

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

COL CHARLES DALCOURT USA RET

# GREETINGS!



Well hello to all MOAA Tampa Chapter members and those reading our monthly newsletter. It is a pleasure to greet you and I hope that all, you and your families, are doing very well. I also pray that you have established routines that have enabled you to successfully navigate the disruptions and distractions flooding our communities, states, nation, and world. Despite all the commotion, MOAA's motion has been forward leaning, on target, and consistently effective. Please continue to press on, oriented on our organization's mission and diligent in advocating for those initiatives we espouse.

We need you In the fight...

Does anyone know where this year has gone? I feel as if the past eight

months have whisked by. Notwithstanding, our Chapter has been both fruitful and forward-looking... truly blessed thus far. We are also expectant of a great year's end. This is because you have remained active, influential, and connected.

I take this time to remind all to remain prudent and continue to cautiously navigate the changes induced by the COVID-19 pandemic. We should maintain our efforts to protect ourselves and those we influence; heed the warnings given about unfavorable practices; and stay socially connected, yet physically distant as much as possible.

We need you in the fight! Please note the legislative actions and MOAA's requests for support for 2021 NDAA focal areas. Your voice has proven to be both powerful and persuasive. Please write, email, and call - lets codify our expectation for positive action.

Staying engaged...

We have continued as a Chapter to meet virtually and have had great success doing so. We held our first in person board meeting this past month and will proceed with resident board meetings going forward. Board members are actively seeking venues that can facilitate the Chapter's monthly luncheons. Jeanne Richard has led the effort

and with the assistance of others, continues to interview establishments and caterers throughout the Tampa/St. Petersburg area.

I encourage all members to attend the next virtual luncheon on 10 September. Last month we were privileged to have Tampa's mayor, Jane Castor, as our guest speaker. This month we are blessed with a familiar luncheon participant, Brigadier General Henrick Larsen, as our keynote speaker. We are excited to see the consistent growth in attendees and look forward to expanding the luncheon audience even more.

It is our practice to honor a member of the MOAA Tampa Chapter each month. I am pleased to announce our Honored Member of the Month for September 2020 is MAJ GEN James Jones, USAF (Ret). Please join our next virtual luncheon and help us thank him for his contributions to our Chapter.

Wrapping up:

In closing, thanks for the opportunity and privilege to serve you. Please remain vigilant amidst the continued evolution of the COVID-19 pandemic, stay connected socially, and plan to attend our virtual luncheon.

All the best!

Charles Dalcourt

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

*DUE TO THE COVID-19 OUT-BREAK, MOAA TAMPA CHAPTER IS TAKING PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES TO HELP STOP THE SPREAD OF THE DISEASE, AND HAS ELECTED TO CANCEL ALL IN PERSON EVENTS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ALL AGAIN SOON!*

**10 SEPTEMBER, 11:30 AM VIRTUAL LUNCHEON - ZOOM INSTRUCTIONS TO BE SENT VIA EMAIL**

## REMINDER:

**PUBLICATION DEADLINE FOR THE OCTOBER ISSUE IS 25 SEPTEMBER 2020**



## LEGISLATIVE LOWDOWN

BY LTC REGINALD WILLIAMS, USA RET

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



Greetings for the month of September! I pray this finds you and your families and your extended MOAA families doing well. First, I wanted to reiterate that MOAA appreciates all you are doing to continue to serve and stay connected with your members during the pandemic. We also understand that the health crisis and other current events have stressed communities and organizations, and that the impending election season has the potential to raise tensions even more.

We need your assistance to help uphold MOAA's position as a non-partisan organization. As such, MOAA's General Counsel has prepared the reminder below of appropriate conduct.

### MOAA GUIDANCE ON PARTISAN POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

Partisan Political Activities. As organizations exempt from federal

taxation under Sec. 501(c)(19) of the Internal Revenue Code, MOAA and its affiliates must take care to avoid engaging in partisan political activities. Under IRS rules, we are prohibited from directly or indirectly participating in, or intervening in, any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for public office.

Candidates for Public Office. A candidate for public office is an individual who offers himself or herself, or is proposed by others, as a contestant for an elective public office, whether such office is national, state, or local, and includes incumbent candidates. The prohibition also extends beyond declared candidates and may apply to efforts to recruit an individual to run for office or advance exploratory activities. The prohibition also applies to advocating for the platform of one political party over another.

Prohibited Activities.

Activities which constitute participation or intervention in a political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to a candidate include, but are not limited to, the publication or distribution of written or printed statements or the making of oral statements on behalf of or in opposition to such a candidate. It is clear that the prohibition on partisan political activity prohibits such outright actions such as posting a "Vote for Biden" or "Vote for Trump" on the organization's website, or "Support Republican Candidates" or "Vote Democratic."

In addition to these obvious examples, the prohibition goes well beyond direct expressions of support. In determining whether an organization is engaged in unlawful partisan political activities, the IRS applies a

(cont'd on P.2)

LEGISLATIVE LOWDOWN cont'd:

“facts and circumstances” test. The IRS looks not only to the expressed language, but to external factors, such as the communication’s timing, its targeted audience, and how the message relates to public policy positions that distinguish a candidate in a campaign.

**Consequences for Violations.** The consequences to an organization that violates the prohibition on partisan political activity can be severe including the loss of its tax exempt status and the imposition of certain excise taxes. For public charities, like The MOAA Foundation and the MOAA Scholarship Fund, the IRS can disallow tax deductions for charitable contributions. In addition, for an organization whose mission involves advocacy on key military community issues, MOAA must seek support from elected representatives from both parties. Engaging in partisan political activities on behalf of one party or candidate would seriously undermine MOAA’s ability to achieve the bipartisan consensus on key issues essential to achieving its legislative objectives.

**Personal Opinions.** As individuals, members and leaders of MOAA and MOAA’s affiliates are not prohibited from engaging in partisan political activities so long as they do so in way that makes it clear they are acting for themselves and do not appear to be speaking on behalf of MOAA or its affiliates. For example, it is permissible for an individual to express his or her personal preference in support of or in opposition to a candidate or political party. And they may do so publicly. However, when expressing their personal opinions or preferences, they may not make reference to their MOAA position, use MOAA communications channels, use MOAA letterhead or newsletters, identify themselves as MOAA leaders, or imply that MOAA or its members share their beliefs.

**Leadership Responsibilities.** Those in leadership positions have a special responsibility to separate their personal political opinions from statements that are or can be attributed to MOAA or its affiliates. For example, it is improper for a chapter leader to use the chapter’s newsletter to advance the leader’s personal political beliefs. This goes beyond statements expressly advocating for a specific candidate or party by name. Statements that incorporate campaign messaging, campaign slogans, and political positions identified with a particular candidate or party are also prohibited. No MOAA leader is authorized to use MOAA’s or an affiliate’s resources to communicate their personal political beliefs. This is an outright violation of the leader’s fiduciary duty to the organization and a serious leadership and ethical failure.

**Divisive Social Issues.** We are all aware of the divisive nature of the debate over today’s leading social issues – protesting during the national anthem at sporting events, racial justice, public protests, and the conduct of law enforcement officers. These are issues over which many Americans have deeply held, but differing, personal beliefs. This is also true within the military community among the ranks of active duty and retired officers and within MOAA itself. MOAA leaders have an obligation to keep this in mind when communicating on behalf of MOAA or its affiliates. Suggesting that MOAA only supports one side of a deeply divisive issue sends a message to those with a different belief that MOAA is not for them. Officers today have grown up in a military culture that is very different than the past. Many are accepting of attitudes and views that were not mainstream when many of us were in uniform. If MOAA is going to connect with the newest generation of uniformed officers, it needs to be clear that those with strong views on racial and social justice imperatives are just as welcome as those who adhere to more traditional expressions of patriotism and officership.

Rev. 8-13-2020

As we continue with our Summer Storm campaign, the areas covered in this month’s article will provide insight into MOAA’s ongoing advocacy efforts to ensure you and your families continue to receive the benefits you’ve earned.

Summer Storm 2020: A Key Goal Reached, But More Work Is Needed!

As of the writing of the article, we’re halfway through MOAA’s Summer Storm 2020, and thanks to the work of our members throughout the nation, we’ve reached a major milestone in our fight to preserve military health care benefits.

MOAA can report 100% contact with every senator, via nearly 1,900 letters to their offices, asking them to help get two critical House provisions (Sections 715 and 716) into the final version of the Fiscal 2021 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). This still remains the overall objective; we must keep the

pressure on.

The context of our efforts continues to evolve, and legislators may be distracted by related news about proposed changes to the military health care system.

This doesn’t change the path of our Storm. To help MOAA reach this legislative goal, you can:

- Send [this updated letter](#) to your senators now. Make sure they understand how proposed changes to military medicine will affect those who have served full careers in uniform, and their families.
- Share this article, and other Summer Storm resources, with your family and friends – anyone can use our link to send a letter to their senators.
- Engage on social media to spread the word even farther. Share the importance of this issue on social media using #MOAASummerStorm.

