



THE RETROSPECT

FEBRUARY 2020

TAMPA CHAPTER — A FIVE STAR CHAPTER OF MOAA NATIONAL

VOL. 26, Number 2

Upcoming Events

OUR BOARD WILL MEET AT 1000 on:
+ 06 FEBRUARY
+ 05 MARCH
+ 02 APRIL

LUNCHEON MEETING WILL BE HELD AT 1130 AT SURF'S EDGE CLUB ON MACDILL AIR FORCE BASE ON 13 FEBRUARY

Reserve your seat by 10 FEBRUARY by calling: (813) 676-4676 and following the prompts.

MENU:
CAESAR SALAD
GARLIC BREAD STICKS
CHICKEN PARMESAN
GARLIC GREEN BEANS
PESTO PENNE
TIRAMISU

PUBLICATION DEADLINE FOR THE MARCH ISSUE IS 25 FEBRUARY 2020

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT COL CHARLES DALCOURT USA RET



COL CHARLES DALCOURT USA RET
2020 Tampa Chapter President

Greetings to all of MOAA's Tampa Chapter members and to all that have decided to read this month's newsletter. I thank you for your consideration and sincerely appreciate your desire to remain engaged in the activities and actions our Tampa Team. Our newsletter has evolved into an incredible source of information that is readily accessible from anywhere in the world and whose topics are truly relevant. I also extend again my gratefulness for your allowing me the pleasure to serve as the President of the Tampa Chapter and to lead the 2020 Board of Directors. The responsibility is great. I will not let you down.

Priorities and Goals:

I have been asked on myriad occasions about new priorities and goals for the Chapter. Several are anticipating the unveiling of this new list of objectives. As I stated at the luncheon last month, my desire is not to be radical, rash, nor reticent in establishing priorities for our chapter. Rather, it is prudent for us all to pause and reflect on our Chapter's calling; to understand the current environment(s) in which our organization finds itself; and to seek the venues that best align with our strengths and virtues so that we can make an impact today while preparing our Team to continue the fight, carry the torch, and make an indelible imprint on the trajectory of tomorrow for those that have and will come behind us. We will be deliberate not thoughtless, diligent not slothful, and determined not docile, in our efforts to accomplish our mission. Your Board of Directors will shape both near- and long-term goals by the March luncheon and I will convey the findings to you at that event. That said, I do offer the following for your consideration:

My Thoughts:

In so many ways, this chapter is positioned to be a seminal force and an incredible source of insight and influence for MOAA and its constituents. We have made a very positive impression in Tampa with our Operation Helping Hand program. We must expand our reach beyond that demographic of physically wounded Warriors and help those challenged by behavioral issues, homelessness, and sicknesses that disallow them to live life to their fullest. Truly, these Brothers and Sisters in Arms require our helping hands as well. We leave no Soldier behind!

Strategically, I consider membership a top priority. Every consideration for enhancement or advancement of our chapter leads me to the fact that it is imperative we focus on gaining and retaining members that are willing to contribute their talent, time, and resources towards the accomplishment of our mission. With a broad base of participating members, our chapter can leverage the diversity of thought, experiences, and resources inherent in such a team to impact both our community of members and those we serve beyond our local ranks. The issues plaguing our Armed and Public Health Service colleagues demand well thought approaches to resolution, bold advocacy, and virulent execution. We are capable of providing this support if we have a diverse, aware, and experienced team that is ready to engage...willing to continue the fight.

Another area I consider fruitful centers on medical awareness and advocacy. Targeted changes to medical benefits rest at the forefront of thought for many of our members. We have the ability to positively impact the discourse surrounding access to medical treatment, cost of services, and the extended care of Veterans (Active and Reserve/National Guard).

Cont. on next page

EDITORIAL POLICY

THE RETROSPECT IS ELECTRONICALLY PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY MEMBERS OF THE TAMPA CHAPTER OF THE MILITARY OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA (MOAA), P.O. BOX 6383, MACDILL AIR FORCE BASE, FL 33608-0383 AND IS VIEWED ON LINE AT [HTTP://WWW.MOAATAMPA.ORG/](http://www.moaatampa.org/).

THE TAMPA CHAPTER MOAA, INC. IS A 501-C-19 TAX EXEMPT VETERANS ORGANIZATION NOT ASSOCIATED WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE. THE MOAA TAMPA CHAPTER WEBSITE AND THE RETROSPECT NEWSLETTER IS PUBLISHED BY THE MOAA TAMPA CHAPTER, WHICH IS AN AFFILIATE OF THE MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA (MOAA). MOAA AND ITS AFFILIATED CHAPTERS AND COUNCILS ARE NON-PARTISAN. THE ADVERTISEMENTS THAT APPEAR IN THIS PUBLICATION/WEBSITE ALSO 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.

President's Message Continued:

Although simple headlines, many of these issues have complex backgrounds. I desire to build a team of medically astute members that will seek to understand the issues germane to our membership. Once we have a firm grasp of the problems, the group will in turn create position statements that will provide context to our challenges and fuel for advocacy at the state and national levels. This concept also holds true for basic legal services and support.

