



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT: COL CHARLES DALCOURT USA RET

GREETINGS!



Greetings to all. I pray your New Year is off to a great start and that you are on your way to fulfilling your purpose this year. Be assured, your MOAA Tampa Chapter leadership is focused, driven, and committed to fulfilling our Chapter's purpose this year. We are engaged and ready.

On behalf of the Board of Officers and Directors, thank you for your continued support. Even more, thanks for being actively engaged. Whether volunteering for two hours a month or twenty, your contribution enables our advocacy and actions.

Our Trajectory:

I also extend my gratitude for your allowing me the pleasure to serve as the President of the Tampa Chapter and to lead the 2022 Board of Directors. I look forward to another prosperous year. We have several interests and areas in which we would like to advance, yet the following stand out and focal efforts for our Chapter this year:

- ★ **Membership** – continue to develop a diverse, aware, and experienced team

that is ready to engage...willing to continue the fight.

- ★ **Outreach** – refine and expand our ongoing outreach programs with emphasis on Veteran homelessness, behavioral health, and the resilience of transitioning servicemembers.
- ★ **Digitization** – modernize organizational processes and procedures to increase both the efficiency and effectiveness of the Chapter
- ★ **Caring** for those within our ranks – we must reach our Surviving Spouses, single/divorced/widowed members, and both active-duty and full-time employees that have been estranged due to constraints, concerns, and changes inherent to the pandemic.

As I have stated before, 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. Your Board of Officers and Directors will shape both near- and long-term goals by the March luncheon and I will convey the findings to you at that event.

Member of the Month

I am pleased to announce our Honored Member of the Month for February 2022 is Commander Tom Kuhar (USCG Retired). Selfless, sacrificial, engaged, and humble, Tom rapidly assimilated into the Chapter

and made an immediate impact. His, and his wife Kellie's, contributions and insights enabled the success our inaugural Winter Gala.

Please join us on 10 February at our monthly luncheon, in-person or virtually, as we honor Tom. Also, please be sure to read his biographical information later in this newsletter.

Wrapping up:

In closing, I offer that our Tampa Chapter is 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 standing alongside you as we move out in 2022. Thanks again for your confidence and support.

All the best,
Charles Dalcourt

We lost one of our cherished chapter members in January, James "Jim" Kalemeris, 1LT USAF (Former).

One of his most memorable contributions to our chapter were his many art doodles.
[See page 21](#) to read about Jim.

UPCOMING EVENTS

3 Feb
10:00 AM
Board of Directors Meeting

10 Feb
Chapter Luncheon
11:30
Columbia Restaurant
Siboney Room
([See page 7](#))

15 Feb - 9:00AM - 4:00PM
"Thriving After Military Retirement"
Transition Seminar.
FIVE LABS 4115 W Spruce St.
Tampa, FL.
([See page 18](#))

17 Feb – 6:00PM-8:00PM
OpHH Dinner
USF Embassy Suites
([See page 10](#))

MOAA Tampa
Scholarship Applications
Due 15 April
([See page 19](#))

REMINDER:

SUBMISSION DEADLINE
FOR THE MARCH 2022
ISSUE IS
20 FEBRUARY 2022

Please submit articles in a Word Document and photos in JPEG

NOTICE: if you have a change of address, please notify our membership team--Jeanne Richard at 813 948-7539 or email at tampamoaa.membership@gmail.com or Tom South tsouth1811@gmail.com

LEGISLATIVE LOWDOWN



BY LTC REGINALD WILLIAMS, USA RET

We are coming from a great training seminar presented by The Florida Council of Chapters. From a Legislative Affairs perspective we had an outstanding training forum and this month's article focusses on national and state level areas

of interest for 2022. Though we accomplished a lot in 2021 we, collectively, still have a lot to do in 2022. Our Tampa Chapter Legislative Affairs Team consisting of Sgt Ben Ritter, USMC (Former) (Honorary Member), Capt Norm Bild, USAF (Retired) and myself will continue to keep you apprised of our national, state, and local advocacy issues and initiatives.

MOAA has rolled out a new platform that I will describe later by which you can continue to identify and track issues, engage your local legislators, and log your engagements which is located at www.moaa.quorum.us. We still need to advocate in those areas needing attention as outlined below. Let's move out!

MOAA's NEW Legislative Action Center

Task for ALL MOAA Members:

Click on "Legislative Action Center" link on the www.MOAA.org homepage under the Advocacy Tab; or

Go to <https://moaa.quorum.us>

Either one of the links or web address will direct you to the new advocacy Legislative Action Center site. Once you at the site you will need to sign up which take a very few minutes. Once you are signed up you can send letters to your legislator in a quick 3-step process. You will not receive any SPAM messages from MOAA National if you are concerned

about that signing up. This providing an enhanced support and tracking system for MOAA National to update you on issues and track how we are doing as an organization.

Please follow the steps below for signing up.

- Click on "Sign Up"
- Fill out the required data fields
- Click "Submit"

To submit a letter:

- Click on "Submit a letter"
- Confirm the legislators you want to send the letter to (if you do not want to send a letter to a certain legislator then uncheck the box by their name)
- Click "Submit"

Highlights of the New Legislative Action Center

- You can view Active Campaigns
- Log your meetings
- Find out about Bill status
- Find lawmakers
- See MOAA Electronic Newsletter article

MOAA's 2022 Legislative Priorities¹

As we head into the second session of the 117th Congress, please take note of MOAA's legislative priorities highlighted below. For 2022, we are continuing the momentum established over the previous year to carry our efforts into the second session of Congress. It is important to note all co-sponsors carry over, as do our messages and continued engagements.

Continuity and consistency of effort will be paramount to success — and we are closing in on many of these issues, so stay plugged in and ready to engage your legislators. There are other issues not listed here that are also being worked by our full staff of lobbyists. Our priorities will be shaped throughout the year depending on concurrent successes or emerging issues that warrant an all-hands approach.

MOAA National appreciate your grassroots efforts, which shore up all the work they are doing in the Capitol region. You can [follow them online](#) for updates on our progress.

Here is what MOAA is focused on for 2022 (click each link for more on the topic):

- [Sustain pay raises and adequate BAH for the troops and COLA raises for retirees.](#)
- [Ensure the Coast Guard, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and Public Health Service continue to receive pay during a government shutdown.](#)
- [Protect the value of the military health care benefit.](#)
- [Protect the Military Health System pharmacy benefit, and achieve flexibility in TRICARE pharmacy copays.](#)
- [Address barriers to accessing care within the MHS, including TRICARE coverage gaps and mental health care access challenges.](#)
- [Protect family support programs, and ensure military-provided services \(housing, PCS, child care, youth programs, financial counseling\) are readily available and meet standards for quality and costs.](#)
- [Achieve equity of benefits, protections, and administrative support for Guard/Reserve members consistent with their active-duty counterparts.](#)
- [Sustain Veterans Health Administration \(VHA\) foundational missions and services.](#)
- [Reform the presumptive process to support veterans claiming service-connected disabilities for toxic exposures.](#)
- [Achieve concurrent receipt of service-earned retirement pay and VA disability pay.](#)
- [Protect full military honors and burial at Arlington National Cemetery for those currently eligible.](#)
- [Improve survivors' benefits.](#)
- [Support a quality transition experience from active duty to veteran status for all servicemembers.](#)
- [Recognize the pandemic continues to affect the lives of our servicemembers.](#)

Sustain Pay Raises and Adequate BAH for the Troops and COLA Raises for Retirees

OVERVIEW: Pay raises and adequate housing allowances for the troops remain a high priority for MOAA and for those currently serving. MOAA engaged DoD early when BAH rates did not keep up with emerging housing demands in many sectors across our nation. We need DoD to be more responsive to these changes that significantly impact servicemembers and their families during a move.

MOAA also keeps COLA raises for retirees in mind, as they represent a commitment on behalf of our government to recognize their service and sacrifice. Budget challenges often generate interest in reducing such outlays from these programs to help fund weapons acquisition and other programs. There is no doubt such challenges will appear in the coming years.

ACTIONS:

- Ensure pay raises based on the Employment Cost Index (ECI) are included in the annual National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). For January 2023, the ECI pay raise as noted in October 2021 is 4.6%.
- Ensure DoD, and Congress if necessary, maintains authorities for temporary increases in BAH to account for wide fluctuations in availability and costs; and when warranted, be more prompt in executing those authorities.
- Advocate for making up the 2.6% pay raise gap (due to reductions in pay from 2014 to 2016).
- Protect COLA for retired pay, Social Security, and VA benefits.
- Monitor the Quadrennial Review of Military Compensation for indications of DoD cost saving measures at the expense of servicemembers and retirees.
- Continue to monitor COLA and pay raises each October and proposals in the pending QRMC.

Ensure the Coast Guard, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and Public Health Service Continue to Receive Pay During a Government Shutdown

OVERVIEW: In the face of a shutdown, the Office of Management and Budget identifies the key and essential agencies and their services that must be maintained through the shutdown. Decisions are rarely all-inclusive, leaving out portions or whole agencies or departments.

Previous shutdowns excluded the military but not the USCG, NOAA, or USPHS. Legislation such as the USCG Act would provide for pay and allowances for members of the Coast Guard during a funding gap, and provide full funding for operations. More work will be needed to introduce similar legislation for NOAA and USPHS.

ACTIONS:

- Engage with the Department of Commerce for NOAA, and the Department of Health and Human Services for USPHS, to determine the best way forward for protections.
- Advocate for comprehensive legislation covering all uniformed services given their interoperable relationships, and their relevance during a pandemic, natural disaster, or other national crises.
- Continue to support and renew The Military Coalition (TMC) letter for the 117th Congress.
- Advocate for lawmakers to co-sponsor the USCG Act (S. 1845) while other efforts are underway.
- Advocate funding the government on time to avoid costly continuing resolutions or the potential for a government shutdown.

Protect the Value of the Military Health Care Benefit

OVERVIEW: Budget pressures, together with shortfalls in both the readiness and benefit provision missions of the Military Health system (MHS), led Congress to pass MHS reform legislation in the FY 2017 NDAA. It is not MOAA's objective to reverse MHS reform laws aimed at addressing medical readiness issues, but MOAA does oppose implementation plans aimed primarily at cost-cutting.

ACTIONS:

- Block any proposal for disproportionate TRICARE fee increases, including any initiation of TRICARE for Life enrollment fees, increases to TRICARE Prime costs for active duty family members, or increases to working-age retiree costs that exceed retiree COLA.
- Secure reduction in mental health and physical, speech, and occupational therapy copays to bring them in line with high quality commercial plans and to eliminate cost as a barrier to access.
- Continue efforts to increase transparency, DoD reporting requirements, and congressional oversight of restructuring of military treatment facilities (MTFs) and medical billet cuts, and ensure lessons learned from the pandemic inform decisions on medical end strength.
- Oppose cuts to military medical research and the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, which is essential to the uniformed provider pipeline and increases the number of culturally competent providers for military beneficiaries.

Protect the MHS Pharmacy Benefit, and Achieve Flexibility in TRICARE Pharmacy Copays

OVERVIEW: MHS reform legislation has eroded the value of the pharmacy benefit and poses a threat to MTF pharmacy access and zero-copay prescription medications. Inflexible TRICARE pharmacy cost-sharing, governed by statute, requires beneficiaries to pay full copays even when the TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery program is unavailable, or the full prescription quantity cannot be filled.

ACTIONS:

- Oppose any plans to restrict access to military treatment facility pharmacies.
- Require DoD report on frequency of TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery out-of-stocks and feasibility of offering lower mail-order copays at retail pharmacies for drugs unavailable due to Home Delivery program shortages.
- Secure legislation allowing DoD to charge prorated pharmacy copays for partial prescription quantity fills.
- Halt planned pharmacy copay increases passed into law with the FY 2018 NDAA.

Address Barriers to Accessing Care Within the MHS, Including TRICARE Coverage Gaps and Mental Health Care Access Challenges

OVERVIEW: TRICARE coverage policy is governed by statute and often requires legislation to remain aligned with new technologies and treatment protocols and benchmarks set by high quality commercial plans and other government payers. Access problems with mental health care, validated by an August 2020 DoD Inspector General's report, are particularly pronounced and must be addressed.

ACTIONS:

- Support pilot program to test MHS mental health appointment schedulers to assist beneficiaries with access to care and allow the Defense Health Agency to more effectively track appointment availability versus access standards.
- Extend TRICARE eligibility to dependents up to age 26 with no additional premium to bring TRICARE on par with commercial health plans.
- Continue to advocate for TRICARE coverage of chiropractic care.

RELATED: MOAA's 2021-22 TRICARE Guide

Protect Family Support Programs, and Ensure Military-Provided Services (Housing, PCS, Child Care, Youth Programs, Financial Counseling) Are Readily Available and Meet Standards for Quality and Costs

OVERVIEW: Programs and services for military and veteran families are often the first to see cuts when government funding becomes tight. Routinely, such decrements hit staffing, which diminishes quality and availability of programs. These benefits are essential to ensure servicemembers are squared away and can focus on the mission.

We already know military spouses play a vital role in servicemembers' decisions to stay in the military. When DoD prioritizes people first by committing to these support programs, they are more likely to retain the necessary experience supportive of an all-volunteer force.

