

## Upcoming Events

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

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ALL AGAIN SOON!**



**REMINDER  
PUBLICATION  
DEADLINE FOR THE  
MAY ISSUE IS  
25 APRIL 2020**

## CDC Resources for COVID-19

**Click the links below to review COVID-19 related guidance from the CDC.**

[How It Spreads](#)  
[Protect Yourself](#)  
[Protect Your Family](#)  
[Protect Your Home](#)  
[Manage Anxiety and Stress](#)

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT COL CHARLES DALCOURT USA RET



COL CHARLES DALCOURT  
USA RET  
2020 Chapter President

Members of the MOAA Tampa Chapter, it is a pleasure to greet you this month. I hope that all are well and that you have settled into a comfortable rhythm amidst the disruptive days we have experienced over the past few weeks.

Although many challenges have beset the globe, it has been heartwarming to observe families drawing closer, people assisting others, and many that race through the day embrace a slower pace...a less hurried lifestyle. As I navigate the changes induced by the COVID-19 pandemic, I am personally reminded of Robert Jordan's quote, "the oak fought the wind and was broken, the willow bent when it must and survived." I offer that prudence

dictates we take all precautions necessary 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.

### Walking the talk...

As the world works its way through the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, so will our Chapter. On March 25th, I announced on behalf of our Board of Directors, the decision to suspend all of our MOAA Tampa Chapter meetings through the end of May 2020. Our decision to temporarily cease gathering is congruent with efforts exercised across the Nation aimed to protect us all from the effects of the COVID-19 virus. Moreover, the heart of our decision prioritizes the protection of our Chapter's unique demographic that meets the criteria of the vulnerable or at risk population. It was the right decision, at the right time for our Chapter.

### Talking and walking...

So what do we do while the storm festers all around us? I entreat you to stay focused on our mission, conduct the business we can, and diligently seek to help those you can. As a reminder, several opportunities to serve and tangibly contribute to the organization exist – seize the chance to give back. Please strive to stay as physically active as possible. Exercise, read, and engage others via voice or video calls. Don't be sedentary.

As I've stated before, organizations are about people. You are our Nation's precious jewels. Please endeavor to be safe in every way; seek solace in the slower pace; and uplift someone today that you have not engaged in a while, via voice or video calls. We pray that all of you will remain connected with the Chapter through our newsletter. Moreover, we pray that God's protection, power, and provisions will keep you and your families away from harm both now and forevermore.

### Wrapping up:

In closing, thank you for continuing to support and promote the initiatives MOAA is championing. Let's continue to advocate for this respected profession through active engagement and with unwavering resolve.

[Continued on next page](#)

[President's Message, Continued from Page 1](#)

Our leaders in Washington D.C. and Tallahassee need to know that we aren't distracted. Your sustained input via calls, letters, and emails to Congressional leaders will have a very profound impact.

I remain grateful for the opportunity to serve you and will continue to strive, in every way, to both advance our chapter's great legacy and propel the organization forward. Thanks again for your understanding and support.

All the best,  
Charles Dalcourt

### Notes from the Editor... Col Carol Zieres USA Ret



**IMMEDIATE PAST  
PRESIDENT/ACTING EDITOR  
COL ZIERES USA RET**

#### To our Readers:

"I hope you and your family are staying safe and continue to remain healthy during this national health crisis (COVID-19 pandemic). Given the swiftness in which the situation unfolded, we are all facing unprecedented challenges that affect our everyday life. The guidelines issued by the CDC, State, and County Health Departments have resulted in dramatic changes that have impacted virtually all activities where people gather in groups of 10 or more. In view of these changes; i.e., mandatory social distancing, and the utmost concern for the health and safety of our members, your MOAA leaders have suspended chapter board meetings and luncheons for the months of April and May, for now. I pray for the healing of our nation and for all of those impacted by this pandemic virus. Until we meet again, please be safe."

**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 (MOAA). MOAA National, the Florida Council of Chapters, and the Tampa Chapter are non-partisan organizations. The views expressed in individually signed articles and the advertisements that appear in this publication/website do not reflect an endorsement by MOAA or this affiliate. Articles in this newsletter/website are the opinions solely of the individual authors and do not necessarily express the policy or opinions of the newsletter's editor or publisher, nor do they reflect an endorsement by the Tampa Chapter or the National organization of the Military Officers 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.moaafi.org](http://www.moaafi.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.



