



THE RETROSPECT

JULY 2019

TAMPA CHAPTER—A FIVE STAR CHAPTER OF MOAA NATIONAL

VOL. 25, Number 7

SPECIAL INTEREST

PRESIDENT'S ARTICLE

Upcoming Events

OUR BOARD WILL MEET AT 1000 on:
+ 11 JULY
+ 01 AUGUST
+ 05 SEPTEMBER

LUNCHEON MEETING WILL BE HELD AT 1130 AT SURF'S EDGE CLUB ON 11 JULY

MENU:
Coleslaw
Corn Bread
BBQ Chicken
Mac'n'Cheese
Corn on the Cob
Ice Cream

PUBLICATION DEADLINE FOR THE AUGUST ISSUE IS 25 JULY 2019

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE FOR JULY 2019 COL CAROL ZIERES, PRESIDENT, TAMPA CHAPTER



PRESIDENT
COL ZIERES USA
RETIRED

The Tampa Chapter proudly hosted the 42nd annual FCOC convention at the Safety Harbor Resort and Spa on 20-23 June 2019 with the theme of, "HELPING HANDS, HELPING HEROES". After nearly two years of detailed planning, the 42nd annual FCOC convention will go down in history as an absolute success thanks to the tremendous efforts of an amazing Convention Team. The initial event, open to all convention attendees, started with a tour of the James A. Haley VA Hospital (JAHVH) Virtual Reality room and the Arts Therapy division to highlight the benefits of these therapeutic programs designed especially for patients suffering from PTSD and traumatic brain injury. The evening finished with a delicious, complimentary dinner hosted by OPERATION HELPING HAND (OPHH) in the SCI dining room and the presentation of a MOAA Foundation Grant to the JAHVH to help supplement the funding for the expansion of their arts therapy program.

At the convention, the registration process went smoothly and, thanks to the contributions of OPHH and the Tampa Chapter, each registrant was given a messenger tote bag filled with some very nice donated items. Among the items, a first-rate quality Convention magazine, furnished by the Florida Council of Chapters President, COL Leonard Friedlander USAF/Ret. The initial kick-off event on Friday evening was the President's reception in the Athena Room where the chapters received their Communications/LOE awards. It was a nice opportunity for everyone to mingle and renew acquaintances.

The next highlighted event was the All-Hands Breakfast opening with a hearty welcome by the Mayor of Safety Harbor, Mr. JOE AYOUB, followed by Active Duty, RADM MICHAEL J. SILAH, NOAA, who we immediately recruited as an Honorary member of the Tampa Chapter! The breakfast closed with a very moving Memorial service. The agenda was packed for the rest of the day consisting of informative presentations by MOAA National staff and Veterans Affairs along with the spouses being treated to fun activities.

The central highlight was the Military Gala held in the beautifully decorated Four Springs Ballroom and attendees enjoyed listening to the "Sounds of Joy" ladies singing group as they were escorted to their tables. After opening ceremonies and a four course dinner, we were honored to have LT. GEN. DANA ATKINS, USAF (RET), MOAA President and CEO, as our Key note speaker. The Gala closed out a delightful evening with music and dancing by the Daniel Joiner Quartet. The Safety Harbor Resort and Spa provided excellent service throughout the entire convention which received many accolades and compliments.

The foundation of the planning and preparation surrounding this event started with the networking and information sharing that I brought back from the 2018 FCOC convention which proved, in many respects, beneficial for our convention team—we didn't have to "reinvent the wheel!" I have many people to thank for their volunteer efforts in supporting this year's convention: Starting with our Convention Chairman, COL LEWIS VANDYKE, USA (RET), who accepted the challenge only a few weeks after becoming a new member of the Tampa Chapter! He quickly put together an effective team of volunteers. I want to thank the Florida Council for their guidance and support; especially the Council President, who assumed a "dual-hat" role as the Council's Convention Coordinator for the duration. I also want to say thank you to all of our sponsors and exhibitors who supported this convention with a tabletop display or purchased an ad in the magazine. It is impossible to name all the people here who donated their time, talent and resources that made this convention possible; however, I hope you'll join us for our July 11th luncheon where I will have the opportunity to personally recognize those volunteers who played a vital role to the success of the weekend.

