



The RETROSPECT

TAMPA CHAPTER — A FIVE STAR CHAPTER OF MOAA NATIONAL

April 2022 VOLUME 28, NUMBER 4



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT: COL CHARLES DALCOURT USA RET

GREETINGS!



The MOAA Tampa Chapter is dedicated to supporting our military community in the following ways through our Community Outreach missions:

- Veterans Affairs
- Transition Program
- Support of the Veterans Treatment Court
- Scholarship Programs
- Guard and Reserve Support
- Protecting Military Benefits

U.S. Army, U.S. Marine Corps, U.S. Navy, U.S. Air Force, U.S. Space Force, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Public Health Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

NEVER STOP SERVING

Tampa Chapter Military Officers Association of America

MOAA Tampa Chapter Mission Statement:

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



Members of the MOAA Tampa Chapter, it is a pleasure to greet you this month. I hope that all are well and that you are as excited as I about the progress our Chapter is making. I look forward to seeing you at our monthly luncheons. Please be sure to register soon and bring a guest to our next luncheon on 14 April.

Spring's Inspiration

Spring is here and it is encouraging to observe new branches, leaves, and flowers leap into existence. All the while, nature is watered and nurtured without dependence on man. I often find inspiration for Tampa Chapter's volunteer force in nature's example. We too grow, are pruned, rest as required, then reappear renewed, refreshed, and reinvigorated by the respite. Thanks to our returning volunteers! We sincerely appreciate your support of the Chapter and continued commitment to MOAA's mission and vision.

Volunteers needed...

As mentioned last month, our Chapter is

off to a great start. We have filled our Historian, Assistant Treasurer, and Legislative Liaison Team positions. That said, we are still seeking persons to fill open volunteer positions within our ranks. Key positions/ areas include Fundraising, Assistant Editor (Newsletter), and the Public Affairs Team. Your consideration is appreciated. Your involvement helps us to help others.

Advocacy infers Action...

We have received a call to arms. Our Florida Council of Chapter's (FCoC) Advocacy in Action Program calls for meetings with all of Florida's Representatives to Congress in April. Let's continue to advocate for this respected profession through active engagement and with unwavering resolve. Our leaders need to know that we aren't distracted. Please contact Reggie Williams for additional information on becoming involved in this effort. Be it preparation, proof reading, sending supporting letters, or attending a meeting, your assistance enables the Chapter's, FCoC's, and MOAA's success. Thanks in advance!

Wrapping up:

Again, 2022 is shaping up and will be a great year of advancement for our Chapter. I remain grateful for the opportunity to serve you and will continue to strive, in every way, to both advance our Chapter's great legacy and propel the organization forward. Thanks again for your understanding and support.

All the best,
Charles Dalcourt

UPCOMING EVENTS

7 April
10:00 AM
Board of Directors Meeting
Paradise Grill, Safety Harbor

14 April
Chapter Luncheon - 11:30
Columbia Restaurant
Siboney Room
(See page 8)

21 April – 6:00PM-8:00PM
OpHH Dinner
USF Embassy Suites
(See page 9)

MOAA Tampa
Scholarship Applications
Due 15 April
(See page 18)

10 May 8:00AM-5:00PM
Thriving After Military Service
FIVE Labs/US Bioskills Lab and
Conference Center
(See page 15)

9-12 June
Florida Council of Chapters
45th Annual Convention
(See page 21)

REMINDER:

SUBMISSION DEADLINE
FOR THE MAY 2022
ISSUE IS 20 APRIL 2022

Please submit articles in a Word Document and photos in JPEG
Email articles to
MOAATampa.website@gmail.com

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

With government fully funded now, the White House and Congress will need to pivot to other priorities shaping authorizations and appropriations for the following fiscal year. April 1 -29, is important to MOAA as we execute the Advocacy in Action (AiA) 2022 campaign. We are meeting with local and state representatives to discuss, elevate, and

advocate for our Legislative agenda on behalf of our service-member, veteran, retiree, and family member community. In the Tampa Bay area, we are fortunate to have representatives who are attuned to our issues and are willing to listen and take action on our behalf for our services and benefits. MOAA's leading topics we will advocate for during this AiA session are the Major Richard Star Act (H.R. 1282 and S. 344), TRICARE Mental Health Copayments (H.R. 4824), and Enact Military Pay Raise of 4.6% in the FY 2023 NDAA.

Simultaneously, at the state level, we need to be prepared to support the over 42 House and Senate Bills ranging from Professional Counselors Licensure Compact (SB 358), Military Occupational Licensure (SB 562), Suicide Prevention (SB 478), Unlawful Employment Practices (SB 550), Florida Veterans Legal Helpline (HB 2165), and Shield of Faith (SOF) Mission – Suicide Prevention (HB 4829). Please go into for House of Representatives sponsoring House Bills (HB), and go into the Florida Senate site for sponsors of Senate Bills (SB) located at <http://www.leg.state.fl.us>. On the website, it is easy to locate the Legislator and write an email in support of the above Florida House and Senate bills.

At the national and state levels we have some work to do and I encourage you to engage your Legislators at both levels on advocating for the various bills and initiatives that are before them. Bottom line, our local and state priorities are aligned with national's and we need to support. Let's move out!

MOAA Spring Advocacy in Action Campaign RECAP

The 2022 AiA event will be held virtually from April 1-29. Based on Capitol Hill security measures and nationwide health challenges, we will again exercise appropriate measures of caution to bring our messages to legislators via virtual engagements. However, there may be opportunities for you to engage your legislators in person (safely) when they are home during Congress' spring break (April 11-22).

What You Can Do Now

Contact MOAA Tampa Chapter Legislative Chair. Most engagements during the April campaign will originate from MOAA's councils and chapters. The Chapter Legislative staff can assist with making appointments and arrangements with legislative offices. One of the advantages of the virtual environment is the use of online meeting platforms (Zoom, Teams, etc.) which can facilitate engagement from home; please contact us to see how you can add you to our efforts – it could be as easy as sending you a link to a meeting.

We will share, via our Chapter's Legislative web page, more up-to-date information, talking points, and fact sheets on our three topics, as well as links to the latest information and MOAA's web-based letters, along with the phone number for MOAA's Capitol Switchboard if you would rather call your legislators.

Stay Informed. Be sure to subscribe to the weekly MOAA Newsletter for the latest AiA news and updates (MOAA

continued on next page 2

Legislative LOWDOWN cont.

members [can click here](#) to update their newsletter preferences). Keep up with all the latest advocacy news at [MOAA's Advocacy News page](#).

What's Next?

We will follow up with several actions over throughout the month:

- Throughout April, MOAA will provide articles and links to Calls to Action via our new Legislative Action Center, which allows you to send messages to your legislators via our web-based letter service. Watch for updates at [MOAA.org/AiA](#).

- Very important:** The April issue of Military Officer publication also will include tear-out letters for you to fold, seal, stamp, and mail to House and Senate leaders, making them even more aware of our efforts and seeking their support. These letters will highlight the Major Richard Star Act.
- April 11-22 is the congressional working period in the states and districts: Your legislators will be home and hard at work campaigning. This is a golden opportunity to seek an appointment in person or virtually, depending on the comfort level of those involved.

Thank you again for reviewing this timeline and putting some of these dates on your calendar.

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

Congresswoman Castor's Roundtable

— Submitted by MOAA Tampa Chapter Deputy Legislative Affairs Directors, Ben Ritter USMC, Sgt. (Former), Honorary Member, and Norman Bild, USAF, Capt. (Ret).

On Friday, March 2022, US Congresswoman Kathy Castor held a Veterans' Roundtable Forum in the Hillsborough County Veterans Memorial Park. It was well-attended by over 20 members of our local veteran and active-duty military community along with veteran advocates. According to County records, Hillsborough County has the largest population of veterans in the state of Florida with nearly 98,000 veterans who call Hillsborough their home. Hillsborough County is also the home of MacDill Air Force Base, with over 12,000 active-duty military and more than 7,000 civilians stationed on the base supporting the 6th Air Mobility Wing and two Geographic Combatant Commands.

Congresswoman Castor focused on Veterans' legislation. Key on her agenda were bills in the US Congress:

- 1) The PACT Act - H.R. 3967: Toxic Exposures/Burn Pits. This bill addresses health care, presumption of service-connection, research, resources, and other matters related to veterans who were exposed to toxic substances.
- 2) The GI Bill Parity Act - H.R. 1836: Assisting National Guard and Reserve Members for educational benefits. Introduced in the House on 03/11/2022, this bill expands eligibility for Post - 9/11 GI Bill educational assistance. Specifically, the bill adjusts the type of service that entitles a member of the Armed Forces, Reserves, or National Guard to such assistance. Under the bill,

service by a Reservist or National Guard member that is entitled to pay, counts toward benefit eligibility. Such service includes training, active military service, inactive training, and general duty for which basic pay is warranted.

3) EVEST Act - H.R. 4673: Ensuring Veterans' Smooth Transition Act. This act would automatically register active-duty military members in the VA Healthcare System upon their discharge. Retirees would have the option of opting out within 60 days if they would prefer.

Additionally, Congresswoman Castor gave an update on the U.S House Appropriations Act - H.R. 2471 - which passed on 03/09/2022. This bill, in addition to the 12 fiscal year 2022 appropriations bills, provides \$13.6 billion in emergency funding to support the Ukrainian people and defend global democracy in the wake of Russia's unprovoked attack on Ukraine.