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



**2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS**

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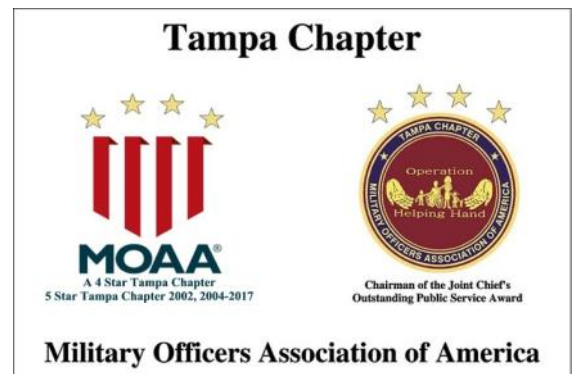


**COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:**

OPERATION HELPING HAND/GOLF CHAIRMAN: LTC JIM GRIFFIN USA RET  
MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN: COL WILLIAM A SCHNEIDER USA RET  
FLAG OFFICER LIAISON: MAJ GEN JAMES JONES USAF RET  
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PUBLIC RELATIONS: VACANT

**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 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:**

The Tampa Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America  
Post Office Box 6383, MacDill AF  
Tampa, FL 33608-0383  
E-Mail: [TampaMOAA.Secretary@gmail.com](mailto:TampaMOAA.Secretary@gmail.com)

**COMPLETE OUR  
MEMBER SURVEY ON PAGE 18**



## LEGISLATIVE LOWDOWN

BY LTC REGINALD WILLIAMS, USA RET

For more information, visit MOAA's [Take Action Center!](#)



LTC Reginald Williams, USA  
Ret  
Legislative Liaison

Greetings for the month of April! The Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) continues as the U.S. Government's focus. As such, MOAA is taking the COVID-19 virus and advisories regarding its impact seriously. Through an abundance of caution to protect the health of our membership and in review of guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Office of Personnel Management, and careful consideration of global responses, MOAA is canceling several upcoming events.

"The health of our members comes first, and we can honor this while still lobbying on behalf of servicemembers past and present, and their families. In our adjustments, we will be creative and impactful." said Lt. Gen. Dana T. Atkins, USAF (Ret), MOAA president and CEO. "We have plans in place to move forward, to keep our members and Congress informed, and to continue outreach on behalf of not just our 350,000-strong membership, but all members of the uniformed services community."

MOAA also will double down on member engagement, providing links via our Legislative Action Center below and guidance for engaging with House and Senate members when they return to their districts. More webinars, videos, and teleconferences are planned for members who seek greater understanding of issues and to help advocate for the protection of all earned benefits.

The current health crisis may result in an increased need for your advocacy. This year's legislative priorities include protecting TRICARE and minimizing anticipated increases in health care costs through copays and shifts to civilian health care services for veterans. Copay hikes have far outpaced annual retiree cost-of-living adjustments (COLA), whittling away the value of the overall retirement package. Copay increases aren't even being used to maintain or improve the TRICARE benefit.

We urge Congress to demonstrate good faith with military families by addressing two particularly egregious copay issues that have emerged incrementally since January 2018.

### The Military Coalition Keeps Up the Fire on Concurrent Receipt

MOAA, a co-chair of the 34-member The Military Coalition, already has expressed its support for both measures:

- H.R. 333, the Disabled Veterans Tax Termination Act, is sponsored by Rep. Sanford Bishop (D-Ga.) and essentially aims to fix the financial injustice of concurrent receipt for all retired personnel. It is a "Hail Mary" pass worth your support, addressing the unjust offset in one large piece of legislation with a price tag over \$30 billion over 10 years.
- H.R. 5995, the Major Richard Star Act, is sponsored by Rep. Gus Bilirakis (R-Fla.) and is smaller (estimated at \$2 billion over 10 years). The bill and its Senate companion, S. 3393, offer an incremental approach for concurrent receipt and initially address those forced to medically retire from a combat injury.

### The Road Map to Concurrent Receipt

The incremental approach to concurrent receipt is really five milestones, each providing relief for a different group of veterans:

- Those who retire with a 50% VA disability rating or higher. This was achieved in 2004.
- Those forced to medically retire because they were hurt in combat. This would be addressed by H.R. 5995 and S. 3393.
- Those forced to medically retire because they were hurt on duty in non-combat incidents.
- Those who retire with 40% VA disability ratings.
- Those who retire with 30% VA disability ratings.

### Congress Must Halt Medical Billet Reductions, MTF Restructuring Amid COVID-19

Earlier this week, MOAA called on the House and Senate Armed Services Committees to halt all military medical billet reductions and any proposed military treatment facility (MTF) downsizing given the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

[Continued on next page](#)

[Legislative Lowdown, Continued from Page 4](#)

While we appreciate DoD's assurances that all changes to MTF capacity will be conditions-based, both beneficiaries and medical providers must be certain proposals to reduce the military's direct care system capacity are not moving forward at this time. Since the FY 2017 NDAA Section 703 report detailing MTF downsizing was released, MOAA has heard from both providers and beneficiaries with concerns about their local communities' ability to absorb care transitioned out of MTFs.