ACTIONS:

- Create innovative approaches and incentives to increase access to quality child care providers.
- Address the military spouse unemployment rate through resources, program expansions, and private sector incentives.
- Continue to work with the Defense State Liaison Office to increase licensure portability for military spouses through interstate compacts.
- Advocate for further incentives for Family Child Care (FCC) in-home providers, to include similar support servicewide and for all ranks.
- Push for full implementation of comprehensive housing reform and accountability.
- Improve accountability and responsiveness of contract movers and claims during PCS moves.
- Assess impact of COVID-19 on programs and progress.

Achieve Equity of Benefits, Protections, and Administrative Support for Guard/Reserve Members Consistent With Their Active-Duty Counterparts

OVERVIEW: Guard and Reserve troops can be activated with little notice to meet unknown challenges. The pandemic response highlights why we need to ensure servicemembers are always ready. Along with this, the transition to the "total force" concept has transformed the National Guard and Reserve troops into an operational force that is an essential part of America's national defense strategy.

Their readiness is essential, but despite conducting the same duties as their active duty counterparts at increasing frequencies, the reserve component is not receiving the same support.

ACTIONS:

- Pay, benefits, and retirement credit inequities abound and must be eliminated to honor the vital role of our Guard/Reserve servicemembers.
- Financial readiness equals operational readiness; expanding Military Lending Act protections to the Guard/Reserve forces will support their activation with reduced stress as they meet financial obligations.
- Forced arbitration agreements for the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) and Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA) must be eliminated to protect servicemembers' rights.
- Eliminate Guard/Reserve retirement pay processing delays.
- Support timely health care benefits for retirees, to include access to health care for those who earned early retirement based on cumulative deployment time.
- Assess the pandemic's impact on short-notice deployments relative to employers and concerns noted above.

Sustain Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Foundational Missions and Services

OVERVIEW: The VA MISSION Act, signed into law in 2018, is intended to fundamentally modernize how the VA delivers care — a system virtually untouched by major transformation in more than 25 years.

The VA faces several challenges as it attempts to sustain and balance its four primary health care missions (clinical, research, education and training, and emergency management response) while also meeting the expectations of veterans seeking access to high quality health care when and where they need it.

ACTIONS:

- Modernize VHA's workforce to eliminate widespread staffing shortages and strengthen recruiting, retention, and professional development programs for long-term system stability.
- Eliminate health disparities for women and minority veterans and other underserved communities to ensure health equity in accessing

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



2022 OFFICERS:

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LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS: REGINALD WILLIAMS LTC USA RET



MOAA MISSION STATEMENT

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

Tampa Chapter



5 Star MOAA Chapter
2003 • 2005 - 2010
2012 - 2017 • 2019 - 2021



2020 Recipient of the
5 Star Col. Marvin J. Harris
Communications Award



Chairman of the Joint Chief's
Outstanding Public
Service Award

Military Officers Association of America

TAMPA CHAPTER MISSION:

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

GENERAL CONTACT INFO:

The Tampa Chapter of the
Military Officers Association of America
Post Office Box 6383
Tampa, FL 33608-0383
E-Mail: TampaMOAA.Secretary@gmail.com



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- timely, sensitive, and quality care and benefits.
- Expand access to caregiving, palliative, geriatric, and extended care programs and services for veterans and wounded warriors.

Reform the Presumptive Process to Support Veterans Claiming Service-Connected Disabilities for Toxic Exposures

OVERVIEW: Before we go to war, we pursue cutting-edge weapons; develop effective tactics, techniques, and procedures; and train our forces to defeat our enemies. After the fog of war lifts, the consequences on our servicemembers become apparent, albeit sometimes decades later.

When Agent Orange, burn pits, and other hazardous materials cause illnesses, the current practice is to place the burden of proof and record-keeping on our veterans. Many are unable to prove their exposure, and while they or others conduct the research, the ill veteran suffers without health care or benefits. If the veteran dies during this process, their surviving spouse will not receive Dependency and Indemnity Compensation. The entirety of this problem is exacerbated by the time it takes to conclude.

ACTIONS:

- Pursue enactment of legislation that concedes veterans serving in the Middle East and Southeast Asia were exposed to hazardous substances.
- Increase transparency and tracking around toxic substance use and exposure.
- Establish an advisory committee to recommend research on emerging conditions.
- Assess the impact of the pandemic on the health of servicemembers deployed to assist the whole-of-government response.

Achieve Concurrent Receipt of Service-Earned Retirement pay and VA Disability Pay

OVERVIEW: Currently, those with a 40% VA-rated disability and those forced to medically retire under Chapter 61 have their retirement pay offset for every dollar of VA disability received. The Congressional Budget Office estimates fixing concurrent receipt will cost \$33 billion over 10 years. An incremental strategy to break up concurrent receipt into smaller cost brackets can enhance progress.

ACTIONS:

- Continue to support concurrent receipt legislation and the incremental approach to aid in the efforts toward an eventual and total solution.
- Develop solutions with professional staff members and the House and Senate for feasible language in the NDAA.
- Include the [Major Richard Star Act](#) in the FY 2023 NDAA to support 48,000 combat-injured servicemembers (many seriously disabled) with concurrent receipt of their medical retirement pay and VA disability.

Protect Full Military Honors and Burial at Arlington National Cemetery (ANC) for Those Currently Eligible

OVERVIEW: DoD draft eligibility changes for interment and inurnment at ANC are pending through the federal rule-making process. Unfortunately, if the eligibility changes are approved, many who had planned for an in-ground burial at ANC will be denied and their family will have to change plans.

DoD and the VA need to identify our next national cemetery that affords full military honors; this effort could be the impetus for grandfathering all those currently eligible for Arlington National Cemetery.

ACTIONS:

- Advocate for a halt to the current proposal for changes at ANC with DoD and lawmakers.
- Engage MOAA members and TMC to continue sharing their concerns over these changes.
- Secure new language in the NDAA that will direct expansion of our national cemetery, protect full military honors for 20-year retirees, and prevent reduction of current eligibility.
- Simplify and improve the planning data by establishing a reservation system.

Improve Survivors' Benefits

OVERVIEW: After the repeal of the "widows tax" in 2019, with full effect in January 2023, there remain injustices to survivors on several other issues.

ACTIONS:

- Advocate for passage of H.R. 2214, the [Military Survivor Comfort Act](#).
- Pursue SGLI/VGLI improvement to keep up with inflation, either via standalone legislation like the [Supporting Families of the Fallen Act](#) (H.R. 3793) or larger legislative vehicles like the annual NDAA.
- Build co-sponsors for The Caring for the Survivors and Families of Veterans Act of 2021.
- Continue to support Dependency and Indemnity Compensation improvement to bring it on par with federal employees.

RELATED: [MOAA's Surviving Spouse Page](#)

Support a Quality Transition Experience From Active Duty to Veteran Status for All Servicemembers

OVERVIEW: As servicemembers transition to becoming veterans, they deserve a quality transition to civilian life and the resources to help them access VA services.

ACTIONS:

- Support a claims process that helps veterans build a relationship with the VA to improve the pathway to care and

the benefits they need.

- Clarify claims rules and prohibit predatory behaviors that overcharge veterans to get their earned benefits.
- Lobby Congress to provide the VA with the resources needed to effectively reduce the claims backlog.

Recognize the Pandemic Continues to Affect the Lives of Our Servicemembers

OVERVIEW: In the wake of the pandemic, it is important to improve the resilience of installation and institutional support to those who serve in our eight uniformed services, past and present, and their families and survivors. Challenges range from PCS to retirement processing, deployments to day care, training or executing a mission, at home or abroad, across active and reserve components.

It is likely we will not know the extent of the impact the pandemic has had broadly, or continues to have, on DoD, the VA, and other agencies until we are well on the other side of it.

ACTIONS:

- Assess the administration and congressional influence already observed through stimulus legislation and other efforts continuing well into the second session of the 117th Congress.
- Identify the pandemic's impacts on our uniformed services and their families, and ensure any gaps in support are identified to congressional leaders and their staffs.
- Capitalize on lessons learned from the pandemic to educate all about the importance of having a ready-now capability to respond to varying emergencies; and that such strategic capacity should not be confused with excess, nor should it serve as a target for short-sighted savings.

Florida Legislative News

Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs Highlights 2021 Successes Impacting State's Veterans²

TALLAHASSEE – Gov. Ron DeSantis and the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs (FDVA) are highlighting a number of policies and initiatives that are providing critical support to the state's 1.5 million Veterans, their families and survivors. FDVA is a 1,500-member constitutionally created State Veterans' Affairs department responsible for serving the nation's third largest veteran population. The department operates a network of seven state veterans' homes and provides outreach to connect Veterans and their families with earned services, benefits and support.

Investment in Veterans³

- Governor Ron DeSantis signed several veteran-friendly bills into law following the 2021 Florida Legislative Session.
 - House Bill 435 – Veterans Employment and Training. The legislation creates a statewide awareness and employment program built on the Department of Defense (DOD) SkillBridge Program. The program allows servicemembers to gain workforce training at civilian employers while on active duty as they are transitioning out of the military.
 - Senate Bill 922 – Veterans' Preference in Employment. The legislation waives certain postsecondary educational requirements for employment for eligible servicemembers and Veterans. It allows Veterans who may have requisite job experience, but not necessarily a college degree, to compete for higher level positions.
 - House Bill 231 – Services for Veterans and Their Families. Establishes the Florida Veterans' Care Coordination Program to provide and expand behavioral health care referral and care coordination services for Veterans and their families and to partner with Florida 2-1-1 Network participants to provide such services.
 - House Bill 7023 – Veterans Treatment Courts. The legislation creates uniform standards and procedures for Florida's current and future Veterans Treatment Courts (VTC). It allows a court with criminal jurisdiction to create and administer a VTC, which may adjudicate felonies and misdemeanors.
 - Senate Bill 416 – POW-MIA Vietnam Veterans Bracelet Memorial. The bill establishes a POW-MIA Vietnam Veterans Bracelet Memorial across the street from the Old Capitol in Tallahassee, which is now installed next to Florida's Vietnam War Memorial.

- Amendment 6, which ensures the spouses of older combat veterans with service-connected disabilities retain their earned property tax discount upon the passing of the veteran, took effect Jan. 1, 2021.

- In 2021, FDVA Veterans' Claims Examiners assisted more than 250,000 Veterans in providing information and counsel on earned services, benefits and support. In addition, claims examiners have processed nearly 29,000 new claims on behalf of Florida Veterans, and helped recover more than \$180 million in retroactive benefits for Florida Veterans and their families.

- Governor Ron DeSantis signed proclamations honoring Veterans this year, including for Memorial Day and Veterans Day, Vietnam War Veterans Day, Florida Purple Heart Day, Florida Gold Star Family Day, Florida Veteran Suicide Prevention Month, POW/MIA Recognition Day in Florida, Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day in Florida and Battle of the Bulge Day.

- FDVA printed and distributed 30,000 copies of the 2021 edition of the *Florida Veterans' Benefits Guide*, courtesy of a grant from the Florida Veterans Foundation. An interactive online version is also available on the FDVA

website at www.FloridaVets.org.

- COVID-19 Vaccinations for Homebound World War II and Korean War Veterans: More than 800 Florida homebound veterans and their spouse caregivers received COVID-19 vaccinations in 2021.

Mental Health⁴

Under the leadership of Governor Ron DeSantis and First Lady Casey DeSantis, mental health services are getting the attention and funding they need.

- Governor's Challenge Makes Debut. Known as the *Governor's Challenge to Prevent Suicide Among Service Members, Veterans, and their Families*, the statewide initiative uses evidence-based practices to prevent and reduce suicide attempts. To read more on the Governor's Challenge, visit www.SaveFLVets.org.
- First Lady Announces Expanded Hope for Healing Website. First Lady Casey DeSantis announced an expanded Hope for Healing website that makes it easier for Floridians to access help for mental health and substance abuse. The new site is an aggregator of federal, state, local, private sector, faith-based and non-profit mental health resources, including those for Veterans.
- The Florida Veterans Support Line, 1-844-MyFLVet (693-5838), continued to provide confidential emotional support and connection to community resources 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The line, supported by FDVA and its suicide prevention partners, is available to all Veterans in Florida.
- The Florida Veterans Foundation partnered with the American Legion of Florida to operate the COVID-19 Project Vet Relief Fund. The fund provides emergency assistance for Veterans who are economically affected by the pandemic.

Career and Job Opportunities⁵

- Paychecks for Patriots, coordinated by the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity and the CareerSource Florida network, connects Veterans and military family members with hundreds of employers throughout the state through a series of career fairs.
- Veterans Florida Expo – More than 300 attendees from around the country explored Florida's opportunities at the 2021 Veterans Florida Virtual Expo. Part virtual career fair, part resource exhibition, the Veterans Florida Virtual Expo showed Veterans and their families the benefits of working and living in Florida.
- Agriculture – The Veterans Florida Agriculture Program builds the next generation of agriculture leaders. Fourteen Veterans participated in the program in 2021, working alongside leading researchers at UF/IFAS research stations across Florida and receiving hands-on training to compete in Florida's second largest industry.
- The 77th Anniversary of the GI Bill was June 22. More than 61,000 Floridians currently use GI Bill benefits to further their secondary education.

