



THE RETROSPECT

OCTOBER 2019

TAMPA CHAPTER — A FIVE STAR CHAPTER OF MOAA NATIONAL

VOL. 25, Number 10

Upcoming Events

OUR BOARD WILL MEET AT 1000 on:
+ 03 OCTOBER
+ 07 NOVEMBER
+ 05 DECEMBER

LUNCHEON MEETING WILL BE HELD AT 1130 AT SURF'S EDGE CLUB ON MACDILL AIR FORCE BASE ON 10 OCTOBER

Reserve your seat by 7 October by calling: (813) 676-4676 and following the prompts.

MENU:
FALL SALAD
PRETZEL BREAD
BRATWURST WITH SAUER-KRAUT ROASTED POTATOES
GERMAN CHOCOLATE CAKE

PUBLICATION DEADLINE FOR THE NOVEMBER ISSUE IS 25 OCTOBER 2019

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.moaa-tampa.org/>.

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



**PRESIDENT
COL ZIERES USA
RETIRED**

Our ongoing membership drive resulted in recruiting three new members into the MOAA Tampa Chapter at the September luncheon! We welcome newly joined members; COL KEN BARNETT, USAF (Ret), COL LOUISE SHUMATE, USAF (Ret) and Ms. KATSUKO LOONEY (Surviving Spouse). We were privileged to have COL DJ REYES, USA (Ret), Senior Military Mentor and Program Coordinator for the 13th Judicial Circuit Veterans Treatment Court Mentor's Program who gave a very interesting talk on a subject that many of us were unfamiliar with: the Veterans Treatment Court (VTC) program and how MOAA members can get involved as volunteer Mentors. "Military Veterans who have honorably served their country sometimes get in trouble with the law and need a little extra help getting back on the right track," says Reyes. That's where the Mentor's support comes in to provide mature coaching and encouragement to the enrollee to successfully complete the regimented program and graduate. The focus of the VTC is on the effective identification, treatment, and successful reintegration of every enrolled veteran back into his or her local community. There are currently 450 VTCs in 42 US States; Florida alone has 34 VTCs spread over 67 counties. COL Reyes was instrumental in working with the US Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish the Tampa VTC program and the Foundation of Mentors, 501© 3 for Hillsborough County Veterans, Inc. The program started in October 2013 with only six Veterans and one Mentor. The program has grown to an enrollment exceeding 300 Veterans and more than 138 Mentors have rotated through the program. The graduation success rate is running at about 85 percent, according to COL Reyes, who is always seeking volunteers to serve as Mentors for the Hillsborough County VTC (501 ©3) to help coach these veterans striving to clear their name from having a permanent criminal record. This also includes providing counseling support to the families who are often impacted by the situation. Donations are always accepted as well to help defray the costs of groceries, clothing, rent payment, and other essentials a family might need while their loved one is undergoing rehabilitation through the VTC program and not able to bring home a pay check to support his or her family. To learn more about the VTC program and how you may help, I invite you to visit the website: <https://www.hillsboroughcountymentors.org/>. Also at the luncheon, we were honored to have two new SNR Coalition Officers accompanied by the Chairman of the Coalition, BGEN HENRIK LARSEN join us for lunch: COL JOSEPH ROUHANA from Lebanon and MAJ KURTEDERE HUSEYIN from Turkey. Holding our luncheons at MacDill AFB gives our chapter an added advantage to meet and greet two new Senior National Representatives (SNR) Coalition officers from CENTCOM CCJ5 each month and to learn about the different cultures currently serving in the global war fight against international Terrorism. This is what makes the Tampa Chapter so unique from all of the other MOAA chapters. Last, but not least, I'd like to draw your attention to the flyer found in this edition of the Retrospect announcing the 6th Annual Star Spangled ART Show sponsored by OPERATION HELPING HAND, MOAA TAMPA CHAPTER in partnership with JAMES A. HALEY VA Hospital (JAHVH) and ST. PETERSBURG COLLEGE (SPC) at the SPC Tarpon Springs Campus during the month of NOV-DEC. This art show is a full gallery exhibit of fine artworks by military veterans you won't want to miss. Some of the paintings you will see on display are from the wounded patients undergoing the art therapy program at the JAHVH. I invite you to join us for the Artist's reception on Saturday, November 16th from 3-5 pm in the campus Fine Arts Building where you may meet some of the artists participating in the art show while enjoying some refreshments.