With medical capacity in extraordinary flux across the civilian health care system, it becomes increasingly prudent to officially halt all proposals to transition military families and retirees to civilian providers.

Demands related to the uniformed medical mission have also increased due to COVID-19, since the private sector has little incentive to produce and maintain excess patient care capacity. Governors have called on the administration for military medical assistance, USNS Mercy (T-AH 19) and USNS Comfort (T-AH 20) will expand capacity for non-COVID-19 patients in coastal areas, and active duty medical units and reserve personnel are on alert or have been deployed to man field hospitals. The military medical response to the COVID-19 pandemic is destined to inform future operational and medical readiness requirements for the medical force.

Rep. Ross Spano (R-Fla.) has already [sent a letter](#) to Secretary of Defense Mark Esper urging him to stop the proposed closure and downsizing of clinics in his district given the strain the coronavirus could place on local medical services. Proposed changes to the MacDill Air Force Base Clinic and the Sabal Park Clinic in Spano's district would move approximately 30,000 military beneficiaries to civilian care in the Tampa Bay area.

[Plans Call for These MTFs to Stop Seeing Retirees, Family Members](#)

MOAA has always supported an enhanced focus on military medical readiness while vowing to ensure continued access to high quality care for servicemembers and retirees, as well as their families and survivors. However, the unprecedented challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic demand all plans to reduce MHS direct care system capacity cease now; they can be reconsidered at a later date once the significant servicewide (and nationwide) lessons are processed and applied.

This month's article is a compilation of Advocacy issues being addressed while Storming the Hill 2020 and the Council of Presidents in-person meetings were cancelled.

[MOAA Take Action Link](#)

Sources: MOAA, March 2020 MILITARY OFFICER; moaa.org

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90228

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**OPERATION HELPING HAND UPDATE**  
 "As long as we are needed, Operation Helping Hand will be there..."



LTC JIM GRIFFIN,  
CHAIRMAN, OPHH

As you probably already know, the **DINNERS for MARCH AND APRIL have been cancelled.** The **BOB SILAH MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT has been postponed until MARCH 26, 2021.** We are prepared to resume the dinners, hopefully in MAY, which will be sponsored by USAA.

DR. STEVEN SCOTT sent us a great email which I am including in my update.

[DR SCOTT EMAIL HERE](#)

All of the OPERATION HELPING HAND FOLKS will continue to do all we can for the wounded and injured who require our continued support and assistance.

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

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



**CHAPLAIN'S CORNER**  
 CHAPLAIN (COL) BERNARD H LIEVING JR USA RET



CINDY AND CHAPLAIN (COL)  
BERNARD H LIEVING JR USA  
RET

During April three of the world's religions, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, all based on the Abrahamic traditions, will be celebrating special holy or feast days. Jewish Passover begins on April 9th and concludes on the 17th. Easter, the Christian feast day that ends the season of Lent, is the 12th of April. Ramadan, the Islamic holy month begins on April 24 and lasts a month. The date for all three observances are lunar determined and so the dates move from year to year based on the moon. All three observances are central to the beliefs of each faith community.

Passover celebrates the freeing of the ancient Hebrews from their four hundred years of slavery in Egypt. The name Passover comes from the scripture story that God "passed over" the Hebrew homes during the 10th plague, the slaying of the first-born, which God inflicted on the Egyptians when Pharaoh refused to allow the Hebrews to leave Egypt. Passover is a celebration of the freedom achieved in the exodus. It always begins with the retelling of the story of the freeing of the ancient Hebrews from the Egyptian slavery at a Seder ritual and meal.

Easter celebrates the freeing of individuals from sin with the promise of eternal life given through the resurrection of Jesus following his crucifixion. On the night before Jesus was betrayed and then crucified, he celebrated with his disciples what we call the Last Supper which was a Passover Seder meal. The symbol of Easter is the empty tomb.

The month of Ramadan is a celebration of the revealing of the Koran to Mohammed by God. Observant Muslims fast every day from sunrise to sunset; practice charity for the poor, and are motivated to greater self-discipline, deeper prayer, and heightened devotion to Allah.



These three separate and different faith groups represented most months at our luncheons trace their faith roots to Abraham and two of his sons,

Isaac and Ishmael. While all three religions have components that interpret and live out their scriptures or religious texts quite differently, the three essentially and intrinsically believe in one Creator God. In this special month of 2020 we can celebrate that the One Creator God of infinite power, love, and grace is worshipped through these three different ways of expression, remembrance and hope.