GI LAW – Lawyers Assisting Warriors⁶

- Governor Ron DeSantis created the Governor's Initiative on Lawyers Assisting Warriors (GI LAW) to recruit Florida's leading law firms to provide pro bono, no cost legal services to Florida's active duty service members. To date, eight statewide law firms have provided free legal representation to more than 165 service members.

State Veterans' Homes⁷

- The FDVA budget signed into law by Governor DeSantis supports the daily operations of Florida's six state-run veterans' nursing homes and one assisted living facility, and the addition of two new skilled nursing facilities. The veterans' homes provide essential services and care to veterans throughout Florida.
- The 120-bed Ardie R. Copas State Veterans' Nursing Home in Port St. Lucie conducted an Open House and Flag Raising Ceremony on Aug. 27, 2021. Final outfitting is underway with an early 2022 opening anticipated.
- The 112-bed Lake Baldwin State Veterans' Nursing Home in Orlando is in the final stages of renovations, outfitting and inspections. FDVA anticipates an early 2022 opening.
- The Baldomero Lopez State Veterans' Nursing Home in Land O' Lakes and Douglas T. Jacobson State Veterans' Nursing Home in Port Charlotte received the Governor's Gold Seal Award. The Gold Seal program was developed and implemented by the Governor's Panel, recognizing nursing home facilities that demonstrate excellence in long-term care.

Remember to take action! [Visit MOAA's Legislative Action Center](#)

Sources:

- 1) www.moaa.org, article by MOAA Government Relation Staff, December 27, 2021
- 2) www.floridavets.org, article published December 28, 2021

Sources:

- 1) www.moaa.org, article by MOAA Government Relation Staff, December 15, 2021
- 2) www.moaafl.org, Communique article by Robert Bienvenue, December 1, 2021
- 3) www.floridavets.org/news, articles dated December 9, 2021
- 4) www.floridavets.org/news, article dated November 15, 2021

CHAPTER MEMBER OF THE MONTH COMMANDER TOM KUHAR, US COAST GUARD RET



Commander Tom Kuhar enlisted in the Coast Guard Reserve in May 1995 and served at Station Pensacola, FL until he enlisted in the Active Duty Coast Guard in June 1996. He was then assigned to USCGC DURABLE (WMEC 628) in Saint Petersburg, FL. After advancing to Boatswain's Mate Third Class Petty Officer, he was assigned to the Marine Safety Office Morgan City, LA and subsequently selected to attend Officer Candidate School in Yorktown, VA.

On May 8, 1998, Commander Kuhar completed Officer Candidate School and was commissioned as an Ensign. He was assigned to USCGC GALLATIN (WHEC-721) in Charleston, SC as a Deck Watch Officer. There, he served as an integral part of the

proof of concept operation, OPERATION NEW FRONTIER, where aircraft use of force was employed for the first time to counter maritime narcotics smuggling.

He was then assigned as Commanding Officer of USCGC MARLIN (WPB-87304) in Fort Myers, FL where he commanded the cutter and crew conducting fisheries and migrant operations throughout the Gulf of Mexico. Following the terrorist attacks of 9/11, Commander Kuhar led his ship and crew to provide response operations protecting maritime critical infrastructure facilities, high capacity passenger vessels and US national security interests.

Commander Kuhar has served in the Deployable Specialized Forces as the Executive Officer of Maritime Safety & Security Team 91107 in Honolulu, HI as well as Operations Officer of Maritime Safety & Security Team 91109 in San Diego, CA facilitating transition of that command to the Maritime Security Response Team – West. He served as the Training Officer at the Maritime Law Enforcement Academy, Instructor at the Maritime Law Enforcement School, and in the Office of Counterterrorism and Defense Operations Policy at Coast Guard Headquarters. His final assignment was as the US Coast Guard Liaison and Security Cooperation Program Manager at US Central Command

Headquarters, serving as the sole Coast Guard Officer assigned to this Geographic Combatant Command. Commander Kuhar's awards include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, three Meritorious Service Medals, two Coast Guard Commendation Medals, two Coast Guard Achievement Medals, the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service and numerous other personal and unit awards and citations. He earned to Joint Chiefs of Staff Service Badge, the Advanced Boat Forces Operations insignia, and the permanent Cutterman insignia. He retired in August 2019.



Commander Kuhar holds a Bachelor's degree in from the University of West Florida as well as a Master's Degree in National Security and Strategic Studies from the US Naval War College.

Commander Kuhar is married to the former Kellie Jones from Fort Myers, FL. They have two children; Reilly (17) and Mallory (15).

Notes from the Editor: CAPT Sara Marks, NC, USN (Ret)



It's hard to believe that as I'm writing my Editor Notes that February is upon us. Though the world feels topsy turvy, I still feel the hope of a new year to start fresh on so many things. I'm still riding high from our chapter's wonderful Winter Gala and all the new members that I met as well as reacquainting with so many of our current chapter members since the pandemic separated

us for so long. If you haven't already renewed your membership, please make sure that you renew soonest. We need you in our chapter, especially with our many new initiatives that are developing and expanding every day. COL Paul McAnneny, USAF (Ret) is holding another Transition Seminar on February 15, and LTC Paula Stewart, USA (Ret) is busy developing and expanding our support of our homeless veterans and other outreach. It's also that time of year for the opportunity for MOAA Tampa Scholarship awards. The application and information are available in the newsletter and on our website.

I'd like to draw your attention to several of our articles to include the Legislative Affairs Committee and their new page on our chapter's website, our chapter's new shirts for both men and women, and a tribute by Jeanne Richard to 1stLT James Kalemeris who was quite a talented artist and would doodle some amazing art while sitting in board meetings and then give them to the board members.

There are other articles that I hope you find interesting in this month's issue: The history of the Four Chaplains during WWII, in honor of Black History Month an article about six African American servicemen and women and read about the largest military hospital that is being built overseas. There are several other articles that I hope you will find interesting and informative as well.

As I prepare for each edition of The Retrospect, I always love talking to our members highlighted each month in our newsletter. Our chapter wouldn't be successful without you. Our Member of the Month, voted by the chapter's board of directors, recognizes "excellence of service" of

individuals in the MOAA Tampa Chapter. Our honorary February Member of the Month is CDR Tom Kuhar, USCG (Ret), who stepped up to the plate very quickly as the assistant Chairman for our Inaugural Winter Gala fundraiser and is the Chairman for the 2022 Winter Gala. Tom, you are a pleasure to work with, and I'm so delighted that you are such an active and inspiring member of our chapter.

It's also a pleasure to highlight this month's Chapter Member Spotlight LCDR Pettis Sims, USN (Ret). He works with the JROTC at Freedom High School and works so well with our next generation of potential servicemen and women. These young men and women are so amazing. If you were at the Winter Gala or the Nov/Dec Operation Helping Hand Dinner, you saw a moving presentation and explanation of the MIA/POW table. Thank you, Pettis, for your mentorship of these youngsters and your invaluable support of our chapter.

Chapter Members, this is your newsletter so please share your stories, including such topics as military history, individual biographies, the role of military spouses, special events of interest to members, any vignettes of military or veterans service, holiday, commemorative, or celebratory themes, etc. I challenge all of our Chapter Members to send me your stories! I love hearing about your stories and adventures. You never know who you may inspire by sharing your experiences.

Since "many hands make light work", I challenge everyone of membership to reach out in some way, whether to join in on one of our initiatives or to bring in new members so that they don't miss out on amazing ways to contribute to our veteran population and our population at large.

"Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise." ---Philippians 4:8 (NLT)

Let us never forget. - NEVER STOP SERVING!

Sara Marks, CAPT NC USN (Ret)

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

OUR EDITORIAL POLICY:

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

MOAA National, the Florida Council of Chapters, and the Tampa Chapter are nonpartisan organizations. Our chapter membership is open to all Military officers (Commissioned and warrant), including Active Duty, National Guard, Reserve, former officers, and spouses/surviving spouses of military officers.

Our luncheon meetings are held 1130 hours every second Thursday of each month at the Columbia Siboney Room in Ybor City and available to attend via Zoom.

ON THE WEB:

Tampa Chapter <http://moaatampa.org>

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

FACEBOOK: [MOAA Tampa Chapter](https://www.facebook.com/moaa.tampa)

INSTAGRAM: https://www.instagram.com/moaa_tampa

A password protected MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY is posted on the website under the "MEMBERSHIP" category. FL COUNCIL of CHAPTERS: www.moaafl.org

MOAA NATIONAL: www.moaa.org

OPERATION HELPING HAND: www.operationhelpinghandtampa.com

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

MOAA'S NEWS LISTINNG - Click for the latest news and resources from MOAA. www.moaa.org

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



The Tampa Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America, Inc.

P.O. Box 6383
Tampa, FL 33608-0383



5 December 2021

Dear Fellow Member,

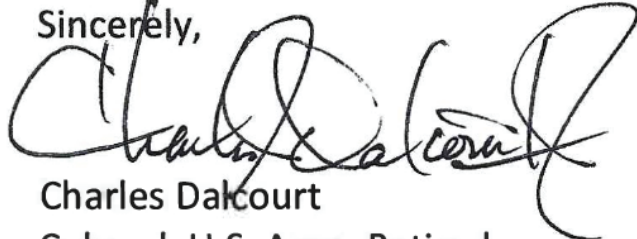
It has been another great year for the MOAA Tampa Chapter. We retained our 5-star status, won the Communications Award for our website and newsletter, and have expanded our outreach across the community. Thank you for your continued support.

Well, it is time to renew your Tampa Chapter membership and we are now accepting payments. Despite the increased cost of many services and supplies, the Board of Directors determined that the membership dues for 2022 will remain at \$25.00. This is a great value.

In addition to your Chapter membership, I need to remind you that our Tampa Chapter bylaws require all chapter members to also be members of MOAA national. If you are not already a member of the national level organization, joining is easy. When you go online at <https://www.moaa.org/content/join-moaa/why-join-moaa/>, you will find an application and a description of the various categories of membership. You may join as a Basic member at no charge. However, please note that the benefits provided within the Premium and Life membership categories are stellar and include career and financial resources, MOAA-exclusive publications, spouse protection, and numerous discounts on products and travel.

Your membership and engagement are foundational to our efforts. Even the smallest amount of time dedicated in support of our mission enables our success. Please continue to contribute in any way you can during this upcoming year. Your time, talents, and donations truly make a difference. Also, please stay connected to all that is happening in our Chapter's sphere of influence via our website, Facebook page, and our incredible newsletter, *The Retrospect*.

If you have any questions concerning the enclosed dues renewal form, please contact our membership chair, Bill Schneider, at the phone number or email address on the attached renewal form. On behalf of the Board of Directors and your fellow chapter members, I extend to you and your family our very best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Sincerely,

 Charles Dakcourt
 Colonel, U.S. Army Retired
 President, MOAA Tampa Chapter

Website: www.MOAA Tampa.org

Email: TampaMOAA.Secretary@gmail.com

6th Medical Group, MacDill wants YOU!

WHAT:

Red Cross Volunteer(s) to man the front entrance information desk at the 6th Medical Group.

WHEN:

M-F, 0700-1630. Several individuals could make this very doable.

WHY:

Currently Active Duty troops are manning the desk which means they are not available for other clinic duties.

POINT OF CONTACT:

Lt Col Ann McManis:
813-827-9525 ann.d.mcmanis.mil@mail.mil



February is American Heart Month: 10 Tips for a Healthy Heart

With Valentine's Day just around the corner, many view February as the month of love, but it is also American Heart Month. Heart disease is the leading killer of Americans, taking the lives of 2,200 people each day.

Read the 10 tips here:

<https://www.bioiq.com/10-tips-for-a-healthy-heart/>



FEBRUARY LUNCHEON MEETING

EVENT: Chapter Monthly Luncheon Meeting
DATE: Thursday, 10 February **TIME:** 1130 hours
LOCATION: Columbia Restaurant, Siboney Room 2117 E 7th Ave, Ybor City
RESERVATIONS: Call 813-676-4676 and follow prompts



OR via email at: bab@digital.net

REMEMBER a reservation made is a reservation paid.

Reservations must be made by NOON Friday, 4 February. Reservations are limited to 60.

CANCELLATIONS must be made by NOON Monday, 7 February by calling 813-676-4676

COST: Event cost \$30 payable by check or with cash. **MASKS:** Masks are optional.

DRESS CODE: Proper attire for men is jackets, with or without tie. Ladies are asked to dress for the season. Military uniforms are always appropriate.

MENU: 1905 Salad, Cuban bread and butter, Arroz con Pollo, Roast Pork, Platanos Maduros, Fresh Green Beans, Coffee, Iced Tea, Soft Drinks and Flan

PARKING: Across the street from the Columbia Restaurant and behind the Columbia Restaurant

Luncheon reminders are sent via email. If you are not receiving the reminders, please call 813-374-3309 or send an email to bab@digital.net to be added to the distribution list.