We have all done so much to protect our benefits, but it will take our unified message to give us a fighting chance. Now that we’ve put this issue on the radar of all 100 senators, it’s critical to continue the push – whether you’re one of the 200,000 beneficiaries who may lose access to military treatment facilities under these reforms, one of the millions more whose care will suffer because of planned medical staff reductions, or simply fighting to ensure our servicemembers and their families get what they’ve earned.

### MOAA Supports Senate Bill to Study Cancer Risk Faced by Military Aviators

Increased concern over cancer risks faced by military aviators has led to a bipartisan Senate bill that would require DoD to study and track cases among these officers.

The Military Aviators Cancer Incidence Study Act – supported by MOAA and more than two dozen other organizations representing military, veteran, and environmental interests – comes after an investigation by news outlet McClatchy that unearthed, among other findings, several cancer clusters among aviators. At Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake, Calif., for example, four of seven past commanding officers died of cancer in a three-year span.

Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.), who introduced the bipartisan bill June 23 with Texas Republican Sen. John Cornyn, said it marks “an important step to help us understand what’s happening and how we can better protect our military aviators.”

The Air Force finalized plans this spring to study on cancer rates among its aviators, an effort that reportedly would include reviewing pilots who served as far back as 1970. The bill notes that there has never been a DoD-wide study on the issue.

Along with requiring DoD to maintain a database documenting cancer diagnoses and mortality of all military aviators, the bill would require such a study, in two parts:

1. To determine whether aviators have a higher incidence of cancer than others in the general population in similar age groups.
2. If a higher incidence is found, to determine what’s causing the increase. This would involve a deeper look at hazardous materials and carcinogens common to aviation duty, and an analysis of whether cases are connected to specific duty locations or tasks, among other requirements.

“The idea that military aviators could be suffering adverse health effects from their service to our country is alarming and demands further investigation,” Cornyn said in a news release announcing the bill, S. 4043. “This legislation would help determine if an outsized population of air crew members is developing illnesses like cancer, and if so, what the cause is and how we can stop it.”

A similar bipartisan bill in the House of Representatives – introduced by Rep. Elaine Luria (D-Va.), a retired Navy commander, and Rep. Adam Kinzinger (R-Ill.), a lieutenant colonel and aviator in the Wisconsin Air National Guard – would require DoD to study cancer rates among aviators compared with those of other servicemembers, and to determine proper ages for screening aviators based on a range of criteria, including age, gender, and aircraft type.

That bill, H.R. 5858, was introduced Feb. 12 and assigned to the House Armed Services Committee (HASC) the same day. No further action on the bill has been taken by the chamber, although a section in the House’s version of the FY 2021 National Defense Authorization Act includes language requiring a similar comparison between cancer rates for aviators and other servicemembers.

### Arlington Eligibility Changes: Here’s How You Can Have Your Say

The public comment period for changes to Arlington National Cemetery (ANC) eligibility will open in late summer, a senior DoD official informed MOAA – giving you a chance to make your voice heard on plans to dramatically reduce the number of people who qualify for in-ground burial.

The proposed changes, [which can be viewed in full here](#), are part of an effort to prolong the life of ANC.

MOAA and The Military Coalition, a group of military and veterans advocacy organizations with a combined membership of more than 5.5 million, support DoD’s work to expand ANC. Plans for the southern expansion are well engineered and maximize available contiguous land. Without expansion, ANC would fill up in the next 25 years, according to a senior DoD official.

Unfortunately, if the eligibility changes are approved, many who had planned for an in-ground burial at ANC will have to change plans. ANC staff are eager to point out that VA cemeteries are available. However, full military honors with caisson are not available at most VA cemeteries.

ANC has the unique mission to render honors at burial and inurnment. These honors are coveted and serve to comfort the grieving and instill pride that our nation is thankful for their loved one’s service and sacrifice.

#### A Path Forward

The Military Coalition is concerned with proposed eligibility changes to ANC through the Federal Register rules process. The proposed changes to eligibility are service and mission discriminatory and do not account for all-important military honors for those who would be forced to use a different cemetery.

These concerns, and proposals to alleviate them, were outlined in an Aug. 14 letter to Defense Secretary Mark Esper and Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy. In the letter, the coalition recommends grandfathering eligibility to account for those who have already intended ANC to be their final resting place.

The letter also recommends non-contiguous expansion of ANC as the cemetery reaches capacity. This would facilitate burials and inurnments with military honors replicated from ANC, where such individuals had been eligible.

ANC is running out of room for interments. Non-contiguous federal land is available for expansion of the cemetery, and continuation of military honors as noted above will matter intensely to families who maintain the rare propensity to serve.

#### A Bitter Decision

Changes to eligibility for in-ground burial at ANC represent more than a math and geography problem. The proposal will force those who have already made end-of-life plans to make a bitter decision – in some cases, the family will have to decide on behalf of the deceased.

Consider the impact to a Vietnam veteran with a Bronze Star with V, or a Cold War submariner amassing years of duty underway, a bomber or missile crewmember, and many others who also risked their lives for our nation. The changes proposed will render 20-year retirees ineligible for in-ground burial and the caliber of memorable military honors delivered at ANC.

The Military Coalition is concerned that non-contiguous expansion was not considered. The narrow proposal appears intent on pushing beneficiaries to VA-run cemeteries where ANC-caliber military honors are not afforded.

Mission and cost avoidance, to the detriment of our military families, sends a signal to our military community that yet another benefit earned through service and sacrifice is being diminished. Grandfathering the currently eligible, alongside non-contiguous expansion, continues this service.

MOAA and The Military Coalition will continue to monitor the timing for the public comment period, which had been scheduled for Spring 2020 but was delayed by the COVID-19 pandemic. When the 60-day window opens, we will need your voice.

Take action now! [MOAA Take Action Center](#)

Sources:

- 1) [www.moaa.org](#), article by Dan Merry, August 19, 2020
- 2) [www.moaa.org](#), article by Kevin Lilley, July 29, 2020
- 3) [www.moaa.org](#), article by Mark Belinsky, August 17, 2020

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

2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS



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## MOAA MISSION STATEMENT

The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) is a nonprofit veterans' association dedicated to maintaining a strong national defense and ensuring our nation keeps its commitments to currently serving, retired, and former members of the uniformed services and their families and survivors. Membership is open to those who hold or have ever held a warrant or commission in any component of the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, Public Health Service, or MOAA and their surviving spouses.

### Tampa Chapter



Military Officers Association of America

## TAMPA CHAPTER MISSION:

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

## GENERAL CONTACT INFO:

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# Notes from the Editor: Col Carol Zieres USA Ret



Retrospect highlights: First and foremost, a big congratulations to MOAA Tampa Chapter for achieving a 5-Star rating Letter of Excellence (LOE) award for calendar year 2019! This national award represents

an enormous amount of hard work and dedication on behalf of many folks that proudly make the Tampa chapter one of the elite MOAA chapters in the State of Florida.

This newsletter edition spotlights MOAA Tampa Chapter Member of the Month, MGEN JAMES G. JONES, USAF (Ret), who has admirably served on the chapter Board of Directors as Senior Flag Officer Liaison and Chairman of the Scholarship committee for many years. September 18th marks the 73rd birthday of the United States Air Force. Included in this edition, is a brief introduction on the history, mission, and important contributions of the USAF, authored by one of our senior USAF officers, MGEN FRANK MOORE, USAF (Ret), along with a collage of personal photos to recognize our Air Force chapter members who've worn the blue uniform. Other articles that highlight the history of the Air Force as well as the remembrance of our WWII Veterans include a "brief history of The Flying Tigers and The Tuskegee Airmen." Next month, we will celebrate the birthday of the US Navy and we continue to encourage our membership and Friends of MOAA to send their best Navy photos or articles that spot-light the accomplishments of the US Navy.

Luncheon Guest Speaker(s): For those who missed it, Tampa Mayor Jane Castor made a virtual appearance at our August 13 luncheon. She gave a very informative "once over the world" review on some of the special projects focusing on quality of life enhancements in our community. Her bio and a summary of her presentation are included in this edition of the Retrospect for your reference.

Looking ahead, our September 10 Luncheon Guest Speaker is Chairman of the CENTCOM Coalition, BGEN Henrik Larsen (bio and photo to follow).

Please continue to stay safe and NEVER STOP SERVING!

Carol Zieres, COL, USA (Ret)

Editor

THE RETROSPECT is published monthly by the Tampa Chapter of the Military Officers' Association of America (MOAA), P.O. Box 6383, MacDill Air Force Base, FL 33608-0383. The Tampa Chapter is a 501-C-19 tax exempt veterans organization not associated with the Department of Defense and is an affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America

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Association of America, unless so indicated. The views expressed in individually signed articles do not necessarily reflect Chapter policy.