**VISITING FAMILY MEMBERS**

Since the beginning of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, the James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital has had a marked increase in the number of wounded and injured active duty members referred for treatment. Their Spinal Cord Injury and Comprehensive Rehabilitation Units have treated some of the most severely injured service members who have been in combat in these operations. The average stay for the injured is 45 days. Many of the families travel from all over the country and must provide for themselves while staying here in the Tampa Bay area.

## 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

### APRIL 2020 DATES TO REMEMBER



#### Gold Star Spouses day—5 April

The terms "Gold Star family," and "Gold Star Spouses," and "Gold Star Wives" traditionally refer to the surviving loved ones of military members killed in the line of duty in combat. "Gold Star Wives Day" was created to honor these loved ones.

April 5 is designated as Gold Star Spouses day and will be on Sunday, April 5, 2020. [Read more.](#)



#### Air Force Reserve Birthday—14 April

The United States Air Force Reserve celebrates its birthday every year on April 14, but according to the Air Force official site, Air Force Reservists can trace their heritage all the way back to the National Defense Act of 1916.

The Air Force Reserve Birthday will be on Tuesday, April 14, 2020. [Read more.](#)



#### Army Reserve Birthday—23 April

The Army Reserve celebrates its birthday on April 23 each year, celebrating contributions to two World Wars, the Cold War, Korea, Vietnam, Persian Gulf War, and many other missions. The Army Reserve Birthday will be on

Thursday, April 23, 2020. [Read More.](#)

**Don't forget to add these to your calendar!**

**National Former POW Recognition Day—9 April**

**National Military Brats Day—30 April**

**Read more about these holidays [here](#)**

### Tip: Changing Bank Accounts for Your Pay? Start Early

**Article shared by Ms. Renee Brunelle  
Tampa Chapter Surviving Spouse Liaison**



Renee Brunelle  
Tampa Chapter  
Surviving Spouse  
Liaison

When you need to change the bank account for your direct deposit, or change an allotment, make sure you allow a window of time for the change to be processed before payday. Making those changes isn't instant, even in myPay. Although, making changes in myPay is much quicker than mailing or faxing it in.

When you use myPay to make a bank account or allotment change, myPay will provide an effective date, so you'll know whether the change will be made for the next payday or the payday after that. In general, if you make a change in myPay during the first half of the month, it will be effective for the upcoming payday.

When you mail or fax the change to us, or call our Customer Care Center, you should plan for 30 days for the change to process. If you are changing bank accounts, it's always a good idea to keep your old account open until you know the change was made.

Also, remember that a debit card number is not a valid account number when changing your bank account direct deposit information. You will need your checking or savings account number and bank routing number. This information can be found on a blank check.

[Read this article Online](#)

### 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 17**.

**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.



### 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)



## Coronavirus Relief Bill Contains Nearly \$20 Billion for Veterans 25 Mar 2020—Military.com | By Patricia Kime

[Read Article Online](#)

The massive \$330 billion coronavirus relief bill expected to be approved Wednesday by the Senate contains \$19.57 billion for the Department of Veterans Affairs to ensure that veterans are receiving the care they need during the current pandemic. According to a release from Senate Appropriations Committee Vice Chairman Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vermont, \$15.85 billion of the VA-marked funds will go to the Veterans Health Administration to cover treatment for veterans with COVID-19 at VA hospitals, civilian urgent care clinics and emergency rooms. The funds are to be used for overtime for staff, personal protective equipment, test kits and other resources.

Another large portion of the bill -- \$3.1 billion -- will go to building infrastructure for veterans care, including equipping and staffing for temporary hospitals, clinics and mobile treatment centers, and for remodeling existing facilities, including state-run veterans homes, to isolate and care for veterans with the highly contagious illness.



Funding also will go to support VA information technology networks to ensure they can handle the increase of telemedicine services needed as more routine appointments become virtual visits. The bill also includes provisions for the VA to enter agreements with telecommunications companies to give veterans better access to high-speed internet. That would allow vets to get mental health counseling remotely through telehealth during the crisis.

The funding is in addition to a \$150 billion coronavirus relief fund for state, local and tribal governments for additional resources for the pandemic.

Senate Minority Leader Sen. Chuck Schumer, D-New York, called the massive infusion of money into the nation's hospitals and clinics a "Marshall Plan" for the U.S. health system. In a letter sent to fellow

senators early Wednesday morning, Schumer praised the negotiations that led to \$150 billion being marked for the system.

