



# The **HAPPY HOLIDAYS** RETROSPECT



TAMPA CHAPTER — A FIVE STAR CHAPTER OF MOAA NATIONAL

December 2022

VOLUME 28, NUMBER 12

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT: COL CHARLES DALCOURT USA RET

# GREETINGS!



Greetings to all! This year has been a fast-paced adventure. As we welcome December and having just embraced a wonderful pause to give thanks, I extend my appreciation and gratitude to the Chapter's Officers, Directors, Committee Leaders, and the entire cadre of engaged volunteers that enable our success. The heartbeat of this organization rests on the sacrifices of individuals willing to contribute their time, talents, and thoughts to advancing the Chapter's initiatives. Thank you for pouring into every effort and line of business the Chapter pursues. Without your commitment, we could not operate!

I mentioned last month that it is imperative that we "close out strong." I offer and reiterate the following as broad, yet seminal objectives that will carry us through this

year's end and into the Spring of 2023:

- Membership – developing and sustaining an active and engaged cadre of members from across all of the uniformed services;
- Outreach – building existing programs and establishing relevant community initiatives and partnerships that address both unanswered issues and emerging challenges;
- Communication – ensuring our messages reach all demographics sharing interests in and the impact of our advocacy efforts; and
- Fundraising – generating financial support for the essential functions and strategic initiatives the Chapter must and desires to accomplish.

Your decisive, precise, and informed engagement will allow us to accomplish the aforementioned objectives and much more. I ask new members to "get on the bench." Please offer to assist in our planning efforts, come alongside committee leaders, volunteer for one-day events, and/or seek other opportunities to give back. I am excited to see the positive growth in our mission focused team. I also remain optimistic that we will continue to attract new talent that is committed to both bettering our communities and achieving our mission.

### Member of the Month

We are so pleased to honor Major Cornelius "Neil" Consentino (USAF Retired) as

our December 2022 Member of the Month. Neil is a resolute advocate in our community and an engaged member of the Tampa Chapter. His enthusiasm for aviation echoes loudly and his desire to both help and enable others resonates equally.

We are thrilled to honor Neil this month and thank him for his service to the Chapter. Please take time to read Neil's biographical information later in this newsletter and share your appreciation of him at either the Winter Gala or the next luncheon.

### Wrapping up:

As we close the year, I ask you to run through, not to, the finish line. Please continue to support MOAA's advocacy, our Chapter, and Operation Helping Hand. Remember always that we cannot afford to be distracted by the current crisis or latest headline, rather we are propelled into action to solve credible and objective issues with broad and longstanding impact on those we represent. We can Never Stop Serving because the need for advocacy never stops.

Again, thank you for placing your trust in me to lead this Team. I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and pray that God's grace covers you, His strength enables you, and His joy excites you all. Thanks again for all you do!

All the best,  
Charles Dalcourt



1 December  
10:00 AM  
Board of Directors Meeting

No Chapter Luncheon  
For December

15 December – 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM  
OpHH Dinner  
USF Embassy Suites  
([See page 11](#))

7-8 January  
FCOC Leadership Conference  
Rosen Center  
Orlando, FL  
([See page 5](#))

13-15 January  
Board of Directors and Committee  
Leads Retreat  
My Warrior's Place, Ruskin, FL

17 February  
(postponed from December)  
2nd Annual Winter Gala  
Save the Date  
([See page 6](#))

## REMINDER:

SUBMISSION DEADLINE  
FOR THE JANUARY 2023  
ISSUE IS 20 DECEMBER 2022

Please submit articles in a Word  
Document and photos in JPEG  
Email articles to  
[Secretary@moaatampa.org](mailto:Secretary@moaatampa.org)

NOTICE: if you have a change of  
address, please notify our membership  
team via email—Matt Mulatroni at  
[membership@moaatampa.org](mailto:membership@moaatampa.org)  
or Tom South at  
[tsouth1811@gmail.com](mailto:tsouth1811@gmail.com)

## LEGISLATIVE **LOWDOWN**



BY LTC REGINALD WILLIAMS, USA RET

Season Greetings to all! As we close out the year, we made tremendous gains from an advocacy perspective by champion several initiatives across the goal line. Team, we still have soon work to do as the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress comes into session the beginning of 2023. Did you know the VA merged the White House Hotline with the department's toll-free information line? This is an example of a win! Did you know nearly 400 members of Congress have signed on to co-sponsor the Major Richard Star Act, but unlike other popular defense-related measures, it has yet to be included in the FY 2023 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA)? This is an example of a win but we have more advocating work to do. At the state and

local level your efforts were successful in with getting several programs enacted by the Governor that support the service members, veterans, and our families.

### VA Merges White House Hotline With Main Call Center<sup>1</sup>

The VA merged the White House Hotline with the department's toll-free information line, 1-800-MyVA411 (1-800-698-2411), on Nov. 3, providing veterans with a single access point for VA health care, benefits, and services, and for resolving their concerns.

The [White House Hotline](#) launched in 2017 to give veterans and their families a direct line to report VA complaints. In 2020, the VA announced plans to establish 1-800-MyVA411 as the lone access point to all VA contact centers. MyVA411 launched later that year and has remained VA's main call center for incoming calls, significantly outpacing hotline calls since its launch.

The White House hotline was staffed 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, by live agents. Callers to 1-800-MyVA411 also can connect with a live agent at any time, any day, by pressing "9."

The consolidation will make it easier for veterans to access information and services, VA officials said, and it will not impact the level of services or the importance VA places on addressing veterans' concerns. The VA expects the integration to greatly increase awareness of services and allow callers to share their concerns or ask questions.

The VA briefed veterans service organizations on the MyVA411 contact center integration in October; preparations for the integration began after the [PACT Act](#) became law. The integration is intended to:

- Improve accessibility for veterans and their families to share concerns and recommendations with the VA through a single, easy to remember phone number.
- Increase awareness of the option to share concerns with VA services for those not previously aware of the separate hotline number.

- Continue to make it easier for veterans and their families to get information and access their earned VA benefits and care, especially related to the PACT Act.
- Eliminate confusion around the hotline name, as customers inaccurately assume it is located at or operated by the White House.

The VA continues to add call center and support staff to enhance service delivery and reduce wait times for veterans and their families. The department is encouraging MOAA members, servicemembers and veterans, their families, caregivers and survivors, along with other veteran service organizations, to promote MyVA411 and spread the word that 1-800-MyVA411 is the preferred contact option for information about all manner of VA issues: Homeless assistance, PACT Act or other veterans health care information, benefits information and services, and much more.

Veterans and loved ones in crisis can continue to dial 988 and press "1," text 838255, or visit [www.veteranscrisisline.net](http://www.veteranscrisisline.net) for immediate 24/7 support.

### Star Act Not Included in NDAA Despite Strong and Growing Support<sup>2</sup>

Thanks in no small part to the grassroots work of MOAA members, nearly 400 members of Congress have signed on to co-sponsor the Major Richard Star Act, which would end the dollar-for-dollar offset of DoD retirement pay and VA disability pay faced by more than 50,000 combat-injured veterans. But unlike other popular defense-related measures, it has yet to be included in the FY 2023 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).

"Wait a second, you're telling me that two-thirds of Congress supports the Star Act, and it's not in the NDAA?" asked one dedicated Star Act advocate and MOAA member. "Wow, I guess I would have failed that part of high school civics class."

Many supporters of the bill, both inside and outside of MOAA, want answers. Here's a look at where the Star Act stands, why it hasn't been added to the NDAA, and what's next.

continued on next page 2



LEGISLATIVE LOWDOWN *cont.*

**NDAA Status**

The Senate has yet to vote on its NDAA version, but the Star Act was not included in the version passed by the Senate Armed Services Committee (SASC), giving it a slim chance of reaching the final legislation. While MOAA does not expect NDAA inclusion this year, continued grassroots engagement with legislators, especially during this busy season, is critical to keeping the issue on the radar for rapid action in the 118th Congress, which begins its work in January.

That’s why we’re asking you to urge your elected officials to include the Star Act in the FY 2023 NDAA as part of the House-Senate conference process – these messages are important to maintain pressure and set conditions for next year.

**TAKE ACTION: [Urge Your Legislators to Support Concurrent Receipt](#)**

**Timing Is Critical**

When the House passed its version of the NDAA on July 14, the Star Act did not yet have the support of 290 House members (there were 323 co-sponsors as of Nov. 8). Because appropriations must start in the lower chamber, the SASC did not include the Star Act in its version due to cost concerns, despite the support of 67 Senate co-sponsors.

The Star Act did reach the significant 290-sponsor milestone to earn entry on the House consensus calendar this year, and a similar level of support early in the 118th session will ensure enough time for the bill to reach the House floor – it’s a decisive point that provides a marked advantage to achieve this advocacy objective.

**Who Is Against the Star Act?**

Some lawmakers believe we must cut personnel costs to pay for modernization. They miss the mark on protecting the all-volunteer force amid the current recruiting crisis and oppose any spending on personnel, even for combat-injured veterans.

Financially conservative lawmakers typically agree that the offset – reducing earned retirement pay because of a combat injury – is an unfair tax, while even the most socially liberal lawmakers can agree it is important to support those injured in combat. Where problems arise is the so-called “pay-as-you-go,” or PAYGO, rule.

PAYGO requires any bill including an increase in mandatory spending also must include a designated way to pay for that increase. This rule is the obstacle for a simple floor vote, but overcoming the rule is possible: Congressional leaders can agree to waive it, to designate cuts to spending elsewhere to cover the cost, or to increase revenue via tax or other methods.

A similar fight took place as MOAA led efforts to repeal the Survivor Benefit Plan-Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (SBP-DIC) offset, better known as the “Widows Tax.” After decades of advocacy, the PAYGO rule was waived as the repeal passed within the FY 2020 NDAA. Full repeal will take effect early next year.

**Florida**

**Governor Ron DeSantis Highlights Florida’s Commitment to Serving State’s 1.5 Million Veterans<sup>3</sup>**

*Governor also awards \$1.5 million for veterans recovering from substance abuse.*

**TALLAHASSEE** — Governor Ron DeSantis highlighted Florida’s commitment to serving the state’s 1.5 million veterans through state programs and initiatives that provide resources and opportunities that help build the future success of Florida’s veterans. As the nation’s most veteran-friendly state, Florida’s state agencies and partners offer an abundance of resources and opportunities to help veterans find meaningful employment, support their families, and contribute to their communities.

As a part of this commitment, Governor DeSantis also awarded \$1.5 million to provide transitional housing for Floridians and veterans recovering from substance abuse through the Recovery Housing Program (RHP). Assistance available through this funding includes relocation payments, rental assistance, new construction, acquisition, and/or rehabilitation of housing facilities. For more information about the Recovery Housing Program, visit [www.Florida-Jobs.org/RHP](http://www.Florida-Jobs.org/RHP).

“Florida’s veterans have made countless sacrifices to protect our freedoms, and in return we are working hard to ensure they have the resources and support they need to be successful and take care of their families,” said Governor Ron DeSantis. “My administration will

continue to invest in our veterans in the same way that they made sacrifices to invest in the freedom of our nation.”

**Florida Department of Veterans Affairs**

The Florida Department of Veterans’ Affairs (FDVA) is a nearly 1,500-member constitutionally chartered State Veterans’ Affairs department with a \$171 million annual budget responsible for serving the nation’s third largest veteran population. Operating as the premier point of entry for Florida’s 1.5 million veterans, FDVA operates a network of nine state veterans’ homes and provides statewide outreach to connect veterans with their earned services, benefits and support. The agency’s veterans’ claims examiners play a major role in the direct infusion of more than \$23.9 billion annually for veterans into Florida’s economy through federal compensation, education and pension benefits, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs’ medical services and military retired pay.†

“On this Veterans Day, we’re very appreciative of Governor DeSantis’ unwavering support of Florida’s 1.5 million veterans, their families, and survivors,” said retired Marine Corps Major General James S. “Hammer” Hartsell, Executive Director of the Florida Department of Veterans’ Affairs. “Florida offers unique benefits such as in-state tuition rates for veterans and their families using the Post-9/11 GI Bill, several layers of property tax exemptions, expanded veterans’ preference, and extensive benefits, licensure and fee waivers for many activities and occupations. Working together toward a positive future for Florida veterans and their families, we’ll ensure the Sunshine State continues to be the most veteran sought after state in the nation. We are honored to serve you.”

**Veterans Florida**

Veterans Florida is a non-profit created by the State of Florida to promote Florida’s status as the nation’s most veteran-friendly state and help military veterans and their families transition to civilian life with career and entrepreneurship opportunities through Florida’s Veterans Employment and Training Services (VETS) Program. Their mission can be summed up in the theme – Your Pursuit. Our Power. – because they recognize military veterans are incredibly focused and will succeed in achieving their personal and professional goals when they take advantage of powerful tools and resources.

“Under Governor Ron DeSantis’ leadership, Florida leads the nation in creating opportunities for veterans and separating or retiring servicemembers, and their personal success stories prove it,” said Veterans Florida Executive Director Joe Marino. “The Veterans Florida Entrepreneurship Program is the state’s largest creator of veteran-owned businesses, and our first-in-the-nation statewide SkillBridge initiative is a model for other states.”

**Florida Department of Economic Opportunity**

Job fairs through the Paychecks for Patriots program were held across the state throughout the month of November to help build connections between veteran job seekers and Florida’s job creators. The program is a partnership between the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, the CareerSource Florida network, and participating Florida employers.

“Florida’s military community brings invaluable skill and experience to our workforce and contributes greatly to our state’s economic success. We honor Florida’s veterans each day, and today we reaffirm our commitment to supporting them,” said Secretary Dane Eagle of the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO). “Under Governor DeSantis’ leadership, DEO is proud to connect veterans with meaningful employment opportunities and resources to help them prosper.”

“The CareerSource Florida network is honored to help military veterans and their families connect with rewarding careers and help Florida’s veteran-friendly businesses make great hires,” said CareerSource Florida President and CEO Michelle Dennard. “With Paychecks for Patriots hiring events across the state this month, the Military Family Employment Advocacy Program at key locations to support spouses and dependents, and dedicated staff who are veterans themselves, it is our privilege to serve those who have served our country.”

In addition to the Recovery Housing Program and Paychecks for Patriots program, DEO administers the Florida Law Enforcement Recruitment Bonus Payment Program, which awards a \$5,000 bonus to newly employed sworn law enforcement officers in the state. The program incentivizes a career in law enforcement, which provides an excellent opportunity for veterans to continue serving their communities as they support their families.

**Florida Housing Finance Coalition (Florida Housing)**

To support frontline community workers, including veterans, Florida Housing’s Hometown Heroes Housing Program provides down payment and closing cost assistance to first-time, income-qualified homebuyers. Eligible frontline workers include active military, veterans, law enforcement officers, firefighters, educators and healthcare professionals.

The Florida Hometown Heroes Loan Program also offers a lower first mortgage rate and additional special benefits to veterans and military personnel. To date, 581 active military, veterans or surviving spouses have utilized the Hometown Heroes program to purchase a home. That represents 36% of all finalized loans given out through the program.

**Enterprise Florida, Inc.**

Enterprise Florida, Inc. works to support policies, programs and benefits to ensure service members, veterans and their families are welcomed and successful during their time in Florida, whether for one assignment or the rest of their lives. EFI also publishes the Advantage Florida Military Benefits Guide, a summary of state laws, policies, programs, and benefits for active duty, national guard and reserve service-members, veterans, retirees, and military families. In November, Enterprise Florida partnered with Veterans Florida to host a National Veterans Small Business Veterans Week Webinar to promote the resources and opportunities that make Florida the top state for veteran entrepreneurs.

“Every service member who serves in Florida is a potential Florida veteran. That’s why we want every installation in Florida to be the best Air Force, Navy, Marine, Army, or Space Force base not only in the state but in the country,” said Florida Deputy Secretary of Commerce Laura DiBella. “Enterprise Florida and the Florida Defense Support Task Force work tirelessly to support the state’s military-friendly environment for service members, military families, veterans and businesses that bring military and defense-related jobs to the state.”

**Florida Department of Education (DOE)**

The Florida Department of Education administers the Military Veterans Certification Pathway, a unique opportunity for Florida’s talented veterans to obtain a 5-year temporary teaching certificate prior to earning their bachelor’s degree. Specific eligibility requirements can be found at: <https://www.fldoe.org/veterans/>. This new pathway helps veterans begin a career in Florida’s top-ranked education system while bringing unique value to school districts looking for talent.