Finally, meeting the needs of our military community that is in transition from active to retired status or that is exiting service for other reasons presents an opportunity for our chapter as well. MOAA's national team has a tremendous wealth of knowledge in this area. Their capacity to assist is limited but available. My vision is to employ the services of our national level teammates on behalf of our chapter. We would provide administrative and logistical support for three to four transition planning workshops per year in Tampa. This outreach has the potential of attracting members for our team and moreover, meeting a need of this demographic.

Wrapping up:

In closing, I offer that our Tampa Chapter is ready and resilient. We are poised to continue and improve upon our chapter's great legacy of service and commitment. We not only have a winning team, we have a willing team with the capacity to make a difference. I appreciate your time and look forward to listening to your thoughts, watching your involvement, and standing alongside you as we move out in 2020. Thanks again for your confidence and support.

All the best,
Charles Dalcourt

LEGISLATIVE LOWDOWN

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

By LTC Reginald Williams, USA (Ret.)

Greetings and Happy New Year! First, I would like to thank you for allowing me to serve as your Legislative Affairs Chairman for 2020. I look forward to serving you as best as possible by keeping you informed on legislative actions that impact our servicemembers, veterans and family members. I take this commitment seriously and ask for your support as we take action to further our cause. With Storming the Hill 2020 coming upon us soon, 22-26 March 2020, I draw your attention to MOAA's Legislative Mission and Goals.

MOAA's Legislative Mission for 2020

This will be a tumultuous news year of partisan politics, with the focus on the upcoming presidential election as well as the 33 Senate seats and 435 seats in the House of Representatives up for election.

MOAA will continue to remain decidedly nonpartisan. Our team works with every elected official, seeking positive change for the members of the seven uniformed services, our nation's veterans, and all military families and survivors.

In January, the 116th Congress begins its second session, and MOAA continues to stay focused on our mission. We've spent the past year meeting with members of Congress and their staffs to discuss pay equity, military medicine, survivor benefits, and other issues affecting servicemembers and veterans and their families. With record-level support during the first session on issues like repealing the "widows tax," it's clear our lawmakers know MOAA will remain equally engaged during the second half.

MOAA's Government Relations staff identified the following eight objectives, which broadly represent priorities with targeted actions (not all inclusive) to address anticipated threats for the coming year. As we continue the fight to sustain benefits, health care, and compensation in support of the uniformed services and their families, we will keep our members informed on progress throughout the year.

"Our team has analyzed issues of benefits and compensation common to servicemembers and veterans and their families and survivors. We plan to clearly communicate specific actions we will undertake this coming year to address concerns across these expansive topics," said Col. Dan Merry, USAF (Ret), vice president for Government Relations. "Please be sure to sign up for The MOAA Newsletter online for updates."

2020 Legislative Goals

- Ensure any changes to the Military Health System sustain military medical readiness and beneficiary access to top-quality care
- Sustain military pay comparability with the private sector and block erosion of compensation and non-pay quality of life benefits
- Protect family support programs, and ensure military-provided services (housing, Permanent Change of Station, CS, childcare) are affordable, readily available, and meet quality standards
- End financial penalties for military survivors
- End concurrent receipt penalties for military retirees
- Achieve equality of benefits, protections and administrative support for Guard/Reserve members consistent with their active duty counterparts
- Ensure timely access to service-earned benefits, and resist proposals to erode foundational services delivered through VA and DoD
- Support legislation, policies, and programs to enable the seven uniformed services' to recruit, retain, and manage personnel

As we prepare for Storming the Hill 2020, I ask that you continue to engage your respective Congressperson for our local/state advocacy needs. You can use the link below to communicate with your Congressperson.

MOAA Take Action Link:
<http://takeaction.moaa.org/?0>

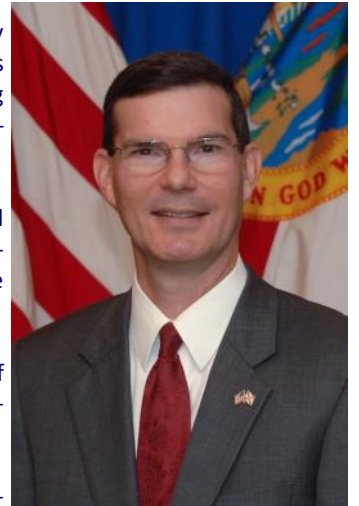
**FEBRUARY 2020 SPEAKER:
Col. Steve Murray**

Steve Murray is Communications and External Affairs Director of the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs in Tallahassee, Fla. An Operation Iraqi Freedom veteran, he assumed his current duties in July 2006. The retired Air Force lieutenant colonel provides oversight and direction of the department's public affairs program of community outreach, media relations, social media engagement, branding and employee communications linking veterans and their families to earned services, benefits and support.