"We cannot begin to heal our economy until we can turn the tide against the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result of our negotiations, the amount of funding for hospitals and medical facilities has greatly -- greatly -- increased," Schumer said. The proposed legislation seeks to help vulnerable veterans, including those who are homeless and susceptible to contracting the coronavirus, and families and veterans receiving support services, grants or per diem, allotting \$590 million for them.

"This funding will help veterans get treatment and provide support for those who are homeless or at risk of eviction," according to Leahy's release. "Funding is also included for keeping veterans within VA-run nursing homes and community living centers safe from coronavirus."

For VA health care providers working overtime, the bill temporarily lifts salary caps to ensure workers get paid for every hour worked. The bill also:

- Ensures that home health care workers have personal protective equipment and necessary equipment to protect veterans and themselves;
- Lifts some restrictions on accessing VA health services, to include telephone enrollment and renewals and waivers for late paperwork;
- Allows veterans with limb loss who need help with their prosthetics to see a community provider during the pandemic.
- Lets VA consider providing pensions or other income-related benefits to veterans and family members, even if other emergency funding benefits place them over VA income thresholds.

As of March 24, 296 veterans under the VA health care system had tested positive for COVID-19. This includes at least 60 housed in VA hospitals, two in VA nursing homes and three in community hospitals. Four veterans have died as a result of coronavirus infections. Leahy said legislation is just the start of a response that will "come in phases" over the coming months.

"Today our response is providing direct assistance to the American people, injecting new resources where they are needed most, and moving our country a step closer to emerging from this crisis stronger than we were before," he said.

-- Patricia Kime can be reached at [patriciankime@gmail.com](mailto:patriciankime@gmail.com).

## Adventurer Made Tracks to Siberia

By **JAMES A. MORAN** as told to **ROBERT F. SAWALLESH** in 1995  
with **MELISSA MARISON'S** Computer Text Converter Expertise in 2020.

Special to the Tampa Tribune, 1995

Columbus Barracks, Columbus, Ohio, 1917:

"Private Moran, when are you ever going to learn to do an about face? How did you ever get into the Army?" I will never forget those words from that Army sergeant.

I was only 17 when I joined the Army in Washington, D.C. My father had to sign a waiver for me because of my age. My mother, who remembered seeing and hearing the guns of the American Civil War battles very strongly objected me going into the Army. She knew war as a child at the Battle of Manassas.

At last I learned how to do an about face and graduated with my basic training unit in the fall of 1917.

After completing our training, we left Columbus for San Francisco by train. The ride was very smooth, and we slept in hammocks on the train and we had hot meals in the dining car.

Arriving in San Francisco we embarked on the transport ship Logan. On the ship we slept in hammocks and ate "slum" which was a stew made from beef. Our destination was the Philippines via Hawaii.

We did hit a typhoon in the middle of the Pacific, and we were in it for three days. They gave us milk as a remedy for sea sickness. During the typhoon one soldier went topside to get some fresh air and he almost fell overboard. We slept in hammocks three decks below. The big shots slept on the first and second decks.

On the ship a couple of the soldiers went to the bathroom on the deck (floor). We made them clean it up and they were put to live in a place by themselves They were from the "country". Sawallesh said they probably went to the bathroom on the deck because they could not find an outhouse.

Ships in those days of course did not have air conditioning and the Logan burned coal for fuel. The Logan did serve earlier in the Spanish American War. Finally, we arrived in Hawaii. We took on coal and it was brought on board the ship by dock workers who carried coal in containers balanced on the top of their head. After Hawaii we left for the Philippines. We were in Manila for three months and during that time we marched and drilled and went on liberty.

After our short tour in Manila we left for Nagasaki, Japan where we again took on more coal. We then left for Vladivostok, Siberia where I and the 31st Infantry served for 13 months.



In 1995, Lieutenant Colonel Robert F. Sawallesh, US Army, Retired, left, a volunteer at the James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital, interviewed Mr. James A. Moran about his experiences in Siberia in WW I. The interview took place in what is now Haley's Cove at the Veterans' Hospital.

more.



We arrived in Vladivostok in the Spring of 1918. Also, in Vladivostok were Japanese, Czechs, Chinese, French and of course Russians. Because of politics we were ignored by many of these soldiers.

Our commander was Major General William S. Graves who commanded the American Expeditionary Forces in Siberia. I was in his headquarters building once in Vladivostok and sneaked a peak at him in his office. General Graves was very distinguished and well respected by his men.

After arriving in Siberia, we had more advanced infantry training. This consisted primarily of long marches, physical training and target practice with our Springfield rifles.

Our rations in Siberia consisted of corn beef and hardtack (biscuits). Hardtack was like a hard cracker that had no taste, but it sure did fill you up. Every once in a while, our mess sergeant would steal some chickens and we would have fried chicken for dinner.