Or by Zoom:

One Tap Mobile: US: [+16465588656](tel:+16465588656)..89708292982#... *206251# or [+13017158592](tel:+13017158592)..89708292982#... *206251

Meeting URL: <https://triple-strand-global-solutions.zoom.us/j/89708292982?pwd=UG1rQ2RGWVlpRnBZRDRXRtFnTVJZdz09&from=addon#success>

Meeting ID: 897 0829 2982 Passcode: 206251

BULLETIN BOARD

CARING FOR OUR "SHUT-IN" MEMBERS

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

Alternatively, you may send an e-mail to: TampaMOAA.Secretary@gmail.com

CDR Geoff Harrington USNR, Ret, Sick Call Chairman
Smile.Amazon and The MOAA Foundation

Do you ordinarily order from Amazon.com? Want to do some good while you shop? Use Smile.Amazon.com (not Amazon.com) and let Amazon contribute to The MOAA Foundation. Why The MOAA Foundation – because it provides assistance to over 100,000 military and veteran families and their survivor each year! All you do is go to smile.amazon.com, enter your

Amazon email address or your mobile phone number and your password, select The MOAA Foundation as your charity, and place your order as usual. Not a different password to remember!

Amazon contributes 0.5% of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the MOAA Foundation. The MOAA Foundation (TMF, EIN 46-4219250), a 501c(3) charitable subsidiary of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), offers grants to MOAA, its councils and chapters in support of career development and community outreach programs and services.

If you want to see more about the Foundation, go to the MOAA site, www.MOAA.org (at the home page, go to the bottom and select the Site Map to find the MOAA Foundation).



Welcome
New Members!

Lt Col
Jason Schermerhorn,
USMC

IMPORTANT DATES IN FEBRUARY 2022

- Black History Month
- American Heart Month
- 2 Army Nurse Corps Birthday
- 2 Ground Hog Day
- 14 Valentine's Day
- 19 Coast Guard Reserve Birthday
- 21 President's Day

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• Quarter Page Ad: \$500

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JANUARY LUNCHEON GUEST SPEAKER LTC DAVID WARREN, USA RET

Originally from Danvers, Massachusetts, LTC Warren served in the US Army from 1974-1994. He was commissioned out of ROTC as a Signal Corps Second Lieutenant from Norwich University in Northfield Vermont. Various assignments over his career included Utah, Oklahoma, Georgia, Rhode Island, Germany, Hawaii, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. He retired as a Lieutenant Colonel at Fort McPherson, Georgia in August 1994.

Dr. Warren served in various positions in higher education from 1995-2013 serving at several colleges in the United States and overseas. Positions included Assistant Professor, Dean of Faculty, Chief Operating Officer and President.

Dave holds a Doctorate in Management with a specialty in Organizational Leadership, and Master's Degrees in Public Administration and Strategic Studies.

Dave currently lives in St Petersburg, Florida with his wife of 49 years and they often visit their two children and four grandchildren in Vermont and Illinois.

He currently volunteers with the Vermont Military Museum as a tour guide in the summer and with the Pinellas County School System serving as a mentor to high school students during the school year.



“Move Over Millennials, Gen Z is Here to Stay!”

Ever wonder why young people today think and do the things that they do? Need help communicating with young adults or grandchildren? Why is it this generation are not leaving the nest, don't get their driver's license until they are 18, consider their parents their best friends? What is the motivation, dreams, fears of this generation born after 1995? This discussion explored these topics and more while taking a dive into the minds of Generation Z.

INSTALLATION OF MOAA TAMPA CHAPTER OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS



—Photo credit: LTC Bob Sawallesh, USA RET

BG Henrik Larsen, Danish Senior National Representative to US CENTCOM, Chairman of the Coalition and Honorary MOAA Tampa Chapter Member performed the duties of installation of MOAA Tampa Chapter's Officers and Directors at the January monthly luncheon.

Pictured left to right: BG Henrik Larsen, Treasurer, LTC Kenneth Martin, USMC RET, President, COL Charles Dalcourt, USA RET, 2nd Vice President LTC Matthew Mularoni, USA RET, Immediate Past President, COL Carol Zieres, USA RET, Communications Director, CAPT Sara Marks, NC USN RET, Legislative Affairs Director, LTC Reginald Williams, USA RET and Education, Training & Events Director, LTC Richard Siegman, USAF RET.

Not pictured: 1st Vice President, COL William Schneider, USA RET, Secretary, CDR Geoff Harrington, USNR RET, Surviving Spouses Liaison, Ms. Renee Brunelle, and Legal Affairs Director, William Mitchell, LTJG USN (Former).

FIVE STAR MOAA TAMPA SHIRTS

Nicky will be at all the Board Meetings and Luncheons to take orders and payment in advance for the three different shirts. A blue shirt for general membership, a purple shirt for the ladies, and a gray shirt for the Board of Directors. The cost is \$35.00 each payable by cash, check, credit card in advance. The shirts will be picked up and delivered to the next Board Meeting and/or Luncheon.



Thank You, Nicky Siegman, Chairman of Shirt Sells

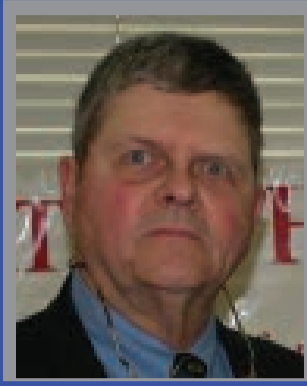


January Luncheon Photos

Photo credits: Ben Ritter, Sara Marks and Bob Sawallesh



UPDATE OPERATION HELPING HAND



LTC JIM GRIFFIN
Chairman, OPHH

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



At the dinner, I read a statement by Dr. Scott stating why both hospital and patient participation at this time is impossible due to the surge in cases not only at the hospital, but also around the country. The infection rate is as high as it has ever been. You could sense the frustration in his voice and is very disappointed in not being able to participate as we all are.

OPERATION HELPING HAND will continue to provide support and assistance to the MUSIC, ART, and VIRTUAL REALITY THERAPY PROGRAMS. This, of course, includes the POLYTRAUMA FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP.

OPERATION HELPING HAND is an all-volunteer 501 (3) (c) organization, in which 96.5% of all donations received goes to support all of these vital programs.

OPERATION HELPING HAND will need your continued support to allow us to continue our assistance to all these vital programs. This support can be through donations by checks or by using our website (OPERATIONHELPINGHANDTAMPA.COM).

STAY SAFE, HEALTHY, AND RESILIENT!

OUR TREMENDOUS GROUP OF VOLUNTEERS MAKE ALL OF THIS POSSIBLE!

OPERATION HELPING HAND KICKED OFF THE 2022 YEAR WITH A FULL HOUSE AT THE EMBASSY SUITES. We had a great crowd and excellent food prepared by the fantastic staff at EMBASSY SUITES. CAE-USA sponsored the event and showed up in mass as servers and added their enthusiasm to the festive event. Thanks go the great folks at CAE-USA! Don't wait to make you reservations for the FEBRUARY 17TH DINNER by calling 813 771-6744.

Operation Helping Hand January Dinner Photos

Photo credit: LTC Bob Sawallesh, USA (Ret)



CHAPTER MEMBER SPOTLIGHT LCDR PETTIS N. SIMS, US NAVY (RET)

LCDR Sims (Ret) is a native of Port Arthur, Texas and joined the Navy in 1989 in Houston, TX. After attending Fireman Apprenticeship Training Program in San Diego, CA, he graduated in the top 2 percent and was able to pick the Yeoman “A” school in Meridian, MS.

LCDR Sims (Ret) first sea command was aboard the USS GUAM (LPH 9) homeported in Norfolk, VA. During this tour he successfully earned his Enlisted Aviation Warfare Specialist designation and advanced to Petty Officer Second Class.

In June 1992, LCDR Sims (Ret) reported to Supreme Allied Commander, Atlantic in Norfolk, VA. After the successful completion of this tour, Ensign Sims reported to Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron 121, Norfolk, VA where he was advanced to First Class Petty Officer.

In December 1998, he reported to United States Central



Command in Tampa, FL. There he graduated from St. Leo University with a Bachelors Degree in Criminology and Minor in Human Resources.

In February 2003, he reported to USS MOUNT WHITNEY (LCC 20). Where he successfully earned his Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist and selected as an Limited Duty Officer the LDO/CWO program. He reported to USS GEORGE WASHINGTON (CVN 73) March 2005. LCDR Sims

(Ret) was commissioned 1 October 2005. His first commissioned officer duty station was NMCB 133 in Gulfport, MS.

In July 2019 LCDR Sims Retired from Active Duty.

LCDR Sims (Ret) currently is the Senior Naval Science Instructor at Freedom High School, Tampa, Florida. His passion after retiring has been to be a positive role model to youth.



Army Nurses Corps: More Than 100 Years of Service to Our Nation

—Submitted by: Sara Marks, CAPT NC USN (Ret)

Since 1901, Army nurses have demonstrated again and again their total commitment to the highest standards of military nursing excellence. Both men and women have served as Army nurses since 1775, but the Army Nurse Corps did not become a part of the Army Medical Department until 1901. The distinguished contributions of female contract nurses during and following the 1898 Spanish-American War became the justification and demonstrated the need for a permanent female nurse corps.

When the United States entered World War I in 1917, there were only 4,093 nurses on active duty. By November 1918, there were 21,460 Army nurses, with 10,000 serving overseas. During the war, nurses served primarily in base, evacuation, and mobile surgical hospitals in the United States, France, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and the Philippines. They also provided care on hospital trains in France and transport ships carrying wounded home across the Atlantic. Approximately 270 nurses lost their lives in the conflict.



During World War I, 18 African-American nurses joined the Army Nurse Corps but never served overseas due to the logistical problems of establishing separate quarters and work areas. They all left the Corps at the end of the war. Courtesy US Army Office of Medical History.

At the outbreak of World War II, fewer than 7,000 nurses were on active duty. By 1945, more than 57,000 Army Nurses were assigned to hospital ships and trains, flying ambulances, field hospitals, evacuation stations, and general hospitals at home and overseas. In Europe, Army nurses assisted in developing the concept of recovery wards for immediate postoperative nursing care. Military nursing gained a greater understanding of the process of shock, blood replacement, and resuscitation. Air evacuation from the combat zone by fixed wing aircraft brought patients to definitive treatment quickly. Army flight nurses helped to establish the incredible record of only five deaths in flight per 100,000 patients.

Nurses endured hardships caring for their patients. In May 1942, with the fall of Corregidor in the Philippines, 67 Army nurses became Japanese prisoners of war. During the thirty-seven month captivity, the women endured primitive conditions and starvation rations, yet they continued to care for the ill and injured in the internment hospital. On Anzio, nurses dug their foxholes outside their tents and cared for patients under German shellfire. Their example bolstered the spirits of the soldiers who shared the same tough experience. By war's end, 215 brave nurses died for their country.



Looking ready for anything, Army Nurses board a ship prior to the invasion of Normandy. Courtesy US Army Office of Medical History.

Army nurses once again played a major role in support of combat troops when President Truman ordered United States forces into Korea in June, 1950. Army nurses cared for combat troops during the landing on Inchon; the advance across the 38th parallel into North Korea; the amphibious landing on the east coast of Korea; the drive toward the Yalu River; and the retreat to the 38th parallel. Throughout the Korean War, 540 Army nurses served on the embattled peninsula.

Mobility and increased patient acuity characterized service in Vietnam. Evacuation by helicopter brought wounded to medical units located within minutes flying time of the battlefield. The UH-1H helicopter ambulance, nicknamed the "Dustoff," not only transported patient from battle locations fifty percent faster than in Korea, but also provided triage and resuscitative services for casualties. Trauma care specialization, as well as shock/trauma units, developed from this experience. The "chain of evacuation" from Vietnam was extraordinary. A soldier could be wounded on the battlefield one day and two days later be in an Army hospital in the continental United States. In Vietnam, of the nearly 5,000 Army Nurses who served in forty-four hospitals, eight women made the ultimate sacrifice for their nation.



Army Nurses in Vietnam provide care to Vietnamese children as part of the Medical Civilian Action Program (MED-CAP). Courtesy US Army Office of Medical History.

During Operation Desert Storm, approximately 2,200 nurses served in forty-four hospitals. Two of every three nurses in the Arabian Gulf were from the Army National Guard or Army Reserves. This was the first major conflict that DEPMEDS, Deployable Medical Systems, were used. Another unique feature was that Army hospital staff coexisted with host nation personnel in fixed facilities forming joint national professional organizations. Before, during, and after the 100-hour ground war, U.S. forces sustained a disease and non-battle injury rate that was the lowest ever recorded in a conflict.

Recent years have seen Army nurses active throughout the world both in armed conflicts and humanitarian endeavors. In 1983, they supported combat troops in Grenada; in 1989 in Panama; and in 1991 in the Middle East. Since December 1995, Army nurses have been deployed with medical units in support of NATO alliance troops in Haiti, Bosnia, Herzegovina and Kosovo. Nurses have continued to serve proudly during relief efforts following natural disasters such as Hurricane Mitch in 1998. Today, the legacy of these military nurses lives on. Currently, Army nurses serve throughout the world in support of multiple military and humanitarian actions in support of the Global War On Terrorism.