DOE also offers certification fee and certification exam fee waivers for active duty military personnel, honorably discharged veterans and their spouses or surviving spouses.

“In the most military-friendly state in the nation, the Florida Department of Education is proud to offer veterans a longer runway to becoming a fully certified educator,” said Commissioner Manny Diaz, Jr. “We know the unique experience and value that our veterans bring to the classroom, which is why we’re committed to providing streamlined opportunities for those who served our nation.”

**Florida Department of Children and Families**

The Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) has worked with FDVA and First Lady Casey DeSantis to launch the Continue the Mission initiative, which recruits veterans and military spouses to be child protective investigators, mentors, and case managers. Since the launch of this program in June 2022, DCF has hosted dozens of job fairs for veterans, and has had more than 450 individuals apply to be a part of this program.

“Our Department interacts daily with children and families who need support and reassurance through stressful situations,” said Department of Children and Families Secretary Shevaun Harris. “Veterans possess a wealth of knowledge and experience operating in high stress environments, so it makes perfect sense to tap into this labor force as we work to fill critical positions. We are so grateful for First Lady Casey DeSantis’ leadership in spearheading the Continue the Mission effort and look forward to continuing our recruitment efforts for those who want to continue to serve their communities.”

**Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation**

The Florida Department of Business & Professional Regulation waives professional licensing fees for Active Duty, Veterans, and Spouses.

“Waiving professional licensing fees for active duty service members, veterans and spouses is one of the many ways the Department supports the sacrifices made by military personnel and their families,” said DBPR Secretary Melanie S. Griffin. “Our agency’s focus is getting professionals into careers as quickly as possible and eliminating barriers to entry. One of the ways we have proudly expanded such efforts this year is by expediting professional license applications submitted by spouses of active duty military members and processing them within seven days as of July 1, 2022.”

**Florida Department of Health (DOH)**

Through the Florida Veterans Application for Licensure Online Response (VALOR) process, the Florida Department of Health provides expedited licensing for honorably discharged veterans and their spouses seeking licensure in all health care professions. Veterans and spouses who apply through the VALOR process receive a waiver of most licensing fees.

DOH also offers additional armed forces licensure support, including opportunities for physicians to receive a temporary certificate to practice in areas of critical need, renewal exemptions for active duty service members holding a health care license in Florida, and temporary licensure for spouses of active duty service members who possess a valid license in another state, the District of Columbia, or any possession or territory of the United States. Through these programs, the department is contributing to a veteran-friendly regulatory environment that encourages veterans and their spouses to choose Florida for their health care practice after their discharge from active duty.

“The Florida Department of Health is committed to serving members and veterans of the United States Armed Forces and their families. As a veteran, I know first hand the sacrifices made by those who serve our country,” said Florida Department of Health Chief of Staff Cassandra Pasley, BSN, JD. “Through the Department’s VALOR program, we are able to provide expedited licensing and waivers, for many licensing fees to honorably discharged veterans and their spouses seeking to continue serving the public in a health care capacity. The Department is forever grateful for the sacrifices made by our veterans and their families, and is honored to serve them in these ways.”

**Florida Department of Transportation**

The Florida Department of Transportation serves the residents and visitors of Florida by providing a safe transportation system that ensures the mobility of people and goods, enhances economic prosperity, and preserves the quality of our environment and communities. Florida’s transportation system includes roadway, air, rail, sea, spaceports, transit, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities. FDOT is committed to serving the people of Florida by delivering a transportation system that is fatality and congestion free.

“The Florida Department of Transportation is proud to employ close to 600 veterans statewide who have previously served our country in the U.S. military or who are currently active-duty personnel or reserve members,” said FDOT Secretary Jared W. Perdue, P.E. “Many of our career paths at FDOT connect the talent, expertise, and skillsets from military service, so we work closely with veteran advocacy groups and hiring events in our recruitment efforts. We are truly grateful to all those who serve and who have served, and encourage veterans, active-duty personnel, reservists, as well as military spouses, to consider the rewarding job opportunities we have at FDOT and in the transportation industry.”

**Imagine Museum**

This year, Imagine Museum in St. Petersburg has launched a Local Heroes initiative to offer free admission to veterans, active-duty military personnel, first responders, and their families. For more information, visit [ImagineMuseum.com/PlanYourVisit](http://ImagineMuseum.com/PlanYourVisit).

For year-round career services and recruiting, hiring and training assistance for businesses, please [visit this link](#) to contact your nearest career center

**TAKE ACTION: [Legislative Action Center](#)**

Please enjoy the holiday season with your love ones and let’s prepare to get after it the beginning of the new year.

Sources:  
1) [www.moaa.org](http://www.moaa.org), article by René Campos, November 09, 2022  
2) [www.moaa.org](http://www.moaa.org), article by Mark Belinsky, November 15, 2022  
3) [www.floridavets.org](http://www.floridavets.org), article by November 11, 2022



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  
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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 members  
of the uniformed services and their families and  
survivors. Membership is open to those who hold  
or have ever held a warrant or commission in any  
component of the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air  
Force, Coast Guard, Space Force, Public Health  
Service, or NOAA and their surviving spouses.

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

2020, 2021 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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# Notes from the Editor: CAPT Sara Marks, NC, USN (Ret)



This year has flown by! I know that I stayed busy with a lot of travel both local, out of state and overseas. It made putting this December edition of The Retrospect quite challenging, but I love a challenge! My goal is to always provide the most up to date information at the time of publishing for you. With the November luncheon, Winter Gala changes and as the year comes to an end, I did find time reflect over our chapter's accomplishments this year. We have accomplished soooo much!!! So instead of writing a missive, I put together a sampling of photos from the past 11 months. I hope that you enjoy looking back as much as I did!

Due to many reasons the difficult decision was made to reschedule our MOAA Tampa Chapter Second Annual Winter Gala to Friday February 17 at the same venue. The registration link is still live on our website and details are on page 6 of the newsletter. It was an amazing event last year and we believe that this fundraising event will be even better held after the holidays. So, if you were overbooked with holiday parties this month, we hope that you'll be able to attend February! Since we had to cancel our November luncheon due to the hurricane and reschedule the gala know that you can still donate money for Toys for Tots directly to the Tampa location via their website: <https://tampa-fl.toysfortots.org>.

This month we are highlighting our Member of the Month MAJ Cornelius "Neil" Cosentino, USAF who has been a great supporter of our MOAA Tampa Chapter and our local community. His energy, enthusiasm and community involvement are amazing. I've so appreciated Neil's articles that he has submitted to *The Retrospect*! I hope you read his experiences with Linebacker II that was published last month. Make sure to read about MAJ Cosentino on page 5. We look forward to honoring him at our next luncheon.

I always appreciate articles submitted by our chapter members and their contributions to *The Retrospect*. Take time to read about the Star Spangled Art Show from November submitted by Carol Zieres and Bob Sawallesh's article about what students were studying in 1943. Paul McNeny

provided a wonderful update on the "Thriving After the Military" transition seminar from November, and BGEN Larsen provided a wonderful update from the coalition forces. Other articles that I hope you'll enjoy articles about the third birthday of the Space Force, the Civil Air Patrol birthday and its history, remembering Pearl Harbor, the ending of Operation Enduring Freedom and the uniforms that the cadets and midshipmen will be wearing at the Army vs Navy game and many other articles that I hope you'll find interesting.

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. Page 3 of our newsletter has our Chapter Secretary's email, so send any articles or questions to [secretary@moaatampa.org](mailto:secretary@moaatampa.org) or you may contact me at [coms@moaatampa.org](mailto:coms@moaatampa.org).

It is always my pleasure and honor to serve as your Editor for *The Retrospect* and work on our chapter's website. It has been and still is a rich and rewarding learning experience, but one that I don't do alone. Through the grace of God and the blessings of so many wonderful, kind, and caring people in our MOAA Tampa Chapter and all of my family and friends I'm constantly inspired to rise up to challenges. Wishing everyone a joyful holiday season as Hanukkah, Kwanza and Christmas are celebrated.

*"Christmas is a season not only of rejoicing but of reflection."*  
— Winston Churchill

*"This is as it should be, for Christmas is a holiday that we celebrate not as individuals nor as a nation, but as a human family."* — Ronald Reagan

*"No man is a failure who has friends."* — 'It's A Wonderful Life.'

Let us never forget. - NEVER STOP SERVING!

Sara Marks, CAPT NC USN (Ret)

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

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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](mailto:TampaMOAA.Secretary@gmail.com) or going to the main menu to CONTACT and email us using the form provided.  
FACEBOOK: [MOAA Tampa Chapter](https://www.facebook.com/MOAA-Tampa-Chapter/)  
INSTAGRAM: [https://www.instagram.com/moaa\\_tampa](https://www.instagram.com/moaa_tampa)

A password protected MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY is posted on the website under the "MEMBERSHIP" category. FL COUNCIL of CHAPTERS: [www.moaafl.org](http://www.moaafl.org)

MOAA NATIONAL: [www.moaa.org](http://www.moaa.org)

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[www.operationhelpinghandtampa.com](http://www.operationhelpinghandtampa.com)

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

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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.

## THRIVING AFTER THE MILITARY

—By Paul McNeny, COL USAF RET

On Tuesday, November 15th, the MOAA-Tampa Chapter hosted its sixth 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 focused on job skills, resume writing, networking, etc., the MOAA event addressed leading fulfilling lives following your military service.

Why are we doing this? Simple...because nobody else is.

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 Hillsborough County Veterans Treatment Court Mentors Group, 1<sup>st</sup> US Volunteer Cavalry Regiment – Rough Riders, Tampa Sports Authority, EoS Fitness, Military Christian Fellowship, and charity organizations addressing both veteran homelessness and mental health.

All that plus free drinks and snacks all day including lunch and a chance to meet other great transitioning military families.

THIS WAS NOT A VIRTUAL EVENT...you had to be in Tampa to attend.

Attendees included a variety of ranks (officer and enlisted) from all military 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 comes from a military family and also a member of our local South Tampa Chamber of Commerce; he wanted to participate in an event supporting our local military and veteran community.

Do you want to come to the next MOAA-Tampa Transition Seminar? GREAT NEWS...YOU CAN!!! This event is held quarterly with the next scheduled for February 2023 on a Tuesday to be determined. Keep your eyes peeled on this newsletter and the MOAA-TampaChapter Website for further details coming in the new year.



### Care for those who *served*

If you served in the Army or are a member of the Fleet Reserve Association through the Navy, Marines, Coast Guard or National Guard, you and qualifying family members may be eligible for exclusive senior living discounts that can help you and your family get the care you deserve.

<b>SENIOR LIVING:</b> <b>7.5%</b> <b>OFF</b> discount on senior living*	<b>PRIVATE DUTY:</b> <b>10%</b> <b>OFF</b> discount on private duty home care**	<b>RESPITE STAY:</b> Respite stay discounts vary by community***
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Discounts are available to you and your family members, including spouses, parents, step-parents, siblings, in-laws, adult children, adult step-children, grandparents and step-grandparents.

► For more information or to schedule your visit, call (866) 749-7445 today.

\* Discount is only applicable to new residents of a Brookdale independent living, assisted living or memory care community admitting under an executed residency agreement. Discount applies only to the monthly fee/basic service rate, excluding care costs and other fees and is calculated based on initial monthly fee/basic service rate.  
\*\* Discount is only applicable to a new client of personal assistance services by a Brookdale agency under an executed service agreement.  
\*\*\* Discount is only applicable to new residents of a Brookdale assisted living or memory care community admitting under an executed respite agreement. Discount applies to the daily rate. Residents under a Life Care Agreement are not eligible for the discounts. These discounts do not apply to any room, board or services which are paid for all or in part by any state or federally funded program. Subject to availability. Further restrictions may apply.

brookdale.com

**BROOKDALE**  
SENIOR LIVING



# MEMBER OF THE MONTH

## NEIL COSENTINO, MAJ USAF RET



—The Piper Navajo aircraft Neil flew in the Bahamas as president and pilot for Air Treasure Cay.

I wrote a book of true short stories about my flying including being an aviation cadet, Strategic Air Command (SAC) nuclear alert duty around the world and combat missions in Vietnam. The book was written for my family - I call it a “Familyiography” so the young in my family would get to know more about flying; the title is “Letters from the Cockpit”. Copies of the book are in the County Library system and the MacDill base library. A free PDF copy is available.

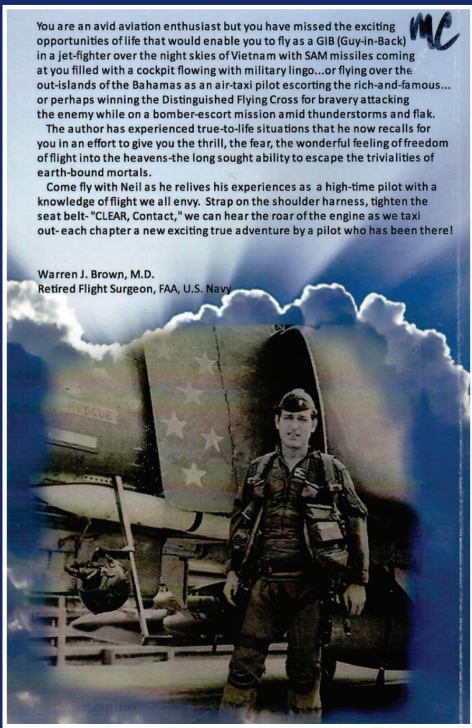
We left MacDill AFB on the day I retired with tickets to Iran as a Thompson Ramo Woolridge (TRW) consultant to the Imperial Iranian Air Force. I had 21 years and was a regular officer but decided this was my golden parachute into a new career. I was selected by TRW having been the 36 Fighter Wing Chief of Safety at Bitburg Air Base, Germany. Our Wing won the 1976 Columbian Trophy for the top USAF wide safety program.

Their revolution ended that career. We returned to Tampa and as luck would have it, I was hired as a personal pilot by a very wealthy German who lived in the Bahamas. It was more an interesting, enjoyable flying vacation than a job. We did more fishing then flying. I learned about tourism, hotel, resort, and cruise ship development and managed to fly over 1,000 hours in his aircraft. Maria being a Tampa City girl got Island cabin fever, so we compromised and move to near Boone, North Carolina to design and hand-build a log cabin on pond. We were not new to designing a home - I was in the 67 Tactical Fighter Squadron (TFS), we designed and had one built overlooking the Pacific Ocean near Misawa Air Base, Japan. Designing and hand-building the cabin was enjoyable, healthy hard work; mountain living was a wonderful change, but in time, we were too young to be so isolated in our hollow with only Blue Birds for neighbors.

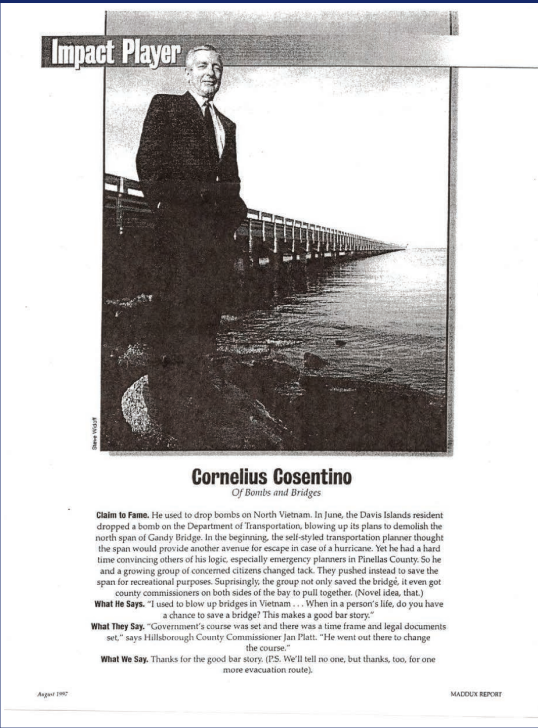
We returned to Tampa, and I started Camelot Florida, a “Continue to Serve” all volunteer, self-funded, no-staff, public-interest think tank. Our Camelot Florida mission, vision, and goal (MVG): Florida first in Quality of Life and Standard of living.