"AS ALWAYS, WE'VE GOT YOUR BACK"

"-NEVER STOP SERVING -"

"TAKING CARE OF OUR TROOPS IS A LIFETIME COMMITMENT"

OCTOBER SPEAKER: FBI SUPERVISORY SPECIAL AGENT TIMOTHY BONARSKI

A native of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Mr. Bonarski graduated from the Rochester Institute of Technology in 2004 with a Bachelor's of Science in Mechanical Engineering and a commission in the United States Army Infantry.

Mr Bonarski served in the 101st Airborne Division and 75th Ranger Regiment, deploying multiple times in support of both Operation Iraqi and Enduring Freedom.

Due to the sensitive nature of his work, only an abbreviated biographic summary is published in our newsletter.



**Special Agent Timothy Bonarski
FBI**

LEGISLATIVE LOWDOWN

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

From the MOAA National Newsletter, find a summary of some articles of interest below. Follow the links to the full article online.

Advocacy

TRICARE Survey Confirms Cost, Access Contribute to Satisfaction

Increased pharmacy costs are a major concern, respondents say.

Read the full article [here...](#)

Army Recommends Changes to Arlington Cemetery Burial Eligibility

MOAA will continue to advocate for the current population of retirees and veterans from Vietnam through Post-9/11.

Read the full article [here...](#)

Why Can't Retirement Fund Surplus Cover Widows Tax Repeal?

The Senate just agreed the final NDAA should include full repeal of the widows tax. Discussions are shifting to how to pay for it.

Read the full article [here...](#)

Finance

Thrift Savings Plan Has New Withdrawal Rules

The changes will make the process easier, and you'll be able to do more online.

Read the full article [here...](#)

All Troops Will Now Get Free Credit Monitoring Service

The three credit reporting agencies have agreed to go beyond the federal government's requirements.

Read the full article [here...](#)

Health Care & Earned Benefits

White House Hosts First Meeting with VSOs to End Veteran Suicides

MOAA remains engaged with the administration on this important initiative.

Read the full article [here...](#)

**From the MOAA National
Legislative Action Center...**

[Defense Bill Provisions](#)
[Let's Put an End to the Windows Tax](#)
[Do Not Dismantle Military Medicine](#)



Col. Louise Shumate,
USAF (Ret)



Col. Kenneth Barnett, USA
(Ret)



Ms Katsuko Looney
Surviving Spouse

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR



**CAPT DVORNIK
EDITOR**

Happy Navy Birthday to all of our Navy shipmates past and present.

Last month we did an expanded story from the Department of Defense. This month we are featuring an expanded Navy story "Info Warfare Officer Trains, Prepares Sailors to Defend America." We also have included some stories of relevance to all veterans.

Just to let you know, no one has been beating a path to my door asking to relieve me as Editor come the publication of the December issue. The new Editor will find that it is a pleasure to work with a total professional like Melissa Marison who pulls everything together each month. She makes my role easy and we are lucky to have her services. Please contact me at DSDvornik2@msn.com for details about this exciting volunteer activity. You will find that Melissa Marison makes the job a pleasure.

Cheers. CAPT Donald F. Dvornik USN (Ret.)



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



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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: moaatampchapter@tampabay.rr.com