Throughout its history, the Army Nurse Corps has earned the deep respect and gratitude of the American people because of its dedication to providing the best possible care to our soldiers and their families while serving our country in war and peace. Army nurses have unselfishly come to the aid of victims of disaster and disease throughout the world. Over time, the mission has grown broader, yet there has been one constant – the devotion of the individual nurse in providing excellent nursing care.

Today, as our soldiers stand on point for our nation, defending freedom across the globe, they can rest assured, should they get wounded or ill, an Army nurse will be by their side during their hour of need. Because any time our nation calls: READY, CARING, AND PROUD, Army nurses always respond.

Sources:

Article Courtesy of the US Army Medical Department Office of Medical History: Army Nurse Corps Historical Collection documents summarized by MAJ Debora Cox, Past ANC Historian (1 August 2001). <http://history.amedd.army.mil/ANCWebsite/about.html>.

Source: <https://www.armyheritage.org/soldier-stories-information/army-nurses-corps-more-than-100-years-of-service-to-our-nation/>

MOAA Tampa Chapter DONATES FOOD FOR HOMELESS VETERANS

—By Sara Marks, CAPT NC USN (Ret)

Blessed with abundant food at the monthly luncheons, Reggie Williams is assisted by Tom Kuhar and Charles Dalcourt in taking the remaining buffet to the homeless veterans in Tampa each month. This is one of the many efforts in supporting our homeless veterans.



New Combating Trafficking in Persons Course for Military-Connected Students

—Submitted by: Sara Marks, CAPT NC USN (Ret)

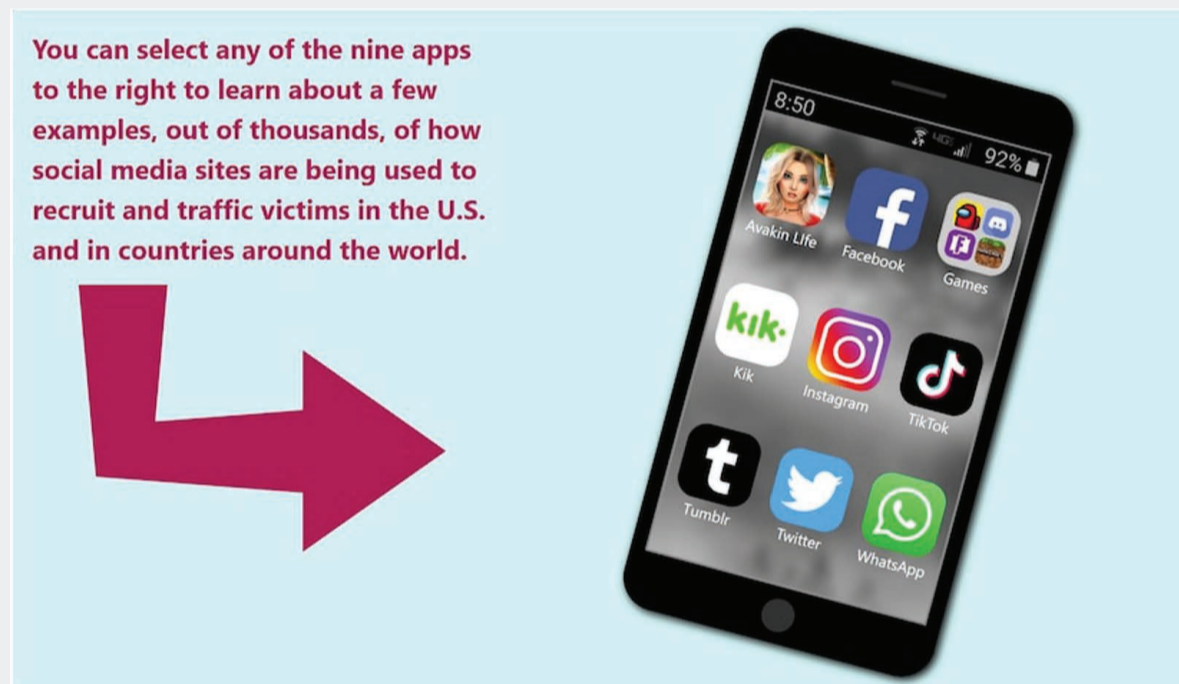
Identifying a need to train military-connected students, the Defense Department's Combating Trafficking in Persons Program Management Office has developed new CTIP training for high school students. The office released the DoD CTIP Student Guide to Preventing Human Trafficking in December.



Military-connected students face challenges that could contribute to their vulnerability to human trafficking, such as: separations from a parent or caregiver due to deployments, high mobility rates, and social challenges attributed to frequent school changes.

In 2020, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children's CyberTipline received 21.7 million reports of suspected child sexual exploitation. Nearly all were related to images and videos of children being sexual abused that are circulated on the internet. Research shows that, increasingly, minors are being targeted by human traffickers and are being exploited at alarming rates, especially online.

To educate military-connected high school students in the 10th through 12th grades about the dangers of human trafficking and online exploitation, the CTIP program management office collaborated with Joint Knowledge Online to create the Defense Department's CTIP Student Guide to Preventing Human Trafficking course. The program management office also worked with the the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children to provide the 24/7 access to help, which is featured on every page of the Student Guide.



The purpose of this training is to strengthen the ability of students to recognize human trafficking and encourage them to seek help from a trusted adult if they or their friends suspect human trafficking or are being trafficked. The CTIP program management office developed the course using the latest evidence-based information on how to best reach and inform teens. The course emphasizes the strengths and resili-

ence that military-connected teens already have to help prevent human trafficking.

The Student Guide has 18 interactive "action cards" that cover:

- The nature and scope of human trafficking.
- Signs and indicators.
- How to recognize potential trafficking situations.
- How to seek help.
- How and where to report suspected trafficking incidents.

Additionally, this unique course consists of many innovative features to engage students, such as near-peer stories, a non-linear format that allows students to skip around and find the information most useful or interesting to them, and interactive games and activities.



There are four segments in the course, each of which contains a cluster of action cards:

- The Nature and Scope of Human Trafficking — educates students on what human trafficking is and the various types of trafficking.
- The Signs and Indicators of Human Trafficking — teaches students how to recognize early signs of human trafficking and how human trafficking occurs, particularly within student settings.
- Recognizing Potential Trafficking Situations — helps students identify healthy and unhealthy relationship qualities and understand what situations could be human trafficking, such as exchanging sexual pictures online.
- Seeking Help and Reporting Suspicious Behavior — outlines how students can stay safe, seek help and help combat trafficking in persons.

In addition to the student guide, the CTIP program management office also developed a companion Parent Resource Guide, which explains why it's important to educate students about human trafficking and walks parents through each action card in the course.

While the course is designed for military-connected students, it is publicly available on the CTIP program management office website, and non-military connected students will benefit from taking it. To access the student guide, answer a demographic question, and you will be directed to both the student guide and the Parent Resource Guide.

Source: <https://www.defense.gov/News/News-Stories/Article/Article/2895952/new-combating-trafficking-in-persons-course-for-military-connected-students/>

Coast Guard Reserve Birthday

Military.com | By [Justin Sloan](#)

—Submitted by: Sara Marks, CAPT NC USN (Ret)

The Coast Guard Reserve celebrates its birthday this February 19.

The passage of the Coast Guard Reserve and Auxiliary Act in 1941 set up the Coast Guard Reserve, modeling it after the Naval Reserve within the Coast Guard. There were the Regular Reservists and Temporary Reservists, with the former serving on active duty during World War II, and the latter performing coastal patrols and port security work. One of seven reserve components of the armed forces, the Coast Guard Reserve made up over 90 percent of the 214,000 members serving in the Coast Guard in World War II.

Coast Guard Reservists contribute to the national response to terrorism, disasters, and more, and provide valuable expeditionary support to the Department of Defense through eight Port Security Units. Reserve personnel have been activated to support 12 hurricane and six major flood operations, and 1,650 Reservists participated in Operations Desert Shield/Storm. Coast Guard Reserve units also supported Operation Uphold Democracy in Haiti, and continue to play a role in joint military exercises worldwide.

The Coast Guard was formed in 1790 as one of America's five armed forces. It is a multi-mission, maritime, military service with responsibility for protecting the public, the environment, and U.S. economic interests in the nation's waterways, along the coast, on international waters, or in any maritime region as required to support national security.

Source: <https://www.military.com/coast-guard/coast-guard-reserve-birthday.html>



Coalition Corner

Submitted by: **BGEN Henrik Larsen**

Dear MOAA members,

It was a great honor for me being able to introduce the Senior National Representatives from France and Japan during the January MOAA luncheon. In February I will be bringing along my colleagues from Canada and Israel, who recently joined the Coalition associated with US Central Command.

Lately we have seen some rotation among the Senior National Representatives. Accordingly, there is a relatively large number of newly arrived representatives lined up to be introduced to MOAA.

Team members from the national delegations from Norway, Italy and Denmark were part of the Operation Helping Hand dinner up at the Embassy Suites at USF in January. We all had a great dinner and enjoyed meeting not only the MOAA members but also all others who were there supporting Operation Helping Hand. However, we did not win any raffle prizes, but we have some very nice connections with the cyber operations community here - so watch out... we will be back. In February I hope to bring along team members from Turkey and Spain for the Operation Helping Hand dinner.

I think most of you would argue that January was a relatively cold month. But for many of us temperatures above 50 degrees Fahrenheit is almost considered a heatwave. Coming July and August we will think back on January and the nice cool temperatures.

The situation in the CENTCOM area of responsibility has been relatively calm as we have entered 2022. The focus remains our engagement in Operation Inherent Resolve

in Iraq and Syria. In Iraq the mission has now transitioned from a combat oriented role to a military focus on supporting our Iraqi partners by advising and assisting them in their continuing efforts to ensuring an enduring defeat of ISIS.

Emphasis is also on the coordination with the NATO lead mission in Iraq. There is however some tension in the EUCOM area of responsibility, which I trust you are all aware of and closely monitoring like we are. What's next always seems to be a good and relevant question, but as always it is sometime very hard to predict what will actually happen in the future. As military we leave that to our politicians to figure out. In the meantime, we strive to remain vigilant and ready in case we are needed.

I believe I almost manage to avoid the word COVID this time. If I do that more than two times it becomes a tradition. I sincerely hope that will be the case!

On behalf of the entire Coalition down at MacDill AFB I wish you all a very happy February.



All the best,

BGEN Henrik Larsen
Danish Senior National Representative to US CENTCOM
Chairman of the Coalition

Japan Senior National Representative to USCENTCOM

Shoji OHNISHI
Army Lieutenant Colonel (O-5)

Educational Background

- 2002 Bachelor's Degree of Political Science from Keio University (Tokyo)
- 2009 Certificate of Military Police Officer from Japan Ground Self-Defense Force (JGSDF) Military Police School (Tokyo)
- 2018 Graduate of Command and General Staff Course at JGSDF Staff college (Tokyo)

Major Assignment

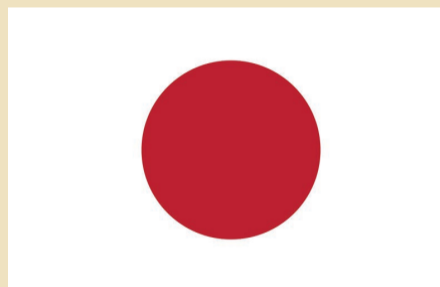
- 2007 Commissioned as an Army officer
- 2009 Platoon Leader, the 304th Military Police Company (Camp Itami)
- 2010 Chief officer, the 129th Military Police Detachment (Camp Zama)
- 2011 Staff Officer in charge of training and criminal statistics, JGSDF Military Police Head Quarters (Camp Ichigaya)
- 2018 Plans & Control Officer, JGSDF Military Police School (Camp Kodaira)
- 2020 Int'l Cooperation Officer, J-3, Joint Staff Office (Camp Ichigaya)
- 2021 Present Assignment (Macdill AFB, Tampa, FL)

Deployment Career

- 2011 Disaster Relief Op in East Japan Great Earthquake and Tsunami
- 2012 Anti-Piracy Op in the Gulf of Aden, Djibouti, East Africa
- 2020 Disaster Relief Op in Kumamoto Great Flood Disaster

I have two children in Japan, Rinko (14-year-old daughter) and Keita (9-year-old son).

It is a great honor for me to work as a senior national representative from Japan in CENTCOM HQs under the cooperation with US and its ally countries in the Sunshine State (Florida).



MEET MOAA TAMPA CHAPTER'S LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

By: Reginald Williams, LTC USA (Ret)

Under MOAA Tampa Chapter's reorganization of responsibilities and duties, Tampa Chapter National Legislative Affairs Director is LTC Reginald Williams, USA, RET, Tampa Chapter FCOC Florida Legislative Affairs Deputy Director is Capt Norm Bild, USAF, RET and Tampa Chapter Local Legislative Deputy Affairs Director is SGT Ben Ritter, (Former) USMC and Honorary Member readily volunteered to tackle tracking the advocacy provided by MOAA National, and the legislation at the state level with the Florida Council of Chapters (FCOC) and at the local level.

Our Legislative Affairs Committee is honored to serve you. Look at our www.moaatamps.org website for the addition of a Legislative Affairs tab with links to MOAA National and the FCOC.