**"AS ALWAYS, WE'VE GOT YOUR BACK"
"—NEVER STOP SERVING —"**

"TAKING CARE OF OUR TROOPS IS A LIFETIME COMMITMENT"



CAPT DVORNIK

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JULY SPEAKER: CAPT STEVEN A SWIFT USNR RET



CAPT STEVEN A. SWIFT, USNR RET

A native of Syracuse, New York, CAPT Steve Swift graduated from Liverpool High School in 1983, and the U.S. Naval Academy in 1987. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering and a Master of Business Administration from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

From 1987-1989, he attended Nuclear Power School and Prototype, and Submarine Officer School. He was then assigned to the USS Seahorse (SSN-669) at Charleston, S.C. where he received his Submarine Officer Warfare pin.

In 1992, CAPT Swift was assigned to Submarine Officer School, in Groton, CT, where he taught Submarine Officer Basic and Advanced course, and obtained his Master Training Specialist (MTS) certification, and was named instructor of the year.

After a successful tour he left active duty to pursue a career in the business with American Power Conversion, IKON – Technology Services, and Progress Energy.

CAPT Swift resumed his Navy career as a Reserve Officer and in 1998 he was assigned to US Central Command Intelligence 108 at MacDill AFB, FL, where he became the Operations Officer. In 2001, following 9/11, he was mobilized to US Central Command Joint Intelligence Center in the Horn of Africa Analyst Branch, where he was the lead Maritime Interdiction Operations Officer for the Intelligence Directorate.

Following his mobilization, in late 2002, he was selected as Executive Officer of Commander, U.S. Atlantic Fleet Intelligence unit 0274 at Naval Station Mayport, FL.

Following a successful one year tour, in late 2003, he was selected to be the Director of Basic Reserve Intelligence Training (BRIT) for Reserve Intelligence Area Thirteen (RIA-13) at NAS Jacksonville, FL. During this assignment, he was again mobilized to US Central Command in the Intelligence Directorate Targets Branch, where he was a major contributor to Time Sensitive Targeting while standing watch as the lead JIOC watch stander for Operation ENDURING FREEDOM and IRAQI FREEDOM. He was then the team lead for Counter-Terrorism targets, culminating with a four month tour in Bagram, Afghanistan with the Joint Intelligence Agency Task Force.

In 2006, he returned to the Central Command Intelligence Reserve unit, and then was formally selected to be Executive Officer of Central Command Intelligence Unit 174 at MacDill AFB, Tampa.

In 2009 he began three two year tours as a commanding officer as CO of Naval Reserve Cruise Missile Support Activity in Norfolk, VA, as CO of NCIS 1274 in Mayport, FL, and as CO of JICCEN 0274 in Jacksonville, FL.

In 2015, he began his final tour as the Mobilization Stand down Officer on the Information Warfare Community Reserve Headquarters staff out of Fort Worth, TX, culminating with his retirement from 30 years of Naval Service on 1 June 2017.

In his civilian career, CAPT Swift retired in late 2016 as a government Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) employee at Central Command Intelligence Plans Directorate as the lead for a number of sensitive J2 Plans.

Giving back to the U.S. Naval Academy, CAPT Swift continues to serve as a volunteer as a U.S. Naval Academy Blue & Gold Officer and Area Coordinator for Area #213 (Greater Tampa Bay area), and is the Chairman of the 8 person Admissions Area Coordinator Steering Committee, helping lead 89 Area Coordinators and the 2200 volunteer Blue & Gold Officers across the country. He is also the director for communications for the U.S. Naval Academy Tampa Bay Alumni Chapter.

CAPT Swift lives in east Tampa (Brandon) with his wife Kris and their dog. He enjoys traveling on cruises, running marathons, and competing in triathlons, and coaching folks who compete in running and triathlons.