**OUR EDITORIAL POLICY:**

MOAA National, the Florida Council of Chapters, and the Tampa Chapter are nonpartisan organizations. Our chapter membership is open to all Military officers (Commissioned and Warrant), including Active Duty, National Guard, Reserve, former officers, and spouses/surviving spouses of military officers. Our luncheon meetings are held at 1130 hours every second Thursday of each month at the Surf's Edge Club on MacDill AFB.

**ON THE WEB:**

Tampa Chapter <http://moaatampa.org>

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

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

FL COUNCIL: [www.moaafl.org](http://www.moaafl.org)

MOAA NATIONAL: [www.moaa.org](http://www.moaa.org)

OPERATION HELPING HAND: [www.operationhelpinghandtampa.com](http://www.operationhelpinghandtampa.com)

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

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

# UPDATE OPERATION HELPING HAND



LTC JIM GRIFFIN  
Chairman, OPHH

"As long as we are needed, Operation Helping Hand will be there..."



Special thanks to everyone who has been following the safety guidelines of wearing face masks and social distancing when possible. Finally, the number seem to be getting better. So keep up the good work. I encourage everyone to think of the health of those around you and follow the common-sense advice of medical professionals to help in continuing to slow the spread so that we can once again return to meetings and dinners.

Even during these tough times, we continue to receive donations from fantastic supporters like you! This month our treasurer, BILL SZYDLOWSKI, overcame all of the many new protocols now required by folks awarding grants, and we were awarded a \$10,000 grant from USAA. A very

special thanks to YVETTE SEGUERA and folks at USAA for making this possible. Also, a very special thanks to BILL for making this happen.

We are in the process of preparing the 2021 CALENDAR. This year we are preparing a throwback calendar to highlight all the great events and patients since 2004. We hope to have it available for mailing by late OCTOBER.

All of the OPERATION HELPING HAND vital programs of service to our wounded and injured and their families have continued without any interruption. We stand ready to assist the ART AND MUSIC THERAPY programs and further enhance the VIRTUAL REALITY software when required.

OPERATION HELPING HAND needs your continued support to allow us to continue these vital programs of service to our wounded and injured and their families. This support can be through donations by check or by using the website (OPERATION-HELPINGHANDTAMPA.COM).

On a sad note, this past month we lost one of our major contributors to our golf tournament over the past 5 years, MR. ROBERT TRUMP. He will be missed.

Please stay safe ,healthy, and resilient.

**OUR TREMENDOUS GROUP OF VOLUNTEERS MAKE ALL OF THIS POSSIBLE!**

# HOW TO JOIN THE TAMPA CHAPTER

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

You can email Col Schneider at [TampaMOAA.Membership@gmail.com](mailto:TampaMOAA.Membership@gmail.com)

Our Tampa Chapter Membership Application is found on our website, or in this edition of The Retrospect on [Page 7](#).

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



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

## Luncheon Guest Speaker of the Month September 10th virtual luncheon



Henrik Larsen is a Brigadier-General in the Royal Danish Air Force with more than 38 years of service. He has held multiple national and international senior and command positions including several NATO Headquarters assignments, the United Nations and also Commanding Officer of the Danish Air Tactical Wing, the Air Force Training Centre and Division Head of Joint Operations at Defence Command in Denmark. He also served as the aide-de-camp to the Danish Queen. Been deployed as the Senior Military Advisor to the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan from 2011 to 2012, helping the people of Afghanistan lay the foundations for sustainable peace and development. He is a 1997 US Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama graduate.

As a Senior National Representative he is currently directing the Danish Liaison Element as part of the United States Central Command Coalition, whose work includes promoting peace and stability in the Central Command area of responsibility. He also serves as the Coalition Chairman and his leadership and coordination actions on behalf of Denmark contribute directly to international coalition efforts to address destabilizing issues in the Middle East region and around the world.

Henrik Larsen is married to Sanne. Three children (Julie, Catrine and Nikolai) and three grandchildren.

Instructions for the virtual Zoom meeting will be sent to members via email.

## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

CHAPLAIN (COL) BERNARD H LIEVING JR USA RET



The past six months have been difficult for the world, our nation, and for us as families and individuals. Dealing with the COVID19 pandemic and its fallout of unprecedented deaths, job loss, business failure, financial hardship, education interruption, quarantining, mask wearing, social distancing, and changes to our daily routines has affected the mental and physical health and well-being of many.

In the midst of my personal feelings about the pandemic the words of the Serenity Prayer have come into my thoughts many times. The date and author of the prayer remains a mystery with some tracing its origin back to a philosopher in 500 CE and others claiming its author to be an English poet or even American naval officer. We do know that Reinhold Niebuhr, a professor at Union Theological Seminary, used it in a chapel sermon in 1934. In 1941 it found a home as a key spiritual tool for Alcoholic Anonymous and other 12-step recovery groups.

Regardless of its date of origin or its author, we all can claim it as a source of peace, strength, and wisdom coming from a power beyond ourselves, God. The “serenity” or “peace” for which we pray is not the absence of conflict. It is, from the Hebrew word, “shalom,” the sense of wholeness, completeness, the absence of agitation or discord, a state of calm without anxiety or stress. This peace goes beyond our human understanding; it is not only known in our minds, it is experienced in our hearts.

Use this full Serenity Prayer daily or several times a day and be open to receive that for which you have prayed.

GOD, grant me the serenity  
to accept the things  
I cannot change,

Courage to change the  
things I can, and the  
wisdom to know the difference.

Living one day at a time;  
Enjoying one moment at a time;  
Accepting hardship as the  
pathway to peace.

Taking, as He did, this  
sinful world as it is,  
not as I would have it.

Trusting that He will make  
all things right if I  
surrender to His Will;

That I may be reasonably happy  
in this life, and supremely  
happy with Him forever in  
the next.

Amen

# VA Caregiver Programs Open to Eligible WWII, Korea & Vietnam Vets

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



After a yearlong delay, veterans from World War II through Vietnam who need around-the-clock care from a loved one can apply for the Department of Veteran's Affairs' family caregiver program, starting October 1st.

The VA announced Friday that the program's expansion to include veterans who served on or before May 7, 1975, will begin with several changes that affect all who are enrolled, including current veterans and caregivers.

Under the new rules, veterans with single or combined service-connected disability rating of 70% or higher, who also meet certain criteria and served before the 1975 date, are eligible to apply in October.

The VA will determine whether the applicant fits into one of two categories: Level 1, those who need substantial caregiving but are more capable than the most disabled cohort; or Level 2, those who are not able to "self-sustain in the community," meaning they require continuous supervision and help with three or more daily activities. [More resources: MOAA.org/Caregiver]

According to the VA, the stipend amount for the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregiving will be dependent on geography and level. A caregiver in Dallas, supporting a Level 2 veteran, for example, would receive a monthly stipend of roughly \$2803.17. For someone caring for a Level 1 veteran, it would be \$1751.98.

Those currently enrolled in the program and those with a pending application will be reassessed under the new eligibility criteria over the next year, according to the VA.

If a reassessment results in an increased stipend, the veteran and the caregiver would receive the new amount, as well as a lump sum of the retroactive pay back to Oct. 1, 2020. If the assessment determines the veteran is eligible for a decreased amount, the VA will give them notice by Oct. 2, 2021, and the decrease would go into effect "no earlier than 60 days" after they receive the notice.

For veterans who are currently enrolled but deemed during the reassessment to be ineligible under the new criteria, the VA will inform the veteran at or around Oct. 1, 2021, and their benefits would continue for 90 days following discharge from the program. [Related: You Ask, MOAA Answers: VA Claims]

# The Future US Military 'Super Soldier' May Be Closer Than We Think

By Blake Stilwell, source: Military.com August 19, 2020

The explosive popularity of the Marvel Cinematic Universe led some in the defense industry to pursue Iron Man-like combat suits for American troops. While there are some viable prototypes in the works, it looks like we may get Captain America's "super soldier" program first.

Though it may not look like the process that Steve Rogers went through, it may be coming within the next 30 years.

In this week's episode of "Left of Boom," Military.com's Managing Editor Hope Hodge Seck talks to Dr. Peter Emanuel and Dr. Diane DiEuliis about a 2019 paper they



Marines hang from a CH-53 Super Stallion Helicopter with Marine Medium Tilt Rotor, Squadron 162 during a special purpose insertion and extraction exercise in Djibouti (US Marine Corps/Sgt. Alex C. Saucedo)

co-authored for the U.S. Army, Cyborg Soldier 2050. The paper discusses a Defense Department Biotechnologies for Health and Human Performance Council (BHPC) study group that looked at emerging tech that could enhance human biological abilities across many areas of interest to the Defense Department. These included technological enhancements to vision, hearing, muscular control and "direct neural enhancement of the human brain for two-way data transfers."