Among the many attendees were MOAA Tampa Chapter members Norman Bild and Ben Ritter advocating for MOAA Legislative priorities at the national, state and local levels, DJ Reyes, Colonel US Army (Ret) - a staunch advocate on the Tampa Veterans Treatment Court for veterans who have legal and special needs, and Frank Strom, Director of Hillsborough County's Department of Consumer and Veterans Services and Immediate Past President at State of Florida County Veteran Service Of-

ficer Association.

After the Roundtable Forum concluded, Congresswoman Castor was interviewed by WFLA-TV News Channel 8. The interview may be seen at this link:

https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?ref=notif&v=1161512287987404¬if_id=1647017770181845¬if_t=live_video_explicit

Photo below taken during Congresswoman Castor's WFLA interview:



From L to R: Ben Ritter, DJ Reyes, Congresswoman Castor, Frank Strom.

Come Honor Nurses at the May 12th Luncheon During National Nurses Week May 6-12, 2022

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

Calling all Chapter Member Nurses (Active Duty, Retired and Spouses) to share a photo of yourself for the May Newsletter. Send your photos to Sara Marks via email to MOAATampa.website@gmail.com NLT 15 April.

ANA selected the evergreen theme, Nurses Make a Difference to honor the varying roles of nurses and their positive impact on our lives. Nurses make a difference as trusted advocates who ensure individuals, families, and populations receive quality patient care and services. Nurses make a difference by influencing and shaping health policy decisions that ensure all Americans have access to high-quality, affordable health care coverage.

BUY YOUR RAFFLE TICKETS!!!
Pictured are some of the items that will be raffled at the May 12th luncheon. Money made will support MOAA Tampa Chapter's many initiatives: Scholarship, Veteran's Affairs and "Thriving After the Military" programs!



MOAA Tampa Chapter Five Star Shirt Sales



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 Sales.

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



2022 OFFICERS:

- PRESIDENT:** CHARLES DALCOURT COL USA RET
1ST VP: WILLIAM SCHNEIDER COL USA RET
2ND VP: MATTHEW MULARONI LTC USA RET
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT: CAROL ZIERES COL USA RET
SECRETARY: GEOFF HARRINGTON CDR USNR RET
TREASURER: KENNETH MARTIN LTC USMC RET
SURVING SPOUSES LIASION: RENEE BRUNELLE

2022 DIRECTORS:

- EDUCATION, TRAINING & EVENTS:**
RICHARD SIEGMAN LTC USAF RET
COMMUNICATIONS: SARA MARKS CAPT NC USN RET
LEGAL AFFAIRS: WILLIAM MITCHELL LTJG (former) USN
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS: REGINALD WILLIAMS LTC USA RET



MOAA MISSION STATEMENT

The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) is a nonprofit veterans’ association dedi-
cated to maintaining a strong national defense
and ensuring our nation keeps its commitments
to currently serving, retired, and former mem-
bers 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.

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:

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E-Mail: TampaMOAA.Secretary@gmail.com



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



March proved to be a busy month! So many exciting events happened in Tampa Bay. Among them included the Operation Helping Hand's first dinner since COVID to have some of the Wounded Warriors and their families able to attend! The Operation Helping Hand annual Bob Silah Memorial Golf Tournament proved a grand success with the players having the luxury of watching the Blue Angels practice

for the MacDill Air Fest! What a treat!

I'm always pleased to highlight articles written or submitted by members of our chapter. Thank you to Ben Ritter and Norm Bild for providing an article about attending Rep. Castor's Veteran's Roundtable; Jeanne Richard for coordinating with the MacDill AFB 6th Medical Group's Patient and Family Partnership Council updates; Paul McAneny's updates on the February "Thriving After The Military" transition program that is now held quarterly; and Matt Mularoni's wonderful article about the Sunshine Skyway 10K run that salutes military families. I would be remiss not to include our Honorary Chapter Member, BG Larsen, Chairmen of the Coalition, who consistently provides timely updates to include the Coalition's participation in the Operation Helping Hand Bob Silah Memorial Golf Tournament.

Happy Birthday to the US Army Reserve and the US Air Force Reserve this month. Also, we remember our Gold Star Spouses on April 5th and April as the Month of the Military Child. I'm also pleased that we are able to highlight one of our chapter members, CWO4 Francis O'Conner and our November 2019 Luncheon guest speaker, Bill Arcuri as we honor all former POWs on April 9th for National Former POW Recognition Day. CWO4 O'Conner was in a German POW Camp during WWII and Mr. Arcuri was a POW during Vietnam. An article is included about his capture in Vietnam.

Make sure to attend our April Luncheon this month. Our Luncheon guest speaker is Commissioner Mariella Smith. Please take time to read her bio. I'm excited that our web manager Michael Higgins and our chapter member, Nick Nicholson will show the progress of our new website and answer any questions that you may have as we change the look of our website. In the meantime, a lot has been updated

on the current website, so take time to go to www.moaatampa.org when you can.

There is so much to capture about our chapter and all of our many worthy endeavors. I want to echo the comments in our President's Message about reaching out for each of you to help and assist in any way you can. We need to make sure we document and tell our stories for generations to come. As we expand our chapter website to integrate the news published in our monthly newsletter, I would be delighted to have an Assistant Editor. You may contact me at MOAATampa.website@gmail.com!

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. Email me at MOAATampa.website@gmail.com.

Finally, I continue to pray for all who are harmed and pray for all who are recovering from all the effects of the pandemic and uncertainty of the past few years and all the many upsetting things that we see on the news. I especially pray for an end to the terrible war in the Ukraine. Don't forget to reach out and to encourage each other. Prayers for comfort and healing.

"So, let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up."
---Galatians 6:9 (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 Officers' Association of America (MOAA), P.O. Box 6383, MacDill Air Force Base, FL 33608-0383. The Tampa Chapter is a 501(c)(19) tax exempt veterans' organization not associated with the Department of Defense and is an affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA).

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 listed in the main menu ABOUT US then LEADERSHIP may be made by emailing TampaMOAA.Secretary@gmail.com or going to the main menu to CONTACT and email us using the form provided.

FACEBOOK: [MOAA Tampa Chapter](#)

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.moaaf.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.

Air Force Reserve celebrates 70 years



— Published April 13, 2018 - By Air Force Reserve Policy Integration

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Lt. Gen. Maryanne Miller, chief of Air Force Reserve and Air Force Reserve Command commander, hosted the Air Force Reserve 70th Birthday celebration with a cake-cutting ceremony in Airman's Hall at the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia, April 12. The event also featured Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David L. Goldfein as a guest speaker.

The Air Force Reserve was created as a separate component on April 14, 1948, when the Army Air Corps Reserve was transferred to the Air Force. The Air Force Reserve lineage dates back over 100 years to when Reserve Airpower was established in the National Defense Act of 1916. Today nearly 70,000 Citizen Airmen are stationed locally in communities throughout the United States and overseas and serving globally for every Combatant Command in air, space, and cyberspace.

Source: <https://www.afrc.af.mil/News/Article-Display/Article/1492415/air-force-reserve-celebrates-70-years/>



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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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APRIL LUNCHEON GUEST SPEAKER

COMMISSIONER MARIELLA SMITH

Commissioner Mariella Smith was elected Countywide in 2018. She has been a community advocate for decades, working on community plans, transportation plans, growth management, and environmental protection throughout the county.

Commissioner Smith earned an important award for advocating for smart growth management and organizing public participation in community planning. In addition, she has earned several for her work as an environmental advocate.

Commissioner Smith earned her M.A. in Philosophy, majoring in Ethics, from Florida State University. While at FSU she taught classes in Ethics and Logic. In 1988 she started her own business, InSight Graphic Design, which offered print and web design, and web development services. She volunteered for many years as a Table Official for Wheelchair Rugby in national and international tournaments, including the Paralympics; and for years she led the training for Hillsborough County staff for Tampa’s annual international Wheelchair Rugby tournament.

A fourth-generation native of Tampa, Commissioner Smith grew up in Tampa. She and her husband, Tres, lived in Temple Terrace for 12 years. They now live in Ruskin, at the mouth of the Little Manatee River and enjoy hiking and biking in the parks, preserves, and trails within Hillsborough County. She serves on the

- Arts Council of Hillsborough County
- Environmental Protection Commission
- Hillsborough Area Regional Transit Authority (HART)
- Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council (TBRPC)
- Tampa Bay Water Board of Directors
- Transportation Planning Organization (TPO)



Never Forgotten: POWs Operationalize History on NAS Pensacola

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

Thousands of officers and enlisted aviation students receive flight physical evaluations annually through the Naval Aerospace Medical Institute onboard Naval Air Station (NAS) Pensacola. Tucked away in the back of the same building that all of those students receive their first flight physical is the Robert E. Mitchell Center (REMC) for Prisoner of War (POW) Studies.

The goal of the Repatriated POW program and the Center for Prisoner of War Studies is to evaluate the former POWs and their experience both in captivity and through repatriation and reintegration into society so that the data collected from their experiences may be used to help future warriors a resilient combat advantage in future conflicts.

For 46 unbroken years, Vietnam-era Navy POWs as well as POWs from more recent conflicts, have been coming to NAS Pensacola for annual evaluations. In 1993 the Air Force, and then 1996 the Army rejoined the Repatriated POW study.

