larson, Denmark, Col Zieres, LTC Griffin, Brig General Garcia-Herriez, Spain



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LUNCHEON GUESTS



Above: LTGEN FERNANDO GRACIA HERREIZ from Spain

Below: BGEN TROND LUNDBERG from Norway



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THE USAF
Founded: 1 August 1907, (first antecedent),
18 September 1947, (as independent service)
Below: Maj Gen Jim Jones, USAF RET



PICTURED BELOW:
CW3 Farrow, Col Ziers, President; Mr. Joe Battle, James A Haley
Medical Director (Sept. speaker) and LTC Griffin, Chairman of
Operation Helping Hand



RWANDA-BORN AIRMAN FINDS SUCCESS IN SERVICE

By Ilka Cole, Eglin Air Force Base



Rwanda-born Air Force Senior Airman Karl Mutangana, a supply liaison for F-35 Lightning II aircraft parts with the 96th Logistics Readiness Squadron, poses for a photo at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., July 19, 2018. Mutangana's photo was taken prior to his promotion.

Air Force photo by Samuel King Jr.

EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE, FL

When he was a youth in Rwanda, Karl Mutangana dreamed of achieving a better life.

Today, Mutangana successfully serves as a senior airman and supply liaison for F-35 Lightning II aircraft parts with the 96th Logistics Readiness Squadron here.

"I'm grateful. Being in the United States Air Force is an enlightening experience," Mutangana said. "It's rewarding to see what I do supports the test aircraft and a larger mission."

Mutangana, 22, was born in Kigali, Rwanda, and is the eldest of five siblings.

"Growing up in Rwanda had its ups and downs," he said. "Sometimes, we didn't have anything to eat. The entire community would be without food, so it didn't bother us as much. We didn't dwell on it. We just lived."

Mutangana was 11 years old when his mother moved to America. He remained in Rwanda with his grandmother. Eventually, after three immigration application denials, Mutangana was granted a permanent residence card and joined his mother and his America-born siblings in Connecticut in 2015. "There are no words to express how I felt when I was reunited with my family," he said. "It was the happiest moment of life to finally hug my mum and meet my siblings."

Mutangana found himself drawn to the Air Force's culture of integrity and leadership. "I felt the Air Force would be a good platform to develop my leadership skills and further my education. It would be living my dream," he said. "I always knew I wouldn't stay in Rwanda forever. I wanted to open up and seek new opportunities."

Despite some uncertainty about the requirements for joining the Air Force, Mutangana placed his hopes and dreams in what his mother always told him, "Anything you think of, dream of -- you can achieve it."

"When the recruiter told me I was eligible. I knew it was the beginning of my success story," Mutangana said. "I was glad for the opportunity to join the world's greatest Air force." Mutangana became an American citizen at his Air Force basic training graduation ceremony.

He was recently promoted to senior airman. His job as a liaison between suppliers ensures F-35 aircraft parts are prioritized according to mission needs.

"Mutangana was handpicked to help lead the new F-35 mission capable section here and he's become a key player," said Air Force Staff Sgt. Stephany Birkos, Mutangana's supervisor. "He makes me proud. His motivation and passion are what our Air Force needs."

<https://dod.defense.gov/News/Article/Article/1620338/face-of-defense-rwanda-born-airman-finds-success-in-service/source/GovDelivery/>

NEW FITNESS TEST MEASURES COMBAT READINESS, SECRETARY OF THE ARMY SAYS

By David Vergun, Army News Service



A soldier pulls a weight during a trial run of the Army Combat Fitness Test at the U.S. Army Drill Sergeant Training Symposium in Fort Jackson, S.C., June 28, 2018.

Army photo by Spc. Tynisha L. Daniel

WASHINGTON—"If you can't pass the Army Combat Fitness Test, then there's probably not a spot for you in the Army," said Secretary of the Army Mark T. Esper.

"That doesn't mean you'll immediately get kicked out," he added. It means there will be some sort of remedial program, the details of which are still being worked out. Esper addressed a range of issues during a Defense Writers Group breakfast Aug. 29.

The current Army Physical Fitness Test, which has been around some 40 years, is flawed, Esper said. "I grew up in the Army with the APFT and I personally never thought it was a good indicator of combat physical fitness, nor did many of my colleagues. The testing has proved that out," he said. The secretary said studies done by U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command show that the APFT captures "maybe 30 or 40 percent relevance of what you demand in combat ... the ACFT is upwards of 80 percent."