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

1 OCTOBER

LT COL JOHN ALTENBURG USAF RET
AUXILIARY MEMBER MARY BELLIS
CAPT HARRIS HALVERSON NOAA AD

2 OCTOBER

COL GREGORY P HOLDER USAFR RET

4 OCTOBER

LCDR C COLE JEFFRIES USN RET

7 OCTOBER

LTC RUTH E BRYSON USA RET

8 OCTOBER

LTC THOMAS MCINNES JR USA RET
MAJ GUY OTTO USAF RET

9 OCTOBER

FORMER ARMY CPT ROBERT SHEA

10 OCTOBER

LT CARLOS WILSON USCG AD

12 OCTOBER

AUXILIARY MEMBER NANCY EVERS
LT COL EMILY E FARKAS USAF AD

14 OCTOBER

CAPT JOHN MCQUIGG USAF RET

15 OCTOBER

LTC DARYL MANNING USA RET

16 OCTOBER

AUXILIARY MEMBER MARILYN BEDKE

LTC ALLAN BERG USA RET

LTC MARTIN HEUER USA RET

1LT JOHN MEACHAM USA AD

AUXILIARY MEMBER BARBARA MEADOR

17 OCTOBER

LTGEN GEORGE TRAUTMAN USMC RET

18 OCTOBER

MAJ OWEN BREWER USAF RET

21 OCTOBER

CDR LARRY F GOLDEN USN RET

AUXILIARY MEMBER HELEN IRELAND

22 OCTOBER

CWO4 TERRY MCLAUGHLIN USN RET

23 OCTOBER

COL LYNETTE ARNHART USA RET

25 OCTOBER

LT COL RALPH DELGADO JR USAFR RET

26 OCTOBER

AUXILIARY MEMBER MARY SCOTT

28 OCTOBER

BRIG GEN ARTHUR DIEHL USAF RET

AUXILIARY MEMBER FANNIE FAE HENSLEE

LT COL GERALD MARTAS USAF RET

COL CLARENCE TROWBRIDGE USA RET

31 OCTOBER

CDR ARTHUR FISHER USN RET

1LT VICTOR PRATO USA AD

Is your OCTOBER birthday missing?

JUST SEND A NOTE TO: CW2 THOMAS SOUTH USA RET
tsouth1811@gmail.com

OUR 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.



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



The Navy Turns 244 (from [Military.com](#))

"A good Navy is not a provocation to war. It is the surest guaranty of peace." - Theodore Roosevelt

"I can imagine no more rewarding a career. And any man who may be asked in this century what he did to make his life worthwhile, I think can respond with a good deal of pride and satisfaction: 'I served in the United States Navy.'" - John F. Kennedy

October 13 marks the birthday of the U.S. Navy, which traces its roots back to the early days of the American Revolution. On October 13, 1775, the Continental Congress established a naval force, hoping that a small fleet of privateers could attack British commerce and offset British sea power.

The early Continental navy was designed to work with privateers to wage tactical raids against the transports that supplied British forces in North America. To accomplish this mission the Continental Congress purchased, converted, and constructed a fleet of small ships -- frigates, brigs, sloops, and schooners. These navy ships sailed independently or in pairs, hunting British commerce ships and transports.

Two years after the end of the war, the money-poor Congress sold off the last ship of the Continental navy, the frigate Alliance. But with the expansion of trade and shipping in the 1790s, the possibility of attacks of European powers and pirates increased, and in March 1794 Congress responded by calling for the construction of a half-dozen frigates, The United States Navy was here to stay.

Other October Dates to Remember...

October 7, 2018 - [Ms. Veteran America Pageant](#)
 October 13, 2019 - Navy Birthday
 October 14, 2019 - Columbus Day
 October 26, 2019 - [National Day of the Deployed](#)

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.MOATAMPA.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.MOATAMPA.ORG

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



LTC JIM GRIFFIN,
CHAIRMAN, OPHH

A very special thankyou to DTCC and the TAMPA CHAPTER, MOAA for their continued support. Their support made the SEPTEMBER DINNER a very special occasion for all that attended. It was a great crowd and fantastic food provided by WIL-LIE JEWELL'S BBQ.

The OCTOBER 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 partici-

partate in honoring the wounded and injured active duty personnel and their families. The sponsor for the OCTOBER DINNER WILL BE KINDRED HOSPITAL. Our caterer will be LUPTON'S who has provided fantastic dinner for many years for us.

Please mark this date on your calendar for OCTOBER 28,2019. This is the date of the CABA GOLF CLASSIC at the CARROLLWOOD COUNTRY CLUB. The proceeds of this tournament will benefit OPERATION HELPING HAND and I hope you will be able to play and support us. You can sign up at USECABA.COM.