After about four or five months in Siberia my best friend, Ralph Furgeson died of pneumonia which killed many soldiers. He was from Balti-

[Continued on the following page](#)

[Adventurer Made Tracks to Siberia, Continued from Page 9](#)

The chaplain gave my friend a eulogy, taps followed, and he was buried in a wooden box about three feet in the ground with a wooden cross on the grave. As far as I know his remains are still in Siberia.

Our mission in Siberia was to guard the Trans-Siberian railway which ran along the Siberian-Chinese border and to support the anti-Bolshevik Army.

We were put into small teams and posted along the railway both on the trains and at guard posts along the railway posts. Some of our men were killed by snipers, probably by Bolsheviks and they were buried in marked graves along the railway route.

Some of our men disappeared and we never did find out what happened to them. They would leave the barracks at night for one reason or another and they would never be seen again.

The trains we guarded carried food, clothing and weapons plus ammunition for us and other nations. When the trains broke down it would take about three days to repair them. The trains ran on coal.

Houses of prostitution were located along the railroad lines. This is the only way some of the women could make a living. The Japanese brought their own women.

You could see the Siberian prisons along the railroad lines. The prisoners were dressed in civilian clothes and some had their families with them to include children. From the train you could see the prisoners being beaten with the butts of rifles and whips.

The railway system was about 1,000 miles long and we guarded about a 300-mile stretch starting from Vladivostok. For our mail to arrive from Washington, D.C. it would take about four to six weeks. There were of course no phone calls home. Men went to church whether they wanted to or not. I went voluntarily because this is the way I was raised.

We all wore dog tags and we carried them around our neck with a string. Today of course they are worn with a chain. It got very cold in Siberia We had fur boots, hats and gloves but no fur lined coats. The temperature got down to 40 degrees below zero.

We saw many Cossacks who were great horsemen. We called them the "wildmen".

The medical support on the trains we guarded consisted of a medic who had bandages and pills. There was an Army hospital at Vladivostok. We did receive immunizations and if you had trouble going to the bathroom you were given castor oil. That was about the extent of military medicine that I knew.

For our duty in Siberia we got paid \$26 a month and sometimes we did not get paid for six weeks. We just existed until payday. Our pay for operating in subzero temperatures came to about eighty-six cents a day.

General Graves had his hands full in Siberia. One American soldier was shot and killed in Vladivostok by a Russian officer. Another soldier was detained by the Cossacks and flogged because he did not have the appropriate identification papers. As soldiers we talked about these events only in whispers.



After our mission was completed in Siberia, we sailed home and I was given \$200 in mustering out pay. After the Army and a few odd jobs, I went to college and got a degree in civil engineering.

I retired from the Commerce Department in 1970. My wife and I then moved to Florida. My wife and I have been married 67 years. Because of our health she lives in Tampa with my daughter and son-in-law. My home for the past five years has been the James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital in Tampa. It is an outstanding hospital with an outstanding staff. My wife and I get to see each other when we can. We never had any arguments - well, maybe a few spats. We have three children, three grandchildren and two great grandchildren with one more expected in July. My little boy Jake, who is 63 was wounded in the Korean War.

Siberia was a wonderful experience ... but I would not give a nickel to go back there.

**Most of the above article was published on December 12, 1995 in the Tampa Tribune's "I Remember It Well." A feature by Lindsay Peterson.**

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## FROM THE OFFICE OF SENATOR RICK SCOTT

Senator Scott has called for the most transparent, and up-to-date information from state, local and federal officials on the efforts to combat the Coronavirus, so Americans can keep themselves and their families safe.

See a list of resources and information available to Floridians below or by visiting [www.RickScott.senate.gov/CoronavirusResources](http://www.RickScott.senate.gov/CoronavirusResources).

### **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):**

The CDC's website offers a variety of information about Coronavirus cases in the United States and efforts to prevent the spread of the disease, including:

- An up-to-date overview of Coronavirus cases in the United States ( [HERE](#) )
- Symptoms of the Coronavirus ( [HERE](#) )
- What to do when you're sick ( [HERE](#) )
- How to know if you're at higher risk of getting very sick from the Coronavirus ( [HERE](#) )
- Steps to prevent illness ( [HERE](#) )
- Other Frequently Asked Questions ( [HERE](#) )

The [CDC Coronavirus Call Center](#) is available 24/7 at 800-CDC-INFO (800-232-4636) for urgent issues related to Coronavirus.