The main purpose of the ACFT is two-fold, he said. First, the test ensures soldiers are ready for combat. Second, preparation for the test improves physical fitness as it relates to injury prevention. Esper said losing soldiers to injuries during physical training or field exercises contributes to decreased readiness, because injured soldiers can't deploy.

At one point, upwards of 15 percent of soldiers were categorized as nondeployable, he said. That's about 150,000 soldiers across the entire force. Now, that figure has been reduced to 9 percent, and there are vigorous efforts underway to lower that percentage still more.

"If you're not physically fit for combat, then we're not only doing you an injustice, we're doing an injustice to your colleagues and peers as well," Esper said, explaining that if a soldier can't deploy, that means someone else has to deploy twice as much. "At the end of the day, we need soldiers who are deployable, lethal and ready," he emphasized.

Beginning October 2020, all soldiers will be required to take the ACFT, which TRADOC fitness researchers term "gender- and age-neutral." There's a need to grow the active Army to at least 500,000 soldiers, with associated growth in the National Guard and Reserve, Esper said. To do that, the Army is planning a modest annual increase spread out over the next several years to get to that number, he said. The additional soldiers will be used to fill current units that are undermanned and grow additional capabilities.

The Army will not lower its standards to meet the end-strength goal, the secretary said. "We've raised standards, such as limiting Category IV accessions from the DoD higher end of 4 percent to the Army higher end of 2 percent, putting more stringent requirements on issuing waivers and making sure we truly take into account the holistic person to ensure persons who receive waivers are high-quality recruits," Esper said.

He said the Army also needs to do a better job of recruiting. One step being taken, he said, includes letting soldiers go home for a number of weeks to assist recruiters by doing outreach. This is particularly important in areas without a military presence, Esper added. Fewer and fewer young people know someone who's served, he said, and so to them, the Army is unknown.

Other efforts to attract quality recruits include putting more recruiters on the street—an effort that began in the spring, and moving recruiting stations to more optimal locations, he said. Some other approaches include better utilizing Army public relations assets like the Golden Knights and Army bands, he said.

<https://dod.defense.gov/News/Article/Article/1623884/new-fitness-test-measures-combat-readiness-army-secretary-says/source/GovDelivery/>



GUARD SOLDIER'S EXPERIENCES PUT HER AHEAD OF CIVILIAN PEERS

By Army Capt. Robert Taylor, Idaho Army National Guard



Idaho Army National Guard Sgt. Mikki Fritz, a combat medic, gives a medic from the Thai army an IV as part of medical training during the Hanuman Guardian 2018 exercise at the Cavalry Center in Saraburi province, Thailand, Aug. 25, 2018.

Army photo by Sgt. Robert McGill

SARABURI PROVINCE, Thailand—Sgt. Mikki Fritz joined the Idaho Army National Guard because she wanted to jump-start her medical career. Though she decided not to pursue a civilian medical career, she's found experiences that she feels have placed her ahead of her peers. "I feel ahead of my peers who aren't in the military sometimes with all the difference experiences I've had," she said.

Her military experience has also taken her to places the past four years that most of her friends won't ever visit. She participated in exercises Angkor Sentinel 2015 in Cambodia as well as Saber Guardian 2016 in Romania and is currently participating in Hanuman Guardian 2018 at the Royal Thai Army's Cavalry Center in Thailand.

"None of my friends can say they have flown over Romania in a [UH-60] Black Hawk [helicopter]," she said.

Fritz joined the Idaho Army National Guard when she was 17 and has spent the past five years as a combat medic. During high school at Meridian Medical Arts Charter High School she earned her emergency medical technician certification and wanted to become a flight medic. She joined the Idaho Army National Guard because she thought it would help prepare her to do so while she also went to college. In college she decided she didn't want to have a civilian medical career but has no regrets about being a combat medic. "I like doing both and having two different worlds of experience in my military and civilian careers," Fritz said.

She graduated college from the University of Idaho with a geography degree because she likes being outdoors. She currently works as a soil lab technician in Boise, where she tests soil for engineer projects; a job she likes because it keeps her outdoors.

While in Thailand, Fritz is attached to the 116th Cavalry Brigade Combat Team's Company C, 2nd Battalion. Throughout the exer-

cise she is spending time in the field with the Idaho Army National Guard's only infantry company.

Because she's attached to the state's medical detachment, Hanuman Guardian 2018 is the first time Fritz has been assigned to a line unit to perform combat medic tasks. "It's been really great to work with a line unit," she said.