Here is a glimpse of what you'll see on our website:

MOAA National

As a leading military lobby the goal of MOAA is to address Legislative Issues with Congressional Members. MOAA annually generates a list of issues they want to emphasize with Congress which will appear in the National Goals. In

addition, once a year members from MOAA Staff and Council and Chapters "Advocacy in Action" visiting Legislators to discuss these issues. The link provides legislative items of interest where you can stay posted on MOAA's legislative efforts and congressional votes affecting you and your benefits.

Link: www.MOAA.org

State (FCOC)

As with the National list of information, FCOC Legislative Staff is now including Florida State legislative information. The link provides a view of the State Legislative information relevant to the military and veterans.

Link: www.moaafi.org

Local

Here at the local "grassroots" level this is where we engage our respective legislators to advocate for those issues affecting service members, veterans, retirees, family members, and survivors in our local community and to ensure benefits and services are protected. We will keep you posted on MOAA's legislative efforts and congressional actions affecting you and your benefits.



(Left to Right)
Capt Norm Bild, USAF, SGT Ben Ritter, USMC (Former) and Honorary Member, and LTC Reginald Williams, USA, RET

How We Help and Why You Should Join!

The TAMPA CHAPTER-MOAA, one of the largest and recognized as one of the top chapters in the Nation, has a very basic and focused approach for all officers on Active duty, Reserve, National Guard, and retired officers—WE’VE GOT YOUR BACK!

Some of the local community outreach our Tampa MOAA chapter members are involved with include: Veterans Treatment Court, Operation Helping Hand, funding local MOAA Scholarships, Transition support from military life, coordinating with our MacDill AFB Coalition partners with chapter activities, our Chapter Buddy Check initiative, and supporting the local ROTC/JROTC.

NEVER STOP SERVING!



**MOAA Tampa Chapter
New Member Application Form**



Name _____

Rank _____ Service _____ Status _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

EMAIL address _____

Phone _____ (home; cell) Date of Birth: Month: _____ Day: _____

Spouse _____ Phone _____

Emergency Contact: Name _____ Phone _____

MOAA National Member Number _____

Wartime Service: Please circle applicable information and provide dates of service:

World War II _____; Korean War _____; Vietnam Era: _____

Vietnam (in country) _____; Gulf War _____; Lebanon, Grenada, Panama _____

Afghanistan (OEF) _____; Afghanistan (OES) _____; Islamic War (OIR) _____

OR check No service during any of these periods of time _____

Tampa Chapter Annual Dues: \$ 25.00 (There is no dues requirement for active-duty personnel or a spouse. You MUST, however, be a member of MOAA National.

Please visit <https://www.moaa.org/> to join if not already a MOAA NATIONAL member.

You may bring the completed form to any Chapter event, or you can **mail** it with your \$25 check (payable to **MOAA Tampa Chapter**) to:

Jeanne Richard, 1223 Foggy Ridge Parkway, Lutz, FL 33559-6758.

Email questions to: TampaMOAA.Membership@gmail.com

***** The Chapter has my permission to list only my name and rank as a new member in our Chapter Newsletter, *The Retrospect*".** YES _____ No _____



Surviving Spouse Corner: Submitted By Renee Brunelle



—Source: Getty images

MOAA's Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter is an affinity group whose members share information and ideas with others in a virtual environment. After starting the virtual meetings through quarterly teleconferences, the Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter now meets monthly through Zoom. Almost 40 states are represented in the membership. This chapter is intended to be an enhancement to, rather than take the place of, geographic chapters, and there are no dues.

Several weeks in advance of each meeting, members receive an email alerting them to the date and time of the gathering; a follow-on email with instructions for joining is sent several days prior to each meeting. The session is kept to an hour and a half and members can log on or off according to their schedule. Topics of discussion and presentations have included Survivor Benefit Plan-Dependency and Indemnity Compensation offset updates, financial information, and updates from MOAA national as well as other items of interest.

Members participate to the extent they are able. While the chapter is geared toward surviving spouses and surviving spouse liaisons, any MOAA spouse is welcome for membership. MOAA's mantra "Never Stop Serving" is espoused to make a difference locally, statewide, and nationally.



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** Discount is only applicable to a new client of personal assistance services by a Brookdale agency under an executed service agreement.
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MEDICAL CORNER

Contract Awarded for Largest Overseas U.S. Military Hospital

—Submitted by:
Sara Marks, CAPT NC USN (Ret)

FALLS CHURCH, Virginia – The contract to build the largest U.S. hospital outside the United States has been signed, marking a significant step forward in progressing the Rhine Ordnance Barracks Medical Center Replacement (ROBMCR) project.

The German Construction Administration, in partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Europe District and the U.S. Defense Health Agency, awarded a €859 million (approximately \$969 million) contract to Züblin and Gilbane Joint Venture to construct a new hospital at Rhine Ordnance Barracks, Germany.

The contract includes construction of a modern 985,000-square-foot hospital that features nine operating rooms, 120 exam rooms, and 68 beds with a surge capacity of 25 additional beds. Construction is expected to be completed in late 2027.

"We are incredibly proud of our team's contribution to achieve this critical milestone that will enable us to provide our service members and their families with the best facility modern medicine has to offer," said Col. Patrick Dagon, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Europe District Commander.

The German Construction Administration is executing this large-scale project through a partnering process, which involved construction industry expertise during the design phase. The award to Züblin and Gilbane Joint Venture, a strong partnership of leading construction firms, brings both German and U.S. perspective to the project quality, schedule, and cost requirements.

When this new medical campus opens, it will replace and co-locate the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, constructed in 1953, and the 86th Medical Group Clinic to become the largest U.S. medical center on foreign soil, providing primary care, specialized consultative care, hospitalization and treatment for more than 200,000 U.S. military personnel, DoD and interagency civilians and dependents in Europe.

The strategically located Medical Center will serve as the only forward-stationed evacuation and treatment center for injured U.S. service members, civilians and



—Photo By Christopher Gardner | Rendering of the Rhine Ordnance Barracks Medical Center Replacement (ROBMCR) project

contractors serving in Central & Southwest Asia, Europe and Africa, and provide critical medical support to seven combatant commands. When completed, the new hospital will employ approximately 2,500 people.

"The Defense Health Agency looks forward to the completion of the new Medical Center at Rhine Ordnance Barracks in 2027, which will continue to provide primary and specialty care for our beneficiaries around the world," said CAPT Mark Lieb, DHA Division Chief for Facilities Enterprise. "This project is truly a large scale collaboration between the Defense Health Agency, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the German government."

This contract represents the next – and most significant – phase of the campus construction that already includes almost \$200 million of recently completed hospital infrastructure work, such as a new Access Control Point (ACP), bridge, utilities and roadways.

The German government is contributing more than €151 million (approximately \$180 million) for design and construction management. The new hospital is part of the U.S. Forces' substantial investment in Germany.

"The U.S. invested approximately \$350M annually in construction projects in the past few years, which are executed by the Federal Construction Administration. This demonstrates the excellent reputation the German Construction Administration enjoys with our international partners," said Sören Bartol, Parliamentary State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Housing, Urban Development and Construction. "Furthermore, these investments boost Germany's economy and preserve jobs in economically distressed regions."

"The German Construction Authority is proud to be responsible for the design and implementation of this unique project for the U.S. Forces, said Ms. Bettina Bachem, the LBB Weilerbach Director. "It is truly a once-in-a-lifetime project."

Source: <https://www.dvidshub.net/news/413069/contract-awarded-largest-overseas-us-military-hospital?fbclid=IwAR34aaOGjxeKhaQX0N8npv2l8NiuprrA81e31RtBUGxFCf98gITacpcgY>

6 Moments of Bravery in African American Military History

—Submitted by: Sara Marks, CAPT NC USN (Ret)

Did you know that African Americans have served in the U.S. Armed Forces during every major conflict since the American Revolution, even in times of slavery, segregation and racial discrimination?

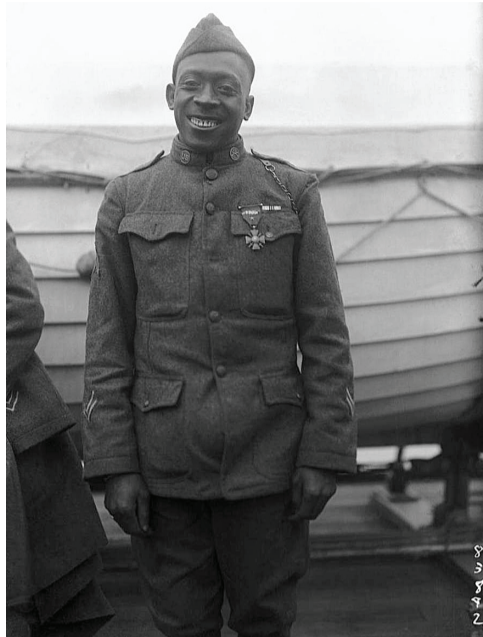
In celebration of Black History Month and in honor of all the brave Black men and women who have served our country with valor and distinction, the USO is taking a moment to shine a light on the astonishing bravery of six African American service members who went above and beyond the call of duty:

Article By: Danielle DeSimone

1. Henry Johnson

The 369th Infantry Regiment, which became known as the “Harlem Hellfighters,” was an all-African American unit in World War I. Aside from seeing more combat than all other U.S. outfits and having a world-famous ragtime band, the Hellfighters were also home to Pvt. Henry Johnson.

Johnson, who President Theodore Roosevelt described as one of the “five bravest Americans” who served in the war, single-handedly fought off more than 20 Germans and saved a fellow soldier from capture – all while injured and armed only with a bolo knife. These courageous actions earned Johnson the nickname “Black Death” from the German army, well as the French Croix du Guerre, France’s highest military honor. After the war, Johnson returned home to a welcoming parade in his native New York City and was posthumously awarded the U.S. Medal of Honor by President Barack Obama in 2015.



Pvt. Henry Johnson. | Photo credit U.S. Army

disobeyed direct orders to stay down and, under heavy gunfire, moved through the battlefield, attending to the wounded and constantly shouting words of encouragement to those fighting around him. Even after he ran out of medical supplies, Joel continued to save the lives of his unit with improvised materials throughout the 24-hour battle.

Joel was presented with the Silver Star, the military’s third-highest award for valor, and the Medal of Honor for his heroism. He was the first medic to receive the Medal of Honor during the Vietnam War and the first living African American to receive it since the Spanish-American War in 1898.



Photo credit The Lawrence Joel Veterans Memorial Coliseum

Spc. Five (now known as a Sgt. 1st Class) Lawrence Joel. Joel was presented with the Silver Star, the military’s third-highest award for valor, and the Medal of Honor for his heroism.

2. Ruben Rivers

During World War II, many U.S. Army leaders had doubts about deploying African American soldiers overseas. Those unfounded fears were quickly squashed by the rapid achievements of the primarily Black 761st Tank Battalion, also known as “Patton’s Panthers.” In addition to playing a crucial role along the western front, the unit quickly garnered a reputation for having fierce fighters like Staff Sgt. Ruben Rivers.

After suffering a severe leg injury from hitting a mine with his tank, Rivers, a native Oklahoman, disobeyed a direct order to evacuate and put himself in harm’s way to cover the U.S. retreat from advancing German lines. Rivers was killed in the battle and later posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor by President Bill Clinton.



Staff Sgt. Ruben Rivers.

During the Vietnam War, Staff Sgt. Melvin Morris went above and beyond the call of duty by leading an advance across enemy lines to recover the body of a fallen sergeant. Morris would go on to become one of the first Green Berets in 1961 and in 2014, at the age of 72, was presented with the Medal of Honor by President Barack Obama for his actions in Vietnam.

5. Melvin Morris

During the Vietnam War, Staff Sgt. Melvin Morris went above and beyond the call of duty by leading an advance across enemy lines to recover the body of a fallen sergeant. While doing so, Morris was shot three times and still managed to single-handedly destroy four enemy bunkers with a bag of grenades.

Morris would go on to become one of the first Green Berets in 1961 and in 2014, at the age of 72, was presented with the Medal of Honor by President Barack Obama for his actions in Vietnam.



Photo credit Sgt. Justin Wagoner

3. Oleta Crain

As an African American woman serving in the Women’s Army Corps and the Air Force, Oleta Crain showed bravery not only in service, but also in challenging racism and segregation.

Of the 300 women who entered officer training during World War II, Crain was one of only three Black women in the program. After the war, Crain was the only female Black officer to be retained by the military.



Photo credit U.S. Air Force

Oleta Crain was one of the 300 women who entered officer training during World War II. She was one of only three Black women in the program.

Throughout her career, Crain would go on to complete tours in Alaska, England and Germany, but her real fight was for civil rights in military training. During her service, Crain bravely raised concerns about racial segregation and discrimination in the military, and successfully gained the respect of her superiors because of her efforts. She eventually retired from the Army as a major and continued to fight for civil rights, specifically for Black women, after careers in military intelligence and at the Department of Labor.

4. Lawrence Joel

Spc. Five (now known as a Sgt. 1st Class) Lawrence Joel, a member of the 173rd Airborne Brigade, showed immense courage in the face of outnumbered odds while serving in the Vietnam War.