### **Florida Department of Health (FDOH):**

Please visit the Florida Department of Health's [website](#) for Florida-specific information relating to the Coronavirus, including:

- A current overview of cases in Florida ( [HERE](#) )
- How to find your county health department ( [HERE](#) )
- Other Frequently Asked Questions ( [HERE](#) )

FLDOH has also activated a Coronavirus Call Center available 24/7 by phone at 1 (866) 779-6121 via email at [COVID-19@flhealth.gov](mailto:COVID-19@flhealth.gov).

### **U.S. Department of State:**

For up-to-date travel advisories, visit the U.S. Department of State's website [HERE](#).

### **U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs:**

U.S. Military veterans who believe they may have contracted the Coronavirus may contact the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs' VISN 8 Clinical 24/7 Contact Center by phone at 1-877-741-3400. See more [HERE](#).

### **Florida Attorney General's Office:**

Florida Attorney General Ashley Moody has activated Florida's Price Gouging Hotline for Floridians to report price gouging and Coronavirus-related scams, available by phone at 866-9NO-SCAM or by visiting [MyFloridaLegal.com](http://MyFloridaLegal.com).

### **World Health Organization:**

For information and guidance from the WHO regarding the Coronavirus, visit their website [HERE](#).

### **National Institutes of Health:**

For information on the Coronavirus from the NIH, visit their website [HERE](#).  
See more of what Senator Scott has been up to this week below.



## MARCH LUNCHEON PHOTOS



View our  
Event Photo  
Gallery at  
[MOAATampa.org](http://MOAATampa.org)

**OPERATION HELPING HAND TAMPA AT TASTE OF CARROLLWOOD—MARCH 8, 2020**



**Check Out our  
[Photo Galleries Online!](#)**

**IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT!**

**March and April 2020 Dinners have been cancelled!**

Operation Helping Hand Tampa is committed to the health and safety of our volunteers, sponsors, hospital staff, and especially our patients at James A. Haley Veterans Hospital. In coordination with Mr. Joe Battle, Medical Center Director, we have elected to cancel the upcoming monthly dinners for Operation Helping Hand Tampa in March and April due to the public health concerns over Corona Virus (COVID-19).

Having just reached our 190th consecutive dinner, we did not make this decision lightly. In an effort to stop the spread of the virus, and to keep any possible strains of illness away from those with compromised immune systems, we have decided to cancel the dinners, and evaluate the situation in the upcoming weeks in order to continue the dinners in May of this year.

Please stay tuned to our emails, our [website](#), our Facebook page and to [MOAA Tampa Chapter](#) resources for any additional updates to the dinner schedule. As always, we appreciate all of our supporters, and look forward to seeing you all again as soon as possible.

**PHOTOS FROM AROUND THE WORLD (photos taken from <https://www.defense.gov/observe/photo-gallery/>)**



Marines participate in an amphibious assault warfare certification exercise in Onslow Bay, N.C., March 18, 2020. Photo By: Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Pedro A. Rodriguez. <https://www.defense.gov/observe/photo-gallery/igphoto/2002267486/>



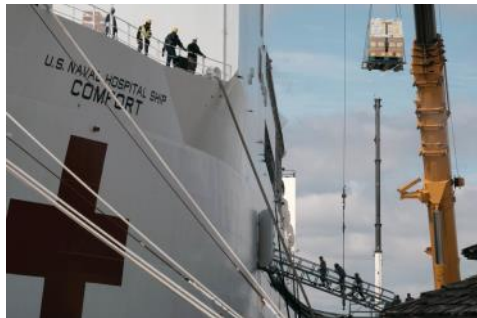
Air Force Staff Sgt. Hayden Fowler inspects the wing of a C-130 Hercules at Andøya Air Station, Norway, March 9, 2020. Photo By: Air Force Senior Airman Eugene Oliver. <https://www.defense.gov/observe/photo-gallery/igphoto/2002267220/>



Soldiers fire missiles with an M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System during training at Fort Irwin, Calif., March 17, 2020. **Photo By:** Army Spc. Jessica Rutledge. <https://www.defense.gov/observe/photo-gallery/igphoto/2002267251/>



California Air National Guardsmen help sort and package canned goods and other nonperishable food products at the Second Harvest of Silicon Valley Food Bank in San Jose, Calif., March 24, 2020. Photo By: Air National Guard Master Sgt. Ray Aquino. <https://www.defense.gov/observe/photo-gallery/igphoto/2002269894/>



Personnel board and load supplies onto the USNS Comfort at Naval Station Norfolk, Va. March 24, 2020, in support of the nation's COVID-19 response efforts. Photo By: Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Joshua Sheppard. <https://www.defense.gov/observe/photo-gallery/igphoto/2002269966/>