During his Air Force career, he served as Director of Public Affairs with the Air Force Office of Special Investigations, Washington, D.C., Faculty Head of the Public Affairs Department at the Defense Information School (DoD), Fort Meade, Maryland, and Director of Public Affairs at Headquarters Air Force Recruiting Service, Randolph AFB, Texas.

He received a Bachelor of Science degree in broadcast journalism with honors from the University of Southern Mississippi and has a Master of Science degree in Administration from Central Michigan University.

He is an inductee into the University of Southern Mississippi School of Mass Communication and Journalism Hall of Fame, and is a recipient of the



Diamond Leadership Award from the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs, the state agency's highest honor. The department's outreach and branding campaign was the 2013 recipient of the Florida Public Relations Association's Dick Pope All Florida Grand Golden Image Award, the industry's top annual honor, for the single best statewide public relations campaign. The campaign also received the Abraham Lincoln Pillar of Excellence Award from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.



He currently serves on the Board of Directors for Honor Flight Tallahassee, the Florida Health Care Association's Public Relations Committee and the Florida Council of Chapters for the Military Officers Association of America. He is an associate member of the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs.

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.

**Complete our Member Survey
on Page 16!**



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: moaatampachapter@tampabay.rr.com

TAMPA CHAPTER MISSION:

**The Tampa chapter is a Five-Star organization dedicated to supporting MOAA's primary purpose:
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.**



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



2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT: COL CHARLES DALCOURT USA RET
1ST VP - LTC JEANNE RICHARD USAF RET
2ND VP - COL BILL SCHNEIDER USA RET
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT - COL CAROL ZIERES USA RET
TREASURER - LT COL KENNETH MARTIN USMC RET
SECRETARY - CDR GEOFF HARRINGTON USNR RET
SENIOR CHAPLAIN - COL BERNARD H LIEVING JR USA RET



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
PROGRAMS/ACTING EDITOR *The Retrospect* - COL CAROL ZIERES USA RET
EVENTS - LTC JEANNE RICHARD USAF RET
FLAGS & BANNERS - CDR GEOFF HARRINGTON USNR RET
SICKCALL CHAIRMAN - CDR GEOFF HARRINGTON USNR RET
SURF'S EDGE LIAISON - LT COL RICHARD SIEGMAN USAF RET
RESERVATIONS - LTC JEANNE RICHARD USAF RET
LEGISLATIVE LIAISON - LTC REGGIE WILLIAMS USA RET
SURVIVING SPOUSE LIAISON - MS RENÉE BRUNELLE
ROTC/JROTC/BASE ENTRY - MAJ JOHN T MASSEY USAF RET; LTC MATT MULARONI USA AD
NATIONAL GUARD/RESERVE LIAISON - CAPT NORMAN BILD USAF RET
LEGAL ADVISOR - FORMER LT WILLIAM MITCHELL USN
CIVILIAN RECRUITING/LEGAL ASSIST. - FMR NAVY LTJG BILL MITCHELL
DATABASE MANAGER - CW2 THOMAS SOUTH USA RET
SCHOLARSHIP CHAIRMAN - MAJ GEN JAMES JONES USAF RET
PUBLIC RELATIONS - VACANT

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

FEBRUARY 1

LTCOL BEN EDWARDS USMC AD

FEBRUARY 2

MAJ JAMES C CLIFFORD USA RET
CDR DARYL DAVIS USN RET
LT COL BILLIE M DOWNER USAF RET

FEBRUARY 3

AUXILIARY MEMBER RUTH K HEMMINGWAY
LTCOL BLAISE MILLER USMC RET

FEBRUARY 4

1LT GLORIA DUGGAN USAF AD
MG MICHAEL JONES USA RET

FEBRUARY 6

LTC RICHARD LYONS USA RET
LT BRYON RIOS USCG AD

FEBRUARY 8

COL RONALD ESTEP USA RET

FEBRUARY 9

CAPT MONTGOMERY HINKSON MC USN RET

FEBRUARY 13

MAJ QUIANA WRIGHT USA AD

FEBRUARY 14

RADM JON BAYLESS USN RET

FEBRUARY 15

CW4 MICHAEL L HODSON USA RET
CWO4 THEODORE RUSHNAK USCG RET

FEBRUARY 18

MAJ CATHERINE GIBSON USAF RET

FEBRUARY 19

MAJ ALBERT GREER USA

FEBRUARY 21

LTC KIMBERLY MOROS USA AD
LTC DAVID NILSEN USA RET

FEBRUARY 22

LT JEANNE COHEN NC USA RET
COL CHET R JUSTICE USAF RET
LCDR STEPHEN MILLER USN RET

FEBRUARY 23

CAPT SHAUNA KENYON USAF RET
CW4 HENRY KUHN USAR RET

FEBRUARY 24

COL ALFRED RODRIGUEZ USAF RET

FEBRUARY 25

CPT BARRY J SPEARE USA RET
LTC PAULA STEWART USA RET

FEBRUARY 26

LT COL LYNN GRINNELL USAF RET

FEBRUARY 27

AUXILIARY MEMBER MARY BOZE
LT COL STEPHENIE MEHNER USAFR AD

Is your **FEBRUARY** birthday missing?