When his battalion was suddenly ambushed by the Viet Cong, Joel was determined to fulfill his duties as a medic, despite getting shot in the thigh and calf. Joel

6. Alwyn C. Cashe

In Iraq in 2005, Sgt. 1st Class Alwyn C. Cashe dove back into a burning vehicle three times while under enemy fire to rescue trapped soldiers. During the rescue, Cashe’s uniform, which was soaked in fuel, caught on fire, giving him second and third-degree burns. Despite the burns, Cashe continued to pull soldiers from the vehicle and refused to be placed on the medical evacuation helicopter until all other wounded men had been flown to safety.

Later in the hospital, when Cashe regained consciousness, his first words were, “How are my boys?” He passed away three weeks later and was posthumously awarded the Silver Star.

After years of effort to have his actions recognized, on Dec. 16, 2021, Cashe was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor, and his family was presented with the award by President Joe Biden; he is the first Black recipient of the medal since 9/11.

-This story was first published on USO.org in 2019. It has been updated in 2021.

Source: <https://www.uso.org/stories/2308-bravery-in-african-american-military-history>



Photo credit 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division

In Iraq in 2005, Sgt. 1st Class Alwyn C. Cashe dove back into a burning vehicle three times while under enemy fire to rescue trapped soldiers.

No Greater Glory: The Four Chaplains and the Sinking of the USAT Dorchester

—Submitted by: Sara Marks, CAPT NC USN (Ret)

Written By: Command Sergeant Major James H. Clifford, USA-Ret.

In the early morning hours of 3 February 1943, First Sergeant Michael Warish nearly gave up hope as he floated helplessly in the freezing waters of the North Atlantic. Just minutes earlier, he and the almost 900 others aboard the USAT Dorchester were near safe waters when a German torpedo slammed into the engine room. Soon, the Dorchester began to slip under the waves.

Warish accepted his fate, fully aware that life expectancy in these cold waters was about twenty minutes. Surrounded by hundreds of his equally doomed shipmates, the blinking red lights of their life preservers reminded him of Christmas lights. Other than a burning sensation in his throat from swallowing oil-fouled salt water and some minor pain from wounds suffered when the torpedo hit, he mostly felt numb.

Resigned to losing consciousness and freezing to death shortly thereafter, his thoughts turned to the courageous and selfless acts of the four Army chaplains he witnessed just before abandoning ship. These four chaplains, according to Warish and other eyewitnesses, remained calm during the panic following the attack, first distributing life preservers and assisting others to abandon ship, then giving up their own life preservers and coming together in prayer as the ship disappeared beneath the surface.

The story of these four chaplains, a Catholic, a Jew, and two Protestants, stands out among the countless stories of commitment and bravery that make up the pantheon of the U.S. Army, as one of the finest examples of courage to God, man, and country. Each, John P. Washington, Alexander D. Goode, George L. Fox, and Clarke V. Poling, was drawn by the tragedy at Pearl Harbor to the armed forces. Each wanted more than anything else to serve God by ministering to men on the battlefield. Each felt great disappointment at being relegated to service in a rear area, in this case the airfields and installations of Greenland. Yet, each, when the moment came, did not hesitate to put others before self, courageously offering a tenuous chance of survival with the full knowledge of the consequences.

Though the chaplains had vastly different backgrounds, their similar experiences brought them together on the deck of the Dorchester. Each was tested at a young age and came to the realization that his would be a life of service to God and man. John P. Washington, born in Newark, New Jersey, on 18 July 1908, was eldest of seven children. He was the product tough of Irish neighborhoods, where he almost lost his sight to a BB gun accident, nearly died of fever, and then lost his sister Mary to a sudden illness. By the age of seven, John was on the path to the priesthood. After attending Catholic elementary and high schools, he entered the seminary in Darlington, New Jersey, and was ordained on 15 June 1935.

After short stints in two parishes, he moved to St. Stephen's in Arlington, New Jersey. Father Washington was initially turned down by the Navy after Pearl Harbor because of his poor eyesight. Disappointed but not defeated, Washington went to the Army. This time, when it came to the eye test, he covered up his bad eye both times when reading the eye chart, correctly assuming that the doctors would be too busy to pay much attention. He hoped that God would forgive his subterfuge.

In May 1942 Father Washington left for training at Fort Benjamin Harrison, Indiana. After a month, he was posted to Fort George G. Meade, Maryland. Eager to serve overseas, he applied for a transfer. In a letter to Army Headquarters dated 23 September 1942, he wrote, "Once more may I ask you to consider my application for overseas duty. If I am being too fresh in requesting it, then slap me down." The requests finally worked when, in November 1942, he was transferred to Camp Myles Standish in Taunton, Massachusetts, to await overseas deployment. There he met fellow Chaplains Fox, Goode, and Poling.

Alexander D. Goode was born on 10 May 1911, the son of a rabbi. When he was young, his parents divorced. He went to Eastern High School in Washington, DC, where he earned medals in tennis, swimming, and track, and was an excellent student. From his earliest days, he planned to follow in his father's footsteps as a rabbi. He earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Cincinnati in 1934, followed by a degree from the Hebrew Union College in 1937. Virtually penniless as a college student during the Great Depression, Alexander contemplated quitting school and giving up on his dream to become a rabbi, but he believed that it was God's plan for him to pursue a religious vocation. For much of his youth, he served in the National Guard to help make ends meet. In 1935, he and his childhood sweetheart, Theresa Flax, daughter of a rabbi and niece of the singer and motion picture star Al Jolson, were married. His first assignment as a rabbi was in Marion, Indiana. Later, he moved to the Beth Israel synagogue of York, Pennsylvania, where he excelled in ecumenicalism, crossing the divide between religions.

In January 1941, the Navy turned down Rabbi Goode's application to become a chaplain, but the Army Air Forces accepted him after Pearl Harbor. After training at the Harvard Chaplain School, along with classmates Fox and Poling, he was assigned to Seymour Johnson Field in Goldsboro, North Carolina, where he served until October 1942. In November 1942, he was reassigned to Camp Myles Standish.

George L. Fox was born on 15 March 1900 in Lewiston, Pennsylvania, and grew up in Altoona in a Catholic family. His rough childhood under the tyranny of an abusive father shaped him. Determined to escape, he enlisted to serve in World War I before finishing high school. He also abandoned Catholicism due to his inability to reconcile the church's teachings with the abuse he received at home and a desire to leave his past behind. His gallant service in the Great War as a medic earned him the Silver Star, several Purple Hearts, and French Croix de Guerre.

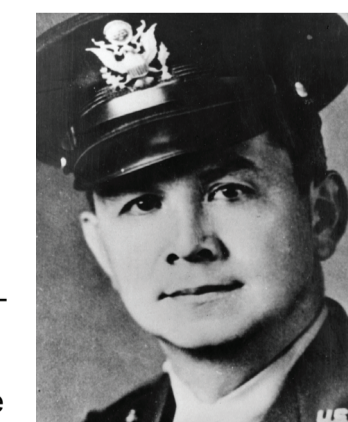
At the end of World War I, Fox held several jobs before entering Moody Bible Institute in Illinois in 1923. Before graduation, he



John P. Washington was ordained a Roman Catholic priest on 15 June 1935 and entered the Army in May 1942 after being rejected by the Navy shortly after the Japanese attack Pearl Harbor. (U.S. Army Chaplain Museum)



Alexander D. Goode, a native of Washington, DC, followed in his father's footsteps and became a rabbi in 1937. Like Chaplain Washington, he originally wanted to serve as a Navy chaplain but was rejected. (U.S. Army Chaplain Museum)



George L. Fox, the oldest of the Four Chaplains, served in World War I as a medic. After the war, he was ordained a Methodist minister and was appointed as an Army chaplain in July 1942. (U.S. Army Chaplain Museum)

became an itinerant Methodist minister. While holding a student pastorate in Downs, Illinois, he entered Illinois Wesleyan University in Bloomington, graduating with his Bachelor's degree in 1929. While holding another student pastorate in Rye, New Hampshire, Fox enrolled in the Boston University School of Theology, graduating with a *Sacrae Theologiae Baccalaureus* (Bachelor of Sacred Theology) and was ordained a Methodist minister on 10 June 1934. He assumed the pastorate of a church in Waits River, soon moved on to Union Village, then Gillman, all in Vermont. By this time, he was married and had a son; a daughter followed in 1936. While in Vermont he joined the American Legion and would become state chaplain and historian.

As with the other chaplains, Pearl Harbor drew him back to the military. In July 1942, he was appointed as an Army chaplain and returned to active duty at the age of forty-two on 8 August, the same day that his son Wyatt entered the Marine Corps. After training at Harvard, he joined the 411th Coast Artillery Battalion (Antiaircraft-Gun) at Camp Davis, North Carolina, until he was ordered to Camp Myles Standish.

Clark V. Poling was born into a prominent family that had produced six generations of ministers. His father was a well-known radio evangelist and religious newspaper editor. Born on 7 August 1910, Poling was educated in Massachusetts and New York. In high school, he played football and was student body president. There was never any doubt that he would become the seventh generation of his family to enter the ministry.

After studying at Hope College in Michigan and Rutgers University in New Jersey, he entered Yale University's School of Divinity, after which he was ordained a minister in the Reformed Church of America. His initial posting was at the First Church of Christ in New London, Connecticut, for a short time until he became pastor of the First Reformed Church in Schenectady, New York.

When Japan attacked Pearl Harbor, Reverend Poling volunteered to become a chaplain. Before departing for the service, his father, Dr. Daniel A. Poling, reminded him of the high casualty rate of chaplains in World War I. The younger Poling downplayed the danger, confident that God's will was to keep him safe while he served others. He was appointed a U. S. Army Chaplain in 10 June 1942 and reported to the 131st Quartermaster Truck Regiment at Camp Shelby, Mississippi, on 25 June. Later he went on to Harvard and then to Camp Myles Standish. In November 1942, the four chaplains were all together for the first time.

The Dorchester was as austere and dank as any of the tubs ferrying troops to and from the war zone across the North Atlantic—a suitable venue for one to suffer the dreaded anxiety of an uncertain future in war or to blissfully contemplate the safety, comforts, and familial joy of home.

Originally commissioned the SS Dorchester on 20 March 1926, it was one of three identical vessels built by the Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company for the Merchants and Miners Transportation Company. As a cruise ship, it plied a regular coastal route between Miami and Boston with its crew of ninety and up to 314 passengers. She weighed in at 5,649 tons, was 368 feet long by 52 feet wide, with a 19 foot draft.

With war looming, the U.S. government requisitioned the Dorchester and had the Atlantic, Gulf and West Indies Steamship Company in New York convert her into a troop transport. Stripped of its original cruise ship luxuries, the USAT Dorchester was outfitted to carry 750 troops, with a complement of 130 crew and twenty-three Navy armed guards.

On 29 January 1943, the Dorchester departed St. John's, Newfoundland, for its fifth north Atlantic voyage, hitting bad weather almost as soon as it entered open water. In addition to the Dorchester, the freighters Biscaya and Lutz, escorted by U. S. Coast Guard cutters USCGC Tampa, USCGC Escanaba, and USCGC Comanche comprised convoy SG 19. Its passengers included 597 soldiers and 171 civilians bound for airbases in Greenland. In its holds were one thousand tons of equipment, food, and cargo. Merchant Marine Captain Hans Danielsen skippered the ship while Army Captain Preston S. Kreckler, Jr., commanded the troops. First Sergeant Warish was the senior noncommissioned officer aboard.

Warish, as the ship's first sergeant, warranted a stateroom. As he was settling in, Father Washington, his next door neighbor, paid him a visit. As a lapsed Catholic, he was ambivalent about making the acquaintance of the priest but recognized the value of having chaplains on board during the perilous voyage. After exchanging small talk, Warish excused himself to inspect the ship.

While on his rounds, he observed the chaplains in a "football huddle" engaged in an animated discussion. Seeing Warish, they asked for his help in getting the message out about religious services and plans for an amateur talent contest, which they hoped would serve as a useful diversion for the troops who had nothing to do except worry while transiting through "Torpedo Junction," as the stretch of dangerous waters was known.

Despite heavy security, there were few secrets in St. John's. German authorities had become aware that convoy SG-19 was bound for Greenland, so four U-Boats took up stations along its route. One of those was U-233, on her maiden voyage, commanded by twenty-six-year-old Lieutenant Commander Karl-Jürg Wächter. In the fog and darkness of 3 February, U-233 floated on the surface as Wächter, binoculars raised to his eyes, studied the dark silhouettes of SG-19 passing in the distance.

To continue reading thh story follow the link: <https://armyhistory.org/no-greater-glory-the-four-chaplains-and-the-sinking-of-the-usat-dorchester/>



Clark V. Poling was born into a family that had produced six generations of ministers. An ordained minister in the American Reformed Church, he was appointed as a chaplain on 10 June 1942. (U.S. Army Chaplain Museum)



After the *Dorchester* slipped beneath the waves on 3 February 1943, the USCGC Escanaba and other Coast Guard vessels rescued dozens of survivors from the doomed Army troopship. (U.S. Coast Guard History Office)

Thriving After Military Service Transition Seminar in Tampa

—By Paul McAneny, Col (Ret) USAF, Transition Committee Chairman, MOAA Tampa Chapter

When you are released from active duty military service you receive any number of info briefings on the importance of a good resume, how to interview, how to dress, and on and on. At this point you probably have that pretty firm in your mind if not on paper. To be sure, you need to get a job with pay and benefits adequate to meet your family needs; and, of course, you want that next job to lead to a fulfilling career with advancement and all that goes with it.