“With the anticipation of the end of hostilities in Vietnam, plans for the Center for Prisoner of War Studies (CPWS) began in 1971,” said Dr. John P. Albano, MD, program manager for the REMC for POW Studies. “The Department of Defense recognized a lack of extensive longitudinal data, from direct clinical examinations, forecasting the long-term impact of captivity on injury, disease, and psychological problems and established the five-year charter as a tri-service effort under the Naval Health Research Center (NHRC) at San Diego. Operation Homecoming began January 1973 and lasted until late May 1973. Capt. Robert E. Mitchell conducted the examinations for the Navy and Marine Corps repatriated POWs at the Naval Aerospace Medical Research Laboratory (NAMRL) in Pensacola, Florida. The resulting data were then sent to CPWS.”

Navy Cmdr. Bill Franke and Lt. Cmdr. Robert Doremus were the 19th and 20th POWs to check into the Hỏa Lò Prison in Hanoi, commonly referred to the Hanoi Hilton by American POWs. Franke and Doremus’s F-4 Phantom II was shot down over North Vietnam by a surface-to-air missile in August 1965. They were listed as killed in action for almost two years before word got back that they were captured.

“The first SERE (Survive Evade Resist Escape) training focused on escaping, evading and surviving on the sea because if you went down, you’re going to be in the ocean,” said Doremus. “The second one that I had was when I

got into the F-4 Phantom training squadron; they were more worried about you becoming a POW. It took us into a lifelike POW status. The one thing that’s different there is, I had orders that said I was going to come home on Sunday and I didn’t have any orders like that when I was shot down in Vietnam. You know exactly when you’re coming home and what bus you’re going to be on, but you don’t know that in prison. In fact, as most Americans would do, we bet on when we were going to come home. I was shot down in August of ‘65 and my date in the ‘go home pool’ was Groundhog Day, which is February 2. I was only 10 days off [in the month], but I was seven years off.”

Doremus and Franke attribute always having a positive attitude to their drive to live while in captivity. They also said that they learned a lot of things through their training that helped them during their 2,730 days in captivity.

“The survival school tried to make it as realistic as possible, but they couldn’t fully because they weren’t sure who the new enemy would be or what they were going to do to you,” said Doremus. “There were some things that were paramount. When a new prisoner would enter the prison, we would review the code of conduct and explain the tap code (a way of communicating between prisoners). We would also get their name for the list of who the Vietnamese captured, so that later on we could account for them.”

Doremus said that he does not make the trip to Pensacola every year from Ohio to be cured of anything. He comes so that the services can follow him to see how he is performing each year after returning home. He hopes that in the future, the military will know what it might be able to expect when and if there are more POWs.



—Courtesy Photo | Retired Navy Capt. Robert Doremus, 87, reflects on his time as a prisoner of war (POW) during a visit to the Robert E. Mitchell Center for POW Studies Sept. 10.

“Service members continue to come here on a volunteer basis,” said Albano. “They want to contribute to the knowledge base that allows for analyses that would help future warriors, so it’s important for me to do the evaluations, design research questions, conduct the research and provide potential solutions (ie; lessons learned) and give it to the operator so they can employ it in their training new scenarios.”

There were some 600 POWs released from Hanoi in 1973. Dr. Albano has been with the program for the past seven years. He conducts approximately 225-250 POW evaluations annually.

“As I look at the five-year plan and wonder where this program is going to, even though many of the POWs from Vietnam are in their 80s and beginning to pass on, the future of the program is that research can always be done on their data,” said Albano. “We ask all kinds of questions in certain ways and then go back to that data and do the right studies and the right analysis and we can get the answers. If we do go to war with countries, that are demonstrating aggressive behavior in the naval domain, what is the probability that there would be new and an increasing population of, particularly Navy, POWs?”

The mission of the Robert E. Mitchell Center is to determine the long term physical and psychological effects related to POW captivity. Honoring and keeping the faith to a grateful nation’s warriors, the center has remained steady and true ever since Operation Homecoming began in 1973.

Source: <https://www.dvidshub.net/news/341908/never-forgotten-pows-operationalize-history-nas-pensacola>

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:

TSgt Brace
813-827-9785



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MARCH LUNCHEON GUEST SPEAKER

BILL MITCHELL, LTJG (FORMER) US NAVY

Thank you to Bill Mitchell, MOAA Tampa Chapter’s Director for Legal Affairs, for presenting at the March Luncheon about things to consider for health, financial and estate planning.

Bill Mitchell was commissioned Ensign in the United States Navy in December 1970. He was subsequently stationed at the Navy Supply School in Athens Georgia and then assigned to the USS Simon Lake (AS-33), which was one of the first vessels to be outfitted for Poseidon missiles. After being discharged from the Navy he went to graduate school of the University of California Berkeley subsequently getting a masters degree in economics and a JD. He subsequently obtained a masters in tax law from Georgetown University. Bill has worked for the Federal Trade Commission and was involved in a major investigation of the oil industry. Since 1980 he has been a practicing attorney in Tampa, Florida.

He is board certified in labor and employment law served as chairman for the certification committee for labor and employment law. He is AV rated and was named the Florida Super Lawyer in labor and employment law. He is the co-author of Employee Fringe Welfare Benefit Plans and the author of the Estate and Retirement Planning Answer Book and Employer Health Care Plans After the Affordable Care Act. He is the president of Mitchell Law Group in Tampa.



MOAA Tampa Supports Heaven Dropt Honoring Angels of the Sky

Norm Bild, MOAA Tampa Chapter with Councilman Kimberly Overman, who was MOAA Tampa’s August 2021 Luncheon guest speaker attended Heaven Dropt’s event this past March.



Honoring One Of MOAA Tampa Chapter’s Own Former POW’s



CWO4 Francis Xavier O’Connell, USA RET, WWII Veteran and Former POW in Germany. Your service and dedication to our great Nation is not forgotten. Thank you Sir!

America’s Army Reserve and its People, Shaping Tomorrow



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

On April 23rd, America’s Army Reserve will celebrate the generations of Soldiers who, like many patriots before them, embraced their roles as “Citizen Soldiers,” continuing their proud and distinguished legacy of service in the Army Reserve. Through the Cold War, Korea, Vietnam, the Persian Gulf War, and the Global War on Terror, and countless other crises, operations, emergencies, and natural disasters, Warrior Citizens of the Army Reserve have never failed to answer the Nation’s call.

April 23, 1908, Congress created the Medical Reserve Corps, a group of 160 doctors formed to provide the Nation with a reservoir of trained medical professionals for employment in times of national emergency.

A month after Congress established the Medical Reserve Corps in 1908, one of the Army Reserve’s greatest Citizen Soldiers, President Theodore Roosevelt, signed the bill into law. Later, under the National Defense Act of 1920, Congress created the Organized Reserves for officers and enlisted.

Today, that reserve force is known as the U.S. Army Reserve, a specialized and skill-rich force of more than 189,000 Warrior Citizens.

Throughout history, Citizen Soldiers have leveraged professional skills while serving in uniform, adding substantial value and depth to the force, with skills, education and expertise acquired in the private sector.

The U.S. Army Reserve has always been, and will continue to be, comprised of men and women with great talents and throughout history, Citizen Soldiers have leveraged professional skills while serving in uniform, adding substantial value and depth to the force, with skills, education and expertise acquired in the private sector.

The U.S. Army Reserve is comprised of men and women with unique talents and abilities, and they manifest themselves through leadership, bravery, and strong ambition.

The U.S. Army Reserve is comprised of men and women with unique talents and abilities, and they manifest themselves through leadership, bravery, and strong ambition.

Since the activation of the Medical Reserve 114 years ago, the United States government mobilized more than one million Army Reserve Soldiers for the defense of the nation. Since 2001, more than 300,000 Army Reserve Soldiers have been mobilized and routinely deployed in 30 countries around the world, to include every major combat zone.




The service of these patriots made a decisive impact on the history of our country and of the world for the cause of freedom and democracy.

As we begin our next 114 years of service, we do so as one of the most battle-tested and experienced forces in our nation’s history. We are Ready Now... Shaping Tomorrow!

Join us, April 23, 2022, as we begin our next 114 years of service, we do so as one of the most battle-tested and experienced forces in our nation’s history.

Happy 114th Birthday, Army Reserve!