As always, a very special thanks to our tireless volunteers which enables us to consistently provide 96.5% of all 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

On a recent trip to Pennsylvania my wife and I did the tourist thing and visited the Liberty Bell, the Ben Franklin Museum and took the tour of Independence Hall. Much to the surprise of this old Army guy, when we left Independence Hall we walked around the surrounding grounds

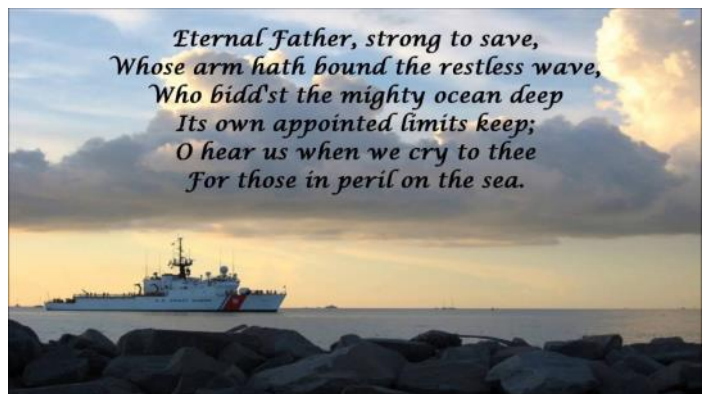
and I saw a tall statue in the center of the walkway. The surprise was that the statue depicts Commodore John Barry, "Father of the Navy of the United States." He was appointed a Captain in the Continental Navy and was the first Captain in command of a U S. warship commissioned for service under the Continental flag. On 13 October we celebrate the 244th anniversary of what he birthed as the United States Navy.



As soon as we returned home, I went to my bookshelf and pulled down my Book of Worship for the United States Forces and turned to the hymn, "Eternal Father, Strong to Save." It is most often referred to as "the Navy hymn," a quite appropriate designation as the first three hymn verses are an appeal to "Eternal Father, "O Christ," and "Most Holy Spirit" to " O hear us when we cry to thee for those in peril on the sea."

Other verses are prayers for "all Seabees," those who "dive beneath the sea," and a sailor's cry for the King of earth and heaven to "watch and guard" a ship being dedicated that "in faith we send on her way."

Regardless of the military branch in which we might have served, let us all remember this month, especially on 13 October, to pray for those "in peril on the sea."



Info Warfare Officer Trains, Prepares Sailors to Defend America

By Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Neo B. Greene III, Center for Information Warfare Training Public Affairs
[Click Here to Read This Article Online](#)

PENSACOLA, Fla. (NNS) -- A Charlottesville, Virginia native is stationed with a command responsible for teaching future information warriors the skills required to defend America around the world. Lt. Jason Amiss is as an afloat cryptologic management course manager and lead instructor at Information Warfare Training Command (IWTC) Corry Station in Pensacola, Florida.

Amiss is responsible for teaching senior enlisted Sailors and junior officers how to lead and execute cryptologic warfare operations as afloat division officers and leading chief petty officers. Amiss has served in the Navy over 20 years, as a cryptologic technician (technical) in 1998 before commissioning as an officer in 2010. He's been stationed at IWTC Corry Station the past two years and will retire from active duty later this year.

"I ensure, at the basic shipboard level, the cryptologic warfare divisional leadership can lead their teams in providing maximum cryptologic, electronic warfare, and intelligence support for their unit, carrier strike group or amphibious readiness group," Amiss said. "Afloat cryptology enables theater commanders and national agencies greater battlespace awareness while enhancing decision superiority."

As a member of one of the Navy's most relied-upon assets, Amiss and other Sailors and staff serve as a key part of the information warfare community in its mission to gain a deep understanding of the inner workings of adversaries and developing unmatched knowledge of the battlespace during wartime.

"The Sailors and staff at Information Warfare Training Command Corry Station are fully invested in our students and shipmates," said Cmdr. Zach McKeehan, commanding officer of IWTC Corry Station. This team demonstrates that investment every day through exceptional competence, character, and connection.