JUST SEND A NOTE TO:

CDR Geoff Harrington USNR Ret
fgharrington44@gmail.com

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: moaatampachapter@tampabay.rr.com, *CDR Geoff Harrington USNR, Ret, Sick Call Chairman*

FEBRUARY 2020

February 4 is the **official birthday of the organization known as United Service Organizations or USO**. The USO has been a fixture in military life for more than seven decades. Founded in 1941, the agency is a private, not-for-profit organization working in cooperation with the Department of Defense.



The USO has a congressional charter and receives funding through donations, philanthropy, and corporate support. More than 12 thousand volunteers work with the USO at locations worldwide including military bases, airports, and major metro areas.

February 19 is the **official birthday of the United States Coast Guard Reserve**. As originally formed in 1939, the CG Reserve was a civilian organization, but on 19 February 1941, the Coast guard Reserve and Auxiliary Act* of 1941 (14USC633 and 33CFR8.1) established the Coast Guard Reserve as a military organization under the U. S. Coast Guard, and subject to being called under 10USC12301. Today, the Coast Guard Reserve is integrated with active duty Coast Guard units.



*Parallel to the 1941 Act, the Coast Guard Auxiliary, a voluntary civilian organization, was established. Auxiliarists have a separate organization today, and concentrate on assisting the Coast Guard in its recreational boating safety mission through educational classes, courtesy boating inspections, and safety patrols, plus some voluntary support activities, as needed during maritime emergencies, such as hurricanes. The Coast Guard Auxiliary does not have any law enforcement authority.

Week of February 14th is **National Salute to Veteran Patients** week. The purpose of the National Salute to Veteran Patients Program is to:

- pay tribute and express appreciation to Veterans;
- increase community awareness of the role of the VA medical center;
- encourage citizens to visit hospitalized Veterans and to become involved as volunteers.



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 COL William A Schneider USA OR [download our brochure](#) and mail the application accordingly with payment.

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 SEEN OUR UPDATED WEBSITE?

WWW.MOAATAMPA.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.MOAATAMPA.ORG

OPERATION HELPING HAND UPDATE

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



**LTC JIM GRIFFIN,
CHAIRMAN, OPHH**

We were able to begin 2020 on a very positive note with a fantastic dinner. The extremely energetic crowd and a very well prepared dinner by MISSION BBQ. They have been called on to prepare many of our dinners and they never disappoint. Also, what never disappoints is the dynamic atmosphere that our volunteers create. The tables, the decorations and the total welcoming attitude runs through the entire room. I had a first time visitor to our dinner tell me that with the atmosphere created by the volunteers and the overall presentation of the HERO'S CAFÉ, you completely forget that you are in fact in a hospital. That is an unsolicited testimony to what you volunteers are able to create. THANKS!

The FEBRUARY DINNER will be held at the JAMES A HALEY VA HOSPITAL in the HERO'S CAFÉ at 6:00 pm. You are all invited to attend and participate in honoring the active duty personnel and their families.

The FEBRUARY DINNER will be sponsored by SOF MISSIONS. We thank DR. DAMON FRIEDMAN for his support of OPERATION HELPING HAND. They are a fantastic organization empowering warriors to find purpose, be resilient, and live well. What a dedicated and meaningful mission!

Please mark a date on your calendar: MARCH 27,2020. This is the date of the BOB SILAH MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT AT MACDILL AFB. This is always a great tournament, but this time once again it is being held on the practice day of AIRFEST which on SATURDAY AND SUNDAY. While you are trying to make a birdie on the green, you will be buzzed by supersonic birdies overhead. Great food, great prizes, fantastic golf course and all for a fantastic cause-OPERATION HELPING HAND. REGISTER ON OUR WEBSITE- OPERATIONHELPINGHANDTAMPA.COM today!

As always, a special thanks to our tireless volunteers which enable us to consistently provide 96.5% of all the monies donated to go to our wounded and injured and their families. The strong support of our local business community and their commitment to sponsor our dinner events, golf tournament, and provide generous donations throughout the year, along with the individual support we receive from numerous donors every month 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!**

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.



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

CHAPLAIN (COL) BERNARD H LIEVING JR USA RET



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

In the Book of Exodus in the Bible we read of Moses' encounter with God while shepherding his father-in-law's sheep. He saw a burning bush not being consumed and like any of us would do, he said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why it is not burned up." God called to him and Moses responded. God told him, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." What made the ground holy was the presence of "... the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob."

I did not hear God declaring as holy ground that spot in the Song Nhung River where I baptized soldiers on a Highway 1 security mission near Hai Lang. Neither did I hear that when I consecrated elements of Holy



Communion for two soldiers in a fox hole or a dozen gathered around me in our weekly worship service in the field. Yet, those places stand as holy ground because I knew God was there with us.

There are many other places I have stood where I knew I was on holy ground. That happens when I visit any of the West Virginia cemeteries where family members are buried. Each time I stand in front of the Vietnam Wall where my friend Bob Carroll's name is etched, I remember his words as he shepherded me into becoming the chaplain for six hundred combat soldiers. Those places are holy ground.