Source: <https://www.usar.army.mil/ArmyReserveBirthday/>



APRIL LUNCHEON MEETING

EVENT: Chapter Monthly Luncheon Meeting
DATE: Thursday, 14 April **TIME:** 1130 hours
LOCATION: Columbia Centennial Museum in Ybor City, corner of 21st Street and 7th Ave.
RESERVATIONS: Call 813-676-4676 and follow the prompts OR via email at: bab@digital.net
REMEMBER: a reservation made is a reservation paid.
Reservations must be made by NOON Friday, 8 April. Reservations are limited to 50.
CANCELLATIONS: must be made by NOON Monday, 11 April by calling 813-676-4676.
COST: Event cost is \$30 payable by check or cash, \$32 by credit card (includes service charge).
MASKS: Masks are optional but encouraged.
DRESS CODE: Now in Daylight Savings, proper attire is business casual for all (for the men, slacks/collared shirts). Military uniforms are always appropriate.
MENU: 1905 Salad, Cuban bread and butter, Paella de Pollo, Boliche, White Rice, Yuca
Coffee, Iced Tea, Soft Drinks and Dulce De Leche
PARKING: Behind the Museum building, across the street from the Columbia Restaurant and behind the Columbia Restaurant


Or by Zoom:

One Tap Mobile: US: [+16465588656](tel:+16465588656) or [+13017158592](tel:+13017158592) or [+13126266799](tel:+13126266799) or [+17207072699](tel:+17207072699) or [+12532158782](tel:+12532158782) or [+13462487799](tel:+13462487799)

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

Meeting ID: 897 0829 2982 Passcode: 206251

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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
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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!**

**Daniel I. Paton IV
Maj USA Retired**

“He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from off all faces.”
Isaiah 25:8



**IMPORTANT DATES
IN APRIL 2022**

Month of the Military Child

Military Saves Month

1 April Fool’s Day

2 Ramadan begins (ends 2 May)

5 Gold Star Spouses Day

9 National Former POW Recognition Day

14 US Air Force Reserve Birthday

15 Good Friday

17 Easter

22 Earth Day

23 Army Reserve Birthday

30 National Military Brats Day



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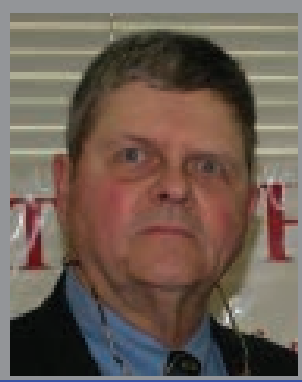
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UPDATE OPERATION HELPING HAND



LTC JIM GRIFFIN
Chairman, OPHH

“As long as we are
needed, Operation Help-
ing Hand will be there...”



On MARCH 17th, OPERATION HELPING HAND held ITS 196TH DINNER in support of the wounded and injured who receive treatment at the SCI/POLYTRAUMA facilities at the JAMES A HALEY VA HOSPITAL. We were honored to have MR. JOE BATTLE, RETIRED DIRECTOR OF THE JAHVA HOSPITAL.

Very special thanks to the very supportive folks at BOOZ ALLEN HAMILTON, who sponsored the dinner and became very active participants. Thank you BILL HALL and the BAH staff who

joined us.

The BRANDON RUNNING ASSOCIATION had a very successful SHAMROCK 5K & 1 MILE FUN RUN ON 13 MARCH. They will be joining us for the APRIL DINNER.

THE BOB SILAH MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT ON 25 MARCH WAS A TOTAL SELL-OUT and the details will be provided in the MAY UPDATE.

The TAMPA ROTARY CLUB OF WESTCHASE CLAY SHOOT WILL BE HELD ON 1 APRIL. OPERATION HELPING HAND will continue to provide support and assistance to the MUSIC, ART, VIRTUAL REALITY, AND THE NEW MOTION THERAPY PROGRAMS. We will always continue to support the POLYTRAUMA FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP which provides a vital mission to join old and new patients and their families.

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

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

STAY SAFE, HEALTHY, AND RESILIENT!

Operation Helping Hand March Dinner Photos

Photo credit: LTC Bob Sawallesh, USA (Ret)



WHAT GOES UP MUST COME DOWN

—By LTC (R) Matt Mularoni, USA, 2nd VP of MOAA Tampa



Start Line - Matt Mularoni and Tracey (former US Army SP4 Tracey Mularoni)



Skyway Start - close-up photo of the start line



Skyway 10k group of 3 Matt, Tracey, and Tiffany Nagy (former US Army CPT and Blackhawk helicopter pilot)



Finishers medal - Matt and Tracey



Sunrise Rise of the Skyway - Matt's view from the route (I275 approaching bridge) as sun rises



Skyway 10k flag bearers - group of designated flag bearers on the route



Skyway 10k Finisher Medal

On Sunday, March 6, 2022, the Skyway 10K returned! With a howitzer firing battery by Florida National Guard Artillery Soldiers providing the starting gun, and just as the sun was rising over Tampa Bay, over 6,800 runners, walkers, and a select group of hand-chair participants of all skill levels had the opportunity to cross over the east span of the Bob Graham Sunshine Skyway Bridge in the 5th Annual Skyway 10K. In its fifth year, the iconic bridge, covering three Florida counties, served as the breathtaking setting and 6.2-mile course for an incredible race experience.

The Skyway 10k race is organized and hosted by the Armed Forces Families Foundation (AFFF) which was established to help give the military families in the Tampa Bay area a sense of community support and well-being while their loved ones are away fighting for our freedom. To date, the SKYWAY 10K has more than \$1.8 million for the local Armed Forces families with this number surely to grow after the 2022 race.

With fitting military precision, and a little of “hurry-up-and-wait”, starting at 0445, participants lined up to load buses at Tropicana Field for transport to the start line at the south rest area of I-275. Once crossing the start line, there was a gradual 2.5 mile build-up until the participants crossed the King/Queen of the Hill timing mat at the base of the climb. Just a mile later, the 4% climb to the top of the span was completed

and the 2.2 mile downhill to the finish line began. After crossing the finish line near the North Pier rest stop, participants were bused back to Tropicana Field. Back at Tropicana Field, vendors, beer tents, and live music welcomed and celebrated all the participants.

Mr. Ian Walsh of Bradenton, FL was the overall winner in a time of 31 minutes 51 seconds. Ms. Abby Torrance of St. Petersburg, FL, was the female winner in a time of 42 minutes 11 seconds.

The Armed Forces Families Foundation is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that utilizes 100 percent of funds to give back to local communities to support military families. The AFFF is comprised of a 100 percent volunteer-based organization, which enables the Foundation to operate without any overhead costs. With over \$3.8 million raised, the AFFF strives to continue to make a difference in our Tampa Bay area military communities.

If you are interested in joining this amazing event in the future, general registration for the 2023 Skyway 10K will be based on a lottery, through which hopeful runners will need to register when it opens in mid-October 2022 at Skyway10K.com. If you would rather support the race as a volunteer, the race needs over 500 volunteers to make the race happen, questions about volunteering ---- email volunteer@skyway10k.com

[skyway10k.com](https://www.skyway10k.com).

100 PERCENT of all SKYWAY 10K race registrations will benefit the AFFF going directly to support military families. All funds remain local so donors can see their dollars at work. Please visit armedforcesfamilies.org for more information or to donate.

Source: <https://www.skyway10k.com/about/>

References:
Armed Forces Family Foundation
<https://www.facebook.com/armedforcesfamilies> @armedforcesfamilies
<http://www.armedforcesfamilies.org>

Sunshine Skyway 10k
[@Skyway10K](https://www.facebook.com/Skyway10K)

Race Results
<https://runsignup.com/Race/Results/114046#resultSetId304173:perpage:100>

Local News Articles about Race
<https://www.wtsp.com/article/sports/outdoors/skyway10k/skyway-10k-2022-coverage/67-6c11cc4c-2545-441d-8be9-a76429c63d21?fbclid=IwAR2XXyOC83nMwtbgNDnGC3t5fM6kIHku-ZouvQuy3e7hwn2azAPTHF6mf3QI>

https://stpetecatalyst.com/flawless-the-2020-skyway-10kin-review/?fbclid=IwAR1I6jS7qUjr6lQpTCDGCGRAOH2ybj_IQjsyhR7or8GtVo8ans_gIA2j9sk

Space Ops Center Strengthened With First Two Inter-Service Transfers

—By Lt. Col. Mae-Li Allison Combined Force Space Component Command Public Affairs

VANDENBERG SPACE FORCE BASE, Calif. — The Combined Space Operations Center (CSpOC) recently welcomed its first two inter-service transfer personnel, both of whom transitioned from the U.S. Army to the U.S. Space Force.

Technical Sgt. Justin Young and Sgt. Christopher Cameron joined the CSpOC's Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance division in early 2022 and will begin their familiarization training in the coming weeks. They will be a part of a team of more than 17,000 Combined Force Space Component Command (CFSCC) personnel located across the nation who plan, task, direct, monitor, and assess the execution of combined and joint space operations for theater effects on behalf of the U.S. Space Command Commander, directly integrating with ongoing operations in other combatant commands.

“Both of these non-commissioned officers bring a wealth



of knowledge and experience to the table,” said Maj. Gen. DeAnna Burt, CFSCC commander. “They’re not only going to help strengthen the CSpOC team and CFSCC’s support to U.S. Space Command and our allies and partners, but they’re also going to be at the forefront building up our U.S. Space Force culture.”

The U.S. Space Force was established on Dec. 20, 2019, and initially the only personnel to transfer into the new military branch were about 6,000 U.S. Air Force Airmen. Fiscal Years 2022 and 2023 are when the first inter-service transfers from the Army and Navy are scheduled to take place, and both Young and Cameron were part of the first tranche of Army transfers.

Young’s previous assignment was with the 1st battalion, 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne), in Okinawa, Japan, where he worked as the geospatial/imagery intelligence non-commissioned officer in charge. He thinks his prior intelligence experience, specifically in space imagery, likely helped him in his selection to join the Space Force.

“I was ready to join the Space Force as soon as I could,” said Young. “I came to the Space force to understand more about space operations and contribute whatever I can to its benefit and defense.”

[CLICK HERE TO CONTINUE READING THE STORY](#)

WEARABLE SENSORS MAY BE FUTURE OPTION FOR ASSESSING TOXIN EXPOSURES

—Submitted by: Sara Marks, CAPT NC USN (Ret)
BY C. TODD LOPEZ, DOD NEWS

The Defense Department, military services and Veterans Affairs are doing a lot now to assess the effects of airborne hazards, including open burn pits, on the health of current and veteran service members who may have been exposed while deployed overseas in places like Iraq and Afghanistan.