"These virtues propel our command in providing highly trained information warfare professionals that our Navy and nation needs," McKeehan continued. "In the short time that I have been here, I have seen just how dedicated these professionals are to maintaining the highest of standards for themselves and the students. I am extremely proud of our warriors, and it is through the focus and dedication of our patriots that we will continue to be the greatest military force in the world.

These Sailors and staff have a tremendous responsibility in creating warfighting options for fleet commanders and advising decision makers at all levels as they serve worldwide aboard ships, submarines and aircraft around the fleet. Along with being a course manager and instructor, Amiss takes pride in being a mentor.

"I like to share my successes, and more importantly, my failures with my students to help them succeed personally and professionally and become relatable to their Sailors," Amiss said. "I truly believe that people are the most valuable and precious assets that the Navy has. Throughout my career, I have been lucky enough to have some outstanding mentors help guide me personally and professionally. Having good mentorship is critical to a successful Navy career," said Amiss.

IWTC Corry Station is just one component that makes up the Center for Information Warfare Training (CIWT) domain, headquartered onboard Naval Air Station Pensacola Corry Station, Florida.

Charged with developing the future technical cadre of the information warfare community, the CIWT domain leads, manages, and delivers Navy and joint force training to 21,000 students annually. With 1,200 military, civilian and contracted staff members, CIWT oversees about 200 courses at four information warfare training commands, two detachments, and additional learning sites located throughout the United States and Japan.

CIWT is responsible for training enlisted cryptologic technicians, information systems technicians, intelligence specialists, and electronics technicians. CIWT also provides training to cryptologic warfare, information professional, intelligence, and foreign area officers that prepares them to be prepared to wage battle, and assure the nation's success in this burgeoning warfare arena.



PENSACOLA, Fla. (September 19, 2019) Lt. Jason Amiss, a native of Charlottesville, Virginia, currently serves as an afloat cryptologic management course manager and lead instructor out of the Information Warfare Training Command Corry Station onboard Naval Air Station Pensacola Corry Station, Florida. U.S. Navy photo by Glenn Sircy/Released

NATO Chiefs Look to Alliance's Future

SEPT. 17, 2019 | BY JIM GARAMONE

[Click Here to Read This Article Online](#)

NATO's military chiefs of defense worked diligently to ensure the alliance is served in deterrence and defense both today and tomorrow, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff said. Speaking with reporters traveling with him, Marine Corps Gen. Joe Dunford provided his insights on the deliberations of the NATO Military Committee's meeting in Ljubljana, Slovenia, which ended Sept. 15.

The NATO chiefs of defense discussed the alliance's strategy and how it can shape the future of the alliance. In the United States, officials use the National Defense Strategy and National Military Strategy to ensure all decisions affecting the military today and in the future are strategy-driven. This runs the gamut from how the United States postures its forces to how the Defense Department plans and how the department determines what future capabilities it needs.



NATO chiefs are making sure the alliance can do the same. "[The chiefs] did that because of the competitive environment we find ourselves in today," Dunford said. Russia is a competitor, and the NATO advantage over a resurgent Russia has eroded, the general noted. The chiefs of defense recognize this and approved the new NATO strategy in May. This meeting looked at two documents: a broad concept for NATO defense and deterrence, and a capstone concept for NATO operations.

"We are bringing a coherence to the planning that is going on inside NATO, and the collective efforts to develop capability," the chairman said.

There is a big difference between what the chiefs of defense do as members of the Military Committee and the way they operate in their home countries. In the United States, Dunford works alongside the defense secretary, "actually driving the decisions and the programs," he explained. "The program reflects all the work that we do. We use the National Defense Strategy and the National Military Strategy. [We] do experimentation, war games, and that drives the investments that we make."

NATO's new strategy drives the alliance's plans, and it also drives the posture of the forces that have been given to NATO by the various countries. It informs, rather than drives, the path of capability development of individual nations, the chairman said. The document gives the chiefs a collective understanding of the challenges NATO faces. They can then go back to their countries and work with political leaders to make specific defense investments that serve their nation and are complementary to NATO's needs, Dunford said.

The chiefs also discussed upcoming operations in Afghanistan and the ongoing preparations for the Sept. 28 Afghan elections. Dunford said the commander in Afghanistan, Army Gen. Austin S. Miller, spoke about the support NATO and partner nations are providing for the Afghan government as the election approaches. There is an uptick in operations, as there always is before an election, the chairman said.