We all need our holy ground places; where we are aware of God's presence or the influence of faithful people. Where is holy ground for you? It may be where you do your daily devotional reading and praying or watch a sunrise or sunset? It may be where you work to nurture God's creation or are reminded of God's love as a friend touches you in word or deed? Today, and in the coming days, be aware of holy ground on which you stand.



A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:

As we bid farewell "fair winds and following seas" to our outgoing editor, CAPT Don Dvornik USN (Ret), I thank you for your many years of dedicated service to the Tampa Chapter MOAA as our Editor-in-Chief for the Retrospect. It has truly been a pleasure working with you. You have set the bar for our award-winning newsletter and I wish you all the best in your retirement!

Carol Zieres



IMMEDIATE PAST
PRESIDENT/ACTING EDITOR
COL ZIERES USA
(RET)



Remember Bella?

Bella is the Southeastern Guide Dog in Training that was sponsored by our own Tampa Chapter Military Officers Wives Club, which disbanded last year. They chose to donate their remaining funds to Southeastern Guide Dogs, who provided the following update on Bella...

Dear Members,

Can you believe that Bella has had her first birthday? Time flies when you're learning to be a superhero! I thought you might enjoy seeing this recent photo of Bella sent in by her puppy raiser.

Bella has had a wonderful first year. She has been mastering house manners and now that she is older, practicing basic obedience such as "sit", "stay", and "come" in environments with increasing distractions. She has been asked to walk on various surfaces, and demonstrate focus on her puppy raiser while training in public. It won't be long before Bella returns to Southeastern Guide Dogs campus for Freshman Orientation, to begin assessments and training with our certified trainers.

So eat a piece of cake in Bella's honor! And thank you again for sponsoring Bella. People like you make a world of difference for our dogs and the people who need them.

Warm regards,
Southeastern Guide Dogs



MOAA Tampa Scholarship Information for year 2020 is available.

Visit our website and download the latest information. You can also find the application and details on Pages 17-18 in this newsletter.

[Scholarship Program](#)

Now and Always
We'll be There.



90228

1-800-247-2192 • www.moainsurance.com

Digitize Your Photos to Preserve Your Memories
How to do it yourself or use a professional service
by Marc Saltzman, AARP, April 22, 2019

Shared by Ms. Renee Brunelle
 Tampa Chapter Surviving Spouse Liaison
 Read this Article [online](#)



Renee Brunelle
 Tampa Chapter
 Surviving Spouse Liaison

Chances are you've thought about bringing your old paper photos into the digital age.

Great idea. After all, you likely have a lifetime of precious memories trapped in photo albums, shoeboxes or dusty frames.

Once digitized, these photographs will no longer fade over time; they can be automatically repaired with smart software (such as adding back color, removing redeye and stitching rips); photos can be organized and easily searched by keyword (on a computer, tablet, phone or online cloud site); and you can share them with friends and family over email and social media, or create fun projects like scrapbooks, slideshows, fridge magnets and more.



GETTY IMAGES

There are several ways to go about scanning old photos (or slides or negatives), but it boils down to two main options: Do it yourself (DIY) or use a professional service.

Here's a look at both options. Regardless of the direction you go, be sure to first organize your paper photos before you digitize them, or you risk having a "digital mess," too, advises Mollie Bartelt, co-founder of Pixologie, a photo management company. "You can organize your paper photos by major categories like decades or people, and then suborganize them into sections, like family events," she says. Bartelt recommends putting photos into piles or small boxes, divided by index cards and labeled with sticky notes.

To read more about your DIY and Professional Service options, [click here...](#)

Veteran Strong – Highlighting Local Veterans

Veteran Strong is a program hosted by Brigadier General Lee Gray and highlights local veteran success stories. It airs on cable TBAE (Spectrum 636, Fios / Frontier 34) and is on demand [here](#).



Face of Defense: To the Moon ... And Beyond!

Jan. 16, 2020 | By Katie Lange

Read this article in its entirety [online](#)

Marine Corps Maj. Jasmin Moghbeli isn't the first female active-duty Marine officer to pass the NASA astronaut training program, but her recent graduation means she's on the short list to be the first woman to go to the moon.



Moghbeli and 10 others were the first graduates under the Artemis program, meaning they're now eligible for missions to the International Space Station, the moon and – one day – Mars. Moghbeli was commissioned in 2005 after graduating from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. She became a naval aviator and spent the next decade piloting AH-1W Super Cobra helicopters and test piloting various others. In her career, she's flown 25 different aircraft, accumulated 2,000 flight hours, and more than 150 combat missions. Moghbeli's next test flight will take her further than she's ever gone before, and she's excited about it. But how did she get here and what lies ahead for her? She filled us in on the details.

What was the process of getting into the astronaut candidate program?

I just submitted a resume on USAJobs.gov. It sounds almost underwhelming, right? Then, I came back here [to Johnson Space Center] for two rounds of interviews and got accepted to the program.