We are involved in many projects including designing a Global Airport and the Jet Regional COMBI (JRC) a new type of Flagship aircraft the JRC aircraft which is the C47/DC3 of the 21st century for the NASA Regional Air Mobility (RAM) program and many other Think Tank projects.

Some of my local Camelot Florida Tampa Bay VMG projects include getting Florida - Tampa for the first time into an Olympic bid, saving the Gandy Bridge - creating the Friendship trail, saving the Ybor City German American Club. We have many more local and beyond projects underway, but the most important today is the repurposing of the northbound I-275 Howard Frankland Bridge, saving \$335,000,000 while creating a new cross Tampa Bay Trail and installing a 60 foot wide, 2.5 mile long Solar Array canopy.



—Neil Cosentino standing by the Gandy Bridge after the bridge was saved and the Friendship Trail was created.



—The back cover of The Book of Letters from the Cockpit written by Neil Cosentino and a free PDF copy is available through the County Library System.



## Florida Council of Chapters

### Military Officers Association of America



Leadership Seminar

## 2023 Florida Council Annual Leadership Seminar

Attendee Registration

1/6/2023 8:00 AM to 1/7/2023 4:00 PM

All chapter leaders are cordially invited.

Open for Registration. Click link to register

<https://www.moaaf.org/LeadershipSeminar/SeminarRegistration.aspx?Year=2023>

## 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:

Diana Pagan - 813-827-9785



## WANT TO ADVERTISE IN THE RETROSPECT OR KNOW A BUSINESS THAT DOES?!

Annual Subscription 1 July - 30 June

Half Page Ad: \$1000

Quarter Page Ad: \$500 • 1/8 Page Ad: \$250

E-Mail: [Secretary@moaatampa.org](mailto:Secretary@moaatampa.org)





## UPDATE — 2ND ANNUAL WINTER GALA POSTPONED UNTIL FEBRUARY!

Dear Tampa MOAA Chapter Members and Supporters of MOAA Tampa,

At the December 1st Board of Directors meeting, the Board voted unanimously to **postpone the 2nd Annual Winter Gala** to best serve our guests and corporate sponsors. To date, registration numbers have lagged expectations and the fixed costs of the event would unnecessarily take away from the generous donations received. We made this decision while heavily weighing our obligations to be good stewards of donated funds.

The new date is **Friday, February 17, 2023** at the same venue. Please mark your calendars to hold the date.

**If you have already registered**, you will receive an email no later than Monday, December 5 directly from [events@moaatampa.org](mailto:events@moaatampa.org) (Tom Kuhar) outlining your options to either carrying your reservation forward or receiving a refund.

We sincerely apologize for this change and hope you will be able to join us on the rescheduled date once it is finalized. If you have any immediate questions, please email Tom at [events@moaatampa.org](mailto:events@moaatampa.org).

The Purpose of the Gala is to raise money in support of JROTC, scholarship awards, our transition program “Thriving after the Military” and homeless veteran outreach.

We look forward to everyone coming in February and support all our MOAA Tampa Chapter’s efforts! Stay tuned for future updates via emails, The Retrospect and our [www.moaatampa.org](http://www.moaatampa.org) website.

Best Regards,

Tom Kuhar, CDR USCG (ret)  
Winter Gala Chair  
Director of Education, Training & Events

## 1ST MARDIV BAND PROVIDES MUSICAL SCORE FOR NEW “SHIFTING THREATS” COMMERCIAL

—By Lance Cpl. Earik Barton1st Marine Division

CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. — The Pacific theater of World War II, Korea, Vietnam, the Persian Gulf and Iraq – since its inception in the 1940s, members of the 1st Marine Division Band have gone wherever Marines have fought, often setting down their instruments to be on the front lines. Today, the band continues its history of supporting Marines on the ground, providing music for 1st Marine Division ceremonies as well as over 400 events in the surrounding community.

Most recently, they provided the musical score for the Marine Corps’ newest commercial campaign, “Shifting Threats.”

The new commercial, released Oct. 27, features Marines from many different military occupational specialties using new technology to adapt to a changing landscape and combat an evolving threat. The incorporation of the band typifies the ability of Marines to accomplish any mission that is required of them, whether it be patrolling in a hostile environment or a making the score of a national commercial.

The process of making the music went smoothly for the band, who recounted enjoying the experience of recording in a studio. It is not something they are often able to do, as the majority of their schedule consists of live performances in support of division ceremonies or community events.

“We got the music about a week prior to the recording session,” said Sgt. Matthew Booth, a trombonist with the band. “It was a great opportunity because we were working very closely with the producer and the composer who were able to tailor the music composition to our band. We told them how many musicians we had and what instruments and they were able to tailor it toward us to really bring out our strengths.”

It was clear from the beginning that the tone of the commercial, which is amplified by the music, needed to make a statement, projecting the strength and capability the Marine Corps has always been known for.

“We’re going to showcase that the Marine Corps is the tip of the spear,” said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Eric Kyne, the conductor of the band. “That wherever there’s a battle that needs to be won, they’re going to send in the Marines.”

For many of the Marines in the band, this was an exciting and unique opportunity to be etched into the modern history of the Marine Corps, a new experience for many of the junior Marines.

**“We’re going to showcase that the Marine Corps is the tip of the spear. That wherever there’s a battle that needs to be won, they’re going to send in the Marines.”**  
*Chief Warrant Officer 2 Eric Kyne, conductor of the 1st Marine Division band.*



—U.S. Marines with the 1st Marine Division Band pose for an annual group photo at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California, Nov. 16, 2022.

“The Marine Corps has given me so much and provided so many different opportunities for myself, my wife, my daughter,” said Kyne. “The least I can do is give back to the Corps and ensure that the junior Marines have those same experiences that I got.”

The band understands the impact that their music has on audiences viewing the commercial and how the emotional tone can be changed by their score. Watching the commercial play without audio as they played the music for the recording gave them a better idea of what they wanted to add to the commercial.

“The recording process itself took about six hours to execute fully,” explained Booth. “We went through the full band, recorded it as each section, overdubbed it a little bit more just to iron out some of the details, and before you knew it, it was finished.”

Now that the recording process is complete and the commercial has been publicly released, the members of the band are proud to have played a part in creating something that is reaching a huge audience.

“I’m both proud for me personally, and for my career,” said Booth. “It made me feel really proud to be part of the 1st Marine Division Band as well as the Marine Corps at large. I felt really good on the day we were making it, and I feel fantastic every time that I see it on the TV knowing that if I’m seeing it, then millions of Americans are also seeing it.”

Kyne explained how the commercial reflected his views on the Marine Corps as a whole, especially as the Corps redesigns the force to prepare for future conflicts, and how every part builds onto each other to make the world’s finest fighting force.

“What you’re seeing with your eyes is all the Marines in the infantry, artillery, communications, motor transport - they have everybody doing these things, but there’s also the Marines behind the scenes like myself with the music, and all the administrators out there doing things to keep the Marine Corps machine turning,” Kyne said. “So, it was really interesting seeing that this is really what the Marine Corps has in its focus, we are there to win battles and make sure the enemy knows these aren’t the guys you want to mess with.”

Source: <https://www.marines.mil/News/News-Display/Article/3232985/1st-mardiv-band-provides-musical-score-for-new-shifting-threats-commercial/>



# Smartphone-Free Students: Franciscan Sees Benefits of ‘Unplugged Scholarship’

Tuition assistance is first step at forming foundation to help humans engage in reality and step away from the digital universe.

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

—By Hannah Cole



On Sept. 13, Franciscan University of Steubenville launched the pilot of its “[Unplugged Scholarship](#),” —Justin and Hope Schneir, co-founders of the scholarship, and Mary Saarinen, a scholarship recipient and Franciscan University senior, say living without a smartphone is freeing. (photo: Courtesy of subjects)

[Scholarship](#),” a scholarship that awards financial aid to students that give up their smartphones during their college careers.

“Franciscan is leading the way and inviting a generation of young adults to detach from this digital universe,” said Justin Schneir ’99, an alumnus who helped to start this initiative, “a universe that has been holding many back from engaging in the joy of being a child of God.”

[Justin, his wife, Hope](#), also Class of ’99, and a group of alumni started the “Unplugged Scholarship.” They plan for this scholarship to be a part of a larger movement called The Humanity Foundation, an initiative that will help curb digital dependence.

“The Humanity Foundation was created for the sole purpose of helping humans engage with reality by gaining control of their digital universe,” Justin said. “We value a life lived fully, a life connected to meaningful engagement with self, other and God.”

Although smartphones are an immensely efficient tool, often people become the product of the phone, Justin said.

“A lot of us have enjoyed the benefits that come with a smartphone, but we feel that we’re wanting to reclaim who we are and what’s been lost,” Hope said.

When Hope and Justin were in college at Franciscan, Big Tech hadn’t taken stage yet, they said.

“Coming of age in the ’90s was a sweet time,” Hope said. “We remember life without the internet; 50 years from now, no one will remember life without the internet.”

Justin said he enjoyed meeting people while walking to class. Neither of them walked with AirPods in on campus and instead learned to be at peace amid silence.

“We want to encourage people to take steps to reclaim what it means to be human,” Hope said. “Mostly, it’s having your relationships be more authentic and real, creating space in our lives for silence, and embracing the world that’s incarnate, the world that God made, rather than multi-living.”

On social media, it’s easy to live different lives on and offscreen, and often, we can miss what is right in front of us. But in college, students have everything they need within reach, Hope said. They have meal plans, dorms and classes close by, but they also have people God has placed in their midst, not on a screen.

In its pilot phase, the “Unplugged Scholarship” has granted 30 students a \$5,000 scholarship. Franciscan had 171 students apply for the scholarship, according to Tim Delaney, the executive director of alumni and constituent relations at Franciscan.

Even though only 30 students received financial assistance, almost 50 students also chose to go smartphone-free, Delaney said.

“The goal that the donor group has is that every kid who wants to live without a smartphone would be funded,” Delaney said.

Mary Saarinen, a scholarship recipient and Franciscan University senior, said the group of almost 80 students has met twice already this semester, coming together to support one another and share their personal experiences with going smartphone-free.

At the second meeting, Hope and Justin Schneir gave an inspirational talk to the group. Hope said she thinks students are hungry to be challenged in this way.

“The students are being very brave for giving this up,” Hope said. “You don’t have all the information at your fingertips, and you have to get creative.”

Saarinen said that the scholarship has helped her become more intentional, more peaceful and more grounded in her daily tasks.

“It’s really helped me become so much more present,” Saarinen said. “I just learned too that sometimes you don’t need to be available 24/7. It’s good to just take a step back and slow down a little bit. Just because things are available to us doesn’t mean that we always have to busy ourselves all the time.”

Saarinen also said it’s been humbling to recognize it’s not all about her. Rather than busy herself with checking texts and scrolling on social media, she has seen herself truly encounter people more.

Saarinen has also seen her hobbies change. She started practicing guitar more, calling her family more on her new track phone, picking up more books, and especially praying, she said. Instead of listening to music in the car, often she prays Hail Marys on her drive.

“It’s made me so much more aware of how dependent I can be on my smartphone,” she said. “I just like the freedom of not having it constantly.”

One struggle with not having a smartphone is lack of access to GPS, Saarinen said.

“I’m horrible with directions,” Saarinen said. “Once I was driving to a friend’s house, and what should’ve taken five minutes took about 20. But I’m learning to know the streets pretty well around me now.”

The Schneirs underscored that this is a timely initiative.

“So many have become addicted, and it’s affecting their mental health. This scholarship is really more about hope. It’s helping youth regain their lives.”

At Franciscan, some staff members have even begun to get involved with a smartphone-free lifestyle.

“There’s actually two or three staff members right now involved with the program that have given up their smartphones,” Delaney said.

With The Humanity Foundation, not only do the Schneirs want to fund every student at Franciscan who applies for the scholarship, they also want to move into other colleges and high schools.

“I believe Franciscan is starting a movement, and showing that it’s possible, and that many colleges and universities, religious and secular, will follow in their footsteps,” Justin said.

“Franciscan is like a light on a shining hill, and we want them to lead in this space,” he added. “We feel like we can’t function without smartphones, but they’re doing it and showing that it can be done.”

Source: <https://www.ncregister.com/news/smartphone-free-students-franciscan-sees-benefits-of-unplugged-scholarship>

## Family Serves Missouri National Guard Since the ’50s

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

—By Michael Crane, 139th Airlift Wing

ST. JOSEPH, Mo. — The Bigham family has served with the 139th Airlift Wing since 1953, when Jim Bigham joined the unit with his twin brother, Mort. Jim’s son would eventually join the unit and attain the highest enlisted rank in the Air Force.

His name is Chief Master Sgt. John Bigham, an aircraft manager assigned to the 139th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

Early in his career, John Bigham deployed with his father for Operation Desert Shield. More than two decades later, he would deploy with his own son, now Capt. Riley Coats, who is serving as the wing’s plans officer.

All four of John Bighim’s adult children serve in the 139th Airlift Wing.

The first to join was Coats, who enlisted as a loadmaster and later received his commission. Staff Sgt. Braden Bigham joined next and works in aircrew resource management.

Capt. Justin Bigham was the third to join and works for the Advanced Airlift Tactics Training Center. Tech. Sgt. Kacie

McCullough, the last to join, works in the 139th Logistics Readiness Squadron.

“I cannot express how proud I am to have served with my family members,” said John Bigham. “The 139th has been such a huge part of my life and my family’s life. It has taken me places both good and bad that most people never get the opportunity to see. It has shown me how an organization cares about one another. I pray that my kids have a career that has been as rewarding as mine.”

John Bigham is retiring at the end of the year with 36 years of service.

“None of this would have been possible without the loving support of my wife, Kelly, who has supported me throughout my career. I have been very lucky and blessed,” he said.

Many other members of John Bigham’s family also served at the 139th. His stepmother, retired Senior Master Sgt. Rosalie Bigham; his stepfather, retired Master Sgt. Norbert “Bun” Bunkowski; his stepbrother, retired Maj. Steve Bunkowski; and his cousin Tech. Sgt. Greg Bigham.

Source: <https://www.nationalguard.mil/News/Article/3212651/family-serves-missouri-national-guard-since-the-50s/>



—From left: Tech. Sgt. Kacie McCullough, Staff Sgt. Braden Bigham, Chief Master Sgt. John Bigham, Capt. Justin Bigham, and Capt. Riley Coats at Rosecrans Air National Guard Base, St. Joseph, Missouri, Oct. 20, 2022. All four of Chief Bigham’s children are serving at the 139th Airlift Wing, Missouri Air National Guard.



# Sen. Cramer Delivers Remarks at Space Force Birthday

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



—Senator Cramer was joined by members of the Senate and House Space Force Caucus.

WASHINGTON – U.S. Senator Kevin Cramer (R-ND), Co-Chair of the Senate Space Force Caucus and member of the Senate Armed Services Committee (SASC), delivered remarks at the Space Force 3<sup>rd</sup> Birthday Celebration. The event was attended by U.S. Air Force Secretary Frank Kendall, Chief of Space Operations General Chance Saltzman, Air Force Vice Chief of Staff General David Allvin, and Space Force Chief Master Sergeant Roger Towberman.

*“It’s hard to believe it’s already been three years when the Space Force has accomplished so much in such a short amount of time. There is a command center in Hawaii to manage space operations in the Indo-Pacific, there is a Space Force-specific boot camp for new recruits, and there have been many successful launches throughout the year. These are just a handful of the achievements from our Guardians over the last year. Space is a critical domain. Now more than ever it’s vital we have a dedicated service to protect us from evolving threats and ensure we maintain America’s advantage in space. Happy third birthday to the U.S. Space Force, I look forward to celebrating many more birthdays to come!” said Senator Cramer.*

**Background:**

Senator Cramer was instrumental in the creation of the Space Force, [securing](#) its inclusion in the National Defense Authorization Act, which President Trump signed in December 2019. Since then, Senator Cramer has helped with its implementation, using his seat on SASC to [work with](#) space leaders and bring them to North Dakota to see the state’s space potential firsthand. This included Chief of Space Operations



General Raymond’s [first official trip](#) as the leader of Space Force, where he visited the University of North Dakota’s School of Aerospace Sciences and Cavalier Air Force Station (now Space Force Station).