The Afghan government wants to give the maximum number of people the opportunity to go to the polls, he pointed out. "The Afghans are running the election, and that drives General Miller's plan," Dunford said. Dunford also shared with his fellow chiefs the thinking on troop adjustments in Afghanistan. He told them that President Donald J. Trump has not made any decisions right now on future posture adjustments. He further said that Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo and Defense Secretary Dr. Mark T. Esper committed to transparency with NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg and their NATO counterparts as the United States considers adjustments to posture.



"We would make sure they were informed so we can make these adjustments together," Dunford said.

Here's Why Veterans Should Care About America's Public Lands**19 Sep 2019 — Military.com | By Will Goodwin**[Click here to read this article online](#)

Veterans from across the nation are in Washington this week to meet with congressional leaders to discuss a matter of national health and welfare. These members of the Vet Voice Foundation are in town to make the case for the Land Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and why it should be fully funded for the annual \$900 million originally intended by Congress.

LWCF was brilliantly conceived during the Eisenhower administration to balanced use of our natural resources with investments in conservation and stewardship. It has since become the principal source of federal dollars for expanding America's parks, wildlife refuges and other heritage lands, and without question has done more to protect open space and develop outdoor recreation opportunities than any other federal program in American history.

Since its launch in 1964, LWCF has invested \$18.4 billion to preserve Civil War battlefields and other historic sites, protect iconic places from Grand Canyon National Park to the Appalachian Trail, and has supported 42,000 state and local projects, at least one in every U.S. county. This protection of open space doubles as a powerful economic driver, stimulating tourism and generating a U.S. outdoor recreation economy of \$887 billion in consumer spending and creating 7.6 million jobs.

Funding for LWCF comes only from royalties paid by offshore oil and gas producers in federal waters. Taxpayers do not pay one dime. Yet, despite its popularity, bipartisan support, and proven effectiveness, the LWCF account has been fully appropriated only once in its history, with Congress diverting more than \$17 billion for other federal spending. Recently, in a rare conservation bipartisan victory, President Donald Trump signed the John D. Dingell Jr. Conservation, Management and Recreation Act into law, which among other things, permanently reauthorizes the Land and Water Conservation Fund. But incredibly, one day later, the Trump administration proposed a budget that would nearly zero out LWCF funding.

Members in both the House and Senate have proposed bipartisan legislation to provide full and dedicated funding for LWCF, but the surest pathway to accomplish this appears to be including it in the fiscal 2020 appropriations bill, likely to be finalized by the end of September.

Veterans and their families consider the issue of outdoor access vital to recovery from the rigors of military life. In nature, veterans experience a sanctuary, free of stresses and uncertainties, a place with no worries where they can relax, enjoy themselves and their surroundings. It is why the 550,000 members of Vet Voice Foundation are tirelessly active in their support for public lands management, and in particular, LWCF.

In addition, it is of great meaning for veterans to preserve historic battlefields that are part of our nation's history. With minimal LWCF funding, some of America's most significant historic battlefields and monuments could lose the necessary backing that protects them for future generations, including the 9/11 Memorial.

Our nation's public lands are part of a shared history treasured by all Americans. Year after year, polling shows that a majority of voters believe investing in conservation is important to their communities and quality of life, regardless of their political affiliation or the state of the economy. A clear majority understand that public lands -- national, state and local parks, monuments and wildlife areas -- are essential to their state's economy.

A visitor views the Grand Canyon from Mather Point in Grand Canyon National Park, Ariz., Jan. 27, 2018. (U.S. Air Force photo/Caleb Worpel)



Here's Why Veterans Should Care About America's Public Lands (Continued)

In a time of increasing partisanship, full funding of LWCF is a chance for Congress to listen to the wide spectrum of voters, all of whom are united in support of conservation values. While veterans and their families may be leading the effort this week, we need the help of more Americans to speak out about how protection of outdoor places and improving access to recreation, so often enabled by LWCF funding, improves their lives and the economic well-being of their communities.