The Dwight D. Eisenhower and Harry S. Truman Carrier Strike Groups conduct dual carrier and joint air wing operations with a B-52H Stratofortress in the Arabian Sea, March 21, 2020. Photo By: Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Maxwell Higgins. <https://www.defense.gov/observe/photo-gallery/igphoto/2002268564/>



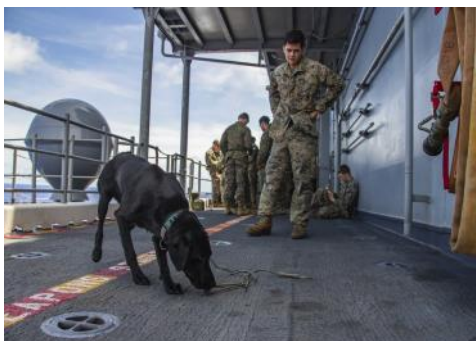
Military Sealift Command hospital ship USNS Mercy departs Naval Base San Diego, March 23, 2020. Mercy deployed in support of the nation's COVID-19 response efforts and will serve as a referral hospital for non-COVID-19 patients. Photo By: Navy Petty Officer 1st Class David Mora. <https://www.defense.gov/observe/photo-gallery/igphoto/2002269289/>



Army 1st Lt. Alex Heeschen operates an AT4 anti-tank rocket during training in Bemowo Piskie, Poland, March 19, 2020. Photo By: Army Sgt. Timothy Hamlin. <https://www.defense.gov/observe/photo-gallery/igphoto/2002268898/>



Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Ilexis N. Morton gives candy to a girl during a community relations event in Rayong, Thailand, March 9, 2020. <https://www.defense.gov/observe/photo-gallery/igphoto/2002264253/>



Allie, a Marine Corps military working dog, searches for simulated explosive materials during an explosive ordnance familiarization class aboard the USS America in the Philippine Sea, March 22, 2020. **Photo By:** Marine Corps Cpl. Isaac Cantrell. <https://www.defense.gov/observe/photo-gallery/igphoto/2002269985/>



Members of Florida's Air National Guard practice building an Alaskan small shelter system at Jacksonville Air National Guard Base, Fla., Feb. 20, 2020. These heavy-duty tents can be equipped with electricity and climate control for use in deployed locations around the world. Photo By: Air Force Airman 1st Class Jacob Hancock. <https://www.defense.gov/observe/photo-gallery/igphoto/2002256772/>

## Florida Council of Chapters 2020 Convention



**CANCELLED**

Your Florida Council of Chapters (FCOC) of MOAA is taking the COVID-19 virus advisories regarding its potential impact seriously. In view of guidance from the CDC and Florida Gov. DeSantis' Declaration of a State of Emergency, the FCOC Board met telephonically on March 12, 2020 and voted to cancel the 2020 FCOC Convention scheduled for May 28-31, 2020 in Palm Beach Gardens.

The decision by the FCOC Board was made out of an abundance of caution and is consistent with an approach that considers the well-being of our members and the general public above all else. In this same vein, MOAA has cancelled the annual face-to-face Storming the Hill event, with the emphasis shifting to member engagement via the MOAA Legislative Action Center and engaging with House and Senate members when they return to their districts.

One of the main functions performed at our Convention is the conduct of the FCOC Annual Business Meeting and the election of officers. Procedures to accomplish this task in a virtual manner will be formulated and disseminated in the near future.

FCOC will be refunding the payments received for convention reservations and magazine advertisements and we expect to have the refunds distributed within the next 10-14 days.





## 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: \$693-\$72

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",

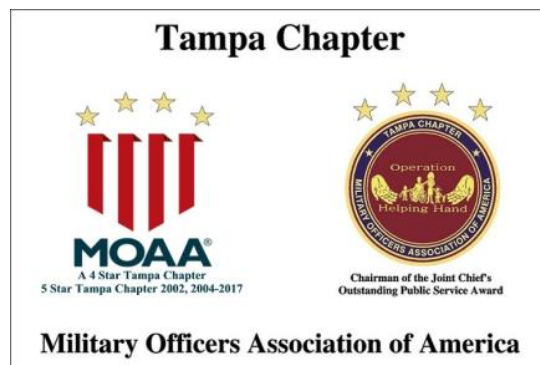
to: Bill Schneider  
15888 Sanctuary Dr.  
Tampa, FL 33647  
Email: [TampaMOAA.Membership@gmail.com](mailto:TampaMOAA.Membership@gmail.com)

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

**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 experience 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 Programs 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](mailto:dicknick2@msn.com) or bring to the next Chapter Luncheon.

THANK YOU for your input.  
MOAA Tampa Chapter Board