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#inbox?projector=1>

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR



The Retrospect Editor Don Dvornik. Publisher Dick Helveston, Proofer Shirley Helveston

I have had the pleasure of working with Dick Helveston and his lovely wife, Shirley, for the last several years. Dick has been instrumental in getting out the RETROSPECT year after year and on time. We have won several awards over the years and the Helveston hard work ethic has paid off again and again. Dick is now stepping down and this is his last issue of the RETROSPECT put together by him with input from “eagle eye” Shirley. I can’t thank them enough for a job well done as they have been a delight to work with. I wish them both “fair winds and following seas”.

Starting with the August issue the task of putting the RETROSPECT together will be Melissa Marison on behalf of Operations Made Easy, LLC. Our Board has negotiated an excellent contract for her to provide monthly services to layout and post the RETROSPECT to our website. I look forward to working with Melissa who loves everything military. She has been our web master and is often seen at our Operation Helping Hand events.

I’m letting you know in advance that after the December RETROSPECT is produced I will be stepping down as Editor. Accordingly, I am actively looking for someone to take my place.

The line forms on the left.

Cheers,
CAPT DONALD F. DVORNIK USN (Ret.)



Melissa Marison



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



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JULY BIRTHDAYS

1 JULY

MAJ RYAN ATKINS USA AD
COL WILLIAM W GRAHAM USAF RET

2 JULY

MAJ GEN ROBERT TAYLOR USAF RET

4 JULY

AUXILIARY MEMBER TORRA WESTON

7 JULY

LTGEN WILLIAM BEYDLER USMC AD
CAPT DAVID PESZKO USN RET

9 JULY

LTC JOHN CARROLL USA RET

10 JULY

FMR USAF CAPT WILLIAM CATOE
COL DONALD C HANTO USAF RET

12 JULY

MAJ GEN FRANK MOORE USAF RET

13 JULY

AUX MEMBER CHARLOTTE MCCORMACK
AUXILIARY MEMBER JOAN VALLAR

14 JULY

AUXILIARY MEMBER TRUDY BRINEN
LTC RONALD BUTTON JR USA RET
CAPT SCOTT POLLPETER USN RET

15 JULY

FMR USA CPT RICHARD REEVES

17 JULY

LTC ALAN BLANCHARD USA AD

20 JULY

COL WILLIAM F SMITH USAF RET

21 JULY

AUXILIARY MEMBER NANCY DUDNEY
LCDR MICHAEL GOMEZ USN AD

22 JULY

MAJ J LYLE JAEGER USAF RET

23 JULY

LT COL HARRY ADAMS USAF RET

24 JULY

CAPT JOSEPH SOLOMON USAF RET

25 JULY

MAJ PAUL MAYER USAR RET
CAPT DAVID A WAMPLER USAF RET

26 JULY

CAPT JANICE R MCMORROW USN RET

27 JULY

COL JOSEPH PISTORIUS USA RET

28 JULY

CHAP (COL) BERNARD H LIEVING JR USA RET

30 JULY

COL ALEXANDER H EVANS USA RET

Is your JULY birthday missing?

JUST SEND A NOTE TO:

CW2 THOMAS SOUTH USA RET
tsouth1811@gmail.com



LEGISLATIVE LOWDOWN



COL Charles Dalcourt, USA RET
Legislative Affairs

KEY BILLS BEFORE CONGRESS

• **Federal - HR 333**

A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit retired members of the Armed Forces who have a service-connected disability rated less than 50 percent to receive concurrent payment of both retired pay and veterans' disability compensation, to extend eligibility for concurrent

receipt to chapter 61 disability retirees with less than 20 years of service, and for other purposes.

• **Federal - HR 553**

A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to repeal the requirement for reduction of survivor annuities under the Survivor Benefit Plan for military surviving spouses to offset the receipt of veterans dependency and indemnity compensation, and for other purposes.

• **Federal - S 622**

A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to repeal the requirement for reduction of survivor annuities under the Survivor Benefit Plan by veterans' dependency and indemnity compensation, and for other purposes.

• **Federal - HR 413**

A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow the work opportunity credit to small businesses which hire individuals who are members of the Ready Reserve or National Guard, and for other purposes.

• **Federal - S 164**

A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to remove the prohibition on eligibility for TRICARE Reserve Select of members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces who are eligible to enroll in a health benefits plan under chapter 89 of title 5, United States Code.