With permanent LWCF reauthorization accomplished, this is a most opportune time to raise our voices about fully funding the Land and Water Conservation Fund, the best conservation ally this nation has ever known, and have Congress take it to the finish line.

Millions More Vets and Caregivers Are About to Get Commissary, Exchange Access

20 Sep 2019 — Military.com | By Patricia Kime

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The Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs are gearing up for what will be the largest expansion of patrons to



the military commissary system and exchanges in 65 years, making sure that shoppers will be able to get on base and find the shelves fully stocked.

Starting Jan. 1, Purple Heart recipients, former prisoners of war and all service-connected disabled veterans, regardless of rating, as well as caregivers enrolled in the VA's Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers program, will be able to shop at Defense Commissary Agency stores and military exchanges.

They also will have access to revenue-generating Morale, Recreation and Welfare amenities, such as golf courses,

recreation areas, theaters, bowling alleys, campgrounds and lodging facilities that are operated by MWR.

Facilities such as fitness centers that receive funding from the Defense Department budget are not included.

At commissaries, however, there will be an added cost for new patrons who use a credit or debit card to pay for their groceries, in addition to the 5% surcharge commissary patrons already pay.

DoD officials told Military.com on Wednesday that an estimated 3.5 million new patrons will be eligible to shop. However, after analyzing store locations and their proximity to where veterans live, they expect that slightly more than a quarter of those patrons, or 800,000 people, will take advantage of the benefit.

According to Barry Patrick, associate director of MWR and Resale Policy in the Office of the Under Secretary for Personnel and Readiness, the DoD expects veterans in high-cost areas like Guam, Alaska, Hawaii and parts of California to take advantage of the benefit. Stores in states or cities with large populations of service-connected disabled veterans, including Florida, California, parts of Texas and Washington, D.C., may also see an increase in customers. users' card convenience fees.

More from this article can be read [here](#):

The Defense Department is preparing a fact sheet that will contain information on how veterans can get a VHID card if they don't already have one and how caregivers can obtain the memo they need to access the benefit.

October Birthdays

- 13 Joy Harris, Maxine Terry
- 14 Kay Shepard
- 15 Linda Swenson
- 18 Amy Cosgrove
- 19 Flora Davis, Mary Goodson
- 21 Helen Ireland
- 24 Eugenie Wilhelm
- 26 Mary Scott
- 27 Gail Avants
- 28 Fannie Henslee
- 29 Dianne Hoffman, Alice Merlin



Pupdate on Bella



Dear MOWC Ladies:

I hope you enjoy the attached Pupdate on Bella. As you may know, she is still with her volunteer puppy raiser, and they are continuing to work on basic obedience and house manners.

Puppies in training at Southeastern Guide Dogs between 6-9 months old are putting the basic obedience skills that they have learned into practice on more complex outings. With their puppy raiser they are venturing out to malls, restaurants, and on public transportation. Prior to this they have been getting to know their neighborhood and only gone to small stores and quiet restaurants. At this age, they are learning the “switch” command when at a doorway and they need to switch to the opposite side of their handler. They practice the “down/under” command when the puppy raiser is seated at a table or desk.

These are important skills for a guide or service dog to learn, and we hope that Bella will continue to progress and someday be someone’s superhero. Thank you again

for supporting our mission and becoming a valued member of our pack!

Warm regards,
Eva Collins, Administrative Assistant
Southeastern Guide Dogs

Aging

As I've aged, I've become kinder to myself, and less critical of myself. I've become my own friend.

I have seen too many dear friends leave this world, too soon; before they understood the great freedom that comes with aging.

Whose business is it, if I choose to read, or play on the computer until 4 AM or sleep until noon? I will dance with myself to those wonderful tunes of the 50, 60 & 70's, and if I, at the same time, wish to weep over a lost love, I will.

I will walk the beach, in a swim suit that is stretched over a bulging body, and will dive into the waves, with abandon, if I choose to, despite the pitying glances from the jet set. They too, will get old

I know I am sometimes forgetful. But there again, some of life is just as well forgotten. And, I eventually remember the important things.