Now, super soldiers could end up being Captain America with a touch of Johnny Mnemonic -- just 30 years from now. "Technology is accelerating,

and we are entering the fourth industrial revolution, this biological revolution," Emanuel said. "To some extent, we've already seen the integration of man and machine over many years -- in the use of pacemakers. To some extent, we're already seeing mankind become more intimate with technology."

Senior leadership at the Pentagon hates surprises, Emanuel noted, but they know that man and machine will be coming together. The study and the paper are designed to tell the DoD the kind of technology that may be coming and how it might integrate.

One of the ways the military works to solve problems is through the use of Blue teams and Red teams. The Blue team ensures they use technology as effectively as possible. The Red team is designed to think like the enemy. The DoD gave this Red team a year to show the Pentagon what the "cyborg future" might hold and help the top brass get ready for it. The paper is the outcome of that effort.

"What we wanted to do with this workshop was give it some ground truth, actually," said DiEuliis. "What's hype, what's real, what can we expect, what are we potentially going to see in the real world, in the military, in this time frame."

But they didn't cover broad strokes of technology; they decided to focus on areas of most importance to actual warfighters and the willingness of those people to adopt certain technologies.

Listen to Part I of "The Future of Bioenhanced Super Soldiers on "Left of Boom," wherever you listen to podcasts. You can tune in to new episodes of Military.com's "Left of Boom" podcast on iTunes, Google Podcasts, Spotify, TuneIn and Stitcher. Follow Hope Hodge Seck on Twitter @HopeSeck.



The U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds will headline the 2020 New York International Air Show, August 29-30, 2020 at Orange County Airport. Source: <https://airshowny.com/thunderbirds/>

## TAPS

This month, we remember those Tampa chapter members who recently left us:

Former Chapter Member Mrs. Fannie Fae Henslee (Tampa Chapter MOAA Surviving Spouse)



## MOAA TAMPA CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP FORM DUES: \$25.00

*HELP US MAINTAIN A CURRENT MEMBERSHIP ROSTER BY PROVIDING  
YOUR MOST UPDATED INFORMATION:*

RANK, NAME, SERVICE: \_\_\_\_\_

DOB: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER: CELL/HOME: \_\_\_\_\_

SPOUSE/SIGNIFICANT OTHER: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Tampa Chapter Annual Dues: \$25.00**

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

### **MOAA National Annual Dues:**

\$48.00 You can join National MOAA at their website: [moaa.org](http://moaa.org)

### **MOAA National Lifetime Dues:**

Based on age. Range: \$851-\$0 (Free for Age 100+)