Capitol Hill lawmakers on Wednesday were also interested in how the military services might one day evaluate an individual service member’s exposure to toxins with wearable sensors, rather than with the kinds of static sensors being used today.

“We’re very interested in wearables,” said Dr. Terry Rauch, the acting deputy assistant secretary of defense for health readiness policy and oversight. “The reason is because our emphasis, our focus really needs to be on individual exposure monitoring.”

Speaking before the Senate Armed Services Committee’s subcommittee on personnel, Rauch said wearable technology may allow the department to one day more closely monitor an individual’s precise exposure to health-affecting toxins in a way that’s just not possible today.

Spotlight: Science and Tech
“If we can’t figure out what the dose of the exposure was and



what they were exposed to, then it’s very difficult to capture their response,” he said.

Navy Capt. Brian L. Feldman, commander of the Navy and Marine Corps Public Health Center, told lawmakers the Navy is already looking at such wearable technology for use on submarines.



“One unique thing that Navy medicine is doing with research and development [is that] we’ve got some very robust submarine atmospheric monitoring, quite a robust and safe program. And R&D [research and development] is looking at silicone bands, wearables so that you can get individual-level exposure data on a submarine,” he said. Both Air Force and Army witnesses at the hearing also said that their respective services are interested in wearable detectors.

Spotlight: Engineering in the DOD
When it comes to better understanding how service members will react to exposure to toxins — such as those produced by exposure to burn pits, fuels, solvents, or even dust and sand, Rauch said it’s also important for the services to know how an individual service member’s personal health habits and history might affect his or her response.

“In addition to wearables, we need to understand more about how the individual responds to environmental exposures,”



Rauch said. “What risks do they bring [and] other background lifestyle factors, such as smoking a pack a day before you deploy, [as well as] other lifestyle factors or even what genetic background individuals bring. We need to understand those because they’re going to have an impact, and science isn’t there, yet, but we’re pursuing it.”

Rauch also said the Defense Department is working with the Department of Veterans Affairs on a variety of tools to better inform health care providers about what a service members’ past exposure to toxins might be.

One such tool — the Individual Longitudinal Exposure Record — is expected to reach full operational capability in 2023. It allows medical professionals to match an individual service member’s or veteran’s location data — such as where they were deployed and when — against existing databases that document exposure risks, so doctors can get a better picture of what a patient might have been exposed to.

“The department remains committed to continually improving our understanding of exposures of concern and potential health effects in order to prevent and mitigate exposures and clinically assess, treat and care for our service members and veterans,” Rauch said.

Source: <https://www.defense.gov/News/News-Stories/Article/Article/2972573/wearable-sensors-may-be-future-option-for-assessing-toxin-exposures/>

MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

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



Military students celebrate Purple Up Day during Month of the Military Child. (DoDEA)

Each year, April is set aside as a military child appreciation month, officially known as the Month of the Military Child. With its creation in the mid-1980s, the Pentagon and other military support organizations and agencies use the month to recognize military kids for their sacrifice and bravery on the homefront.

The term “military brat” is a badge of pride worn by generations of kids who traveled the world with their parents, moving into adulthood with the knowledge that they have the strength to handle anything. Military children deal with separations, deployments, frequent moves and even their parents’ injuries as part of the life they were born into or entered with their families.

Their strength and resiliency are inspirational. Especially this year, as many of them are facing new learning from home adventures, extended separations from a parent and delayed PCSes.

Military.com joins with the [Army](#), [Air Force](#), [Space Force](#), [Marine Corps](#), [Navy](#) and [Coast Guard](#) in recognition of our military kids.

Military Child Discounts

Some businesses offer discounts and freebies as a part of Month of the Military Child. Par-

ents should check in their local area for specific programs.

Many businesses also offer discounts for military children. Check out [these military discounts that celebrate military kids](#).

Military Child Events

Military bases worldwide offer events and celebrations during April as part of the Month of the Military Child. From carnivals and festivals, to giveaways and freebies, family officials spend the month making military children feel special. Parents should check with their local base for details on the events in their area.

The Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) wants students to wear purple on April 19 in celebration of the month and what they’re calling “Purple Up” day. Rock your purple shirt no matter where you are!

Military Child Awards

Each April, Operation Homefront marks Month of the Military Child by hosting a gala and awards presentation for their Military Child of the Year Awards. Each branch winner still will receive the \$10,000 prize, a laptop computer and other donated gifts. In 2020 and 2021 the awards occurred without a gala.

The Military Child of the Year awardees are selected through a nomination process that begins each fall. Children ages 13 to 18 are eligible for the awards, and awardees are selected based on their “scholarship, volunteerism, leadership, extracurricular involvement, and other criteria while facing the challenges of military family life,” [according to Operation Homefront](#).

Mental Health Resources for Military Children

The American Red Cross also has resources to help military children with their mental health.

A series of courses offered online can help families connect with each other, particularly before and after deployments. They also give ideas for connecting with kids and developing a plan as a family when you are facing a military-related separation.

The Red Cross also offers free confidential mental wellness classes hosted virtually. The courses are designed to help military kids work through stress. To view the available courses, [check the Red Cross website](#).

Keep Up with the Ins and Outs of Military Life

For the latest military news and tips on military family benefits and more, [sign up for a free Military.com membership](#) and have the information you need delivered directly to your inbox. Related Topics: [SpouseBuzz](#) [Military Kids](#) [Holidays and Events](#) [Holidays](#) [Family and Spouse](#)

ARMOR BRIGADE WORKLOAD MAY DRAMATICALLY INCREASE IF UKRAINE CRISIS HOLDS

—Submitted by: Sara Marks, CAPT NC USN (Ret)
By [Davis Winkie](#)



—Troops with 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, go to the range after receiving Abrams tanks from pre-positioned stocks in the Grafenwoehr training area, Germany, March 2, 2022. (Army/Cpl. Austin Riel)

FORT STEWART, Ga. — Sergeant Major of the Army Michael Grinston faced a math problem when fielding questions at a [town hall for families](#) of deployed 3rd Infantry Division soldiers Wednesday evening: how many armored brigade combat teams does the Army have, and how many does it need?

According to a force structure expert, the answer could be grim for members of the service’s 11 active component and five National Guard ABCTs. If current mission requirements — totaling nearly five ABCTs worldwide — hold without a change in force structure, their operational tempo could see a major increase, said Mark F. Cancian, a senior adviser at the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

“If we tried to maintain all of those...I think the [operational tempo] would be very severe,” Cancian told Army Times in a phone interview.

Service officials said they’re always monitoring issues like these to see how unit deployments impact the force at large. “While the Army continually assesses its force structure and forward posture, we have no announcements to make at this time,” Army spokesman Jason Waggoner told Army Times. The Army currently has just under five ABCTs committed around the world. In recent years, the Army has only needed to have three overseas at any given time.

- 1st ABCT, 1st Infantry Division has been in Europe [since July 2021](#) as part of a now indefinitely extended Atlantic Resolve rotation.
- 3rd ABCT, 4th Infantry Division was scheduled to replace the 1st ID unit on Atlantic Resolve this spring, and [Netherlands military officials recently said](#) their equipment will arrive in Europe “the last week of March.”
- 1st ABCT, 3rd Infantry Division rapidly deployed to

Europe after the Ukraine invasion, falling in on the service’s [pre-positioned tank and Bradley stocks](#) in the region.

- 1st ABCT, 1st Armored Division arrived in South Korea and [uncased its colors on March 10](#) for a nine-month rotation.
- Elements of the Idaho National Guard’s 116th Cavalry Brigade Combat Team, including the 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 163rd Cavalry Regiment, are currently positioned [throughout the Central Command area of responsibility](#) supporting Operation Spartan Shield and the counter-ISIS campaign.

The soldiers of the 3rd Infantry Division’s 1st ABCT were barely home for six months from a nine-month rotation to South Korea before they were ordered to Europe in the wake of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. Family members were frustrated by the quick turnaround.

It’s not yet clear whether the Army will be asked to maintain three brigades in Europe long-term, Grinston told them. But if that becomes an enduring requirement, he said, “in order to get three [ABCTs deployed], you need nine.”

“Somebody has got to replace you, and somebody just came back,” he said, noting the active component only has 11 ABCTs. “We have other commitments for our [ABCTs] in the world right now. You can see how this math is going, right?”

Currently, Guard troops are unable to participate in the European surge. Army planners are still determining if, and under what legal mobilization authorities, part-time troops could deploy.

That means the Regular Army currently has only 11 armor brigades to fulfill demand for four ABCTs — since the Guard handles the Spartan Shield mission. That could leave the service struggling to maintain the Defense Department’s 1:2 minimum deployment-to-dwell time ratio, although the Korea mission does not count as deployment time and it’s not yet clear whether the Europe missions will count as deployments.

More ABCTs? Forward-stationing?

According to Cancian, who is also a retired Marine Corps colonel, the Army could reduce its burden by permanently stationing a brigade in Europe or creating a 12th active duty ABCT. Another option could be to reduce the service’s global commitments — such as ending the CENTCOM armor mission — he said.

The Army once had as many as seven armor brigades in Europe at the height of the Cold War, but they were gradually drawn down, and the final Europe-stationed armor brigade was [inactivated in 2013](#).