[Formed](#) in 2020, the Senate Space Force Caucus is led by Senator Cramer and fellow co-chairs Senators Kyrsten Sinema (D-AZ), Jerry Moran (R-KS), and Martin Heinrich (D-NM). In February 2021, Senator Cramer [convened](#) the first Senate Space Force Caucus event highlighting the need to bolster America’s presence in space.

In June, Senator Cramer participated in a ribbon cutting ceremony for the Space Development Agency’s (SDA) first Ground Operations and Integration Center at Grand Forks Air Force Base (GFAFB). GFAFB and the City of Grand Forks were selected as the home of SDA’s first Ground Operations and Integration Center which will operate and control multiple-layer satellite operations for Tranche 1 of the National Defense Space Architecture (NDSA). The NDSA provides high-speed tactical data transport and supports DoD’s “pivot” to a multi-orbit, resilient missile warning, missile tracking, and missile defense architecture. [Learn more here.](#) Earlier this month, Senator Cramer [released](#) a column highlighting the legacy of North Dakota in space and the Artemis I rocket launch—the next step in returning humans to the Moon for the first time since 1972.

Source: <https://www.cramer.senate.gov/news/press-releases/sen-cramer-delivers-remarks-at-space-force-birthday>

# 100-Year-Old Flying Ace is Promoted to Honorary Brigadier General by Air Force Chief

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

— By Thomas Novelty

A 100-year-old World War II flying ace was promoted to the honorary rank of brigadier general by Gen. CQ Brown Jr., the [Air Force](#) chief of staff, on Friday during a ceremony in California.

Retired Col. Clarence E. “Bud” Anderson, an [Army](#) Air Forces veteran, flew 116 combat missions in the European theater and shot down 16 enemies in his P-51 Mustang named «Old Crow» with the 357th Fighter Group. He is the highest-scoring World War II flying ace and the only triple ace still alive today, according to the Air Force.

“He’s kind of a wrecking ball of a guy,” Brown said, referencing Anderson’s career and service record, during the ceremony at the Aerospace Museum of California. “You had a pretty thick binder, and I was going through it and some of the print was faded ... but it was really good to have a chance just to read through and for me, personally, to reflect on the history of our Air Force and the impact you’ve had on our history.”

A flying ace is typically defined as a pilot who shoots down five or more aircraft during aerial combat. Anderson has achieved that goal three times over, and is one of 14 living fighter aces out of a total of 1,447 that have been recognized in the U.S military, according to the Air Force.

During World War II, Anderson had two major combat tours taking on the Luftwaffe -- Nazi Germany’s Air Force. He was an integral part of the 357th Fighter Group, 363rd Fighter Squadron, in the 8th Air Force, which was dubbed the “Yoxford Boys” -- named for a village near their base in the United Kingdom, [according to a Veterans Affairs post](#) about Anderson’s life.

The “Yoxford Boys” destroyed upward of 600 enemy aircraft between 1943 and 1945, producing more than 40 flying aces among the group -- including Anderson.

His 30-year career in the service was filled with numerous decorations, including two Legion of Merits, five Distinguished Flying Crosses, the Bronze Star, 16 Air Medals, the French Legion of Honor, and the French Croix de Guerre, according to the Air Force.

Anderson also stands out as being a 100-year-old living veteran of World War II.

The number of living World War II veterans, who would later be dubbed members of “The Greatest Generation,” are slowly fading away. According to U.S. [Department of Veterans Affairs](#) statistics, 167,284 of the 16 million Americans who served in World War II are alive in 2022.



—Retired U.S. Air Force Col. Clarence E. “Bud” Anderson, WWII Triple Ace, 357th Fighter Group pilot, sits at his booth during Wings Over Solano at Travis Air Force Base, California, May 15, 2022. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Alexander Merchak)

The National WWII Museum in New Orleans -- which also tracks that veteran population -- estimates that number will dwindle to around 1,000 by 2034.

Anderson, clad in his Air Force dress blues, sat while he took his oath of office. The crowd stood up and erupted into applause after he finished reciting it.

“It’s a little overwhelming for me,” Anderson told the crowd at the Aerospace Museum of California during his brief remarks. “It truly blew my mind to see the chief of staff himself come to do this ... I do thank you very much.”

Source: <https://www.military.com/daily-news/2022/12/02/100-year-old-flying-ace-promoted-honorary-brigadier-general-air-force-chief.html>



# Civil Air Patrol Birthday

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



—Photo by Tech. Sgt. John Hillier 188th Wing

Dec. 1st is the United States Civil Air Patrol’s birthday. The agency served as the official volunteer civilian auxiliary of the Air Force. Formed during World War Two. The Civil Air Patrol consists of cadets, ages 12 to 20 years old, and senior members who are 18 and older. All members wear uniforms as part of their Civil Air Patrol duties, but the agency is not a branch of military service.

The Civil Air Patrol Birthday will be observed on **Thursday, Dec. 1, 2022.**

### What Is The Civil Air Patrol (CAP)?

CAP is a federally-supported non-profit corporation that has a congressional charter. The all-volunteer agency offers services which include assistance with search and rescue operations, emergencies, disaster relief, and education.

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<a href="#">A Brief History of The Civil Air Patrol</a>
<a href="#">How to Join the Civil Air Patrol</a>
<a href="#">What Do New Members Do In CAP?</a>

Like members of the [Coast Guard Auxiliary](#), CAP members may find themselves involved in homeland security work in a non-enforcement related way.

CAP is considered one of the major American users of what are called “general aviation” aircraft with a single engine. They are often used to fly cadets in orientation and for use during emergencies as part of Civil Air Patrol assistance. CAP missions include support of [Red Cross](#) disaster relief operations and work in natural disaster areas.

CAP has eight regional commands and 52 wings. There is one in all 50 states plus a wing in Washington, D.C. and one in Puerto Rico. There are approximately 60,000 members of the Civil Air Patrol.

### A Brief History of The Civil Air Patrol

In the 1930s, the director of the Office of Civilian Defense, Gill Robb Wilson, had an idea to create an auxiliary that would use America’s civilian aircraft as part of homeland defense. It would take some time to realize that idea. It wasn’t until 1941 when the official orders were published authorizing Civil Air Patrol for 90 days to see how the experiment would play out.

In the earliest days of CAP, the organization actually took part in tracking, attacking, and sinking German U-boats spotted near American coasts. Civil Air Patrol is said to have attacked nearly 60 German vessels with at least two confirmed sinkings. At the end of World War Two, CAP dropped more than 80 bombs and more than sixty CAP members died while serving.

Civil Air Patrol had proven itself. At the end of the war it was designated as the official Air Force civilian auxiliary, but with the caveat that the agency would never again be allowed to perform combat operations.

Civil Air Patrol operations under the “no combat” charter resulted in many lifesaving operations. The CAP congressional mandate includes the following:

- Encourage and aid citizens of the United States in contributing efforts, services, and resources in developing aviation and in maintaining air supremacy; and encourage and develop by example the voluntary contribution of private citizens to the public welfare
- Provide aviation education and training
- To encourage and foster civil aviation in local communities
- Organize private citizens with adequate facilities to assist in meeting local and national emergencies
- To assist the United States Air Force in non-combat missions.

### How to Join the Civil Air Patrol

The first thing to know about the Civil Air Patrol is that joining does not mean you have enlisted in the United States Military. Membership is open to adults and school-age children who meet the age requirements and have parental consent.

The CAP official site informs parents, “CAP is not a military or boarding school, but a youth development program that incorporates aviation and military customs and courtesies.”

The steps for school-age children to joining CAP include the following:

- [Find a local CAP Cadet or Composite Squadron](#)
- Contact the squadron to schedule a visit with parents
- Attend at least three weekly meetings
- Fill out the membership Application and submit membership dues.

The steps for adults to join CAP includes all the above except adults are only required to attend one meeting, must submit to a fingerprinting, and have a background check. Membership dues apply for adults as well as for school-age applicants.

### What Do New Members Do In CAP?

Children who join CAP will learn about military customs and courtesies, aerospace operations and flight, search-and-rescue, and many related areas. There is a cadet program with Air Force-styled uniforms for all members.

There is a rank structure in the cadet program. Additionally, there are fitness requirements, leadership training, and promotion opportunities. Cadets will find the program similar to other traditional military cadet programs of this type.

CAP is known for its active flying missions. As an adult member you do not need to be a pilot or know how to fly. It’s said that only approximately one in five adult CAP members fly or have flying experience.

The CAP official site proclaims, “Really just about any career or background can be useful to and found in the ranks of the CAP adult membership. CAP supports a variety of missions that require adults from all walks of life.”

The mission of the Civil Air Patrol includes using the experience and training of the adult members to mentor, train, and educate school-age members in a positive and drug-free environment.

One area the organization is especially keen on is recruiting members who can help specifically with aerospace education.

The CAP official site states, “In addition to educating our own members, CAP’s adult leaders provide training and resources to teachers who reach out to students of all ages across the country.” New members with this expertise are important to meeting the congressional mandates listed above.

### How Is The Civil Air Patrol Birthday Celebrated?

CAP birthday activities are planned by local CAP squadrons. They may include banquets, recruitment drives, open house activities, CAP aircraft static displays, participating in sporting events, and other local programs.

The Civil Air Patrol has a national conference every year, but it is not held in conjunction with the CAP birthday. Most such celebrations are organized by local chapters. You can support the CAP birthday in a number of ways including joining the organization as a volunteer, but there are also other needs.

CAP partners with local community groups, schools, and agencies to increase the awareness of the organization and its mission. The “Friends of CAP” program accepts donations without any membership obligations. They encourage supporters to enroll in a monthly option that includes benefits and discounts for members, subscriptions to Civil Air Patrol publications, and much more.

There is also a need for partners in the local community. If you are a teacher, organizer, local sports coach, or other potential Civil Air Patrol partner for events, your local chapter may need to hear from you.

Source: <https://veteran.com/civil-air-patrol-birthday/>

# What is War?

—By Bob Sawallesh, LTC, USA, Retired

*“In early 1943, over 100 of German Admiral Karl Dönitz’s U-boats still prowled the Atlantic convoy lanes, exploiting gaps in Allied air coverage and attacking merchant shipping using “wolf pack” tactics. A total of 107 Allied merchant ships were sunk in March alone, bringing the German navy perilously close to breaking the Allies’ vital North Atlantic supply link.”* See <https://www.historynet.com/1943-world-war-iis-forgotten-year-victory/>.

### In 1943 what were 4<sup>th</sup> grade students studying?

I was assigned to the Corps Surgeon’s Office, HQ, XVII Airborne Corps and we were on an exercise in North Carolina about 1975. We set up in an abandoned elementary school and I went into the school basement. I saw several old schoolbooks gathering dust and mold in a corner and I took them as souvenirs.

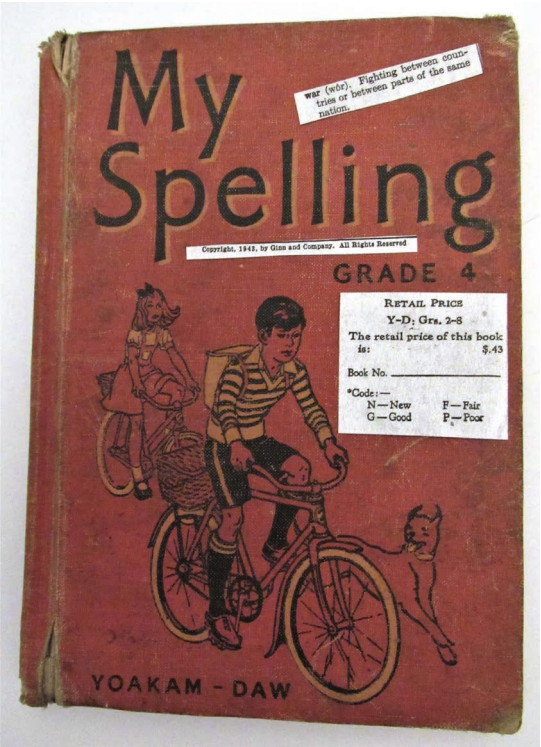
One of the books I retrieved was “My Spelling – Grade Four by Gerald A.

Youkam and Seward E. Daw. The book was published by Ginn and Company. The cost of the hardcover, 112-page 4<sup>th</sup> grade spelling book was 43 cents, copyright 1943.

My granddaughter is a Junior at Coastal College of Georgia studying to be an elementary school teacher and she was visiting us in Valrico in the summer of 2022.

We were both looking through the 1943 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Speller and one word on page 112 caught my eye. The word is war. What is the definition of war in the speller? It is as follows: **“war** (wor), Fighting between countries or between parts of the same country.”

How would this 1943 4<sup>th</sup> grade spelling book compare with a 2022 4<sup>th</sup> grade spelling book? One of the names in the book under “Name of Pupil” is “Ronald McDonald.”





The next luncheon will be scheduled for the 2nd Thursday January 12, 2023

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 Lt Col Kiley Stinson USAF Ret, Sick Call Chairman 813-957-1127 so that he may call or send cards to let them know they are missed.

Alternatively, you may send an e-mail to: [Secretary@moaatampa.org](mailto:Secretary@moaatampa.org)

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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](http://www.MOAA.org) (at the home page, go to the bottom and select the Site Map to find the MOAA Foundation).



CDR Janelle Terrell, USN  
LtCol Carol Vergara-Duron, USAF

VOLUNTEERS  
NEEDED

Buddy Call Program

Looking for volunteers to assist with calling our members.



Please contact  
CAPT Angie Nimmo,  
NC USN RET at  
(760) 401-9718

IMPORTANT DATES  
IN DECEMBER

- 1 Civil Air Patrol (USAF Auxillary) Birthday
- 7 National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
- 15 Official End of War in Iraq (2011)
- 17 National Wreaths Across America
- 18-26 Hanukkah Begins
- 20 U.S. Space Force Est. (2019)
- 25 Christmas
- 26 Dec – 1 Jan Kwanza
- 31 Enduring Freedom Ended (2014)
- 31 New Year's Eve

Christmas Carol You Know and Love

This song with roots in Ukraine has become a classic song for Advent and Christmas in the United States.

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

—By Joseph Pronechen

The well-known Christmas carol, "Carol of the Bells," has quite a remarkable history. It's difficult to believe that a Christmas carol with such a joyous tone originated more than a century ago in Ukraine. This year, "Carol of the Bells" is celebrating the 100th anniversary of its premiere in the United States. When it debuted, it was not a Christmas carol yet — that would come a few years later. Its first performance came on Oct. 5, 1922, at New York's Carnegie Hall to a sold-out house — the same venue where it will again be featured in a concert Dec. 4 to mark its momentous centennial.

At that 1922 debut it had its original Ukrainian title — "Shchedryk" — meaning "generous evening." It was really a festive New Year's song taken from Ukrainian folk tradition. But the musical foundation was there for its transformation into the popular Christmas carol in 1936.

The song was composed in 1914 by one of Ukraine's major composers, Mykola Leontovych. He based the melody on traditional folk songs. It was originally commissioned for the Ukrainian Republic Choir by its choir director for a Christmas concert. It was an immediate hit in Ukraine.

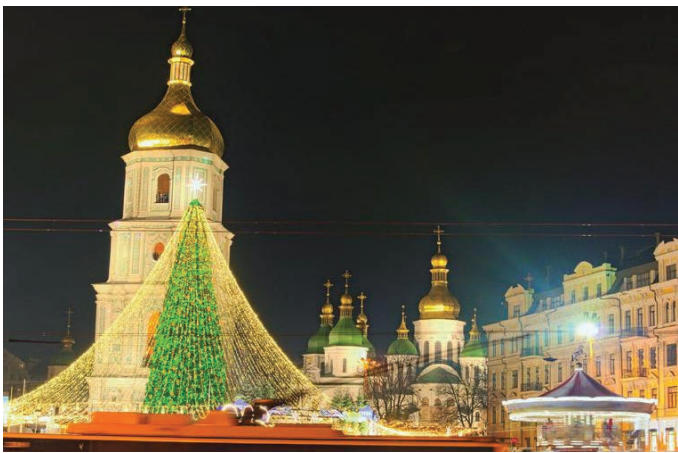
Then, just as Ukraine was getting its feet on the ground after World War I, the year 1917 saw the overthrow of the Russian tsar in the Bolshevik revolution. The Soviets refused to recognize Ukraine as a country and invaded, occupying Kharkiv in early 1919.