**You can bring this completed form to any event or you can  
mail it with the \$25.00 check made out to:**

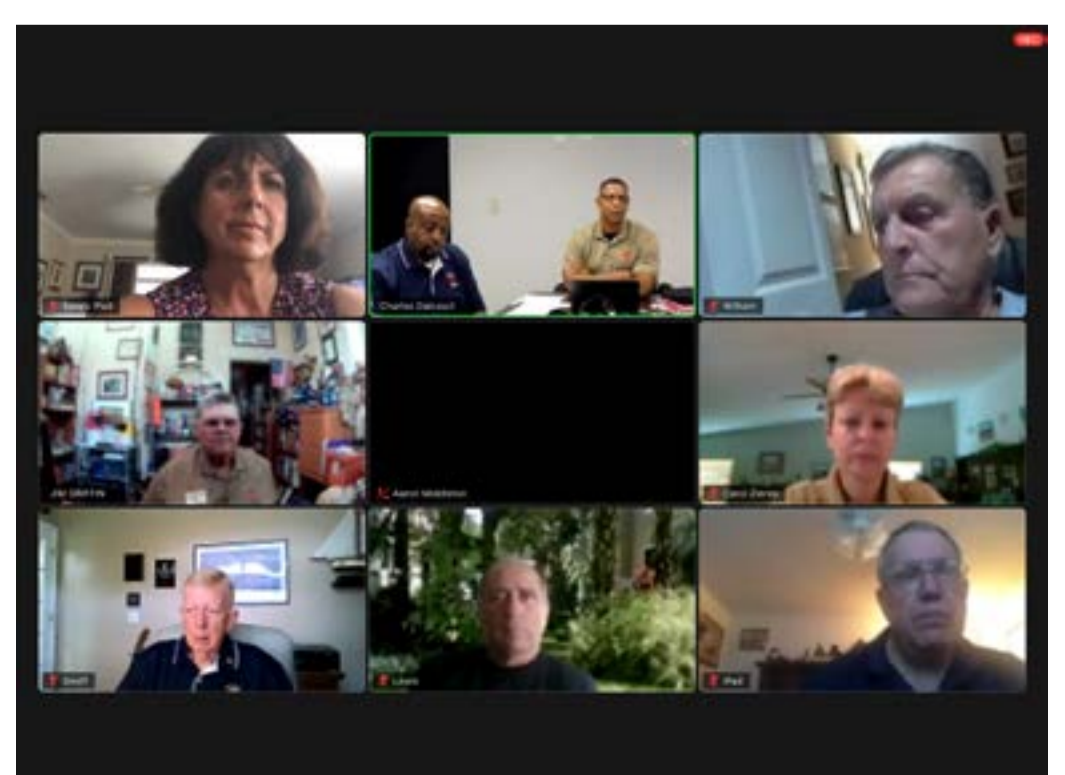
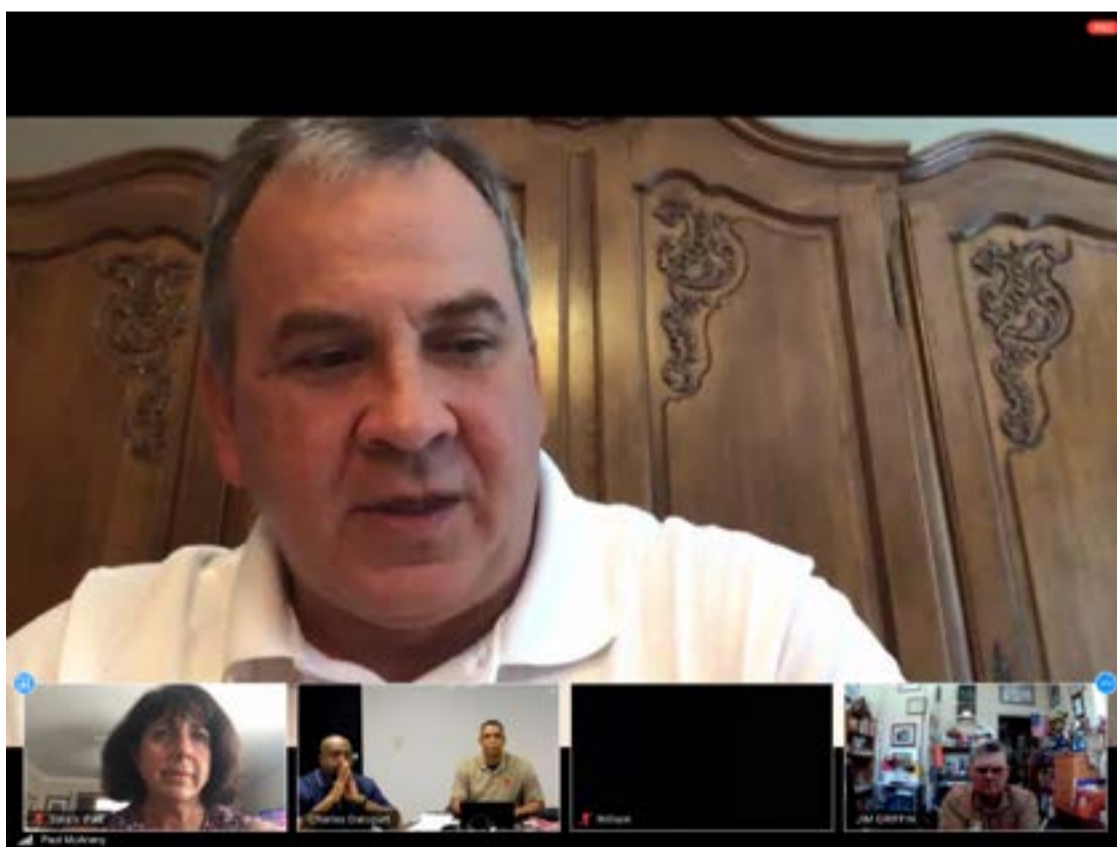
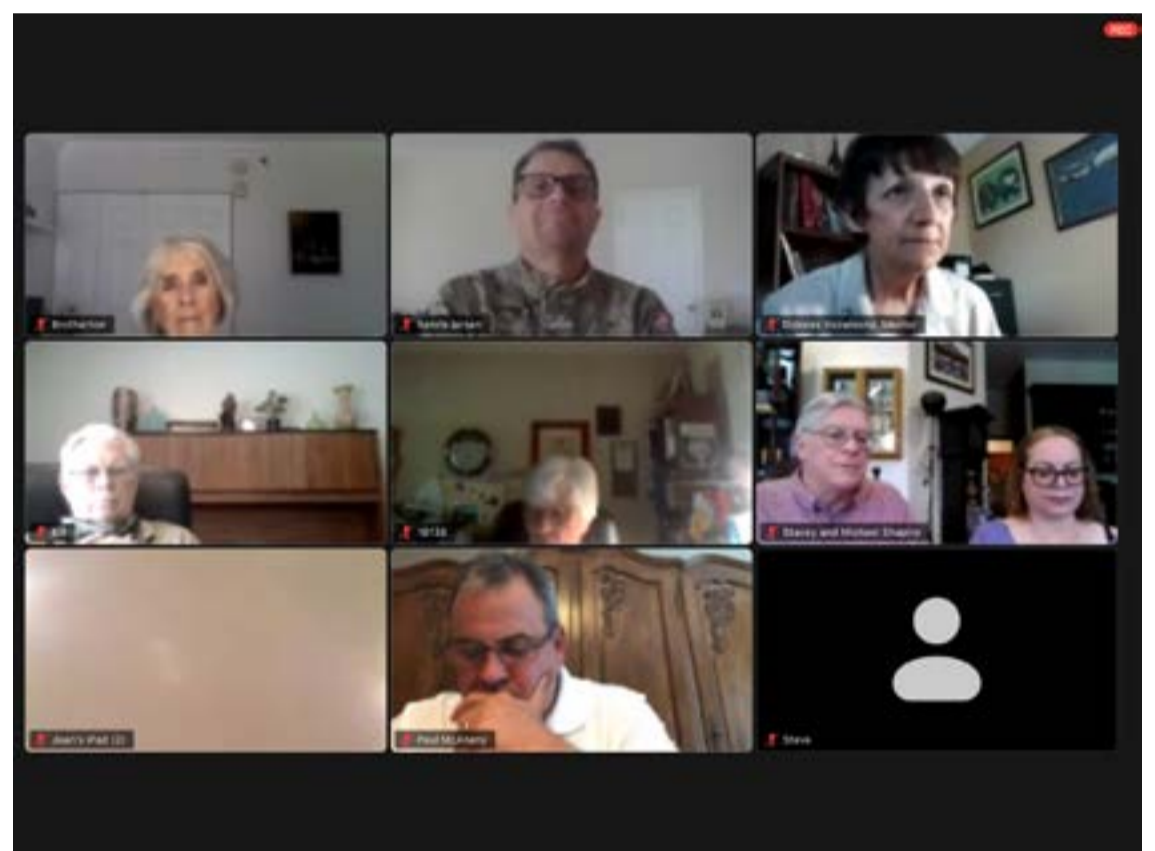
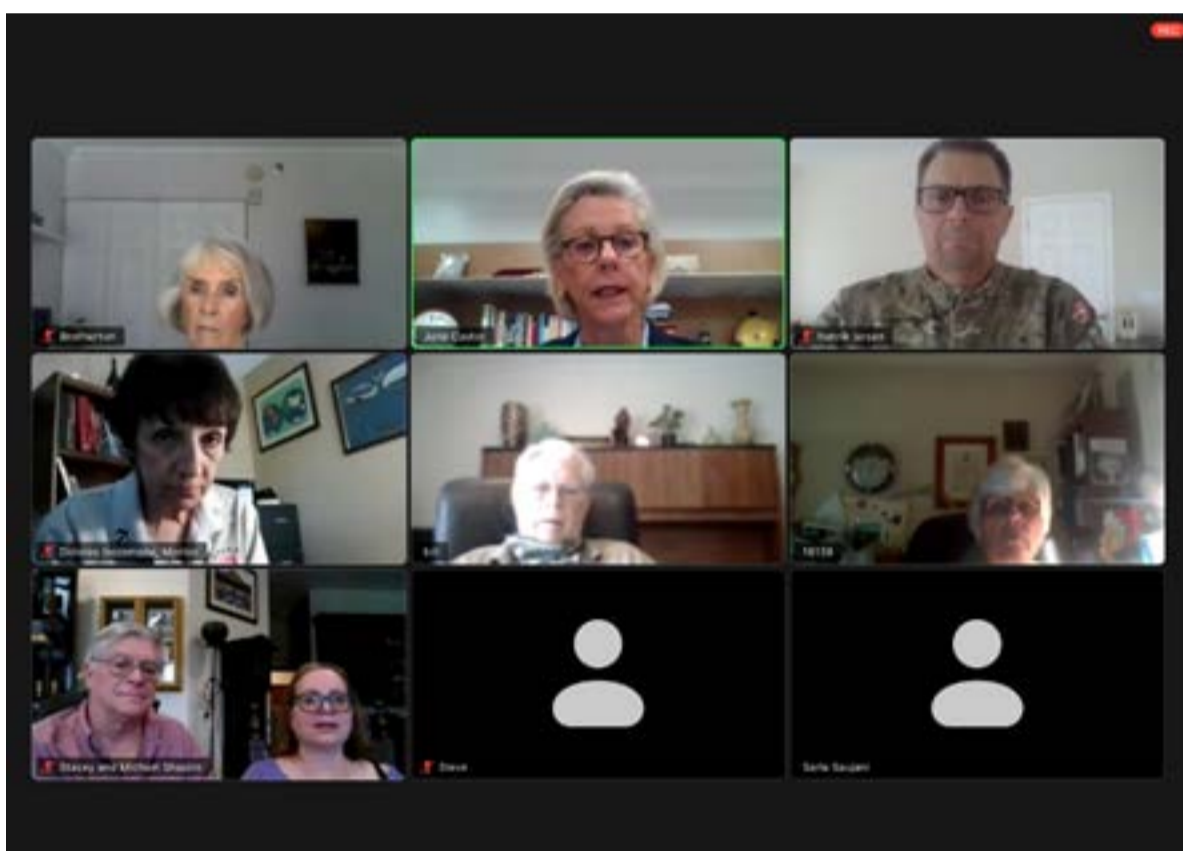
**“MOAA Tampa Chapter”**

**to: Bill Schneider  
15888 Sanctuary Dr.  
Tampa, FL 33647**

**Email: [TampaMOAA.Membership@gmail.com](mailto:TampaMOAA.Membership@gmail.com)**

**NOTE: MOAA NATIONAL DUES MUST BE PAID SEPARATELY  
(<http://www.moaa.org>)**

# PHOTOS FROM OUR CHAPTER VIRTUAL LUNCHEON ON AUGUST 13TH





# Mayor Jane Castor Was Virtual Luncheon Guest Speaker in August

submitted by COL Carol Zieres USA RET

Jane Castor is the 59th Mayor of the City of Tampa. Born and raised in Tampa Florida, Castor graduated from Chamberlain High School and attended the University of Tampa on an athletic scholarship.

Upon graduating, she joined the Tampa Police Department and worked



her way up from serving as a beat cop to being appointed Tampa's first female Chief of Police. She served six years in that role, during which major crimes dropped by 70% city-wide at the same time that Tampa played host to some of the nation's most significant events including the 2012 Republican National Convention and the Super Bowl. In 2019, Jane was elected mayor of the City of Tampa. In just her first few months in

office, she successfully launched numerous initiatives, including the city's largest ever water/wastewater infrastructure plan (PIPES); the Transforming Tampa's Tomorrow Advisory Teams to focus on building a strategic roadmap for the City's top priorities; establishing a minimum wage of \$15 an hour for full-time city employees; securing a federal grant for body-

worn cameras; initiating a renewal of the City's transportation master plan (Tampa MOVES); designating Tampa as a Vision Zero city; and originating a range of community-based initiatives such as Art on the Block, Crosswalks to Classrooms, and Bridges to Business. All of this was done while achieving unanimous adoption of the City's one billion dollar budget - the first budget in the black since the create recession.

Under her leadership, the City of Tampa has received numerous awards and recognitions. In 2019, Tampa Bay was recognized amongst the top areas for women-owned business growth; one of the top 10 best metro areas for startups; the best small tech market in North America; the 5th best city for recreation; and the best city in Florida and 23rd amongst large US Cities. Tampa has also been recognized as the best city for veterans to live in and one of the most fun cities in America.

The Mayor is a proud Seminole Heights resident where she lives with her longtime partner, Ana Cruz, and her two sons Sergei and Seely.

Editor's comments: We were honored to have Mayor Jane Castor as our virtual luncheon guest speaker on August 13th. This was the first time our chapter used the Zoom digital platform to "air" a luncheon guest speaker in lieu of our usual member's luncheon at Surf's Edge Club; with nearly 30 participants viewing the presentation from their homes or offices!