“The pretty obvious option would be to make one of the brigades [in Europe] permanent,” Cancian said. The drawback is the cost of building “a U.S. base with all of the support activities — families, the housing and everything else.”

Although there are “a lot of downsides” to that approach, Cancian added. “We can’t ignore the fact that this could be a very long-term competition and rotational units [aren’t] going to be



—Soldiers from 1/163rd Combined Arms Battalion, unload M2A3 Bradley Fighting Vehicles off a U.S. Air Force C-17 Globemaster in north-east Syria on Jan. 31, 2022. (Army/Spc. William Gore)

adequate.”

Cancian noted that countries like Poland and Lithuania have been soliciting a permanent U.S. armor presence and would likely help subsidize the cost of infrastructure.

The force structure expert also explained that there are three ways to create an ABCT: getting Congress to increase the Army’s personnel by enough to create a new brigade, cutting personnel in various corners of the service to free up authorized end strength to stand up a new ABCT, or convert an existing infantry or Stryker BCT into an ABCT.

The Army has converted [three BCTs to ABCTs](#) since 2016.

But none of these options are cheap, Cancian said, and he thinks the service is unlikely to get more personnel in the fiscal 2023 budget. Nor does he think the Army will be able to find enough personnel to cut from existing authorizations in order to form a 12th ABCT.

That leaves conversion as the most likely path, in his eyes, should the Army not want to forward-station a brigade.

Ultimately, the issue depends on whether the armor brigades are needed in Europe long-term, and if the budget math will change because of the crisis. Cancian pointed to the upcoming release of the fiscal 2023 budget plan as an important indicator of the service’s intentions for addressing the potential ABCT shortage.

“We’ll see what comes out of the [FY23] budget and the associated five-year plan...[previously,] many strategists would reduce the tank and Bradley programs to pay for other ones,” he said. “In the budget now, I would expect that...they would compete relative [to other programs] much better than they would have...a month ago. We’ll get some insights.”

Editor’s note: This story was updated March 22, 2022, at 3 p.m. with a statement from an Army spokesman.

Source: <https://www.armytimes.com/news/your-army/2022/03/22/armor-brigade-workload-may-dramatically-increase-if-ukraine-crisis-holds/>

Navy marks the 100th anniversary of the service’s aircraft carriers

—Submitted by: Sara Marks, CAPT NC USN (Ret)
By [Diana Stancy Correll](#)



—Sailors aboard the aircraft carrier Nimitz assemble on the flight deck and form a human “100” to commemorate the centennial of the aircraft carrier. (MC3 Elliot Schaudt/Navy)

Aircraft carriers joined the Navy fleet 100 years ago this month.

“For 100 years aircraft carriers have been the most survivable and versatile airfields in the world,” [Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Michael Gilday said](#) during a Navy League centennial celebration Monday in Norfolk. “Perhaps no single military platform distinguishes what our nation is ... and what it stands for ... more than the aircraft carrier.”

The aircraft carrier concept originated with Cmdr. Kenneth

Whiting, naval aviator, as a way to transport planes within the fleet using cargo ships. Whiting was subsequently involved in transforming the collier Jupiter into the first aircraft carrier Langley, according to Naval History and Heritage Command.

The carrier was commissioned March 20, 1922.

“The nuclear-powered aircraft carrier is the Nation’s premier class of warship,” said Capt. Craig Sicola, commanding officer of the aircraft carrier Nimitz, in a Navy news release. “It is without a doubt the United States’ strongest asset when it comes to maintaining superiority of the seas, protecting international maritime trade and deterring foreign aggression.”

Of course, there have been many notable carriers in U.S. history, and two of them carried the same name. The USS Enterprise (CV-6) racked up 20 Battle Stars and became the most decorated warship during WWII. [Another carrier named Enterprise](#) (CVN 65) became the first nuclear-powered carrier when it was commissioned in 1961.



Aircraft carriers also served as the “primary base for American air power” following the 9/11 terrorist attacks, according to the [Naval History and Heritage Command](#). The Theodore Roosevelt joined carriers Enterprise and Carl Vinson in October 2001 to conduct the initial strike operations against Taliban and al-Qaida forces at the onset of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Overall, Navy carrier aircraft accounted for 70 percent of all strike missions conducted during the early stages of Operation Enduring Freedom from October 2001 to the end of December 2001, according to Naval History and Heritage Command.

On March 12, sailors from the Nimitz formed a “100” on the flight deck to commemorate the centennial anniversary. The carrier, which is operating off the coast of Southern California, concluded a 10-month deployment in February 2021, and was the first carrier to deploy following the COVID-19 pandemic in April 2020.

The ship is one of the Navy’s 11 Nimitz- and [Ford-class](#) nuclear-powered aircraft carriers.

Source: <https://www.navytimes.com/news/your-navy/2022/03/22/navy-marks-the-100th-anniversary-of-the-services-aircraft-carriers/>

Coalition Corner

Submitted by: BGEN Henrik Larsen



I trust you are all doing great enjoying sunny Florida now that the humidity is still relatively low.

Two days after I wrote my input for the March edition Russia invaded Ukraine. We are all closely monitoring the development and most of us are engaged with our national authorities in the continued efforts to act in accordance with political directives. As noted, earlier Ukraine is not part of US CENTCOM area of responsibility, but the situation is obviously having a direct or indirect global impact. Whenever we have to prioritize our immediate actions resource allocation becomes a central element affecting us all. The context in which we have to act has changed dramatically. The expectations and the plan we had yesterday suddenly became obsolete forcing us to engage in establishing an effective and timely response without causing further escalation. As you are all aware this is primarily focused within the diplomatic, economic, and informational domains. Although it is hard to identify an obvious solution that will end the conflict as it relates to Ukraine, I hope that our friends there will be able to return to some kind of normality relatively soon.

On April 1st US CENTCOM commander General McKenzie retired. During the change of command ceremony that same day General Eric Michael Kurilla assumed command of US CENTCOM. General Kurilla recently served as the Chief of Staff US CENTCOM. Within the international coalition we are all looking forward to working with General Kurilla and to further

enhance the cooperation between US CENTCOM and the Senior National Representatives currently serving at MacDill AFB.

As always it was a great honour and privilege to attend to monthly Helping Hand dinner up at the South University of Florida. I had the pleasure of bringing colleagues from UK and Egypt along. I find it very positive that it has been decided to bring patients over to attend the dinner the way it was done at the V.A. Hospital before COVID. I was especially happy to meet Gabriel and his mother Miriam again. I first met Gabriel at the V.A. Hospital when I arrived here in Tampa almost four years ago. His development is truly remarkable. Gabriel is without doubt one of the true heroes that I feel very privileged to have met.

Representatives from the Coalition participated in the Operation Helping Hand golf tournament at MacDill in late March. We all had a very nice day playing golf while watching the practice flights prior to the MacDill AFB Airfest. It is indeed somewhat special to have the Blue Angels and other aircraft passing very low as we were moving along the course. A day to remember. Thanks to Jim Griffin and the team for inviting us again. We did not win any prizes but for sure we won a day that we will never forget.

On behalf of the entire International Coalition, I wish you all a happy April.

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



Gabriel and his mother Miriam with BG Larsen at the March Operation Helping Hand Dinner

The Coalition Foursome at the Operation Helping Hand Bob Silah Memorial Golf Tournament



Player from left to right:
Erik Sorensen - Denmark • Ondrej Reiman - Czech Republic
Henrik Larsen - Denmark • Tim Johnston - Australia



Operation Helping Hand Bob Silah Memorial Golf Tournament

Photo credit: Bob Sawallesh, Tom South, Ben Ritter, Sara Marks and Carol Zieres



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 surviving spouse. You MUST, however, be a member of MOAA National.

Please visit <https://www.moaa.org/> 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

End-of-Life Documents

By: Barbara Ann Bowman

Most people would list among end-of-life documents a will, a trust, an advance directive, a DNR (do not resuscitate) order, and a durable power of attorney. But the list of documents that deal with end-of-life issues is much longer. Deeds to real property, beneficiary declaration for life insurance, and the signature card to a bank account are all end-of-life documents. They determine who gets what and through which legal procedure when someone dies.

Fortunately, checklists to help create an end-of-life plan are available through a number of trustworthy organizations. Among them:

- MOAA's [Help Your Survivors Now: A Guide to Planning Ahead](#)
- VA's [Planning Your Legacy](#)
- Military.com's [Military Retiree Survivor Checklist](#)
- State Bar Association articles and forms



1kate_sept2004/Getty Images

Research these resources, pick a checklist, or create one of your own. Gather legal documents you already have, including will, trust documents, health care directives, powers of attorney, beneficiary designations, asset inventory, deeds, military papers, instructions to access digital

accounts, and contact information for family.

Consult professionals — lawyer, accountant, insurance agent, financial advisor — to help put together the plan, and then review, update, redraft, and re-execute documents, lists, and paperwork when needed.

At least once a year, review and update the plan. Have circumstances changed? Do the documents do what they are intended to do? Have state or federal laws affecting any of these documents changed? Are lists of assets current? Are titles to real estate, bank accounts, and vehicles correct? Are beneficiary designations still good?

Discuss your plan with those who hold health care proxy, powers of attorney, and other authority over your person and property. Put documents in a safe place, yet where they can be accessed by those in whom you have placed trust.