She can add Thailand to the list of countries she's flown over in a Black Hawk helicopter and on a recent overnight mission she ate every bug a vendor was selling near the training site just to try something new.

Cambodia was Fritz's first trip abroad. She's now used to seeing different cultures and has come to know what to expect when she travels. "I love international missions," she said. "They really help me grow and I get to travel. I like to learn how other people live." She's also made friends in each country she's visited and uses Facebook to stay in touch with them.

Fritz is one of more than 150 U.S. Army and Army National Guard soldiers participating in the Hanuman Guardian 2018 exercise alongside 350 Thai soldiers at the Royal Thai Army's Cavalry Center in Thailand's Saraburi province.

The 11-day training event began Aug. 20, and is a bilateral army-to-army exercise that strengthens capability and builds interoperability between U.S. and Thai forces. Soldiers from both countries completed a battalion staff exercise, conducted infantry operations, and improved their skills in counter-improvised explosive device operations, battlefield medical treatment and aviation capabilities.

"I get experiences in the military that none of my friends get to have," Fritz said.

<https://dod.defense.gov/News/Article/Article/1618960/face-of-defense-guard-soldiers-experiences-put-her-ahead-of-civilian-peers/source/GovDelivery/>

NAMESAKE DAVY CROCKETT DESCENDANT SERVES IN IOWA AIR GUARD

By Jim Garamone, DoD News, Defense Media Activity



Iowa Air National Guard Master Sgt. Davy Crockett, the 132nd Medical Group's laboratory noncommissioned officer-in-charge, shares a resemblance with his famous ancestor Davy Crockett's 1834 painting by Chester Harding. Air National

Guard photo by USAF Staff Sgt. Mike Kelly

DES MOINES, Iowa—At the 132nd Wing here, Air Force Master Sgt. David "Davy" Crockett, the 132nd Medical Group's laboratory noncommissioned officer-in-charge, tends to airmens' medical needs.

While he may not have been "born on a mountain top in Tennessee" or "killed him a bar when he was only three," Crockett is a direct descendant of the famous American of the early 1800s.

"It's fun to connect to your past," Crockett said. "A lot of people nowadays don't know where they came from, so I'm very fortunate to have a strong lineage to a historical individual."

Naming the firstborn son of each generation David is a Crockett family tradition that started when the legendary Crockett was named David after his grandfather. When it came time to name Crockett though, his par-

ents had a bit of a dilemma.

"My father wanted to name me David, but my mother was worried I would get picked on by other kids," Crockett said. "Ultimately it was my uncle, who is also named David, who convinced them that everything would be fine."

Fortunately for Crockett, he was not picked on by other children but did receive added attention. With a very recognizable name, Crockett grew up often hearing about his ancestor from other kids, usually in the form of the song, "The Ballad of Davy Crockett" by George Bruns and Thomas W. Blackburn written for the Disney television mini-series "Davy Crockett" in 1954.

"Kids, when they saw my last name, would usually just sing the song," Crockett said. "People later did the same when they saw the name on my uniform, and then I tell them my first name and lineage and that would really blow their minds."

Crockett said growing up he was proud to represent his heritage and didn't mind the extra attention. He embraced his identity and used it to educate others on just who his famous ancestor was. Crockett said that many people now think of Davy Crockett as an American myth or often confuse him with Daniel Boone.

"I think it's funny that people think he wasn't a real person," Crockett said. "Some people think he was a Paul Bunyan- or Johnny Appleseed-type mythos creation."

Nevertheless, tall tales and the ability to sell a joke with a straight face are also traits Crockett displays from his ancestor. Even though he's never claimed the ability to grin raccoons out of trees or ride alligators down streams, Crockett has a reputation for subtle jokes, bad puns and deadpan humor. His fellow airmen at the 132nd MDG said his ability to spin a good yarn always keeps them on their toes.

"He constantly keeps everyone on their toes because he seems so serious when he tells stories, and he is such a good actor that you want to believe him, even if what he is saying is just crazy and ridiculous," said Air Force Senior Airman Danielle Koster, 132nd MDG medic. "Once he's tricked you so many times, you don't believe him when he is actually telling the truth."

The truth is the Crockett name has served the family well over the generations, leading to chance encounters with astronaut John Glenn, dinner invitations from actor Fess Parker and job offers from Walt Disney himself. But despite the fame of his ancestors, the Davy Crockett of the 132nd Wing said that resiliency is one of key takeaways of his ancestor's life.