Several MOAA members sent questions in advance and others had an opportunity to interact with the Mayor in real time. In addition to some of the initiatives already mentioned in her bio, she touched on many topics relevant to the ongoing issues with Covid-19 and the economic hardship this pandemic has created for the Tampa Bay community.

Her staff is working hard with Hillsborough County to ensure small businesses and others disenfranchised by the virus receive CARES funding; e.g., to make mortgage payments, pay rent, etc and initiated relief programs early on. Great volunteer organizations like Metropolitan Ministries continue the "Feeding Tampa Bay" project that has also made a huge impact on the community.

And, Yes, Tampa is still on track to be the host city for the February 2021 Super bowl, although there will likely be physical changes in the venue to adapt to the "new normal" to keep everyone safe.

## HAVE YOU VISITED OUR WEBSITE?

[WWW.MOAAATAMPA.ORG](http://WWW.MOAAATAMPA.ORG)

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

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

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

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

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

[WWW.MOAAATAMPA.ORG](http://WWW.MOAAATAMPA.ORG)



# United States Air Force Birthday 2020

by: Major General Frank Moore, USAF (Ret)

The year was 1947, and it was a good one for me, for at least two reasons. The first, was a very personal one. I was born in 1947. The second reason was also personal, but also much more consequential for others, for our country, and for the world. The US Air Force was born. On September 18, 2020 we will celebrate its 73rd birthday.

When Carol Zieres asked me to write a piece for the "Retrospect" about the Air Force's 73rd birthday, I said "Great". I think all who have worn the blue uniform have much pride in the history, the mission, and the people we served with. But an important question comes to mind. Is this just an anniversary in which we "blue suiters" take pride, or was the creation of the U. S. Air Force truly consequential for our country and the world? I think history provides a pretty clear answer to the question.

The impetus for an independent Air Force grew throughout the 1930's, but it became almost inevitable during and immediately after World War II. During the war Army Air Forces had made vital contributions to our victory, by both supporting ground and naval forces and by conducting strategic bombing campaigns against Germany and Japan. In fact, at the War's end major Air units, including 8th Air Force, 15th Air Force, and especially the B-29s of the 20th Air Force in the Pacific, were primarily under the control of the Joint Chiefs, not Theater Commanders. General Henry Arnold, the Chief of Army Air Forces within the Joint Staff was later promoted to five-star rank in recognition of this reality. When World War II ended with the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki by B-29s, it was clear that a new era had begun.

Following its creation in 1947, the Air Force and the nation faced a series of challenges that were unprecedented. After the Soviet "Iron Curtain" descended across Europe, the first crisis of the Cold War was the Berlin blockade in 1948. The transport aircraft of the US Air Force supplied the city until the blockade was lifted, and a direct confrontation and conflict with Soviet ground forces was averted. Soon thereafter, in 1949, the Soviets detonated their first atomic bomb and the nuclear arms race shifted into high gear.

Throughout the 1950s, Air Force emphasis was primarily on nuclear weapons and delivery systems to counter the unprecedented Soviet threat. Nuclear deterrence was the strategy and the bombers and first generation ICBMs of the Air Force were our primary deterrent forces. These forces, two legs of the strategic triad we now have, belonged to the Strategic Air Command of the Air Force. Its commander was General Curtis LeMay, who had led 20th Air Force and its B-29s in the Pacific Theater during World War II.

When the Cuban Missile Crisis occurred in 1962, the US Air Force was 15 years old. During its "childhood" throughout the 1950s, a massive investment in nuclear deterrent forces had taken place. When Khrushchev sneaked the offensive nuclear missiles into Cuba and our naval blockade intercepted more of his supply ships headed for Cuba, he was forced to face a sobering reality. Arrayed against him were scores of first generation ICBMs, and literally hundreds of nuclear armed B-47 and B-52 bombers on airborne and strip alert, all targeted for the USSR.

The news media reported that Khrushchev "blinked", and the most frightening crisis of the nuclear age was averted. I have always thought this was a poor way to describe what Khrushchev was forced to do. I believe he probably "gaspd" instead, when confronted with the reality of nuclear arsenal arrayed against him. These nuclear forces were primarily, certainly not totally, those of the US Air Force. In 1962 the US Navy's fleet of nuclear submarines and SLBMs were in their infancy. I am sure that tactical and intermediate range weapons under other Air Force and US Army were also heavy in Khrushchev's calculation. However, I am certain that the US Air Force and the ICBMs and bombers of the Strategic Air Command dominated his decision to withdraw his missiles from Cuba.

Now, back to our original question: Was the birth of an independent US Air Force in 1947 a consequential event? As a veteran of many Pentagon "budget battles" over the senior years of my Air Force career, I can assure you that our massive investment in Air Force nuclear deterrent forces throughout the 1950s would not have occurred if the Air Force had remained as a department of the US Army. Large bureaucracies competing for priorities and resources do not operate like this. In 1962 we would have had a smaller, watered down version of the nuclear arsenal Khrushchev faced. For this reason alone, and there are many others, September 18, 1947, the birthday of the US Air Force, was indeed consequential for our nation and the world.

Since 1962, Air Force missions have continued to grow. The space domain is perhaps the most dominant of these, but there are others. On orbit surveillance systems developed, launched, and operated by Air Force personnel provided the intelligence needed to preserve peace throughout the cold war. There have also been many spin offs from Air Force space programs. The next time you use one of the many civilian GPS applications, thank the US Air Force. Today the missions and especially the personnel of the Air Force are stronger and more integrated with our other services than ever.

On September 18, join me and the other "blue suiters" as we celebrate a consequential event, the birth of our nation's Air Force.

## BULLETIN BOARD

### CARING FOR OUR "SHUT-IN" MEMBERS

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

[TampaMOAA.Secretary@gmail.com](mailto:TampaMOAA.Secretary@gmail.com)

CDR Geoff Harrington USNR, Ret, Sick Call Chairman

## SEPTEMBER 2020 DATES OF IMPORTANCE

2 September (1945) - President Harry Truman declared V-J Day (Victory over Japan Day) commemorating the formal Japanese surrender to the Allies aboard the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay.

7 September - Labor Day - is annually held on the first Monday of September. It was originally organized to celebrate various labor associations' strengths of and contributions to the United States economy. It is largely a day of rest in modern times. Many people mark Labor Day as the end of the summer season and a last chance to make trips or hold outdoor events.

11 September - Patriot Day is an annual observance on September 11 to remember those who were injured or died during the worst terrorist attack in U.S. history on September 11, 2001 as four large passenger jets were hijacked then crashed, killing nearly 3000 persons.

18 September - National POW/MIA Recognition Day is observed across the nation on the third Friday of September each year. Many Americans take the time to remember those who were prisoners of war (POW) and those who are missing in action (MIA), as well as their families.

18 September - Birthday of the U.S. Air Force, established in 1947

22 September- Autumn begins in the northern hemisphere

27 September - Gold Star Mother's Day - is observed in the United States on the last Sunday of September each year. It is a day for people to recognize and honor those who have lost a son or daughter while serving in the United States Armed Forces.



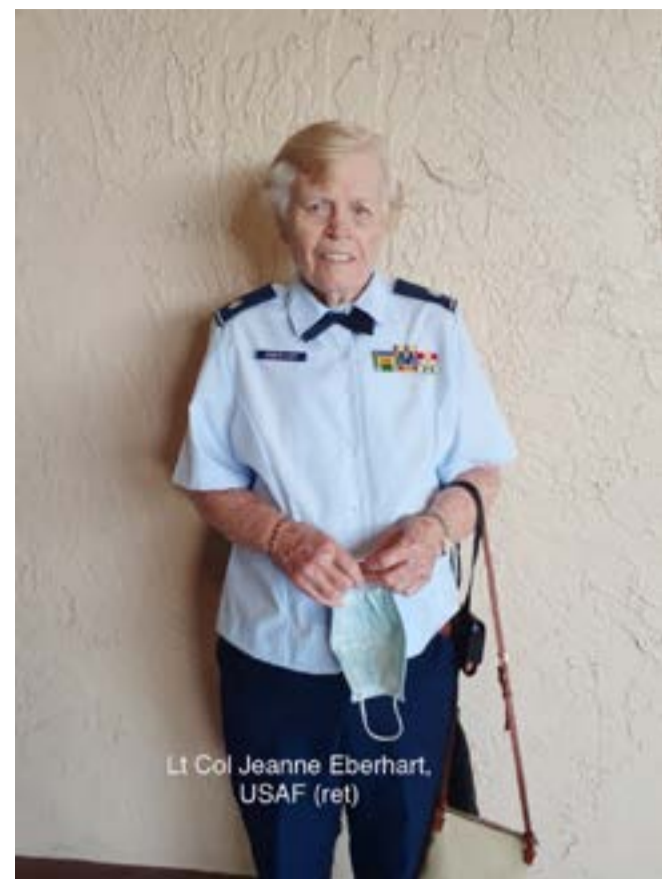
Lt Col Barbara Brotherton



Col Sarla Saujani



1st Lt Lyle Jaeger



Lt Col Jeanne Eberhart, USAF (ret)



Maj Gen Frank Moore



Lt Col Louise Schumate



Lt Col Jeanne Richard



Col Richard Rhyne



2d Lt Ed Geasa



USAF ROTC CDT Norm Bild



Maj F. Scotty Cleland



Maj Dolores Incremona



Col Paul McAneny

**Happy Birthday to the United States Air Force! Here are photos of our MOAA Tampa Chapter Air Force Members**



Maj Neil Cosentino

# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: MAJOR GENERAL JAMES G. JONES

Major General James G. Jones is commander, Keesler Technical Training Center, Keesler Air Force Base, Miss.