Sure, over the years, my heart has been broken. How can your heart not break, when you lose a loved one, or when a child suffers, or even when somebody's beloved pet passes? But, broken hearts are what give us strength, and understanding, and compassion. A heart never broken, is pristine, and sterile, and will never know the joy of being imperfect.

I am so blessed to have lived long enough to have my hair turning silver, and to have my youthful laughs be forever etched into deep grooves on my face.

So many have never laughed, and so many have died before their hair could turn silver.

As you get older, it is easier to be positive. You care less about what other people think. I don't question myself anymore. I've even earned the right to be wrong.

So, to answer your question, I like being old. It has set me free. I like the person I have become. I am not going to live forever, but while I am still here, I will not waste time lamenting what could have been, or worrying about what will be. And I shall eat dessert every single day (if I feel like it).

SEPTEMBER LUNCHEON PHOTOS



SEPTEMBER OPERATION HELPING HAND DINNER PHOTOS



PHOTOS FROM AROUND THE WORLD



A Marine fires an MK 19 automatic grenade launcher at Babadag Training Area, Romania, Sept. 18, 2019, during Platinum Eagle, an exercise that aims to improve cooperation, security and stability in the Black Sea region.



Soldiers assigned to the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment, known as "The Old Guard," participate in a Defenders Day performance at Fort McHenry in Baltimore, Sept. 14, 2019. Defenders Day commemorates the successful defense of Baltimore from British military forces during the War of 1812.



Army Staff Sgt. Skysen Valdriz, left, and Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Magdeleno Perez adjust a hose during a recovery mission in Houaphanh Province, Laos, Aug. 20, 2019. During the recovery mission, DPAA personnel, augmentees and residents searched for a missing U.S. service member lost during the



Two MH-60S Seahawk helicopters transport cargo to the USS Abraham Lincoln during a replenishment in the Arabian Sea, Sept. 20, 2019.



Marines maneuver a hose during the Arctic Expeditionary Capabilities Exercise in Coronado, Calif., Sept. 12, 2019. During the exercise, Navy and Marine Corps personnel test expeditionary logistical capabilities in the Arctic and Southern California to prepare for crises across the Indo-Pacific.



Airmen load munitions on an F-15E Strike Eagle at Al Dhafra Air Base, United Arab Emirates, Sept. 18, 2019, during Agile Strike, an exercise focused on expanding tactical and strategic reach while strengthening coalition and regional partnerships.



Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Maxwell McMann directs a Seahawk helicopter aboard the guided missile destroyer USS William P. Lawrence during a replenishment-at-sea with the fleet replenishment oiler USNS Pecos in the East China Sea, Sept. 18, 2019.



Sailors test of the countermeasure wash-down system on the flight deck of the aircraft carrier USS John C. Stennis in the Atlantic Ocean.



An Air Force RC-135 approaches the boom of a KC-135 Stratotanker during a mission over an undisclosed location in Southwest Asia, Sept. 10, 2019.



Army Maj. Peter Semanoff salutes World War II veteran Clarence Smoyer after awarding him the Bronze Star during a ceremony at the National World War II Memorial in Washington, Sept. 18, 2019.



The amphibious dock landing ship USS Comstock transits the Gulf of Alaska before arriving in Seward, Alaska, for a scheduled port visit during Arctic Expeditionary Capabilities Exercise 2019.

Operation Helping Hand
Honors our veterans and wounded heroes
featuring their creative artwork

2019
Star Spangled
Art Event



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Painting by Stuart Dwork



Painting by Carol Zieres



Painting by Stuart Dwork

You are invited
to attend the Seventh Annual
Star Spangled Art Exhibit
at St. Petersburg College
Tarpon Springs Campus



November 12th to December 10th

Sponsored by Operation Helping Hand, Tampa MOAA and ST. Petersburg College, Tarpon Springs Campus

Reception

Saturday, November 16th 3-5PM

Refreshments provided

St. Petersburg College, Tarpon Springs Campus
600 E. Klosterman Rd. Fine Arts Building FA132

Come Join Us For A Very Special Event
Presenting our veterans artwork in all styles and mediums.

For more information about this event, visit our website, www.moaatampa.org.
 You can see all of our event information on our [Events Page](#).