Be proactive. End-of-life documents are in reality life's documents. Deal with them now.

MEDICAL CORNER

THE 6TH MEDICAL GROUP PATIENT AND FAMILY PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL, MACDILL AFB

—Submitted by Jeanne Richard, Lt Col USAF Retired

What is this you ask? Well, here's the scoop!

"The 6th Medical Group (6 MDG) is among a growing number of clinics that are committed to patient and family centered care in the planning, design, and delivery of care. Our goal is to listen to the voice of our patients and their families. We want our patients and families to help us provide the highest quality of care to every patient, every time. This council will assist us as we work to become one of the best clinics in the Military Health System and our community. What our patients and families think is important as we work to provide safe, high quality and compassionate care."

The Council meets quarterly with the next meeting scheduled for 15 April 2022. I am currently a member of the Council and would be interested in any comments or suggestions that I can bring to the group for discussion. Topics discussed in the past include 1) pharmacy access; 2) prescription renewal; 3) immunization services; 4) COVID vaccines and testing; 5) 6th Medical Group volunteer opportunities; 6) Council member volunteer.

If you have ideas to help improve Medical Group services, please consider joining the Council. We meet quarterly and are seeking motivated patients and family members to serve as a council member on the team. Your ideas will be considered by the Executive Staff and could promote positive change in the HealthCare System. If you are interested, please contact:

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Education and Training Flight Commander
6 MDG MacDill AFB, FL
COMM: 813-828-5222/813-827-1057
oruaro.n.idudhe.mil@mail.mil



MOAA Tampa Chapter Transition Event “Thriving After Military Service” Update

—By Paul J. McAneny, COL USAF (Ret)

On Tuesday, February 15th, the Tampa MOAA Chapter hosted it's third ever quarterly event for transitioning military members and their families. The popular event is titled “Thriving After Military Service” and, rather than the typical transition events which are focused on, job skills, resume writing, networking, etc., the MOAA event addressed leading fulfilling lives following your military service. The theme of the morning portion of this unique seminar was “a focus on the family” with speakers from TRICARE and the Veterans Administration as well as local Financial Advisors and Attorneys.

The afternoon was dedicated to “a focus on the community” with representatives and volunteers from organizations such as MOAA's own Tampa Chapter, Association of the US Army-SunCoast Chapter, The Long Walk Home LLC, 1st US Volunteer Cavalry Regiment – Rough Riders, Tampa Sports Authority, Evo



Fitness, and the South Tampa Chamber of Commerce. Attendees included a variety of ranks (officer and enlisted) from all four services. One enthusiastic attendee stated, “Extremely valuable! I'm in the middle of my transition now and this was the only venue I've seen that covered these topics.”

We are continuing to work with our full time partners, Tampa's own FIVE Labs/USbioskills Lab and Conference Center. The FIVE Labs CEO is from a military family and also a member of the local

South Tampa Chamber of Commerce who wanted to participate in an event supporting our local military and veteran community. FIVE Labs will be our permanent home for this event saving us significant money by providing their superb venue free of charge every quarter.

A residual benefit of conducting the “Thriving After Military Service” seminar was that it served as a productive marketing and recruiting event for our



local chapter. If you're interested the next event or future events, please contact: Paul J. McAneny at pmcaneny@1847financial.com or call (813) 720-4763.

The MOAA Tampa Transition Seminar will be held quarterly with the next event scheduled for Tuesday, May 10th.

Vietnam War pilot tells his story of being shot down over enemy territory and his time as a POW

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



—Photo credit courtesy of Bill Arcuri

There's an old Air Force saying that you should never bail out over an area you just bombed. But that's exactly what happened to Bill Arcuri when he was forced to bail out of his damaged plane over Vietnam.

On Dec. 20, 1972, after successfully bombing railroad marshaling yards in Yin Vien, Vietnam, three surface air missiles hit the B-52 that he was co-piloting with a crew of six. The crew ejected strapped to their seats. Four made it out alive, and two were unaccounted for, their remains were eventually returned years later.

He landed in a bamboo field and said the stalks were about 10-12-feet tall and splintered when he landed on them. The shards stuck in his arms and penetrated his helmet.

Arcuri said one of the reasons he suffered such severe injuries was because he couldn't control his extremities as he was plummeting to the ground at about 400-500 miles-per-hour.

"There were a couple of holes ripped in the chute," he said. "Which is why I came down so fast."



Arcuri and his crew were in the midst of an 11-day bombing mission, Operation Linebacker II, more commonly known as the Christmas bombings or the December Raids. President Nixon ordered the bombings in December 1972, to force the North Vietnamese back to the stalled peace negotiations.

Seriously injured, he used his radio to make one last broadcast then he smashed it. He took all the bullets out of his gun and threw them as far as he could. It was a good thing he did because angry villagers descended on him—one man took the gun, aimed it at him and pulled the trigger. An old lady also smacked him on the side of the head with a hoe. He said he was fortunate the civilian militia came and rescued him from the furious villagers.

"They fought them off with their weapons," he said. "They saved my life."

Arcuri said the militia then turned him over to the North Vietnamese military who took him on an arduous trip to Hanoi. At the beginning of the trip, he was blindfolded and put on a bus, where he was briefly reunited with one of his crewmembers.

He said as he boarded the bus, he looked under his blindfold and saw his pilot, who was also blindfolded. He asked him if he had seen anyone else. They were separated after that, and

Arcuri was then thrown into the back of a jeep, landing on his gunner.

"We went from village to village—it's like they were showing us off," he said. "It was a long ride to Hanoi."

Arcuri said they stayed in a village until the people there became unruly and then they would leave. Eventually, he and his fellow crew arrived in Hanoi and were put into Hỏa Lò prison (the name means fiery furnace), more commonly known as the infamous Hanoi Hilton.

The day after arriving at the prison, he saw his pilot from the bus. He then spent the next three to four days in solitary confinement and was interrogated. He eventually moved to another room with other injured crewmembers. Arcuri spent 55 days there and said he lost over 50 pounds.

But Arcuri is adamant that the North Vietnamese did not torture him.

"We were treated ok," he said. "I was manhandled, but not tortured—not like the older prisoners."

Back home in Yuba City, California, his wife of 2 ½ years, Andy Arcuri, said she was at another spouse's home when they both got the news that their husbands had been shot down on the same plane.

"It was right out a scene in a movie," she said of the officials who showed up at the door. "There was an officer, a priest and a doctor."

The other wife asked them if the men were dead, and Andy said she hoped Bill was, terrified that he'd be tortured to death. Everyone was shocked by her comment and tried to calm her by telling her not to lose hope.

"You saw all these stories of prisoners—in The Reader's Digest (magazine) who had escaped and who wrote about being tortured."

She said that the North Vietnamese would take propaganda photos of the prisoners, but her husband was so badly injured that they wouldn't take his picture.

Arcuri said he and the younger prisoners were kept apart from the older ones who had been there for years, one of whom was the late John McCain. This was designed to keep the more senior prisoners from knowing about recent developments in the war. It was, however, the older prisoners who told Arcuri and others the end of the war was near.

"The older prisoners told us not to say or sign anything," he said. "Because it's over."



A week after a peace agreement was signed, the guards told the Americans the war was over.

Dubbed "Operation Homecoming", Arcuri was in the first wave of prisoners who returned home starting in February 1973. POW's were released based on their length of imprisonment, but due to his injuries, he and those who were also seriously injured were released along with the older prisoners.

"They put new casts on us," he said of the North Vietnamese, "but we hadn't been treated properly for injuries."

Arcuri said his gunner ended up losing his leg to gangrene when he got back to the U.S.

When they were on the American C-141 planes leaving Vietnam, the crew announced they were "feet wet", military-speak for when an aircraft is safely over land or water. "It was heartwarming seeing the reactions of the older guys--when they realized they were free."

After they knew the prisoners were on their way home, the U.S. military prepared the families for their loved one's arrival at Travis Air Force Base in Fairfield, Calif. Andy remembers being told that they would be taken to the hospital to see them.

"I spoke up and said, 'You can meet at the hospital, but I'm going to the flight line to meet my husband.'" She said laughing.

The top brass took a break and when they came back, they announced that each wife would have a driver to take them to the plane to greet the POW's as they walked off the plane.

"I'm glad I said that," she recounted saying that it was important for the American people to see.

She said that when Bill got off the plane, she wanted to put his wedding ring back on his finger, but he insisted on saluting the American flag first.

"Then he hugged me and put his ring back on." She said. It was Valentine's Day, 1973.



Arcuri got out of the service in 1976 and went to work for Perot Systems for the next 32 years. But it wasn't until 20 years after his release that he finally dealt with his PTSD.

Nowadays, Arcuri is heavily involved in organizations that memorialize and honor POW's and veterans. He also talks to young school kids about his service and has become affectionately known as "Uncle Bill".

"I tell them my story, and I try to keep it at their level. I tell them how we passed the time," he said. "And what it was like being a prisoner of war. What we ate; cabbage soup, bread, pumpkin, kohlrabi and pig fat."

He also likes to tell them that he was released on Feb. 15 but arrived back home on Feb. 14, and he jokes about being a time traveler. (Hint, it was the international dateline) He laughs when he remembers some of their questions such as this one.

"Uncle Bill, how many stars were on the flag when you fought in the war?"