General Jones was born in 1934, in Hamilton, Ohio. He graduated from Waynesville (Ohio) High School in 1952 and earned a bachelor of arts degree (cum laude) in mathematics from Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, in 1956. He received a master's degree in public administration from Auburn (Ala.) University in 1975. General Jones was a distinguished graduate of Air Command and Staff College in 1968, and the Air War College in 1975. Both schools are located at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.



He was commissioned through the Air Force Reserve Officer

Training Corps program in 1956 and entered active duty in August of that year. He received his navigator wings at Harlingen Air Force Base, Texas, in September 1957 and his electronic warfare officer rating in March 1958 at Keesler Air Force Base, Miss. His first operational assignment was with the 301st Bombardment Wing at Lockbourne Air Force Base, Ohio, where he flew as an electronic warfare officer in EB-47s from April 1958 to February 1960.

In March 1960 he transferred to the B-58A test force at Carswell Air Force Base, Texas. Assigned to the 3958th Test Squadron and later to the 43rd Bombardment Wing, he served as a test flight navigator, standardization crew member and defense systems operator instructor in the Hustler until February 1964, when he became wing aircraft performance officer. General Jones moved with the 43rd Bombardment Wing to Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark., in August 1964. He was assigned to Headquarters Strategic Air Command, Offutt Air Force Base, Neb., in July 1965, working in the Strategic Reconnaissance Directorate, specializing in SR-71 and B-58 operations.

The general entered Air Command and Staff College in July 1967 and, upon graduation in June 1968, transferred to Takhli Royal Thai Air Force Base, Thailand. While there he flew 113 Wild Weasel combat missions in F-105F's.

Departing Thailand in August 1969, he served as an electronic warfare staff officer with the Royal Air Force at Royal Air Force Station Medmenham, England. This exchange tour of duty, which included flying in Vulcan and Canberra aircraft, ended in August 1971, when he was assigned to Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., as a Wild Weasel instructor electronic warfare officer with the 57th Fighter Weapons Wing. In addition

to his F-4C and F-105F Wild Weasel instructor duties, General Jones served as the wing commander's executive officer from February 1972 to June 1973, commander of the 57th Services Squadron from June 1973 to June 1974, and chief of security police from December 1973 to May 1974.

After graduating from the Air War College in August 1975, he was assigned to Bergstrom Air Force Base, Texas, as deputy director of logistics, 602nd Tactical Air Control Group. In February 1976 he became deputy commander for operations, 35th Tactical Fighter Wing at George Air Force Base, Calif. He was named vice commander of the wing in August 1977.

In January 1979 he transferred to Headquarters Tactical Air Command, Langley Air Force Base, Va., as assistant to the deputy chief of staff for plans. He became chief of staff at Tactical Air Command headquarters in January 1980. He assumed his present duties in August 1986.

General Jones is a master navigator with 3,000 flying hours. His military decorations and awards include the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross, Meritorious Service Medal with oak leaf cluster, Air Medal with eight oak leaf clusters, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Combat Readiness Medal and Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal.

He was promoted to major general Oct. 1, 1983, with date of rank Sept. 1, 1980.

(Current as of September 1986)

Editor's comment: For several years, MGEN "Jim" Jones, USAF (Retired) served on the MOAA Tampa Chapter's board of directors as the Senior Flag Officer Liaison and Chairman of the Scholarship Committee. We thank him for his service to our great nation and for his support and contributions to MOAA.



Photo of cake-cutting ceremony was taken at the 13 September 2018 MOAA luncheon at the Surf's Edge Club, MacDill AFB.

## SURVEY RESULTS

submitted by Dick Siegman

How many times have you filled out a survey and then wondered what other people had responded, only to get zilch. Well our survey is here to let you know how our survey came out. Since we hadn't had any new responses for a time I tallied up what we had and reported to the Board of Directors by a very small margin that the majority wanted to leave the Base and find something for our meetings very close by so they could use the Base Facilities. But then a couple of weeks ago in came a lone reply and the whole picture changed, by one vote we went, by average, to staying on Base. Who says one vote doesn't count!!!!

Now the problem is we don't have a club to count on. We have been informed, unofficially, that only Group Commanders can establish reoccurring reservations and everyone else will be on first come basis, with active duty and on base units taking priority, which would leave us as the come lately group not knowing when we would meet. Also there will be 3 different food consigners that will rotate and that their pricing will most likely be slightly differ-

ent so we will not know till the last moment what the luncheon will cost. In most cases more then we are paying now. And on top of that we might have very few options of what they would serve us. Also we will have a set up charge for each meeting in the \$350 to \$450 range plus the cost of the meals. Also we would be charged for every meal we ordered and there maybe or not extra meals for walk-ins. I'm not painting a very rosy picture of what the future may lay ahead for us, it may not be that bad or it could be worse.

So let us plan for the worst case and we are forced to move our meetings off Base. I'd like to ask for your assistance in finding a fall back position. So far we have some recommendations: The Tampa Bay Yacht Club, a golf course, a funeral parlor and one other that I don't remember. So I'm asking you for recommendations to include as much information as possible as to contacts, pricing for meals, and set-up and if you have personally digested their food and used their facilities. Please forward the information to me at "dicknick2@msn.com". Thank You for the help.....Dick Siegman

# BRIEF HISTORY OF THE FLYING TIGERS (1941-1942)

submitted by COL Carol Zieres USA RET

Introduction: The first American Volunteer Group (AVG) of the Republic of China Air Force in 1941, nicknamed the Flying Tigers, was composed of fighter pilots from the United States Army Air Corps (USAAC), U.S. Navy (USN), and Marine Corps (USMC), recruited under President Roosevelt's authority before Pearl Harbor and commanded by Claire Lee Chennault. Their Curtiss P-40B War hawk aircraft, marked with Chinese colors, flew under American control. Their mission was to bomb Japan and defend the Republic of China, but many delays meant the AVG flew in combat after the US and Japan declared war.



Composition: The AVG consisted of three fighter squadrons of 30 aircraft each that trained in Burma before the American entry into World War II to defend the ROC against Japanese forces. The AVG were officially members of the ROC Air Force. The group had contracts with salaries ranging from \$250 a month for a mechanic to \$750 a month for a squadron commander, roughly three times what they had been making in the U.S. Forces. While it accepted some civilian volunteers for its headquarters and ground crew, the AVG recruited most of its staff from the U.S. military.

Combat action: The group first saw combat on 20 December 1941, 12 days after Pearl Harbor. It demonstrated innovative tactical victories when the news in the U.S. was filled with little more stories of defeat at the hands of the Japanese forces and achieved such notable success during the lowest period of the war for both the U.S. and the Allied Forces as to give hope to America that it might eventually defeat Japan. AVG pilots earned official credit and received combat bonuses for destroying 296 enemy aircraft, while losing only 14 pilots in combat. The combat records of the AVG still exist and researchers have found them credible. On 4 July 1942, the AVG was disbanded and replaced by the 23rd Fighter Group of the United States Army Air Forces, which was



later absorbed into the Fourteenth Air Force with General Chennault as commander. The 23rd FG went on to achieve similar combat success, while retaining the "nose art" on the left-over P-40s.

\*\*\*Nose art: is a decorative painting or design on the fuselage of an aircraft (usually on the front nose of the aircraft)  
Source: WIKIPEDIA.com

## BIOGRAPHY OF CHARLES E. "BUDDY" FISHER, SR.



This month's edition of the Retrospect marks the last of our WWII Veterans stories. To that end, we've dedicated this tribute to former WWII Flying Tiger Fighter Pilot and MOAA Tampa Chapter member, CHARLES E., "Buddy" FISHER, Sr., who passed away at the age of 90 (January 23, 1922 - June 22, 2012).