"Davy Crockett failed in a lot of endeavors, almost died on numerous occasions and even while in Congress wasn't liked very much," Crockett said. "But he was resilient and knew how to connect with people and build good relations with others."

Crockett uses these lessons in his day-to-day life in the Air National

Guard, and he enjoys building up others around him while serving his country, family and friends.

Whether or not he becomes another American legend someday remains to be seen. "Connecting to your heritage as a whole is a really great thing," Crockett said. "You learn a lot from the past and it's cool just to see how connected everyone really is."

<https://dod.defense.gov/News/Article/Article/1622985/face-of-defense-namesake-davy-crockett-descendant-serves-in-iowa-air-guard/source/GovDelivery/>

PHOTOS FROM RAYS' GAME SPONSORED BY OPERATION HELPING HAND



(Continued at the top of the next column)



FOOT PATROL

Soldiers set off for a foot patrol after disembarking from a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter in Afghanistan, Sept. 4, 2018.

Army photo by Senior Airman Christine Groening

<https://dod.defense.gov/Photos/Photo-Gallery/igphoto/2001962571/source/GovDelivery/>

NAVY DESTROYER SEIZES 2,521 AK-47 RIFLES IN GULF OF ADEN

From a U.S. Fifth Fleet News Release



U.S. sailors stack AK-47 automatic rifles aboard the guided missile destroyer USS Jason Dunham in the Gulf of Aden, Aug. 30, 2018. The ship's visit, board, search and seizure team seized the weapons from a skiff during a flag verification boarding as part of maritime security operations.

Navy photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class Jonathan Clay

MANAMA, Bahrain—The guided missile destroyer USS JASON DUNHAM (DDG-109) seized an illicit weapons shipment containing 2,521 AK-47 rifles Aug. 28, U.S. 5th Fleet officials announced today. The weapons were found aboard a stateless skiff in international waters in the Gulf of Aden.

The full count follows an initial estimate of more than 1,000 rifles. The skiff was determined to be stateless following a flag-verification boarding conducted in accordance with international law. The origin and intended destination of the skiff have not yet been determined.

“As a part of our counter trafficking mission, we are actively involved in searching for illegal weapons shipments of all kinds,” said Navy Vice Adm. Scott Starney, Commander of U.S. Naval Forces Central Command, U.S. 5th Fleet, and the Combined Maritime Forces.

“Ensuring the free flow of commerce for legitimate traffic and countering malign actors at sea continue to be paramount to the U.S. Navy and its regional partners and allies,” Starney added.

The seizure comes after four weapons seizures in 2015 and 2016 accomplished by Combined Maritime Forces and U.S. 5th Fleet assets. The first seizure was by the Royal Australian Navy's HMAS Melbourne

Continued at the top of the next column)

dhaw containing 75 anti-tank guided munitions, four tripods with associated equipment, four launch tubes, two launcher assembly units and three missile guidance sets.

The second seizure was by the Royal Australian Navy's HMAS Darwin (FFG 04), which intercepted a dhow Feb. 27, 2016, and confiscated nearly 2,000 AK-47 rifles, 81 rocket-propelled grenade launchers, 49 PKM general purpose machine guns, 39 spare PKM barrels and 20 60 mm mortar tubes.

The third seizure was by the French navy destroyer FS Provence March 20, 2016, and yielded again almost 2,000 AK-47 rifles, 64 Dragunov sniper rifles, nine anti-tank missiles and six PK machine guns with bipods.

The fourth seizure was by U.S. Navy coastal patrol ship USS SIROCCO (PC 6), which was operating as part of U.S. 5th Fleet, March 28, 2016, when it intercepted a dhow containing 1,500 AK-47s, 200 RPG launchers and 21 .50-caliber machine guns.

The United Kingdom-based investigative organization Conflict Armament Research studied and linked three of the caches to weapons that plausibly derive from Iranian stockpiles.

Based on an analysis of all available information, including crew interviews, a review of onboard records and an examination of the arms aboard the vessel, the United States concluded that the arms from the four interdictions in 2015 and 2016 originated in Iran and were intended to be delivered to the Houthis in Yemen in contravention of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2216.

The U.S. 5th Fleet area of operations encompasses nearly 2.5 million square miles of water area and includes the Arabian Gulf, Gulf of Oman, Red Sea and parts of the Indian Ocean. The region is comprised of 20 countries and includes three critical choke points at the Strait of Hormuz, the Suez Canal and the Strait of Bab-al-Mandeb at the southern tip of Yemen.