Source: <https://www.audacity.com/connectingvets/articles/vietnam-vet-pilot-tells-his-pow-story>

Honoring Former POW Bill Arcuri

—By Sara Marks, CAPT NC USN (Ret)

On April 9th we observe National Former POW Recognition Day. I had the privilege of meeting Bill Arcuri in January 2019 at the United States Military Academy for the Ring Melt Ceremony for the West Point Class of 2020. I had the opportunity to talk to him about his experiences as a former POW in Vietnam and was so touched by his story. He graciously accepted an invitation to talk to our MOAA Tampa Chapter at our November 2019 luncheon. For those who were not at that luncheon or have not heard his story, I hope that the article about his story republished in this newsletter will inspire you as much as it inspired me. In spite of all the challenges of surviving capture during Vietnam, his resiliency and positive outlook on life shine the brightest.



Military Saves Month

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

Save the Date: April 1-30, 2022

Getting Started is Easy! Participate in a way that makes the most sense for your organization. Join us for one week out of the Month, or all 5 weeks. We'll be here every step of the way.

Step 1: Sign up for the month [HERE!](#)

Step 2: Download one of our participation guides and watch our webinars for more detailed information:

- [Military Saves Month Participants Guide](#)
- [Military Saves Month Commander's Guide](#)
- [Military Saves Embeddable Pledge Request Form](#)
- [Watch: Military Saves Month Webinar for Installations](#)
- [Watch: Military Saves Month Webinar for Financial Institutions](#)
- [Watch: Military Saves Month Webinar for Military Support Organizations](#)

Step 3: Access the 2022 [Military Saves Month digital toolkit](#).

Who Should Participate?

Family Readiness Centers

Help service members, DoD employees & their families. Participate in the Military Saves Campaign year-round and partner with organizations and units on the entire installation during Military Saves Month each year in April.

Individuals & Families

Strengthen your future. Healthy finances and open communication about money contribute to marital stability and gives kids a solid foundation for the future. Take the pledge today!

Military Leaders and Project Officers (POCs)

Make your unit a savings community. Through a simple annual process modeled after CFC, you can invite your personnel to increase their personal financial readiness.

Military Banks & Credit Unions

Support our military by developing better and safer savings products for use by military members and their families during Military Saves Month and throughout the calendar year. Customizable graphics and personal consultation help your operations and marketing staff personalize your participation in this worldwide campaign.

Nonprofit Organizations & Associations

Embrace the campaign and help it grow! Offer your resources to expand the movement to increase the nation's savings rate. New partnerships contributing financial, executive, marketing, and technical support are invited.

Source: <https://militarysaves.org/military-saves-month/>

Gold Star Spouse Finds Refuge

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



In January of 2020, Tarah McLaughlin's husband, Staff Sgt. Ian P. McLaughlin, was killed when his vehicle struck an IED in Kandahar, Afghanistan. Ian was assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division, so his wife and three children lived at Ft. Bragg, North Carolina. Tarah immediately left for Dover Air Force Base for the dignified transfer of remains. Tarah recently contacted Fisher House Foundation to share her experience while staying at the Dover Fisher House for Families of the Fallen.

My name is Tarah McLaughlin, and I'm the widow of SSG Ian Paul McLaughlin who was killed in Afghanistan on January 11, 2020. At the time, I had a 3-year-old, 2-year-old, and a 9-month-old baby.



As you can imagine, traveling with 3 children for the first time and the anxiety and the grief of losing my husband took a toll on my mental state. We traveled from Fort Bragg to Dover, an all-around trip that took about 9 hours to complete.

Within hours our life changed, and we were being pulled in a million directions. Needless to say, we were exhausted when we arrived at the Fisher House at Dover AFB, but the experience and the individuals there were nothing short of amazing in such a difficult time.

Fisher House Foundation is best known for their network for comfort homes where fami-

lies of wounded, injured or ill service members and veterans can stay at no cost while their loved one receives treatment. The Dover House for Families of the Fallen is one of more than 90 Fisher Houses and serves a unique purpose as a refuge for families who have paid the greatest sacrifice as they await their loved one's final journey home at Dover Air Force Base. The home has served more than 3,700 families since its inception in 2010 and has continued to house families during the COVID-19 pandemic.

My children were cranky, off their schedule, and confused on what was going on, but the Fisher House felt like a safe place for us. I not only forgot to pack a toothbrush and really anything for myself, but I forgot basic things for my children. When I walked into our room there was toys ready for my children, a Pack 'n Play filled with blankets for my infant and an array of baby bathtubs, soaps, towels, potty seats and so much more. If I'm being 100% honest in that moment, I bawled my eyes out because of how embarrassed I was for forgetting these basic things and how bad of a mom I felt at that moment.

Within seconds of settling into our room it was the first time since losing my husband that I felt safe and secure. The accommodations and the people at the Fisher House made me feel at home in probably one of the darkest times of my life.

Our stay was extended due to constant malfunctions with the aircraft bringing my husband home, so we were there longer than we expected and there was always enough food and someone there trying to make our lives a little bit easier. I wasn't eating but my children's hunger didn't stop, nor did their need to get some energy out, and there were plenty of people and food to accommodate them during those days.

There isn't much that I remember in those days, but I do remember how safe the Fisher House made my family feel and how much of a home away from home it really was.

As Fisher House Foundation's Chairman and CEO, Ken Fisher said, "Gold Star Families bear a burden that the average American has no concept of." I couldn't agree more, but I am forever thankful to Fisher House for serving as a refuge.

To learn more about the Fisher House Foundation visit [Fisherhouse.org](https://fisherhouse.org)

Source: <https://www.militaryspouse.com/military-life/gold-star-spouse-finds-refuge/>

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.

Tyrone Square Mazda

Thanks you for your service



At Tyrone Square Mazda, we've built our reputation around respect and honesty. By doing so, we are able to deliver a superior buying experience that is focused on transparency. You will never find an addendum or hidden fee on any of our vehicles. We think of our customers as family, so we strive to maintain your satisfaction throughout your vehicle ownership.

Active Duty and Military Veterans can take advantage of exclusive discounts and incentives offered by Mazda and our dealership.



Tyrone Square Mazda
3300 Tyrone Blvd
St. Petersburg FL, 33713

727-344-3344 www.tyronesquaremazda.com

CHAPLAIN’S CORNER

CHAPLAIN (COL) BERNARD H LIEVING JR USA RET



You have heard it said, and maybe have said yourself, “Time flies when you are having fun.” Or, perhaps you have said, as I did last week-end, “how time flies,” when I was privileged to participate in my grandson’s high school graduation party when it seems like only last week that I held him in my arms as my new-born, 1st grandchild.

It is hard for me to believe that it has been thirty-one years this week since I returned to Fort Bragg following my seven month deployment as the XVIII Airborne Corps chaplain to Saudi Arabia for Desert Shield/Desert Storm. How time flies! I was privileged to serve as an active duty Army chaplain for over 27 1/2 years. I have now been retired from the

Army more years than I served. How time flies!

In the Bible’s New Testament there are two words for time: chronos and kairos. Chronos refers to chronological time or clock and calendar time – seconds, minutes, hours days, weeks, month and years. It is the time we reference when we say at a party: “Good grief! It’s midnight already! How time flies!” Kairos refers to an appointed time, an opportune moment, a due season, or God’s time, a divine moment, such as the creation story in the biblical book of Genesis, or at the beginning of Jesus’ ministry when he said, “The time is fulfilled, the kingdom of God has come near.”

The month of April is a kairos time for those of Jewish, Christian, and Muslim faith. For Muslims, April 2nd begins the month long celebration of Ramadan, a celebration of Allah giving Mohammed the Koran. It is a time of fasting, practicing charity, and deeper prayer.

Jewish kairos time will celebrate the eight days of Passover beginning April 15. Through ritual story telling at Seder meals it commemorates the ancient Hebrews being freed from their four hundred years of slavery in Egypt.

The Christian celebration of Easter on April 17th marks the end of the 40 days of the Lent, a time of preparation to celebrate Jesus’ resurrection. That preparation may include prayer, scripture reading, service to others, and denial of particular foods or luxuries. Easter celebrates the promise of eternal life given through Jesus’ resurrection. The symbol of Easter is the empty tomb.

While our daily lives are lived out in chronos time, these days of April provide opportunity for all of us to give attention to kairos time as well. If we were to do that, our “how time flies” days could become more God’s time filled with God’s presence.

SAVE THE DATE

June 9-12
2022



FUN in the SUN

45th ANNUAL CONVENTION

Hosted by the Florida Council of Chapters







MOAA Florida Conference Registration is now open!

The MOAA Florida Council of Chapters (FCOC) Annual Convention is set for June 9th - 12th at the West Palm Beach Marriott. MOAA Members from around Florida will have representatives at the Convention and all MOAA Chapter Members and Guests are invited. The fun will include a Mystery Dinner Theater Dinner and a Casino Night Fundraiser for the MOAA Foundation, along with optional trips, outings, and adventures! Join us for a great time with old friends or to meet new friends!

For more information and to register, go to the Florida Council Website at: MOAAFL.org.



Click the link for more information on the convention and be sure to watch the video!

<https://www.moaaf.org/Convention.aspx?ConvYear=2022>

Click to view the special edition of the Florida Council off Chapters Communique Newsletter:

<https://moaaf.org/Communique/Issues/Mar2022.pdf>

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

WWW.MOAAATAMPA.ORG and Facebook: [MOAA Tampa Chapter](#)

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](#)” 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”