He was born in Royal Oak, MI and his family moved to Brandon, FL in the mid-20's. Buddy, aka "Bud" joined the Army Air Corps in 1942 where he attended flight school and was commissioned 2nd Lieutenant and assigned to the prestigious Flying Tigers in China under the Command of Gen. Claire Chennault and the 14th Air Corps, 51st Fighter Group. Bud flew over 50 missions in China, Burma, & India flying P-40's and his favorite plane, P-51 Mustang.



Upon returning to Tampa after WWII, Bud attended the University of Tampa where he met his future wife, Renee. Bud earned a B.S. in Sociology and rowed on the crew at UT. Upon graduation he joined the Hillsborough County School Board where he served for 38 years. Bud was very active in the community serving as Captain of the Civil Air Patrol; officiated football for 25 years; Police Athletic League Benefactor, 32nd degree Mason, a member of the Egypt Temple Shrine, and started the UT Women's Crew Team in the early 70's.

He taught swimming many summers at Davis Islands pool; benefactor to the Children's Home and the Florida Sheriff's Boys and Girls Youth Ranch, and served as Chief of the 37th Aeromedical Evacuation Reserve unit at MacDill AFB

## Brief History of the WWII Tuskegee Airmen (1940-1948)

submitted by COL Carol Zieres USA RET



The Tuskegee Airmen were the first African-American military aviators who flew during World War II as part of the Army Air Corps, the precursor to the U.S. Air Force.



The Tuskegee Airmen were known as, "Red Tails" due to the red paint applied to the tails of their aircraft. They formed the 332nd Expeditionary Operations Group and the 477th Bombardment Group of the United States Air Forces and flew hundreds of combat missions during WWII.  
Source: Wikipedia.com



## Leading the Way: Dobbins navigator determined to help Air Force's diversity efforts

DOBBINS AIR RESERVE BASE, Ga. -- Maj. Kenneth Thomas, a C-130 navigator assigned to the 94th Airlift Wing, Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Georgia, and the wing's diversity and inclusion project manager, is working on several fronts to encourage minorities and young women to consider a career in the Air Force or Air Force Reserve.

Growing up with his grandmother in the Bronx, Thomas didn't know much about the Air Force, much less being a rated aviator.

He knew his mother was in the Air Force and his uncle was in the Navy, but it wasn't until he attended an air show with his mother, who worked on the F-15 Eagle, that he began to take an interest in being part of the Air Force.

"My mother would take me to the air shows," he said. "I was amazed by the airplanes and the Thunderbirds. After that, my interest was drawn to movies and video games that were related to airplanes."

Thomas eventually enlisted in the Air Force, following his mother and father, who both served.

"I was an electronic warfare technician on the F-16," he said. "While I was in tech school as an Airman at Keesler Air Force Base (Mississippi), my dad was going through Officer Training School at Maxwell (AFB, Alabama)."

His dad was also enlisted before making the move to attend OTS.

"My commander allowed me to miss a day of training to attend my father's commissioning ceremony," Thomas said. "That's when I gave him his first salute. My father told me 'these new lieutenants are no smarter than you. You are fully capable of becoming an officer too.' That was the first time I really believed I could actually become an Air Force officer. I was in Air Force ROTC (Reserve Officer Training Corps) three years later."

Thomas was quick to raise his hand when the 94th was looking for someone to run the diversity and inclusion program a couple of years ago.

"I understand the importance of representation in leadership positions and the STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) career fields," he said. "As an enlisted Airman, I felt there was a diverse workforce, but I didn't see much representation in the officer corps, especially in rated careers. Once I commissioned, I recognized my perception as an Airman was real."

As a young officer, he saw the opportunity to expose aviation to young people of all backgrounds. "As a member of the Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity, I was heavily involved in community service," he said. "I ran a nonprofit organization and was on multiple committees that addressed the disparity of education for young people. I was in tune with the heartbeat of our underserved youth."

Thomas also volunteered to be an instructor combat system officer course at Pensacola Naval Air Station, Florida, knowing he could be a role model for upcoming Air Force officers.

"I felt it was an opportunity to have a huge influence on the Air Force's youngest aviators in training," he said. "When I went through navigator training, I had good instructors who pushed me to succeed, and I wanted to be that for them."

Thomas also took part in the Air Force's first ACE Flight Program (now Aim High Flight Academy), an initiative aimed at combating the growing pilot shortage affecting the Air Force. The initial ACE program was a joint effort between the Air Force and Delaware State University to provide students initial flight training in civilian aircraft and a structured environment that provides exposure and education on military aviation careers.

"I had the honor and privilege of being the assistant director of the first ACE Flight Academy," he said. "The kids motivated me more than they could imagine. I'm glad I had the support of my leadership to allow me to take part in this impactful TDY to Dover."

Thomas is also the president of Legacy Flight Academy, a nonprofit organization that conducts character-based youth aviation programs that draw upon the legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen.

All LFA events are free to attendees. LFA's comprehensive, three-tiered building block approach works in tandem with partner organizations to help minorities and other underserved and underrepresented youth achieve success as aerospace, science, technology, engineering and math professionals, particularly emphasizing military career opportunities.

In July, more than 30 students from across six states simultaneously experienced the joys of flight during LFA's virtual Legacy Flight Across America. "During this LFA experience, students learned about the first class of aviation cadets who entered preflight training at the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama on July 19, 1941," Thomas said. "The event, which was broadcast live via social media included on-site interviews and live interactions with students."

Thomas also leads Legacy Flight Academy's Eyes Above the Horizon program, a single day flight orientation and STEM-focused program. Eyes Above the Horizon gives young people from traditionally underrepresented backgrounds an opportunity to develop an interest in STEM careers through flights, mentorships and immersion into the rich history of the Air Force. It also draws on the legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen to inspire students to consider an Air Force career.

LFA's programs give flights to hundreds of kids each year and inspire thousands more. LFA volunteers are mostly Airmen looking to make a difference in the communities around them.



**Maj. Kenneth Thomas, a navigator with the 94th Airlift Wing, Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Georgia, and his daughter, Dominica Thomas, after flying a historic T-28 Trojan Warbird in 2020. Thomas is the wing's diversity and inclusion project manager and is working on several fronts to encourage minorities and young women to consider a career in the Air Force or Air Force Reserve. (Courtesy photo)**

To promote rated opportunities in the Air Force to diverse populations, Air Force Recruiting Service stood up Detachment 1 in October 2018. Det. 1 develops innovative programs supporting Total Force (active duty, Guard and Reserve) recruiting efforts and is the tactical execution arm of the Chief of Staff of the Air Force's rated diversity improvement initiative. The mission of Det. 1 is to inform, influence and inspire tomorrow's leaders through innovative outreach opportunities.

Thomas works with Det. 1 on many of its outreach programs.

"I think it's about time," Thomas said. "The disparity of minorities in rated careers and the higher ranks is appalling. I feel as though the Air Force is making its actions match its words. The Air Force has said over and over how important efforts like this are and Det. 1 is a step in the right direction."

Det. 1 runs the Aim High Flight Academy, but Covid-19 made in-person classes impossible.

"Lt. Col. Lindsey Andrew and I came up with the plan to conduct the Aim High Flight Academy virtually," Thomas said. "She had the great idea to fund the student's private pilot certificate. Before the students start flying, they have eight virtual mentorship sessions over eight weeks."

Although Thomas was not exposed to aviation when he was young, he has been able to show his daughter from a young age what it's like to be an aviator.

"When I started flying in the Air Force my daughter was 8 years old," he said. "I wanted her to be introduced to flying at a much younger age than I was. At first she just thought it was something cool. As time went on, I exposed her to youth aviation camps and programs. I always shared my stories of flying but never pushed her too hard. I just kept her around airplanes."

At a Legacy Flight Academy event, Thomas's daughter heard about the Civil Air Patrol. A week later, she told him she wanted to join CAP.

"She went to the first meeting and really enjoyed it," he said. "She said she felt a little uneasy because she was the only minority. When she told me this, I told her I wouldn't force her to stay, but she would be missing a great opportunity if she let that stop her."

She stuck with CAP and earned promotions at every opportunity.

"CAP nominated her for the ACE program, which she attended and completed her solo flight," Thomas said. "When she moved to her new squadron in Marietta, Georgia, she became the Civil Air Patrol commander because of her leadership and hard work."

Thomas said he believes exposing his daughter to aviation early will definitely give her a leg up if she decides to pursue a career in aviation.

"She wants to be a fighter pilot in the Air Force," he said. "She is better set up than I could have ever been. She is a senior in high school and is finishing up her private pilot license. She got into aviation early and is surrounded by great mentors who will ensure her success."

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

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

Some of the reasons for changing the location are to:

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



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

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

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

Your Name and Contact information:

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

THANK YOU for your input.  
MOAA Tampa Chapter Board

# “NEVER STOP SERVING”