Tell me about the training you went through.

The training was really exciting and diverse. You have to be able to do a little bit of everything as an astronaut because, up in space, you're the doctor; you're the maintainer; you're the scientist and the spacewalker; and, so, the variety of things we've learned over these two years has been incredible. Some of the major courses we learned were robotics, learning to speak Russian, learning about the International Space Station and its systems, and learning how to do spacewalks. Then, there's flying the T-38 jets!

What did you struggle with most?

The hardest part, for me, was the training in the neutral buoyancy lab. That's where we trained for spacewalks. I've watched astronauts do spacewalks before, and you think, 'Wow, they make it look so easy and so smooth,' and that the suit is just an extension of their body. But then I got in there for the first time, and it's just completely different than you'd imagined. You now have to walk with your hands, and anytime you squeeze your hands to do anything, you're fighting the pressure in the suit. It was just really tricky learning how to move within that suit. It's your own personal spacecraft at that point, and [you're] learning how to work with it by fighting against it.

**What did you do best during training?**

Something that I thought would be a challenge that I did well at was learning Russian. I've really enjoyed learning another language, learning about their culture. We have one-on-one instruction, and my instructor is absolutely incredible. That was something I knew would be a real challenge, but I feel like I really progressed in it.

How did you feel when they announced that you were officially an astronaut?

I felt honored to be joining the company of so many amazing women and men.

**Was this a dream of yours growing up?**

I was actually born in Germany, but I grew up in Baldwin, New York, on Long Island. I went through kindergarten and high school there, and I dreamed of being exactly where I am today, which is really exciting for me. I wanted to be an astronaut since I was a kid, and when you say in sixth grade, 'I want to become an astronaut' nobody thinks you're actually going to become an astronaut. While it wasn't always the main focus of what I was doing at each point in my life, it's always been there in the background, driving the general path of where I've been going.

Was the Marine Corps an asset to your success?

Being in the Marine Corps was a huge asset. It's a testament to all those people and the mentorship. The Marine Corps played a very important part in shaping me and giving me a lot of the skills I needed – not just the hard skills but a lot of the soft skills, like how to communicate and how to take my entire team into consideration and not just my personal needs. It's hard to teach those things, but we do it very well in the Marine Corps. And my test piloting background – the operational experience and the engineering side of that -- both tie in perfectly here.

Sen. Rick Scott Calls for More Transparency, End to Training of Foreign Nationals Who Haven't Been Fully Vetted by U.S. Intelligence Agencies

Wednesday, December 11, 2019

Read this article [online](#)

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Today, Senator Rick Scott released the below statement calling for more transparency following last week's attack at NAS Pensacola.

Senator Rick Scott said, "The safety and security of American men and women in uniform is my number one priority. It should be the number one priority of our entire government. While our alliances around the world are invaluable in defending American national security and our interests abroad, the tragic terrorist attack in Pensacola last week revealed an unnecessary risk. This terrorist should never have been allowed in our country, let alone on an American military base with easy access to American military men and women.



"Federal agencies have not been transparent about the vetting process used for foreign nationals training on U.S. military bases. Today, I'm calling to end the training of any foreign nationals who haven't been fully vetted by U.S. intelligence agencies. Any foreign national currently training on U.S. military bases that hasn't been fully vetted by U.S. intelligence agencies should immediately be sent back to their home country, with the exception of those being held in connection with the terrorist attack in Pensacola. Every federal agency has a responsibility to be clear and transparent with the American people about what processes we use to vet foreign nationals training on our bases. We cannot continue to take unnecessary risks."

Senator Rick Scott Calls for Hearing on Inadequacies in Vetting of Foreign Nationals

Thursday, December 12, 2019

Read this article [online](#)

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Today, Senator Rick Scott called for a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing, with a classified session if necessary, with U.S. law enforcement and intelligence agencies, as well as military leaders, to examine the failures in the vetting of foreign nationals training on U.S. military bases.



Senator Rick Scott said, "The terrorist attack at Naval Air Station Pensacola was entirely preventable. It's clear that there were failures in the vetting of this individual. What's not clear is how the vetting process works, who does the vetting, and how much we're able to monitor foreign nationals training in the U.S. We need to seriously reconsider the value of training foreign nationals on U.S. military bases, but in the meantime, it's important that we get to the bottom of what went wrong so we can figure out how to improve the vetting process."

Senator Scott is requesting a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing with leaders from the FBI, Departments of State and Defense, and U.S. intelligence agencies in attendance to answer the following questions:

- There are many agencies involved in this program; who is ultimately responsible for ensuring the safety and security of our men and women in uniform?
- Do U.S. law enforcement or intelligence agencies perform the vetting of foreign nationals training on U.S. military bases, or do we outsource that to the home country?
- What process was used to vet the terrorist who committed this attack at NAS Pensacola?
- What countries participate in this program and what is the strategic significance of these relationships?
- Do participants of this program have to provide fingerprints, and are they interviewed/ background checked during the visa process?
- What is the rate of visa denial/approval for participants of this program?
- Is there any reason why the training of foreign nationals can't occur in their home country?
- Are U.S. law enforcement or intelligence agencies allowed to track the social media accounts of foreign nationals training, or seeking to train, on U.S. military bases?
- Did this individual go through a standard background check before purchasing a handgun?
- Once a foreign national arrives in the U.S., do American intelligence agencies continue to monitor their activities?