To familiarize the world with the Ukrainians' plight through international appearances, the same choir director who commissioned "Shchedryk" formed the new Ukrainian National Chorus to tour Europe, the United States and several other countries. In the United States alone the choir appeared in 115 cities across more than 35 states. The chorus also made the first recording of "Shchedryk." No matter where the choir sang, "Shchedryk" was an outstanding hit. Concertgoers everywhere called for it to be sung for an encore.

With lyrics inspired by an ancient Ukrainian folk traditions, the song is about a swallow flying into the house to tell the family about the bountiful year coming up for them. For those politically uncertain and harsh times, that message was uplifting in Ukraine. But the meaning did not matter for audiences around the world, who did not know what the Ukrainian lyrics meant, but were completely enthralled by the music and singing.

Change to Christmas Carol

Then came 1936 and the birth of "Carol of the Bells." In New York, well-known choral director Peter Wilhousky, who was born in New Jersey of Ukrainian ancestry, did the choral arrangements for the popular radio broadcasts of Arturo Toscanini's NBC Symphony Orchestra. Needing another piece to fill out a program, Wilhousky turned to a piece of music familiar to him. Naturally, it was Leontovych's



—Sophia Square in Kyiv, Ukraine (photo: G. Evgenij / Shutterstock)

"Shchedryk." But he knew the choir couldn't sing it in Ukrainian.

He had an idea. Since the melody reminded him of bells ringing, Wilhousky sat down and wrote lyrics about bells and Christmas for the song. The carol begins, "Hark! how the bells ..." Naturally, it also includes "Christmas is here ... Merry, merry, merry, merry Christmas." It was an instant hit with the public once they heard it on the national airwaves.

Requests for the sheet music came pouring in. Wilhousky had it published for distribution. Soon it was being performed on radio and being recorded by choirs like the Robert Shaw Chorale and the Tabernacle Choir. In 1951 even radio's Phil Spitalny and his All-Girl Orchestra and Choir recorded it. (Likely he was already familiar with the melody because he had emigrated from a town in the Kyiv Region in Ukraine.)

Dozens of adaptations have been made to the carol, from recordings featuring a single instrument to a children's choir to a huge youth orchestra to a singalong. There was even a version featuring new lyrics by a relatively unknown musician in 1947 that emphasized the Nativity of Jesus Christ and the religious significance of Advent and Christmas.

Uplifting Message

Then and now, this carol has contained a message of joy and hope, even in the sad circumstances of its composition in Ukraine.

By definition, a carol is "a popular song or ballad of religious joy." And as a verb, another definition is "to go about outdoors in a group singing Christmas carols." The lyrics describe the bells playing "with joyful ring ... all caroling," and says, "joyfully they ring ... while people sing songs of good cheer ... Christmas is here."

Joy should spark hope — something that was necessary with the situation both in Ukraine and the world when the carol was written, then on through the Depression years when it became popular as a new Christmas carol, and now in our time. The carol reminds us of the joy of the season and suggests the hope that comes with it.

For its 100th anniversary celebration in the United States, "Carol of the Bells" will return to Carnegie Hall, where it was heard for the first time in this country. Naturally, a Ukrainian choir will be performing it and other works. Surely it will bring the house down.

But more importantly, whenever you hear "Carol of the Bells" this year, say a prayer for Ukraine that hope will abound and that peace and joy will return to that country — and to the world — with the celebration of the birth of the King of Peace.

Source: <https://www.ncregister.com/blog/carol-of-the-bells-ukraine>

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# UPDATE OPERATION HELPING HAND



LTC JIM GRIFFIN  
Chairman, OPHH

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



On 17 NOVEMBER, OPERATION HELPING HAND held its 204<sup>TH</sup> monthly dinner to support the wounded and injured who receive treatment at the SCI/POLYTRAUMA facilities at the JAMES A HALEY VA HOSPITAL. We were honored to have over 100 dedicated supporters attending the dinner. EMBASSY SUITES prepared an excellent THANKSGIVING DINNER which was totally enjoyed by all. Special thanks to the CHEF AND STAFF AT EMBASSY SUITES. The colors were presented by FREEDOM JROTC as well as an excellent presentation of the meaning of all the symbols on the POW/MIA TABLE. They were truly excellent and were congratulated for an excellent presentation. I was honored to present two of my UNISEN NEIGHBORS who made patriotic presentations. Mr. I.J. KARPAY and MS PAULINE EVANS made these presentations at the VETERANS DAY PROGRAM AT UNISEN, and I felt that I had to share their presentations with you at this dinner. The entire event was covered by CHANNEL 13, FOX NEW! They showed the dinner and interviews on the FOX AT 11 PM NEWS. SPECIAL THANKS TO MAUREEN FAMIANO, our official MARKETING DIRECTOR for making this happen.

This evening’s dinner was sponsored by BOOZ ALLEN HAMILTON. THANK YOU, FOLKS-MUCH APPRECIATED. It was an honor to have a very, supportive group from UNISEN join our family. THANK ALL OF YOU UNISEN AND VILLIAN FOLKS for attending.

On behalf of FLORIDA GROUND WATER, MR. MICHAEL JOHNSON presented a very generous check to OPERATION HELPING HAND. THE PHILLIP C. DELONG MARINE DETACHMENT from the VILLAGES also made a very generous donation. THANK YOU, MARINES!

Two very successful events were held on 5 NOVEMBER that were sponsored by OPERATION HELPING HAND. BOBBY A’S BBQ which was held at WESTCHASE was a tremendous success. Special thanks to BOB AHERN, the official PITMASTER OF OPERATION HELPING HAND!

The second event was 8<sup>th</sup> annual STAR-SPANGLED ART EXHIBIT held at a tremendous venue provide and co-sponsored by UNISEN SENIOR LIVING. This event also had excellent media coverage.

All our volunteers with whom we are extremely blessed to have. They have never failed to be willing to pay the price to make it work. You must be willing to pay the price to make it work. OPERATION HELPING HAND will continue to provide support and assistance to the MUSIC, ART, VIRTUAL REALITY, AND MOTION THERAPY PROGRAMS. We will always support the POLYTRAUMA FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP which provides a vital to join old and new patients and their families.

OPERATION HELPING HAND is an all-volunteer 501 (c) 3 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 these vital programs. This support can be by donations by checks or by using our website [OPERATIONHELPINGHANDTAMPA.COM](http://OPERATIONHELPINGHANDTAMPA.COM).

OUR TREMENDOUS GROUP OF VOLUNTEERS  
MAKE ALL OF THIS POSSIBLE!

## Operation Helping Hand November Dinner Photos

Photo credit: LTC Bob Sawallesh USA (Ret)



## For 18 years, Tampa non-profit gives thanks to injured vets with monthly dinners

—Submitted by: LTC Bob Sawallesh USA (Ret)

—By Haley Hinds

TAMPA, Fla. - Each month, a group of injured veterans are invited to a special dinner in Tampa. It’s a way to say, “thank you” and to let them know they’re not forgotten and with Thanksgiving one week away, this one was extra special.

The ballroom at USF Embassy Suites smelled like Thanksgiving. And there was plenty of gratitude in the air. The people seated around the tables have stories to tell, like 97-year-old World War II vet IJ Karpay.

“I went into the Navy before my 18th birthday and I came out before my 21st birthday,” said Karpay. “Three years in the Navy. It made a man out of me. It was good.”

“We started with potluck dinners, wives bringing potluck dinners to the VA, and we expanded,” said Jim Griffin, the chairman of Operation Helping Hand.

The tradition started in 2004, and it continues nearly two decades later thanks to local sponsors, businesses donating food and volunteers.

“We get new folks every month coming in here to share the experience,” Griffin said. “They leave with a very positive experience, unlike some of the other folks in different wars, that they’re still taken care of.”

COVID-19 protocols and rising flu cases kept some veterans at the hospital, so Thursday’s event was streamed back to them. These dinners provide a chance for those who’ve served to keep serving.

“We’re all part of a special group of people,” said volunteer Jeanne Richard, retired Lt. Col. with the USAF Nurse Corps. “We’ve served on our active-duty tours, and now we get to carry on our servant attitude toward the others, the ones that have taken our places.”



In the week between Veterans Day and Thanksgiving Day, it’s one more opportunity to give thanks for those who’ve given so much.

“I’m just happy I did what I did,” Karpay said. “I’m very happy. And I love this country.”

Though the pandemic forced them to scale down these dinners, Operation Helping Hand is looking forward to increasing attendance again.

Vets have to reserve a seat ahead of time and seating is limited. You can do that by calling 813-771-6744 (OPHH.) Griffin said they’re always looking for new sponsors to help these dinners continue.

Source: <https://www.fox13news.com/news/for-18-years-tampa-non-profit-gives-thanks-to-injured-vets-with-monthly-dinners>



# 2022 Highlights MOAA Tampa

Photo credits: Sara Marks, Ben Ritter, Bob Sawallesh






The 8th Annual Star Spangled Art Exhibit, 5 November 2022

—By COL Carol Zieres, USA, Retired

Since the rise of the Pandemic in 2020, Veterans Day just hasn't been the same without the Star Spangled Art Exhibit. When LTC Jim Griffin approached me with the exciting news during the June MOAA luncheon that he had already secured a place to hold the next Star Spangled Art Exhibit at the UNISEN Senior Living Center in Tampa, needless to say, I was pleasantly surprised!. A little piece of history is warranted here: Tampa Chapter Honorable Member, Stuart Dwork and I are Co-Founders of the Star Spangled Art Exhibit, which was a spin-off of the Operation Helping Hand monthly dinners, to honor the wounded Veterans at the James A. Haley VA Hospital. The intent was to celebrate Veterans Day in a special way that recognized Veterans who were artists; painters, sculptors, photographers, poets, etc. and used art as a means of therapy in their recovery of an illness or injury. The Chairman of Operation Helping Hand, then, CAPT Bob Silah, adopted our idea of a juried art show for Military Veterans and the inaugural event took place at the Carrollwood Cultural Center, North Tampa, in November 2013. After three consecutive years of art exhibits, we moved the event to Pinellas County at the Leepa-Rattner Museum of Art, St. Petersburg College Tarpon Springs Campus, which was also an excellent venue with lots of public exposure. But, along came the great shutdown due to the rising cases of the Corona virus and unfortunately, we had lost our venue at the college and the administrative support upon which we built relationships was no longer available to us.

In July of this year, Chairman of Operation Helping Hand, Jim Griffin, Stuart, and I quickly formed a committee to "jumpstart" the next generation Star Spangled Art Exhibit at the newly renovated UNISEN Senior Living complex, formerly University Village. We are so grateful to our sponsor, Mr. Michael Brown, Executive Director, UNISEN Senior Living, for providing a great facility to house the 8<sup>th</sup> annual art exhibit, as well as providing a wonderful smorgasbord of food and beverages to the guests who attended the reception on November 5<sup>th</sup>. The formal program opened with several introductions from the Art committee and with the National Anthem beautifully performed by Harmonica player, Mr. Olaf Olson, a US Army Veteran receiving art therapy at the James A. Haley VA Hospital. Of course, the highlight of the program was the announcement of the winners of First, Second, Third Place and several Honorable Mention awards by the panel of judges.

If you missed the Star Spangled Art Exhibit this year, you missed a great time! I can assure you'll have another chance to visit this unique event next year; mark your calendar for Saturday, 28 October 2023, same time, and at same place!



### Star Spangled Artist Exhibitors

Stuart Alan Dwork  
Carol Zieres  
Bob Sawallesh  
Robert Herbenic  
Dino Kotopoullis  
A J Miller  
Frank R. Gross  
Stephen R.Terry  
Edward Odenbach  
Jeane Richard  
Frances Chancey  
Charles D. Gray  
Robert Deel  
Davis Mack  
Craig Gross  
Arnold Swepton  
Stephen Champlin  
Mary Ann Aiken  
Frank Gross

*Special Thanks to our Sponsors:*  
**UNISEN and Operation Helping Hand**  
*Robert F.Sawallesh, Scott Mascittelli*  
*Glenn Palacino, Tom South, Jim Griffin and Lyle Polyak*



8th Annual Star Spangled Art Event  
Reception November 5<sup>TH</sup>, 2022

- Introductions
- Co Chairman, Stuart Alan Dwork, Veteran US Army
- Co Chairman, Carol Zieres , Colonel US Army (Ret.)
- Jim Griffin, LTC Colonel US Army (Ret.)  
Chairman, Operation Helping Hand
- Invocation
- Bernard Lieving, Colonel US Army (Ret.)
- Honor Guard Posting of the Colors  
Freedom High school
- National Anthem  
Mr. Olaf Olson, Veteran US Army
- Remarks
- Michel J. Brown, Executive Director  
UNISEN Senior Living
- Introduction of the Judges by LTC Jim Griffin
- Judges
- Henrik Larsen Brigadier General (AF)  
Senior National Representative of Denmark  
Jim Griffin, Chairman Operation Helping Hand  
Ms. Pat Faulkner, UNISEN
- Presentation of the Awards by LTC Jim Griffin



- STAR- SPANGLED ART EXHIBIT  
JUDGE'S FINAL SELECTION
- 1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE  
ROCKY POND 47 FOLLOW ALONG  
RONALD DEEL
- 2<sup>ND</sup> PLACE  
KNEE DEEP  
BOB HERBENICK
- 3<sup>RD</sup> PLACE  
GULF VIEW  
BOB HERBENICK
- HONORABLE MENTION  
SC AUG 22B- STEVEN CHAMPLIN
- HONORABLE MENTION  
FOX TROT- CRAIG GROSS
- HONORABLE MENTION  
MISTY MAINE MORNING- CRAIG GROSS
- HONORABLE MENTION  
WINTER COUNTRY SCENE- CRAIG GROSS
- HONORABLE MENTION  
OWL- D. KARAPOLLUS



# National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day: December 7, 2022

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

From The American Presidency Project, [Proclamation 10319—National Pearl Harbor Re-  
membrance Day](#):

“As we mark National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, we honor the patriots who perished, commemorate the valor of all those who defended our Nation, and recommit ourselves to carrying forth the ensuing peace and reconciliation that brought a better future for our world. Today, we give thanks to the Greatest Generation, who guided our Nation through some of our darkest moments and laid the foundations of an international system that has transformed former adversaries into allies.”



From [U.S. Census Bureau History: Pearl Harbor](#):

On December 7, 1941, the Empire of Japan attacked the military installations in and around [Pearl Harbor](#) on the island of Oahu, HI. The 2-hour attack killed [103 civil-  
ians](#) and [2,335 military personnel](#), including 2,008 Navy seamen (1,177 from the *USS Arizo-  
na* alone), 109 Marines, and 218 Army personnel. Japanese pilots and submariners damaged 19 ships and damaged or destroyed more than 300 aircraft. However, as devastating as the attack first appeared, only three ships—the *USS Arizona* (BB-39), *Oklahoma* (BB-37), and *Utah* (AG-16)—were complete losses.

Label	United States					
	Total	Percent	Veterans	Percent Veterans	Nonveterans	Percent Nonvet...
Estimate	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate
▼ Civilian population 18 years and over	257,083,784	(X)	16,501,502	6.4%	240,582,282	93.6%
▼ PERIOD OF SERVICE						
Gulf War (9/2001 or later) veterans	(X)	(X)	4,062,031	24.6%	(X)	(X)
Gulf War (8/1990 to 8/2001) veterans	(X)	(X)	3,922,778	23.8%	(X)	(X)
Vietnam era veterans	(X)	(X)	5,647,920	34.2%	(X)	(X)
Korean War veterans	(X)	(X)	804,919	4.9%	(X)	(X)
World War II veterans	(X)	(X)	182,603	1.1%	(X)	(X)
▼ SEX						
Male	125,574,679	48.8%	14,843,173	90.0%	110,731,506	46.0%
Female	131,509,105	51.2%	1,658,329	10.0%	129,850,776	54.0%
▼ AGE						
18 to 34 years	74,352,744	28.9%	1,353,760	8.2%	72,998,984	30.3%
35 to 54 years	84,033,158	32.7%	3,956,945	24.0%	80,076,213	33.3%
55 to 64 years	42,805,868	16.7%	3,075,272	18.6%	39,730,596	16.5%
65 to 74 years	33,778,204	13.1%	4,086,870	24.8%	29,691,334	12.3%
75 years and over	22,113,810	8.6%	4,028,655	24.4%	18,085,155	7.5%

Note: The table above is cropped on the bottom and the "Margin of Error" columns are hidden. Click on the image for the full table.