—submitted for COL Charles Dalcourt

OPERATION HELPING HAND UPDATE

"As long as we are needed, Operation helping hand will be there..."



LTC Jim Griffin,

The JUNE DINNER with the tremendous support from the HILLSBOROUGH SHERIFF'S OFFICE was a very memorable event for all who were able to attend. With a crowd of around 450 a fantastic atmosphere was created for those that were honored at the dinner.

The BRUNCHERY provided plenty of great food for the energetic crowd. Extra rations of BLUEBELL ICE CREAM and MIKE'S PIES were also in popular demand. SPECIAL THANKS TO

YOU ALL FOR YOUR EXTRA SUPPORT!

The 18 JULY DINNER will be held at the JAMES A HALEY VA HOSPITAL in the SCI DINING HALL (HERO'S CAFÉ) at 6:00pm. The JULY SPONSOR is BOOZ ALLEN HAMILTON. BAH has been a long time sponsor of our dinners and also has played a vital role in the sponsorship of our BOB SILAH MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT. The caterer will be MISSION BBQ so we know we will have some of the best BBQ served anywhere.

The TAMPA CHAPTER of MOAA hosted the FLORIDA COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS CONVENTION at SAFETY HARBOR SPA last month. A large number of those attending the convention were able to join us at our dinner last month and experience just what OPERATION HELPING HAND is all about. They left with a greater appreciation of what all of those who work very hard to make each dinner a very successful event and to further understand the impact that OPERATION HELPING HAND is making on the PATIENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

ANOTHER FANTASTIC JOB BY ALL WHO STRIVE TO MAKE THIS WORK EVERY MONTH! THANKS! 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 of our local business community and their commitment to sponsor our dinner events, golf tournament, and provide generous donations throughout the year, along with the individual support we receive from numerous donors every month by way of checks, or on our website

OPERATIONHELPINGHANDTAMPA.COM 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.



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 CW3 Bill Farrow, USA (Ret) at (813) 884-7823 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

CW3 Bill Farrow, USA, Sick Call Chairman

HOW TO JOIN THE TAMPA CHAPTER:

Come to a luncheon (2nd Thursdays) at 11:15 at the Surf’s Edge Club and ask for COL William A Schneider USAF OR fill in, print and mail the form on our web:

<http://www.moaatampa.org/>

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.



Independence Day is observed on July 4th and is the anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence in 1776. Fourth of July celebrations include patriotic displays, parties, and fireworks.

GREAT WAYS TO CELEBRATE THE 4TH OF JULY

- Have an outdoor BBQ
- Attend a patriotic concert
- Watch a fireworks display by professionals
- Wear red, white and blue clothing
- serve patriotic desserts
- watch the national celebration in WASHDC on TV
- attend a church celebration
- visit a national cemetery

The most patriotic monuments in the USA

- Mount Rushmore, Keystone, SD.
- National September 11 Memorial, New York.
- Lincoln Memorial, Washington DC.
- Statue of Liberty, New York/New Jersey.
- Viet Nam Veterans Memorial, Washington DC.



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

In 1849 Henry Wadsworth Longfellow wrote an eighty page extended poem describing in great detail the building of a wooden ship from the laying of the keel to the launching of the completed ship. He ended “The Building of the Ship” with a comparison of the life of a ship to the life of the “Union,” the United States.

Two of our Presidents quoted portions of the poem’s ending: Abraham Lincoln when the country was on the threshold of the Civil War and Franklin D. Roosevelt in a letter to Winston Churchill in January 1941. One of Lincoln’s aides said “his eyes filled with tears” as he quoted it and Roosevelt’s quoting it inspired the English and the words were printed and posted all over the country.

Thou, too, sail on. O ship of State!
Sail on. O Union, strong and great!
Humanity with all its fears,
With all the hopes of future years,
Is hanging breathless on thy fate.

In this month in which we celebrate the birth of our nation we would do well to remember another line from the poem, “We know what Master laid thy keel,” and give thanks to Almighty God, the Master Keel Layer, for who we are as a nation. Have we been, and are we, perfect? No! And so, the final words of “The Building of the Ship” should be our prayer during this month.