<https://dod.defense.gov/News/Article/Article/1622183/navy-destroyer-seizes-2521-ak-47-rifles-in-gulf-of-aden/source/GovDelivery/>



SHIPS IN FORMATION

The aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan leads a formation of ships assigned to Carrier Strike Group 5 as Air Force B-52 Stratofortress aircraft and Navy F/A-18 Hornets pass overhead for a photo exercise in the Philippine Sea, Sept. 17, 2018, as part of V.



Vandenberg Launch

A Delta II rocket carrying NASA's Ice, Cloud and Land Elevation Satellite-2 lifts off from Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif., Sept. 15, 2018.

Air Force photo by Senior Airman Clayton Wear

AIR FORCE CAPTAIN, VETERINARIAN WIFE SUPPORT FOSTER ANIMALS

DAVIS-MONTHAN AIR FORCE BASE, AZ—Whether they are kept for a few weeks or a lifetime, animals in shelters and foster homes around the nation rely on dedicated and caring individuals that can help them find a forever home.

To ensure these animals receive the support they need, Air Force Capt. Daniel Hale, the officer in charge of plans and scheduling for the 563rd Operations Support Squadron here, and his veterinarian wife, Dr. Kristen Hale, decided to take on the responsibilities that comes with fostering rescue animals.

The Hales began their animal rescue efforts with their dog Squish. "When I worked emergency, Squish came in at four weeks old after sustaining injuries from being trapped under a couch," Dr. Hale said. "We decided to take him in as a foster and he's been with us ever since."

After adopting Squish into their family, the Hales continued to foster companion animals. In the past three years, the couple has fostered more than 20 sheltered pets.

Unfortunately, not all fostered pets in the care of the Hales are immediately adopted by families due to the medical condition of the animals. "A lot of the pets we take in [have] specific medical needs," Dr. Hale said. "Without a foster family to give them the individual attention they need, many of the animals would have never found homes because they would have been put down." Thanks to the help of local rescue shelters, foster families don't have to worry about paying for the medical expenses of the animals while the rescue pet is in the family's care.

Because of the nature of some of these medical conditions, the time it takes to nurse the animals to full health can vary. "We've had animals anywhere from three days to six weeks," Capt. Hale said. "After we've made sure they are ready to be adopted, we get them as much exposure as we can through local rescue shelters to increase their chances of finding a family."

Homeward Bound

Because of the efforts of families like the Hales, shelter adoption rates have steadily climbed over the years, leading to fewer overcrowded facilities.



Benny, a dog being fostered by the Hale family, rests on a couch in Vail, AZ, May 6, 2017. Benny was fostered by the Hale family for three months before he was fully healed and adopted.



Air Force Capt. Daniel Hale, the officer in charge of plans and scheduling for the 563rd Rescue Group, and his wife, veterinarian Dr. Kristen Hale, play fetch with their rescue pets at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz., Aug. 21, 2018. The Hales have fostered roughly 20 sheltered animals since 2015 in order to help them find new homes.

Air Force photo by Airman Frankie D. Moore

According to the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, adoption rates have risen roughly 18 percent from 2011 to 2017, and shelter animal euthanasia rates have decreased approximately 42 percent.

"If you can't keep an animal around for long or are not ready to make the commitment to permanently care for a pet, you can still make a difference by providing them with a foster home," Dr. Hale said.

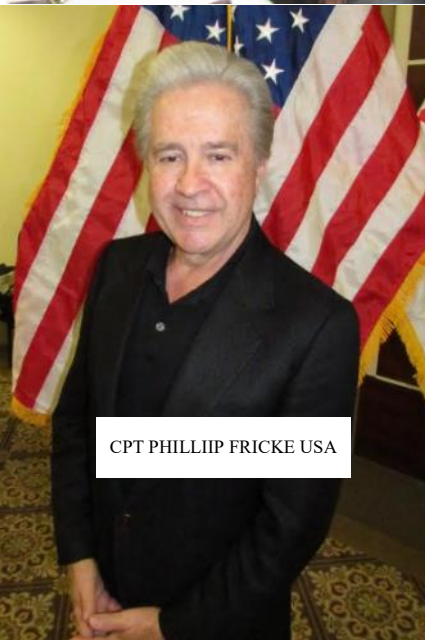
To find out more information on fostering and adopting companion animals, visit your local animal shelters.