Note: The image of the History page shown above is cropped at the bottom and on the left side.

Source: 2021 [American Community Survey \(ACS\)](#), 1-year estimates.

[Table S2101, Veteran Status \(see World War II veterans\)](#)

Source: <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/stories/pearl-harbor-remembrance-day.html>

## Key Stats

From the U.S. Census Bureau [History Home Page Archives](#):

[December 2016, Pearl Harbor \(75th anniversary\)](#)

## U.S. Census Bureau History: Pearl Harbor

On December 7, 1941, the Empire of Japan attacked the military installations in and around [Pearl Harbor](#) on the island of Oahu, HI. The 2-hour attack killed [103 civilians](#) and [2,335 military personnel](#), including 2,008 Navy seamen (1,177 from the *USS Arizona* alone), 109 Marines, and 218 Army personnel. Japanese pilots and submariners damaged 19 ships and damaged or destroyed more than 300 aircraft. However, as devastating as the attack first appeared, only three ships—the *USS Arizona* (BB-39), *Oklahoma* (BB-37), and *Utah* (AG-16)—were complete losses.

On December 8, President [Franklin D. Roosevelt](#) addressed a joint session of Congress, calling the attack on Pearl Harbor (along with attacks on [Wake Island](#), [Guam](#), [Midway Atoll](#), and the [Philippines](#)) as "[a date which will live in infamy](#)." One hour later, Congress passed a formal declaration of war against Japan ([Public Law 77-328, 55 STAT 795](#)) by a vote of 82-0 in the Senate and 388-1 in the House of Representatives ([Jeannette Rankin](#) [R-MT] cast the lone dissenting vote). The United States joined the Allies—Great Britain, France, Russia—on land, sea, and in the air to defeat the Axis powers that included Japan, Germany, and Italy.

Over the next 4 years, the United States sent approximately [16.1 million](#) men and women to fight a global war that consumed much of the European continent, deserts of North Africa, and the steamy jungles and barren volcanic islands and coral atolls scattered across the Pacific Ocean.

In July 1944, the battleship [USS West Virginia \(BB-48\)](#), the last of the Pearl Harbor attack's most heavily damaged but repairable ships, returned to service. The "Wee-Vee" saw action off the coast of Leyte, Iwo Jima, and Okinawa. On [September 2, 1945](#), the *West Virginia* anchored in Tokyo Bay as the United States accepted Japan's formal surrender, ending World War II. To honor the Pearl Harbor survivor, the U.S. Navy asked the *West Virginia's* band to perform during the surrender ceremony aboard the *USS Missouri*.



Following the attack on December 7, 1941, the slogan, "Remember Pearl Harbor" rallied millions of Americans to defend the nation.

Photo courtesy of the National Archives and Records Administration.

# Army to use old slogan for new recruits

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

—By Johnathan Lehrfeld

The Army is planning to launch a new marketing campaign next year using an old slogan — “Be all you can be” — to attract potential recruits.

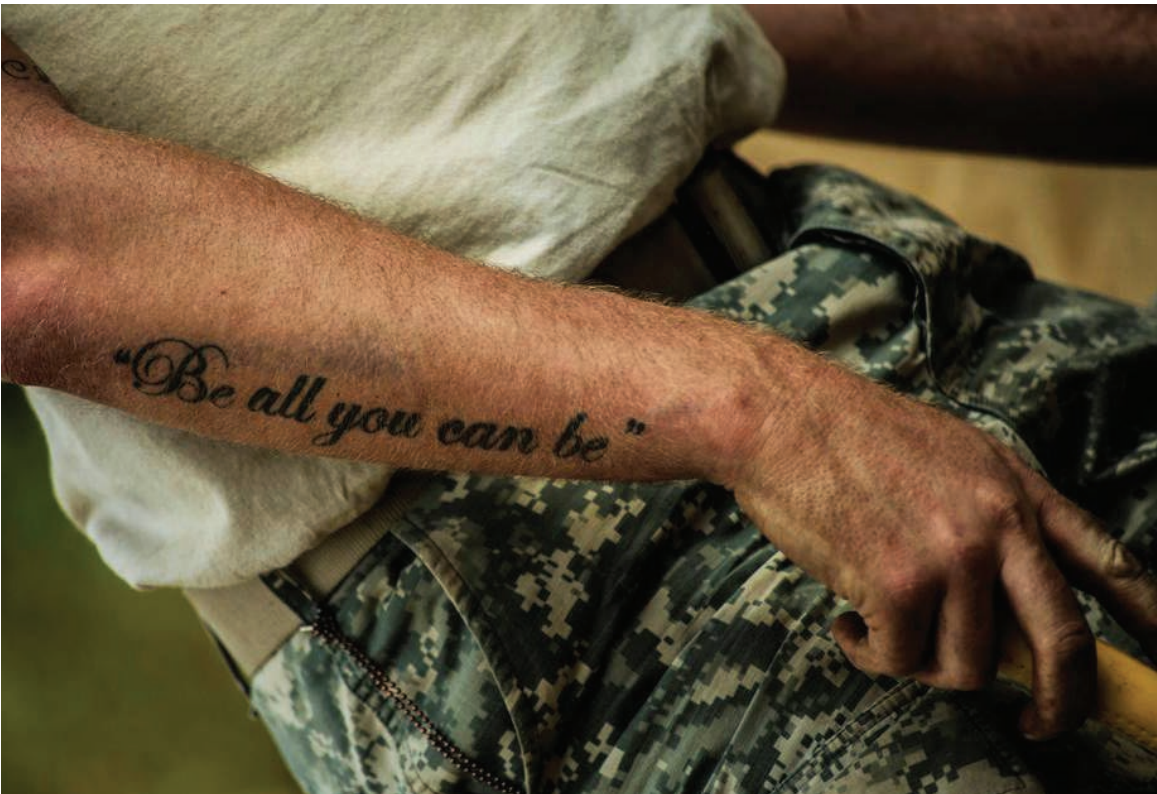
[Maj. Gen. Alex Fink](#), chief of Army enterprise marketing, hinted at a forthcoming brand refresh for the service in August.

“We will be focusing a little bit more on Army brand work in the upcoming fiscal year,” he said on a call with Army Times, noting conceptualization for the project began pre-pandemic in March 2020.

Army’s “Be all you can be” ads ran for over two decades starting in the 1980s, according to the Army Historical Foundation. The public first saw the campaign during the 1981 New Year’s college football bowl games.

The magazine Advertising Age ranked the “Be all you can be” campaign as the 18th best in a list of the top-100 marketing campaigns in the 20th century, the foundation added.

Source: <https://www.armytimes.com/news/your-army/2022/12/02/army-to-use-old-slogan-for-new-recruits/>



—A soldier with Task Force Northstar helps set up the forward operating site for Beyond the Horizon 2015. (Staff Sgt. Cliff Coy/Army)



# Allowance for the most at-risk military families begins to take shape

DoD guidance issued on new Basic Needs Allowance, but how many people will it actually help?

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

—By Karen Jowers

Low-income military families are now a step closer to getting a new allowance that will help them make ends meet and address [food insecurity](#). But under the Defense Department’s guidelines, it’s not clear whether the Basic Needs Allowance will help as many families as advocates and [lawmakers](#) had hoped.

The Department of the Air Force has run the numbers to see how many airmen and guardians would be eligible for the extra money and determined that the answer is just 36.

The Basic Needs Allowance, a safety net for military families in need, was mandated in the defense policy bill enacted in December 2021. Defense officials recently issued their guidance for implementing the new benefit, which can be paid beginning Jan. 1.

Officials in the military branches, including the Coast Guard, are developing their policies based on the Defense Department instruction. They will proactively screen service members for possible eligibility and will then notify them, with information about how to apply. Service members must voluntarily apply for the extra money.

Service leaders are in various stages of developing their policies for implementation, and some have started screening, according to service officials. The Army Training and Doctrine Command, for example, has begun screening soldiers attending Advanced Individual Training. Soldiers already assigned to their permanent duty stations will be screened after Army guidance is approved, said Army spokeswoman Heather J. Hagan.

The Air Force has completed initial screening of airmen and guardians and identified 36 service members who may be eligible, according to spokeswoman Tech Sgt. Deana M. Heitzman. These airmen and guardians will be notified starting this month, she said. They must apply and provide required documentation to substantiate household income to determine eligibility.

The Air Force will continue to screen every month for airmen and guardians who may be eligible for the allowance. “We anticipate that eligible service members will include junior enlisted members with larger families,” she said. The Air Force’s draft implementation policy is “pre-decisional” and not available for public release, she said.

### Will housing allowances count as income?

A main point of contention around the Basic Needs Allowance has been whether service members’ housing allowances would be excluded from income eligibility calculations. Defense



—Volunteers load a vehicle at a Military Family Advisory Network food distribution event in Norfolk, Va., in May. (Courtesy of MFAN)

ing areas are San Francisco; Boulder, Colorado; New York City; and Long Island and Staten Island, New York. The other 21 areas, counties in Oregon, Virginia and West Virginia, have few service members.

There are similarities in the definition of high cost in the authorization for both allowances, but information was not available about whether the same criteria will be used for the Basic Needs Allowance. A Defense Department spokesman said there are still some decisions and approvals about this that are pending.

“Congress gave DoD pretty broad latitude to determine where and how much BAH would be excluded in determining eligibility for the Basic Needs Allowance.” said Eileen Huck, government relations senior deputy director for the National Military Family Association.

“This is way more narrow than what we were hoping for,” she said. “We’ve spent the last year encouraging DoD to make that exclusion as broad as possible, especially given the fact that with current rates of inflation, you could argue that just about every place in the United States right now is a high cost of living area.

“I would be really concerned if [the DoD instruction] is interpreted in a way that virtually no military family would be able to qualify for it. It’s really disappointing.”

Source: <https://www.militarytimes.com/news/your-military/2022/12/02/allowance-for-the-most-at-risk-military-families-begins-to-take-shape/>

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# Operation Enduring Freedom

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



—Navy SEALs (Sea, Air, Land) operating in Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. From left to right: Sonar Technician (Surface) 2nd Class (SEAL) Matthew G. Axelson, 29, of Cupertino, Calif; Senior Chief Information Systems Technician (SEAL) Daniel R. Healy, 36, of Exeter, N.H.; Quartermaster 2nd Class (SEAL) James Suh, 28, of Deerfield Beach, Fla.; Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class (SEAL) Marcus Luttrell; Machinist's Mate 2nd Class (SEAL) Eric S. Patton, 22, of Boulder City, Nev.; Lt. (SEAL) Michael P. Murphy, 29, of Patchogue, N.Y. With the exception of the lone survivor, Luttrell, all were killed 28 June 2005 by enemy forces while supporting Operation Redwing. (U.S. Navy Photo)

In response to the 11 September 2001 terrorist attacks that killed nearly 3,000 people, Operation Enduring Freedom officially began 7 October 2001 with American and British bombing strikes against al-Qaeda and Taliban forces in Afghanistan. Initially, the Taliban was removed from power and al-Qaeda was seriously crippled, but forces continually dealt with a stubborn Taliban insurgency, infrastructure rebuilding and corruption among the Afghan National Army, Afghan National Police, and Afghan Border Police.

On 2 May 2011, U.S. Navy SEALs launched a raid on Osama Bin Laden’s compound in Abbotabad, Pakistan, killing the al-Qaeda leader and mastermind of the September 11th terrorist’s attacks (O’Rourke). Operation Enduring Freedom officially ended 28 December 2014, although coalition forces remain on the ground to assist with training Afghan security forces (Torreon).

The U.S. Navy had three Medal of Honor recipients during Operation Enduring Freedom, all Navy SEALs, Lieutenant Michael P. Murphy, Senior Chief Special Warfare Operator Edward C. Byers Jr. and Master Chief Petty Officer Britt Slabinski.

The links below showcase NHHC’s online holdings pertaining to Operation Enduring Freedom.

References

O’Rourke, Ronald. 2015. “Navy Irregular Warfare and Counterterrorism Operations: Background and Issues for Congress.” Congressional Research Report for Congress (November 6): 1.

Torreon, Barbara. 2016. “U.S. Periods of War and Dates of Recent Conflicts.” Congressional Research Report for Congress (September 29): 6–7.

Chronology

- ▢ [The U.S. Navy in Operation Enduring Freedom, 2001-2002](#) by NHHC historian Greg Bereiter, PhD

Notable People

- ▢ [Lieutenant Michael P. Murphy \(SEAL\), USN](#)
- ▢ [Master Chief Petty Officer Britt Slabinski](#)
- ▢ [Admiral Michael G. Mullen](#)
- ▢ [Admiral Gary Roughead](#)
- ▢ [Lt. j.g. Francis L. Toner](#)
- ▢ [Rear Admiral Thomas E. Zelibor](#)

Notable Ships

- ▢ *Theodore Roosevelt* (CVN-71)
- ▢ [John F. Kennedy \(CVA-67\)](#)
- ▢ *George Washington* (CVN-73)
- ▢ [Enterprise \(CVN-65\)](#)
- ▢ *Bonhomme Richard* (LHD-6)
- ▢ [Kitty Hawk \(CVA-63\)](#)
- ▢ [Constellation \(CVA-64\)](#)
- ▢ *Abraham Lincoln* (CVN-72)
- ▢ *John C. Stennis* (CVN-74)
- ▢ *John Paul Jones* (DDG-53)
- ▢ *Bataan* (LHD-5)

Special Operations & SEALs

- ▢ [Navy Special Warfare](#)
- ▢ [Navy Irregular Warfare and Counterterrorism Operations](#)
- ▢ [Irregular Enemies and the Essence of Strategy](#)
- ▢ [Bibliography of Irregular Warfare](#)
- ▢ [U.S. Special Operation Forces \(SOF\)](#)

Further Readings

- ▢ [Al Qaeda - Statements of Evolving Ideology](#)
- ▢ [Anchor of Resolve](#)

- ▢ [Cost of Major U.S. Wars](#)
- ▢ [Peacekeeping and Related Stability Operations: Issues of U.S. Military Involvement](#)
- ▢ [Islam: A Primer - Congressional Research Service Report for Congress](#)
- ▢ [Afghanistan Casualties](#)
- ▢ [Peacekeeping and Related Stability Operations: Issues of U.S. Military Involvement](#)
- ▢ [Terrorism: A Navy Department Library Research Guide](#)
- ▢ [Perspectives on Enhanced Interrogation Techniques](#)
- ▢ [Naval Aviation News January/February 2002: Operation Enduring Freedom: Naval Aviation Targets Terrorism](#)
- ▢ [In Honor of Master Chief Britt K. Slabinski, United States Navy, Retired. Britt K. Slabinski Medal of Honor Induction Ceremony program](#)

Blogs

- ▢ [Operation Enduring Freedom 15 Years Later](#)
- ▢ [Tomahawk Missiles Brought Power to the Punch During Operation Enduring Freedom](#)
- ▢ [Honoring Our Veterans: Navy Sailors That Earned our Country’s Highest Honor](#)

Additional Resources

- ▢ [National Archives - Afghanistan](#)
- ▢ [Center of Military History - Global War on Terrorism](#)
- ▢ [U.S. Department of State - The Global War on Terrorism: The First 100 Days](#)
- ▢ [Central Intelligence Agency - National Strategy for Combating Terrorism](#)

Selected Imagery



—This tactical training vest and accessories belonged to Navy SEAL Britt Slabinski. MCPO Slabinski was awarded the Medal of Honor on 24 May 2018 for his actions in Afghanistan during Operation Anaconda in 2002.



—Huey Landing On USS Bataan. Painting, Oil on Canvas; by Kristopher J. Battles; 2015; Framed Dimensions 12H x 18W. (Navy Art Accession #2015-011-08)



—SR-25 Sniper Rifle carried by SCPO Britt Slabinski in Afghanistan during 2002.