Youngest Serviceman in World War II – Calvin Graham

By armed.admin—Read more [online](#)

Calvin Graham – the youngest serviceman in World War II – was only 12 when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor. He did not wait a year or two before joining the service; no by May of 1942, he had enlisted in the US Navy. Some speculate the deaths of his cousins inspired him to join. He began shaving at the age of 11 to assist with passing himself off as older and had some friends of his parents forge his parent's signature.

Due to the need for enlisted men, the petty officers at boot camp were not concerned with anyone's age. Graham was therefore able to successfully complete the course. A fellow seaman later told the Chicago Tribune that the Navy had already suffered a high number of casualties and were desperate to build up its crew.



Graham first served on the USS South Dakota (BB-57) where he experienced the intense fighting first hand. He assisted in fire control during the Battle of Guadalcanal. During that time, he suffered a number of wounds, including burns and having his front teeth knocked out. However, Graham didn't let his injuries stop him. The New York Times later reported that despite his injuries, he continued to assist the wounded. The Smithsonian Magazine wrote that according to Graham, he would remove belts from the dead and use them as tourniquets for the wounded. He is also reported to have given the wounded cigarettes and stayed up all night encouraging them. As a result of his actions during this time, he received both the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart.

However, within the year, Graham's mother would reveal his age. He was sent to the brig for three months and all his medals were revoked. He would have served remained in the brig longer, but was released when his sister threatened to contact the newspapers. In May of 1943, one year after he enlisted, he received a dishonorable discharge. This caused him to also lose his disability benefits.



At age 17, Graham enlisted with the US Marine Corps. Three years later though he broke his back when he fell from a pier, thus ending his service career. Even though his service as a Marine would qualify him as a veteran, Calvin Graham still spent the balance of his life fighting for both medical benefits and a clean service record. It wasn't until 1978 that he finally received his honorable discharge. At this time, all his medals – with the exception of the Purple Heart – were reinstated.

In 1988, his story was brought to the public via the television movie, Too Young the Hero. This prompted President Reagan to grant Graham full disability benefits. As a result, he received \$4,917 increase in his back pay, \$18,000 to cover past medical bills (though he was required to provide medical receipts). Unfortunately so much time had passed that many of the doctors he had seen had already passed away and many of the bills had been lost. As a result, he only received \$2,100 of the original \$18,000.

Despite his rights to the movie amounting to \$50,000, after ½ the money went to two agents and another 20% went to a writer of an unpublished book about him, his total – before taxes – only amounted to \$15,000.

Graham died of heart failure in November of 1992. Two years later, his Purple Heart was reinstated and presented to his widow. And with the intervention of both President Carter and then President Clinton, Calvin Leon Graham, the youngest serviceman in World War II, was recognized as receiving not only the Bronze Star and Purple Heart, but also the National Defense Service Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with bronze Battle Star device and the WWII Victory Medal.



Free and Discounted Tax Preparation for Military

Military.com | By Heather Sweeney

Read more [online](#)

Tax season is here again. And while filing for tax returns can be tricky for the average family, it can get even more complicated for military families. Thankfully, military personnel and their families have access to a variety of tax preparation and filing services for free or discounted prices. Whether you choose to file taxes yourself online or you prefer some outside assistance from a trained professional, there are a several free and discounted options to choose from.

Military Installation Tax Centers

Many large military installations worldwide offer service members and their families free income tax filing assistance through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program which is sponsored by the IRS. VITA sites have volunteers that are trained by the IRS to provide assistance with some of the more complicated military-specific tax issues, such as combat zone tax exclusions.

Visit Military.com's Base Guide to contact your local installation for more information about location of tax centers, hours of operation, scheduling appointments, and necessary documentation.

JANUARY LUNCHEON PHOTOS



View our Event Photo Gallery at MOAATampa.org!

JANUARY OPERATION HELPING HAND DINNER PHOTOS



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



Marines prepare to fire an M777 howitzer during training at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., Jan. 17, 2020. Photo By: Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Colton Brownlee. <https://www.defense.gov/observe/photo-gallery/igphoto/2002238788/>



The guided missile cruiser USS Normandy participates in a live-fire exercise in the Arabian Sea, Jan. 14, 2020. Photo By: Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Michael H. Lehman. <https://www.defense.gov/observe/photo-gallery/igphoto/2002238872/>



Air Force Tech. Sgt. Jordan Salas conducts a live-fire training burn at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, Jan. 10, 2020. Photo By: Air Force Airman 1st Class Helena Owens. <https://www.defense.gov/observe/photo-gallery/igphoto/2002238786/>