But...is there more to life after military service than getting a job and starting a non-military career? What about you and your family? Have you really thought out what your health insurance options are and how much they cost? Have you considered life insurance options, building a nest egg over and above your military retirement, your finances, your taxes? Do you have a will, health power of attorney, and have you set up a trust? You have a lot going for you and now is the time to capitalize on it by seriously considering these questions.

Alright then, you've got a handle on this, having military training and experience you know the value of service. You served your country with honor and integrity and you did so proudly! How about taking some of that commitment and spreading it around? Voluntary service is out there just begging for you to join in, and a myriad of opportunities abound in our fast growing Tampa Bay Region. Find out what the Veterans Treatment Court (VTC) does and learn how you can support your fellow veterans who may not be as fortunate as you. Join a local Krewe - many of these organizations do more than just march and throw beads in the big Tampa parades (but, no doubt, that's a heck of a lot of fun too!) and are very much into community service. Want to start a local business? Then get active in one of our award winning Chambers of Commerce. How about supporting the various veteran organizations in the Tampa area? Consider helping the VA's homeless veterans' initiatives. If you were an officer, join the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) and its local 5-star award winning chapter. If you were an NCO, how about the Non-Commissioned Officers Association (NCOA). There's also Special Operations Warrior Foundation, Association of the US Army,

and many more. Many Veterans have found their niche in exciting and unusual part-time gigs such as fitness instructors and working in stadium staff for our local Professional Sports Clubs. Finally, there are volunteer organizations - too many to mention here - like Habitat for Humanity, various church-sponsored food banks, and so on.

It's your brand new life as a civilian – so make the most of it!! Our focus is on you, your family, and our community. We held our first event earlier this year and it was welcomed by a resounding response. Here is a selection of enthusiastic comments from the after-action surveys:

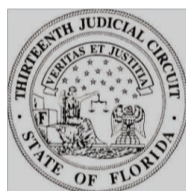
- "Extremely valuable! I'm in the middle of my transition now and this was the only venue I've seen that covers these topics."
- "Excellent! Focused on a very different part of my transition—how to stay connected to the military community."
- "I very much like the emphasis on continued service in retirement."
- "Love the energy and purpose."
- "Amazing program that I will be a big advocate for and will spread the word."
- "Will definitely recommend other service members attend this event in the future."

The MOAA-Tampa Chapter has a second offering its new and unique "Thriving after Military Service" Transition Seminar on Tuesday, 15 February from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. Sign-ups close out on Sunday (13 Feb) at 11:59 pm. Here's the link to get signed up to this exclusive and in-person only event: <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/military-officers-association-of-america-moaa-tampa-chapter-33108882117>

These seminars are held quarterly (next in May 2022 at a date TBD). Best yet, there's no cost to you and a light lunch is provided. If you are planning to retire in the Tampa Bay area e-mail: TampaMOAA.Secretary@gmail.com for questions on dates of future seminars. We'd love to have you join us!



Thriving After Military Service



Retired Members of the MOAA Tampa Chapter



WHAT: "Thriving After Military Service" Transitioning Veteran Event

WHO: Hosted by the MOAA Tampa Chapter

WHERE: FIVE Labs Conference Center, 4115 W Spruce St., Tampa, FL

WHEN: Tuesday, 15 Feb from 9:00 am - 4:00 PM

WHY: There are a multitude of events for transitioning military members, BUT none quite like this! The typical event focuses on resume development, interview skills, dressing for success, building your elevator speech, etc., while our event goes a completely different direction...

...we are focused on helping military members support themselves and their families now that they have the opportunity to put down real and lasting roots in the Tampa community.

COST: No cost. **Open to ALL RANKS and spouses!** Light complimentary lunch & beverages provided.

REGISTER: Seating is limited. Click the following link to register:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/o/military-officers-association-of-america-moaa-tampa-chapter-33108882117>

What are people saying about this event:

- "Amazing program that I will be a big advocate for and spread the word."
- "Extremely valuable! I'm in the middle of my transition now and this was the only venue I've seen that covers these topics."
- "Love the energy and purpose!"

***Due to COVID19, space is limited to ensure appropriate spacing and compliance with all safety requirements, including mask wearing. Complimentary masks and hand sanitizer will be available.*

MOAA Tampa Scholarship Application

To: MOAA Tampa Chapter members

The Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce that the MOAA Tampa Chapter will award college scholarships of up to \$2,000.00 each to high school seniors who are planning to attend college during the academic year 2022-2023. Applicants must be a dependent or grandchild of a MOAA Chapter member who has been in good standing for at least one year prior to the date of application.

The application form and further requirements can be found at the chapter website: www.moaatampa.org.

Completed applications and documentation must be submitted by April 15, 2022 to:

Colonel (Ret) William A. Schneider,
15888 Sanctuary Drive
Tampa, FL 33647

Scholarship winners will be announced on May 1, 2022.

If you have any questions, please contact Colonel Schneider at (813) 977-2572 or via email at geowillyl@aol.com.

Sincerely,

Eligibility Requirements

1. Be a dependent or grandchild of a MOAA Tampa Chapter member who has been in good standing for a minimum of one year prior to the date of application.
2. Have a GPA of 3.0 or higher.
3. Complete the scholarship application
4. Attend the May 12, 2022 Luncheon and Awards Ceremony. Attendance is required by the recipient or immediate family member in order to receive the award.

Required attachments

1. Submission of proof of the Military affiliation of the sponsor. (Military ID or DD form 214)
2. Submission of transcript reflecting 3.0 or higher GPA.
3. Submission of two Letters of Reference from persons other than relatives. (teachers, work supervisors, clergy, etc.)
4. An acceptance letter from an accredited college, community college or university with student ID number included)
5. A letter written by the student, in which he or she explains his or her goals and academic experience and extracurricular and community volunteer experience)
6. A completed Scholarship Application Form
7. A color photo of the student.

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

Submit application and attached documents not later than midnight April 15, 2022 to:

Colonel (Ret) William A. Schneider, USA
15888 Sanctuary Drive, Tampa, FL 33647
(813) 977-2572

geowillyl@aol.com

MOAA Tampa Scholarship Application

Date of application _____

Sponsor name _____

Date sponsor joined chapter _____

Student name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Graduating school _____

College accepted _____

Academic awards _____

School activities _____

Community activities _____

Completed application and supporting documents must be submitted no later that April 15, 2022.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

CHAPLAIN (COL) BERNARD H LIEVING JR USA RET



I am not a pessimist. That is to say I do not believe that we live in the worst possible world and that evil far outweighs the good in the world. I am an optimist. I believe that even in these difficult times good prevails over evil. I take the most hopeful view of the present and the future and our world and all the issues we face with COVID, political rancor, racial and social injustice, and international unrest.

However, having said that I admit I daily need help in dealing with our world and all that is going on that impacts all of us. The most important daily influence in my being able to face each day optimistically is prayer. I want to share with you one prayer that is most helpful for me. It was written by William Barclay, a 20th century Church of Scotland pastor, Professor of Biblical studies, and an author of Bible commentaries, thirteen of them resting on my office bookshelf. The prayer comes from his book, Prayers for the Christian Year.

“O God, you are our refuge. When we are exhausted by life’s efforts; when we are bewildered by life’s problems; when we are wounded by life’s sorrows’ we come for refuge to you.

O God, you are our strength. When our tasks are beyond our power; when our temptations are too strong for us; when duty calls for more than we have to give to it: we come for strength to you.

O God, it is from you that all goodness comes. It is from you that our ideals come; it is from you that there comes to us the spur of high desire and the restraint of conscience. It is from you that has come the strength to resist any temptation, and to do any good thing.

And now as we pray to you, help us to believe in your love, so that we may be certain that you will hear our prayer; help us to believe in your power, so that we may be certain that you are able to do for us above all that we ask or think; help us to believe in your wisdom, so that we may be certain that you will answer, not as our ignorance asks, but as your perfect wisdom knows best... Amen.”

Although Barclay’s book was first published fifty-seven years ago, I pray that you might find it meaningful for your life in these days.

James Kalemeris, 1LT USAF (Former)



—Submitted by: Jeanne Richard, Lt Col, USAF (Ret)

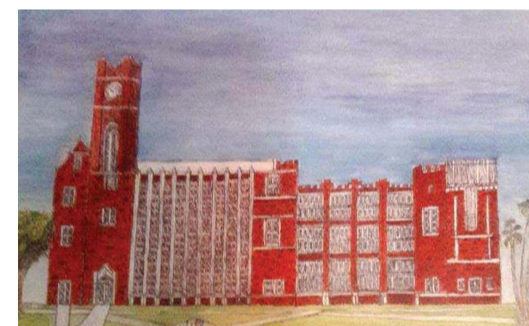
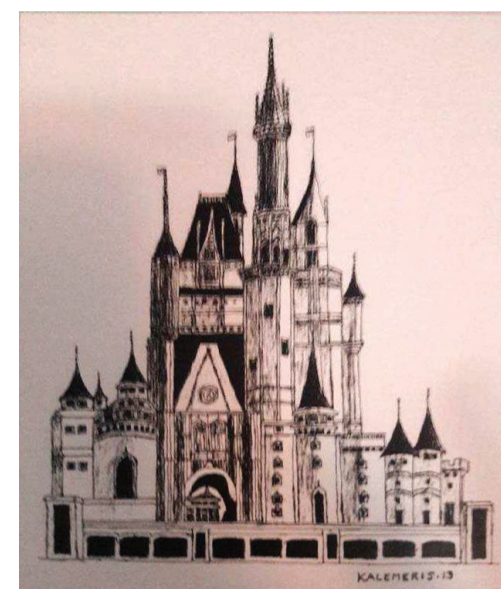
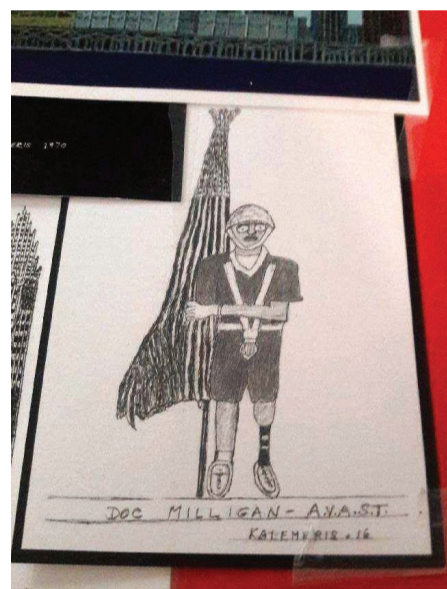
James “Jim” Kalemeris was laid to rest on Sunday 16 January 2022 at the age of 94. He proudly served in both the United States Army (WWII) and United States Air Force. (Korean War).

I met Jim at a Tampa Chapter Board Meeting – boy, did he love to tell stories and I must say they were worth listening to. Jim talked about his “Leatherhead Days” playing football when he was in the Army. He was proud that he had an opportunity to play football in front of General Wainwright and against Heisman trophy winner Doak Walker. Playing football kept him from getting KP duty.

He recounted his scariest game, playing in front of war criminals, at Ft. Hood. Because the war criminals had rioted during the week, mounted machine guns were all over the stadium. He shared a grainy photo of himself in his football “uniform” – leather helmet, no face protection, minimal padding.

Jim shared his love of drawing by passing out postcard size drawings. I think many Chapter members possess some of these mementos.

As I listened to the eulogies, I felt extremely privileged to have known this extraordinary man. Rest in Peace Brave Warrior.



A sample of the artwork that Jim Kalemeris would doodle during MOAA Tampa board meetings and give out to the board members. Amazing, inspiring and talented man.

HAVE YOU VISITED OUR WEBSITE AND ‘LIKED’ OUR FACEBOOK PAGE?

WWW.MOAAATAMPA.ORG and Facebook: [MOAA Tampa Chapter](https://www.facebook.com/moaa.tampa)

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 pass-word to access. You can also download an Excel version of the list once permitted into the page. Check out the [Member Directory](#) now!

Facebook: Visit us on Facebook at [“MOAA Tampa Chapter”](https://www.facebook.com/moaa.tampa) where you can scroll through our photo albums, like and share our posts, and stay up to date on Tampa Chapter news and events.

Check out our **NEW Instagram account!**
https://www.instagram.com/moaa_tampa/



THE TAMPA CHAPTER RATED FIVE STARS 2003, 2005-2010, 2012-2017, 2019-2020

Tampa Chapter

- 5 Star MOAA Chapter 2003 • 2005 - 2010 2012 - 2017 • 2019 - 2021
- 2020 Recipient of the 5 Star Col. Marvin J. Harris Communications Award
- Chairman of the Joint Chief's Outstanding Public Service Award

“NEVER STOP SERVING”