—Tomcat Into the Night. Painting, Oil on Canvas; by Morgan Ian Wilbur; 2002; Framed Dimensions 29H X 35W. (Navy Art Accession #2002-093-02)



—Naval Nocturne, USS John C. Stennis. Painting, Oil on Canvas; by Morgan Ian Wilbur; 2009; Framed Dimensions 24H X 32W. (Navy Art Accession #2009-020-05)

Source: <https://www.history.navy.mil/browse-by-topic/wars-conflicts-and-operations/middle-east/operation-enduring-freedom.html>



# Coalition Corner



**Dear MOAA Members**  
I trust you are all doing well out there. The International Coalition with US Central Command is still doing great and remains at some 44 nations. We have seen some rotations among senior national representatives and team members. We have not seen major changes to

the mission and the general situation in the US Central Command area of responsibility. Having said that we are all very much aware that situation may change rapidly and therefore we must remain vigilante and focused on current missions. Even small things may end up having strategic impact and that small thing may happen tomorrow. We are here and ready to act in case (when!) something like that occurs.

## Halloween

October saw the Halloween, which a lot of coalition members are not used to from their respective nations. However, being in Tampa, Florida, USA during the Halloween period many coalition members to include spouses and children exploited the opportunity the observe or actively take part in the Halloween tradition. I am aware that some “coalition houses” were decorated to match the other houses in the neighbourhood. I am also aware that some of children in the coalition now have enough candy and chocolate bars to survive a couple of strong winters....



—“Coalition House” in Port Tampa



—Coalition kids on the move

## Remembrance Day Ceremonies

Due to COVID the Remebrance Day Ceremony normally planned by either Canada, the British or France were cancelled. Therefore it was an absolute pleasure to see a reintroduction of this great event this year in the “correct” month – November 11<sup>th</sup>.

On November 11th at the 11th Hour Representatives from the International Coalition participated in two memorial ceremonies. On behalf of the Canadian, British and French Liaison elements to US Central Command a Remembrance Day Ceremony was held at the MacDill Air Force Base Community Park. Many Senior National Representaives and crew members from our respective delagations participated in this ceremony. Another ceremony was organized and conducted in downtown Tampa at the Gold Star Families Memorial Monument in MacDill Park along the Riverwalk.



—MacDill Air Force Base Community Park

My wife and I were representing the Coalition at the CRISP ceremony planned held at the MacDill Park. CRISP is short for Commitment, Respect, Integrity, Service, and Pride. CRISP’s first project is to honor the Tampa area’s 300+ Gold Star families. Besides the Gold Star families Mayor Jane Castor was present and Comander US Central Command General Kurilla delivered the key note speech. Due to heavy rain the ceremony was conducted inside. A wonderful – and meaningful ceremony with the wreath brought down to the Gold Star Families Memorial Monument later that same day when the rain cleared.

## Wounded Warrior Project – Golf Tournament Fund Raiser

Members of the International Coalition joined the the Wounded Warrior Golf Tournament, which was held in the Bay Palm Golf Complex South Course. This event was actually planned by the Australian Senior National Representative who did a fantastic job in setting up the golf tournament supportrd by the golf club at MacDill AFB. A lot of golf players from the surrounding community were there to support the event as well. Senior

National Representatives and team members from Australia, Denmark, Israel, Pakistan, Spain, and UK spent a great day at the South Golf Course - out of their respective offices!



—Gold Star Family Memorial Monument at MacDill Park.

If you are not familiar with the Wounded Warrioer Project I strongly recommend looking it up on the internet. The project was established back in 2003 with a mission to honor and empower Wounded Warriors who incurred a physical or mental injury, illnesses, or wound, co-incident to your military service on or after September 11, 2001. They are doing a fantastic job supporting veterans to have a meaningfull life in spite of their situation.



—Some of the Coalition golfers from Pakistan, Israel, Denmark, and Spain

BGEN Henrik Larsen  
Danish Senior National Representative to US CENT-COM and Chairman of the Coalition

# 2022 Army vs. Navy Game: Uniforms revealed for 123rd rivalry meeting between Black Knights, Midshipmen

Navy’s NASA-inspired uniforms will go up against Army’s uniforms inspired by the 1st Armored Division

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

—By Barrett Sallee

Army and Navy have come up with some clever alternate uniforms for their rivalry game in recent years, and this year's game will feature some of the best.

Navy’s 2022 threads are out of this world -- pun very much intended. The school released its uniforms for the showdown on Monday, and they are dedicated to the 54 Navy graduates who have gone on to become astronauts. That is, according to the school, more astronauts than any other institution has produced.



—Army, Navy Athletics



Alan Shepard, a 1944 graduate of the Naval Academy, was the first American in space in 1961 and served as one of NASA’s first seven astronauts. He also landed on the moon as part of the Apollo 14 crew in 1971. Fellow graduate Bruce McCandless II was the first astronaut to go on an untethered space walk in 1985.

Navy’s helmet will feature handcrafted paintings of McCandless’ space walk with Earth in the background. The other side of the helmet will feature the NASA logo.

The uniform, which will be white with red stripes and blue American flag markings, is designed to resemble a space walk uniform. The pants will include the NASA astronaut pin that was given to some of America’s earliest astronauts upon returning. Players will also wear shoes designed to look similar to boots that astronauts wear while on a mission.

Take a look at the hype video for Navy’s uniforms below:

Army’s uniforms are dedicated to the soldiers of 1st Armored Division during World War II. This is the 80th anniversary of Operation Torch, which was the start of the United States’ ground operations in Europe and North Africa. The “Iron Soldiers” defeated Axis forces in North Africa in harsh, desert conditions.

Approximately 125,000 soldiers landed in Algeria and French Morocco in November 1942 in what was the the largest amphibious landing in history at that point.

Army released a video detailing the uniforms and their historical significance on Monday.

The 123rd Army vs. Navy Game is set to be played on Dec. 10 at 3 p.m. ET from Lincoln Financial Field in Philadelphia. The game will be broadcast live on CBS.

Source: <https://www.cbssports.com/college-football/news/georgia-again-proves-to-be-college-footballs-lone-dominant-team-after-destroying-lsu-in-sec-title-game/>



# MEDICAL CORNER

## 6 Practical Ways to Boost Your Mental Fitness

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

—By Adam Evans

Today we are bombarded with information from morning till night. There is so much noise from television, social media, radio and even the Internet that we often overlook quieter activities that have a tremendous impact on our mental fitness — our brain.

Fortunately, the human brain is one of the most adaptable and responsive organs in the body. It'll soak up new challenges like a sponge and continue developing throughout your life. But in order to do that, it needs some special attention.

There are lots of things you can do to keep your brain active – everything from reading books to playing games will work wonders for your memory, problem-solving skills, concentration abilities and much more.

Read on to find out about some different ways you can exercise your brain.

**Brain Exercises to Boost Your Mental Fitness**

There're several approaches to brain exercise:

**1. Develop a Consistent Daily Routine**

If you're looking for the one thing that will have the biggest impact on your brain health, then it's routine.

A [daily routine](#) of consistent brain activities will benefit you more than anything else. This means having a schedule where you dedicate a specific amount of time to your favourite brain exercises every day. You should start light – even just 10 minutes a day can make a big difference.

Next, make sure you use the time wisely by focusing on exercises that stretch your mind in new ways. For example, reading a novel or listening an audiobook that you usually wouldn't go for will help improve your vocabulary and understanding of different writing styles.

**2. Read Books**

You may well have heard this advice a hundred times before but don't ignore it. [Reading](#) is one of the easiest and most enjoyable ways to exercise your brain. It's also a proven method to improve your memory, concentration and problem-solving skills.<sup>[1]</sup>

There are lots of different genres to choose from – so you can stretch your brain in different ways. For example, a novel with lots of descriptive language will help improve your vocabulary while a science fiction or fantasy book will test your understanding of new worlds.

Reading also gives you the chance to learn from some of the world's greatest minds. You can read the [biographies](#) of successful people in any industry or read the works of philosophers, poets and novelists – it's up to you!

Personally, I prefer audiobooks and typically increase their speed to 1.5x in order to consume the content quicker and inevitably consume more books overall. I didn't start with 1.5x speed, but rather began with 1.25x and worked my way all the way up to 1.75x speed for certain books and narrations.

If there's one lifehack I can suggest for book and audiobook lovers, that is to learn to increase the speed at which you consume information. There is a multitude of information out there ready to be consumed, yet it's severely limited by one's time.

**3. Learn a New Language**

Learning a [new language can have enormous benefits](#) for your brain. It'll stretch your mind in new ways as you try to grasp the various rules and patterns of the language. It'll also challenge you to expand your vocabulary and improve your memory.

If you want to get the most out of learning a new language, try to do it with a friend. Working with a partner will help you stay motivated and push you further. It's also a great way to build new friendships and share ideas and advice with others who are learning too.

Many years ago, I travelled to Spanish speaking countries Cuba, and Mexico a couple times. I was also dating a Latin woman and had taken a great interest in learning Spanish. Aside from picking up a few words here or there I took it upon myself to go to Spanish classes, and listened to translation audiobooks while I slept.

Another lifehack I suggest is try listening to audiobooks or reading right before bed, and you can certainly listen to audiobooks during the initial stages of your sleep cycle. Many audiobook apps will allow you to set a timer, or you can set one with your phone itself, which will stop playing the book after a certain amount of time.

When you sleep, your brain goes through the process called 'consolidation' where it transfers information from short-term memory to long-term memory. Studies have proven that language learners who were listening to language tapes during sleep were able to recall the newly learned words better than those who didn't.<sup>[2]</sup> This was actually the case for me, and I would awake the next day understanding just a bit more Spanish than the night before.

Full disclosure, I haven't travelled to Latin countries in many years, am no longer with the Latin spouse, and thus gradually stopped practicing Spanish.

**4. Play Games**

You probably associate games with childhood, but games are great for your brain.<sup>[3]</sup> They're a fun and interactive way to exercise your brain and can improve your memory, problem-solving skills and attention span. You can even play games designed specifically to improve your mental health.



There are lots of different games that will benefit your brain – both traditional board games and modern video games. You could also challenge yourself to learn a new skill-based game like chess or go that has a reputation for improving problem-solving skills.

If you're looking for a quick and easy way to exercise your brain, games are a great choice. They're accessible, cheap and can be played almost anywhere – from on the bus on the way to work to on your phone during a quick break.

Certain video games can also help with the brains development.<sup>[4]</sup> Personally, I prefer real-time strategy (RTS) games, which is a sub-genre of strategy video games that do not progress incrementally in turns, but allow all players to play simultaneously. Examples of this include Defense of the Ancients (DoTA) and League of Legends (LoL) – which are two of the most popular games in the world today, and have been for a decade. They require quick decision making and a multitude of actions in a short time-frame.

For instance, it's not uncommon for a player to have over 1,000 actions (clicks or keyboard strokes) within the span of an hour being in a typical DoTA or LoL game. APM is an acronym for actions per minute. It mainly refers to the number of your clicks and keyboard strokes per minute. Many professional gamers consider these types of insights when examining their gaming abilities.

**5. Exercise Your Mind with Puzzles and Quizzes**

Puzzles and quizzes are great ways to exercise your brain and test your knowledge at the same time.<sup>[5]</sup> You can try out different puzzle types such as crosswords, Sudoku, word searches and number puzzles. These are great for improving your attention span and problem-solving skills.

There are also lots of puzzle and quiz books out there that can test your knowledge of different subjects. You might want to try out a book of general knowledge to improve your general knowledge, or a book of general science facts to improve your scientific knowledge.

Quizzes are also a great way to test your knowledge. You can challenge yourself with general knowledge quizzes or find quizzes on specific subjects to improve your knowledge of those topics.

When I was very young, I would watch my grandmother complete huge puzzles which were spread across the dining room table of her home. When I look back to those days with this new found understanding of brain science, I can see that she was (at that time) supporting her brain health and helping defend from diseases such as Alzheimers and dementia.

As she grew older, she slowly stopped playing puzzles, and slowly succame to Alzheimers and passing away. She stopped playing puzzles when her husband (my grandfather) passed away, and though I'm not saying correlation equals causation, however, the reduction of brain building activities coupled with stress of her husband passing, certainly had major impacts on her mental health.

**6. Physical Activity**

You may have heard that brain exercises and physical activity are great for your mental health. But did you know that the opposite is true too? Physical activity is one of the best ways to keep your brain healthy and can improve your thinking skills as you age.

There are lots of different forms of physical activity you can try out to boost your brain power. You could try a new sport, join a gym or go for a run or walk in your local park. You can even try dancing or yoga if those suit you better – it's up to you!

Physical activity has been shown to improve thinking skills and mental health because it releases helpful chemicals called endorphins. These naturally occurring chemicals can help reduce stress, improve your mood and give you a better sense of well-being.<sup>[6]</sup>

I've personally had some challenges over the last 3 years with training consistently. It started because I sold my last house, and moved to an in-between house before moving into my new house. This resulted in my home gym being packed in storage for months, and upon moving into my new house I renovated my garage before placing the gym inside.

I've kept different gym memberships all this time, but have not consistently visited. Only this year did I begin regular training again in my new home gym, and also going to outside gyms such as Goodlife Fitness or Planet Fitness. Honestly I find motivation in going to regular commercial gyms because I see people working on themselves, and it feels like somewhat of a community. Though it's nothing like the powerlifting/olympic lifting community, I was a part of at Fortis Fitness in Toronto, I've moved a bit too far from that speciality gym to justify the drive (especially with my own speciality gym at home).

Long story short, stay tuned on my Instagram page and YouTube channel as I will be uploading new content around lifestyle, health, fitness and wellness next year.

**Bottom Line**

Exercising your brain every day is one of the best things you can do for your mental health. It doesn't matter if you're young or old – everyone can benefit from challenging their mind and squeezing every last drop out of it. You don't have to invest hours of your time either – just a few minutes a day can make a big difference.

Best of all, the majority of these exercises are free so there's no excuse not to get started! Let me know how it's going or feel free to ask any questions – shoot a DM or comment on one of my latest posts on Instagram or YouTube.

Source: <https://www.lifehack.org/929096/mental-fitness>



# ‘Deterrence the American way’: The new B-21 bomber debuts

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

—By Stephen Losey

PALMDALE, Calif. — For the first time in a generation, the Air Force revealed a new stealth bomber — a sleek, highly capable weapon the service hopes will be so deadly it would force leaders in China or Russia to re-think wars for decades to come.

The Air Force unveiled the [Northrop Grumman-made B-21 Raider](#) to the public Friday in a ceremony at Air Force Plant 42 in Palmdale, California, that included top defense officials, Northrop Grumman chief executive Kathy Warden, and a tribute to the storied Doolittle Raiders for whom the bomber is named.

“The audacity of the Doolittle Raiders has inspired generations of American aviators,” Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said at the ceremony, as the imposing aircraft loomed behind him. “It’s fitting that the next chapter in American airpower is named in their honor.”

“Ladies and gentlemen, this is deterrence the American way,” Austin said.

The ceremony was attended by families of some of the Doolittle Raiders and a crowd of Northrop Grumman employees. Their mood was celebratory, as employees occasionally broke into chants of “USA! USA!” and cheered.


As dusk fell and a Northrop Grumman employee sang the National Anthem, a procession of three bombers streaked overhead — first a B-52 Stratofortress, then a B-1 Lancer with its afterburners roaring, and finally a B-2 Spirit bomber.

After Warden’s comments, in which she thanked the employees who designed and built the bomber, dramatic music played. A pair of massive hangar doors slid open, where the B-21 sat under a massive cover and bathed in fog and blue light.

The sheet dropped, revealing the bomber, and it was towed forward to the edge of the hangar as the crowd applauded.

The long-awaited debut of the B-21 marks a milestone in reshaping the Air Force’s increasingly creaky bomber fleet. It comes at a time when Russia is attempting to conquer Ukraine, China’s view of Taiwan is sparking concern, and when the U.S. military wants a highly public display to serve as a pointed warning to America’s adversaries.

And if a war with China were to break out, that nation’s recent military advancements — particularly air defenses — will require the Air Force to have aircraft that can slip undetected into enemy territory. The Air Force hopes the B-21’s advanced stealth capabilities will allow it to carry out such penetrating strike missions.



—The B-21 Raider was unveiled to the public at a ceremony Dec. 2, 2022 in Palmdale, Calif. (U.S. Air Force)

Air Force leaders envision the B-21 as the “backbone” of its future bomber force, and a key element of the U.S. military arsenal for perhaps the next half-century. When the highly classified, secretive bomber starts arriving at Air Force bases such as Ellsworth Air Force Base in South Dakota later this decade, it will arrive with the capability to carry both nuclear and conventional weapons, including standoff and direct attack munitions — and an estimated \$203 billion price tag for the program.