<https://dod.defense.gov/News/Article/Article/1635068/face-of-defense-air-force-captain-veterinarian-wife-support-foster-animals/source/GovDelivery/>

Courtesy photo

LUNCHEON PHOTOS 13 SEPTEMBER 2018

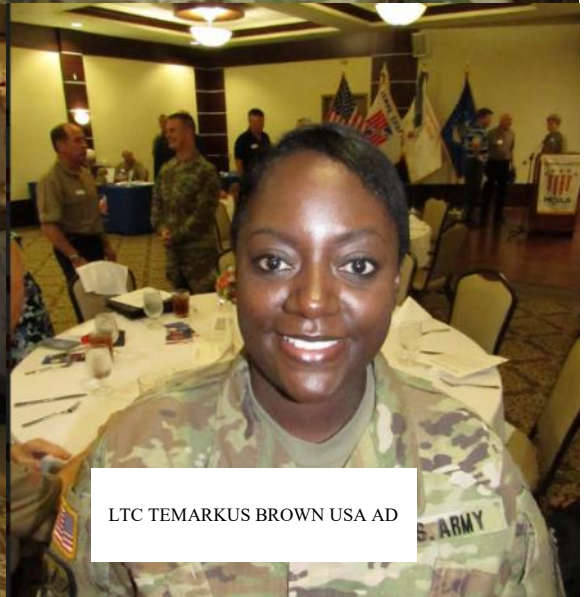
By CW2 Thomas South USA RET



CPT PHILLIP FRICKE USA



LT DAVID HOPPE USNR



LTC TEMARKUS BROWN USA AD



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AT NOON**

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TO (813)676-4676**

MENU

- Pretzel bread
- Fall Salad
- Bratwurst
- Roasted Potatoes
- Sauerkraut

Black Forest Cake and Assorted Desserts



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**2019 ANNUAL CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM
20-23 JUNE 2019
Safety Harbor Resort & SPA**

NAME Rank ADDRESS

Phone # Service Email Address

Name of Guest Chapter

RESORT RESERVATION COST

Arrival Date _____ Departure Date _____

\$ _____ = # Nights X \$109.00 **Bed preference:** ___King ___2 Queen

Please indicate the number registering, shirts, and attending each event below

<u>#</u>	<u>Cost</u>	
___ X \$30.00 = _____		Registration: \$30.00 Each Attendee
___ X \$30.00 = _____		Presidents Reception: \$30.00 Each Attendee
___ X \$30.00 = _____		Breakfast : \$30.00 Each Attendee
___ X \$30.00 = _____		Luncheon: \$30.00 Each Attendee
___ #		Attending Military Ball

Meal choices for Military Ball

___ X \$50.00 = _____	\$50.00 each London Broil
___ X \$50.00 = _____	\$50.00 each Chicken Marsala
___ X \$55.00 = _____	\$55.00 each Grilled Salmon

Shirts

___ X \$35.00 = _____	Man: ___ Small ___ Med ___ Large ___ XLarge ___ XXLarge
___ X \$35.00 = _____	Woman: ___ Small ___ Med ___ Large ___ XLarge ___ XXLarge

_____ **TOTAL COST (Check Payable to: Florida Council of Chapters)**

___ Will Attend ___ Will Not Attend **20 June Operation Helping Hand Dinner**
(*No charge for meal. Transportation provided by James A Haley Veterans Hospital from Safety Harbor Spa and Resort for first 50 that sign up.*)

___ Will ___ Will not need transportation from Spa

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NOTE: Send questions or special accommodation needs to: vandykeRL@verizon.net
Provide any comments you may have on the back of this form.

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Tarpon Springs Campus

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Sponsored by Operation Helping Hand, MOAA and
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Painting by Carol Zares

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Saturday, November 17th 3-5PM

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Painting by Jim Kalamaris

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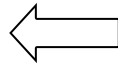
WARM RETURN

Sailors greet loved ones as the USS California returns from deployment at Naval Submarine Base New London in Groton, Conn., Sept. 21, 2018.

Navy photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class Tristan B. Lotz



CLEARING MINES



Soldiers launch a mine-clearing charge from an assault breacher vehicle during obstacle reduction training at Fort Hood, TX, Sept. 11, 2018.

Army photo by Capt. Scott Kuhn



HELOCAST LEAP

Soldiers assigned to the 41st Engineer Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat team, 10th Mountain Division conduct a helo-cast at Sackets Harbor, N.Y., Sept. 14, 2018.

Army photo