Our hearts, our hopes, are all with thee.
Our hearts, our hopes, our prayers, our tears,
Our faith triumphant o'er our fears,
Are all with thee, -are all with thee!



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



First Kiss

Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Cordero Bernal kisses his daughter for the first time during a homecoming at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, June 7, 2019. The unit returned home after being deployed to Okinawa, Japan, for



Retired Air Force Col. Gail Halvorsen arrives at an event commemorating the 70th anniversary of the Berlin Airlift in Wiesbaden, Germany, June 10, 2019. Halvorsen flew into the event in a C-47 Skytrain aircraft like the ones he flew to deliver supplies to West Berlin in 1948 and 1949.



An Air Force F-16 Fighting Falcon receives fuel from a KC-135 Stratotanker over the Joint Pacific Alaska Range Complex, June 18, 2019, during Red Flag-Alaska 19-2. The exercise provides counter-air, interdiction and close air support training in a simulated combat environment.



HEAVE HO!

Coast Guard officer cadets handle the lines aboard the Coast Guard cutter Eagle off the coast of The Hague, Netherlands, June 20, 2019. The Eagle, which is used as a training cutter for future officers of the Coast Guard, is taking part in a tall ships festival, which consists of sailing ships crewed by over a dozen countries.



SEAHAWN SUNRISE

Three MH-60R Sea Hawk helicopters line the seawall as the sun rises over the St. Johns River at Naval Air Station Jacksonville, Fla., June 13, 2019.

VA | MISSION Act

Increasing Veterans' access to health care

The MISSION Act strengthens VA's ability to deliver trusted, easy to access, high quality care at VA facilities, virtually through telehealth, and in your community. That means you get the care and services you need, where and when you need them.

How to access care

Eligible Veterans can use VA health care services nationwide, including through mobile health clinics that serve rural areas and via telehealth (care through a phone or computer). Note: You need to be enrolled in VA health care to use community care benefits. For general MISSION Act health care inquiries, contact VA311 (1-844-698-2311)



Not enrolled in VA health care yet?

To receive care from VA or a community provider, you must be enrolled in VA health care. Apply online, by mail, or in person.

When can you use non-VA providers?

It depends on the situation. Learn about the eligibility criteria for expanded community care, under the MISSION Act.

Find VA medical centers or community care providers

Find a VA medical center or approved non-VA medical (called "community care") providers near you. Get wait times, addresses, and more.

Making appointments with non-VA providers

To obtain community care, you must receive prior approval from VA.

Urgent and Walk-in Care

Your VA health care includes new urgent care access through a network of walk-in retail health clinics and urgent care facilities.

JUNE LUNCHEON PHOTOS



L to R – Dr. Col Saujani Sarla, Lt Gen Carl Mundy III, Mr. Stuart Dwork (honorary member) and Maj Dick Tinsley



RACE ACE

Army Sgt. Jonathan Weasner races a wheelchair during the 2019 Department of Defense Warrior Games in Tampa, Fla., June 22, 2019. The Warrior Games are a Paralympic-style sporting event with 300 athletes from all DOD service branches and five international coalition partners.



CEREMONY SMILES

Air Force athletes enter the arena for the opening ceremony of the 2019 Department of Defense Warrior Games in Tampa, Fla., June 22, 2019. The games are a Paralympic-style sporting event with 300 athletes from all DOD service branches and five international partners.





VITAL OUTREACH

Air Force Tech. Sgt. Stephanie Blake checks vitals for a child in Lalmonirhat, Bangladesh, June 23, 2019, during Pacific Angel, a program designed to provide global medical outreach and enhance regional partnerships.



FIRST DAY

Acting Defense Secretary Mark T. Esper arrives at the Pentagon for his first day on the job, June 24, 2019.



The USS Carney fires an SM-2 missile during a live-fire exercise as part of Formidable Shield 19 in the Atlantic Ocean, May 17, 2019. Formidable Shield is designed to improve allied interoperability using NATO command-and-control reporting structures.



A pair of MV-22B Ospreys arrive at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, May 11, 2019.







RADM Michael Silah as guest speaker of the breakfast was presented a check made out to Operation Helping Hand Help in his honor.