Sailors aboard the USS Shiloh stand watch while the guided missile destroyer transits the Taiwan Strait, Jan. 16, 2020. Photo By: Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Chanel L. Turner. <https://www.defense.gov/observe/photo-gallery/igphoto/2002237741/>



A Navy air-cushioned landing craft returns to the well deck of the amphibious assault ship USS Bataan in the Red Sea, Jan. 12, 2020. Photo By: Navy Chief Petty Officer Justinin Ailes. <https://www.defense.gov/observe/photo-gallery/igphoto/2002237735/>



Soldiers participate in live-fire training at Grafenwöhr Training Area in Hohenfels, Germany, Jan. 16, 2020. Photo By: Army Sgt. First Class Arith Gutierrez. <https://www.defense.gov/observe/photo-gallery/>



Sailors and Coast Guardsmen conduct non-compliant vessel pursuit training in the Atlantic Ocean, Dec. 27, 2019. The Coast Guardsmen are assigned to Tactical Law Enforcement Team South and the sailors are assigned to the USS Detroit, which is deployed to the U.S. Southern Command area of responsibility. Photo By: Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Devin Bowser. <https://www.defense.gov/observe/photo-gallery/igphoto/2002229732/>



Two F-15C Eagles are refueled by a KC-135 Stratotanker during Exercise West-Pac Rumrunner out of Kadena Air Base, Japan, Jan. 10, 2020. The exercise brings together more than 60 aircraft and 300 personnel from the Air Force, Navy, Army, and Marine Corps to train and strengthen interoperability. Photo By: Air Force Senior Airman Matthew Seefeldt. <https://www.defense.gov/observe/photo-gallery/igphoto/2002233143/>



Army veteran Hilda P. Griggs delivers remarks during New Jersey's annual Martin Luther King Jr. commemoration in Trenton, N.J., Jan. 19, 2020. Griggs was a sergeant in the 6888th, the first-and-only all-African American, all-female unit to deploy overseas during World War II. Photo By: Army Sgt. Salvatore Ottaviano. <https://www.defense.gov/observe/photo-gallery/igphoto/2002236732/>



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

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

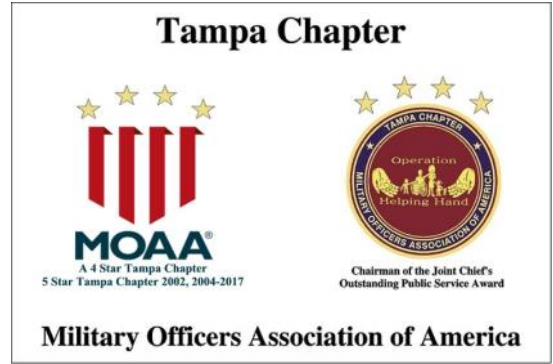
NOTE: MOAA NATIONAL DUES MUST BE PAID SEPARATELY (<http://www.moaa.org>)

November 8, 2019

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:

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 or bring to the next Chapter Luncheon.

THANK YOU for your input.
MOAA Tampa Chapter Board

**SCHOLARSHIP ELIGIBILITY AND REQUIREMENTS
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA TAMPA CHAPTER**

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

Be a dependent or grandchild of a member of the MOAA Tampa Chapter who has been in good standing for a minimum period of one year prior to the date of application. Be a graduating senior from a secondary school.

Have a GPA of 3.0 or higher OR documented IEP/504 Status.

Complete the Scholarship Application Form.

Attend the June 11, 2020, Luncheon & Awards Ceremony. Attendance is required by the **recipient or immediate family member** in order to receive the scholarship award.

REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS:

Submission of proof of Military Affiliation (DD214 or Military ID) of the sponsoring MOAA Tampa Chapter member as the applicant must be a depend or grandchild of a member of the MOAA Tampa Chapter.

Submission of proof of 3.0 GPA in the form of the high school transcript OR transcript and IEP/504.

Submission of two written letters of reference from someone other than a relative. References may be from teachers, school counselor, clergy, work supervisor, etc.

An acceptance letter from an accredited college, community college, or university with Student ID number included.

A letter **written by the student** in which he/she explains his/her goals, academic experience, and extracurricular activities.

A completed Scholarship Application Form (see Application on the web page). **No late documentation will be accepted.**

A color photo head shot or student senior picture (or a scanned photo sent via email in jpeg format).

The selection committee reserves the right to limit the scholarship awards to one per sponsor.

Submit completed application package by 1 April 2020 to:

MGEN (Ret) James G. Jones
15824 Sanctuary Drive
Tampa, FL 33647

**MOAA TAMPA CHAPTER
SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION**

Date of Application: _____

Name of Sponsor: _____

Date sponsor joined chapter: _____ Sponsor MOAA National # _____

Student Name: _____

Student Address: _____

City State Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Graduating School: _____

College Accepted: _____ Student ID #: _____

Academic Awards & Honors (Name & Year Received):

School Activities (Clubs, bands, athletics, etc. – Name & Year):

Other Extracurricular Activities, Community Activities (scouting, volunteering, employment, etc. – Name & Year):

Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.