The B-21 will be one of the top two biggest aircraft acquisitions in U.S. military history, rivaled only by the F-35, Todd Harrison, a defense budget expert and managing director of Metrea Strategic Insights, told Defense News. Other major efforts include Navy shipbuilding programs such as the Columbia and Virginia class submarines, and the next-generation nuclear missile dubbed Sentinel, previously known as the Ground Based Strategic Deterrent.

The ceremony marked the first time the Air Force has rolled

out a new bomber in more than three decades, since the [B-2 Spirit’s debut at the same site](#) in November 1988. Like its predecessor, the bat-shaped B-21 has a flying wing design with no tail and minimal fuselage, which reduces drag and its signature on enemy radar.


As more B-21s are available, they will replace the aging B-1 Lancer and B-2 Spirit bombers as the Air Force moves to a planned two-bomber fleet. The Air Force plans to retire all B-1s and B-2s by the early 2030s, leaving the service with a fleet of at least 100 B-21s and Cold War-era B-52 Stratofortresses with revamped engines. For years, the Air Force has kept details about its new bomber tightly under wraps — and aside from the view of the bomber, that did not change with its public unveiling. In briefings before the ceremony, Air Force and Northrop Grumman officials offered no new information about its capabilities.

But in his speech, Austin touted the bomber’s capabilities, which he said will allow the U.S. to deter enemies and strike targets even in highly contested airspace. The B-21’s range will allow the bomber to carry out missions without being based in theater, or requiring logistical support in a deployment, Austin said. Its stealth capabilities will mean “even the most sophisticated air defense systems will struggle to detect a B-21 in the sky,” he added.

And its open system architecture will make it highly adaptable and “able to defend our country with new weapons that haven’t even been created yet.”

“The B-21 looks imposing,” Austin said. “But what’s under the frame and the space-age coatings is even more impressive.”

In a briefing with reporters before the ceremony, Warden said Northrop Grumman experimented with thousands of designs for the bomber in a digital environment before settling on the final version.



—The B-21 Raider stealth bomber is unveiled at Northrop Grumman Friday, Dec. 2, 2022, in Palmdale, Calif. America’s newest nuclear stealth bomber made its debut Friday after years of secret development and as part of the Pentagon’s answer to rising concerns over a future conflict with China. The B-21 Raider is the first new American bomber aircraft in more than 30 years. Almost every aspect of the program is classified. (AP Photo/Marcio Jose Sanchez)

In a November interview with Defense News, Tom Jones, president of Northrop Grumman’s Aeronautics Systems unit, touted the B-21 as the world’s first sixth-generation aircraft. He pointed to its advanced stealth capabilities, its open-systems architecture meant to enable future modernization and its use of data-sharing technologies as part of the Joint All-Domain Command and Control, or JADC2, effort.

This B-21, number 001 and designated T1 for the first flight test aircraft, is one of six Raiders in various stages of construction at Air Force Plant 42 in Palmdale. More will follow, though Jones would not say when construction on the seventh B-21 will likely begin.

The first B-21 has undergone ground tests in recent months, as well as final assembly and application of coatings and paint before its debut.

Its next major step will be its first flight to Edwards Air Force Base in California, expected to occur sometime in 2023. Northrop Grumman has said the date of that first flight will be based on the results of future additional ground tests.

Those tests will include powering the Raider’s systems on and off, running its engines, performing taxiing test runs, and other integration tests.

Once the Raider is at Edwards, the Air Force will conduct further flight tests.

This first bomber is a production representative aircraft, essentially identical to the production aircraft that will eventually be produced by Northrop Grumman.

Jones said this differs from most new aircraft programs, which usually have their first flight conducted by a nonproduction-representative aircraft, leading to longer testing periods. He said using a production representative aircraft for the B-21’s flight tests is meant to speed up the process.

Jones also said Northrop Grumman extensively used digital testing to “burn down risk” and find and fix potential problems with the bomber in a virtual environment. The Air Force said in an email to Defense News the B-21 is staying under its average procurement unit cost, which when adjusted for inflation is now \$692 million in 2022 dollars. That represents the total cost of all procurement funding including flyaway costs, support equipment, training, spares and future modifications, the service said.

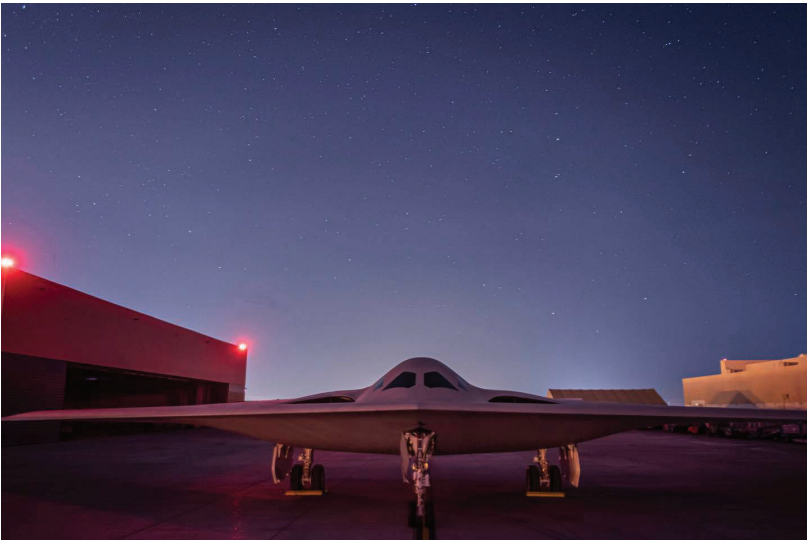
Other contractors on the B-21 include engine maker Pratt & Whitney, BAE Systems, Collins Aerospace, Janicki Industries, GKN Aerospace and Spirit Aerosystems.

The Air Force awarded the contract to build the B-21 — originally called the long range strike bomber — to Northrop Grumman in 2015, and the first rendering of the design was revealed the following year.

The program passed its critical design review in 2018. And in March 2019, the Air Force announced it had chosen Ellsworth Air Force Base in South Dakota to be the first operational B-21 bomber base, as well as its formal training unit.

B-21s will also be based at Whiteman Air Force Base in Missouri and Dyess Air Force Base in Texas.

Earlier this year, Ellsworth began construction on a 95,000 square foot hangar to maintain the B-21’s low-observable stealth coating. This was the first of about three dozen major projects at Ellsworth to prepare for the bomber’s arrival later this decade.



—The B-21 Raider was unveiled to the public at a ceremony December 2, 2022 in Palmdale, Calif. Designed to operate in tomorrow’s high-end threat environment, the B-21 will play a critical role in ensuring America’s enduring airpower capability. (U.S. Air Force photo)

The B-21’s name evokes one of the most storied missions in the Air Force’s history — the 1942 Doolittle Raid. During that mission, the United States’ first strike back against Japan following Pearl Harbor, 80 airmen led by Lt. Col. Jimmy Doolittle flew 16 B-25 Mitchell bombers off of aircraft carriers to bomb Tokyo. The story of the Doolittle Raiders bolstered American morale, and forced Japan to divert forces.

The Air Force in early 2016 invited airmen to suggest names for the B-21, and later that year announced it had dubbed it the Raider. The late Lt. Col. Richard Cole, Doolittle’s co-pilot on the lead bomber, took the stage with former Air Force Secretary Deborah Lee James at the Air Force Association’s September 2016 conference to reveal the name. Cole, who died in 2019, was 101 when he made that appearance.

A Mitchell bomber was on display before the ceremony, along with other aircraft including a B-2 and an F-35. In the pre-ceremony briefing, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. CQ Brown said the new bomber will carry the legacy of the Doolittle Raiders forward.

“Think about the Doolittle Raiders and what they were able to do,” Brown said. “Just a handful of months after the attack on Pearl Harbor, for the very first time, you put a bomber on a carrier and struck Japan.”

“That’s innovation,” Brown continued. “That innovative spirit is sitting behind us right now.”

Source: <https://www.defensenews.com/air/2022/12/03/deterrence-the-american-way-the-new-b-21-bomber-debuts/>





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

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



22 October 2022

Dear Fellow Member,

Our MOAA Tampa Chapter has experienced another great year. Despite its challenges, 2022 has been characterized by growth, expanded capability, and increased advocacy/engagement. We retained our 5-star status, won the Communications Award for our website and newsletter, and touched our community in myriad ways. Thank you for your involvement and continued support.

Well, it is time to renew your Tampa Chapter membership and you can do so beginning 1 November. As you know, the cost of goods, supplies, and services required to operate the chapter has increased substantially over the past two years. In response, the Board of Directors determined, and the membership voted unanimously at the annual meeting at the October luncheon, that the 2023 membership dues will be \$30.00. This small increase along with improved fundraising efforts will help offset rising costs for required expenses. Dues must be paid by 31 January 2023 to remain an active member of the MOAA Tampa Chapter.

In addition to your Chapter membership, please remember that our Tampa Chapter bylaws require all chapter members to also be members of MOAA national. If you are not already a member of the national level organization, joining is easy. When you go online at [MOAA - Why Join MOAA](#), you will find an application and a description of the various categories of membership. You may join as a Basic member at no charge. However, please note that the benefits provided within the Premium and Life membership categories are stellar and include career and financial resources, MOAA-exclusive publications, spouse protection, and numerous discounts on products and travel.

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

If you have any questions concerning the enclosed dues renewal form, please contact our membership chair, Matt Mularoni, at [membership@moaatampa.org](mailto:membership@moaatampa.org). On behalf of the Board of Directors and your fellow chapter members, I extend to you and your family our very best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

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



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!



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

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Rank \_\_\_\_\_ Service \_\_\_\_\_ Status (Active, Retired, Former) \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (HOME or CELL) \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: Month: \_\_\_\_\_ Day: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact: Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

MOAA National Member Number \_\_\_\_\_ If not a MOAA National member, can we set up a Basic membership for you at no cost? I give my permission: signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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

World War II \_\_\_\_\_ Korean War \_\_\_\_\_ Vietnam Era: \_\_\_\_\_ Vietnam (in country) \_\_\_\_\_

Gulf War (Desert Shield/Storm) \_\_\_\_\_ Lebanon, Grenada, Panama \_\_\_\_\_

Iraq/Syria (OIF/New Dawn/OIR) \_\_\_\_\_ Afghanistan (OEF/ORS/OFS) \_\_\_\_\_

OR check No service during any of these periods of time \_\_\_\_\_

Tampa Chapter Annual Dues: \$30 No fee for Active Duty or Surviving Spouses.

Chapter name tag \$13 YES \_\_\_\_; NO \_\_\_\_: Name as you want it on name tag: \_\_\_\_\_

You may bring the completed form to any Chapter event, or you can **mail** it with your check (payable to **MOAA Tampa Chapter**) to: **Matt Mularoni, C/O MOAA Tampa, PO Box 6383, Tampa, FL 33608-0383.**

Email questions to: [membership@moaatampa.org](mailto:membership@moaatampa.org)

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





MOAA Tampa Chapter Dues Renewal Form

Deadline for renewing your membership is January 31, 2023

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Rank\_\_\_\_\_ Service\_\_\_\_\_ Status\_\_\_\_\_

Please complete the form below only if there are changes from last year.

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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Check here if there are no changes \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE: Active-duty Service Members and Surviving Spouses are not required to pay chapter**  
Dues may be mailed to the Membership Chairman or brought to any chapter event.  
Consider donating to our chapter scholarship fund.

Amount enclosed:

Dues           \$ 30.00

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Please make checks payable to: MOAA Tampa Chapter

**Mail to:** MOAA Tampa Membership C/O Matt Mularoni, PO Box 6383, Tampa, FL 33608-0383.

You may also pay your Tampa chapter dues online at MOAA National website at:  
<https://chapterdues.moaa.org/Membership.aspx>

Email questions to: [membership@moaatampa.org](mailto:membership@moaatampa.org)



# Surviving Spouse Corner: Benefits of Pet Adoption

—By Nancy Mullen



— Photo by David Baileys/Getty Images

According to the ASPCA, well over 6 million companion animals enter U.S. animal shelters every year and just under 1 million are euthanized each year. Thankfully, that number has been declining in recent years due in part to more publicity around adoption as well as ease of technology tools like social media and microchips that can help to reunite a lost pet with its family.

You might have thought about pet adoption and perhaps have some misgivings, and it is true that pet ownership is not right for everyone. After all, it can be a commitment of up to 20 years. Here are some adoption myths and why pet adoption might be right for you.

- *“Why adopt, not shop?”* Adoption is cheaper, and you can save a life. Look into your local pet rescues and animal control shelters. Many will offer low cost adoption days or assistance with adoption fees and spay/neuter costs. Buying



a pup from a pet shop may encourage the use of “puppy mills” or overbreeding. True, there are very reputable breeders that take great care of their animals, but consider all the animals that currently need a loving home that you could provide.

- *“I can’t get a purebred from a shelter.”* You’d be surprised at what you can find through your local rescues and shelters. If you want a specific breed, reach out to your local rescue organizations and shelters, and fill out an application listing your preference.
- *“Shelter pets have behavioral issues.”* Some do, some don’t, and there is no guarantee of an animal’s disposition even if you buy one from a breeder. Most rescues want to see a successful placement so they will try their best to match an animal to a potential family based on their breed and observed demeanor. Want an energetic pup? They have it. Want a cuddly cat? They have those, too. House-trained pet? Yep. No time for pet training? Many will offer that as well. Just remember that you and your shelter pet need an adjustment period to get used to a new routine.
- *“I’m older. What if the pet outlives me?”* First, as many of us know, tomorrow is not guaranteed and as such, regardless of our age we should all have a care plan for who will care for our pets when we no longer can. Second, consider adopting a senior pet or fostering through a reputable rescue.
- *“I can’t afford it.”* Yes, pets can be expensive. If this is a concern, check into long-term foster programs where costs may be covered in part or in full. You might also want to consider pet insurance. ([MOAA Insurance](#) even offers a plan.)

My two senior pups recently passed away, and when I was ready, I reached out to a few rescues in my area. I am now the dog mom to a 2-year-old, lazy, fully housebroken 45-pound, ridiculously cute, mixed-breed bundle of love and couldn’t have asked for a better pup.

Source: <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2022-news-articles/surviving->

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# CHAPLAIN’S CORNER

CHAPLAIN (COL) BERNARD H LIEVING JR USA RET



I first really became aware of the story of Mary, mother of Jesus, when, as a teenager, I was selected by our church’s Youth Director to portray Joseph, the man to whom Mary was engaged. I became intrigued by Mary being visited by an angel, as the Gospel writer Luke tells the story. The angel told her she had found favor with God and that she should not be afraid, even though she would become pregnant and bear a son and name him Jesus.” (Luke 1:30-32)

Regardless of any fear, anxiety, uncertainty, or insecurity Mary felt being told she would bear a child out of wedlock, she said, “Here am I, a servant of the Lord, let it be with me according to your word.” Mary said, “YES!” From that time until she stood by his cross while her son was being executed, Mary stood beside

the poor, oppressed, and lonely. In Mary’s song of praise which we have come to know musically as “The Magnificat,” she proclaimed: “He (God) has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty.” (Luke 1:52-53)

Mary stands beside all who are forgotten, rejected, despised, and pushed aside. And, in so doing, she sets an example for us to follow in this holiday season when we have the opportunity to respond to the requests of agencies in our communities whose mission is to provide food, clothing, toys, and other necessities for those of our neighbors whom Mary stands beside. God’s caring for those Mary affirmed will happen now if you have not already done so, make it your mission to assist those agencies by providing whatever God lays upon your heart.

## The Real Story of the Christmas Truce

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

***The Christmas Truce has become one of the most famous and mythologised events of the First World War. But what was the real story behind the truce? Why did it happen and did British and German soldiers really play football in no-man’s land?***

Late on Christmas Eve 1914, men of the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) heard German troops in the trenches opposite them singing carols and patriotic songs and saw lanterns and small fir trees along their trenches. Messages began to be shouted between the trenches.

The following day, British and German soldiers met in no man’s land and exchanged gifts, took photographs and some played impromptu games of football. They also buried casualties and repaired trenches and dugouts. After Boxing Day, meetings in no man’s land dwindled out.



—Harold Robson/IWM (Q 50719)



—IWM Q 70074

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

[WWW.MOAAATAMPA.ORG](http://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/](https://www.instagram.com/moaa_tampa/)



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