

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT: COL CHARLES DALCOURT USA RET

GREETINGS!



Members of the MOAA Tampa Chapter, it is both a pleasure and privilege to write you this month and I hope that all, you and your families, are doing very well. As we continue to ramp up towards the year's end, I remain excited about MOAA Tampa Chapter's impact, local through national, and am encouraged by the resiliency, responsiveness, engagement, and involvement of our members. As a top priority, we must remain tenacious in our advocacy efforts. Your voice has proven to be both powerful and persuasive. Our efforts are making a difference.

Advocacy

If you are not a registered advocate through MOAA's Legislative Action Center, please stop and enroll today. We need you in the fight! Your engagement demonstratively strengthens the team working in Wash-

ington D.C. and strengthens our voice on Capitol Hill and beyond. Help us enrich the quality of life for those who have sacrificed, and are still sacrificing, for our Nation. Our goal is to get 100% of our membership registered in August.

Please note that MOAA has launched the Advocacy in Action Summer Campaign, designed to engage lawmakers as they head home for the annual summer work period. Our desire is to engage lawmakers while recessed in their states/districts and are preparing to complete the various appropriations bills and the FY 2024 National Defense Authorization Act, due to be signed sometime between September and December. Please read more in the legislative section of this newsletter and be sure to write, email, and call our Senators and Representatives while on recess and ensure they acknowledge our expectation for positive action regarding reversing TRI-CARE pharmacy network cuts and restoring Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) to 100% of projected housing costs.

To date, your input and advocacy has had a profound impact on several initiatives. These seminal concerns need our attention. Again, please carefully pore over Reggie's article later in the newsletter for more detail.

Chapter Luncheons...

Please join us at the Columbia Restaurant's Siboney room on the second Thursday of each month. We have a great lineup of

guest speakers through the end of the year. This month, we will host CDR Charles "Ben" Stanley, Deputy Sector Commander of Sector St Petersburg, Florida. I look forward to seeing you there.

As is our custom, we honor the Tampa Chapter Member of the Month at our luncheon. On 10 August, we will pay tribute to Lieutenant Colonel Nick Clemente (U.S. Army, Retired). An adept, inspiring, and engaged teammate, Nick immediately found an area within the organization to make an impact. He joined the legislative team and has been a great supporter, up front and behind the scenes. Please join me in thanking Nick for his service and commitment to the Tampa Chapter. Also, please view Nick's bio later in the newsletter.

Wrapping up:

As always, thanks for your continued interest and support. Even more, thank you for taking action — using your time and capabilities to help advance MOAA's key legislative efforts and the wellbeing of our Brothers and Sisters in arms. I remain grateful for the opportunity to serve you and will continue to strive, in every way, to both advance our chapter's great legacy and propel the organization forward.

All the best,
Charles Dalcourt

UPCOMING EVENTS

3 Aug
10:00 AM
Virtual Board of Directors Meeting

8 Aug 9:00 AM – 4:30 PM
"Thriving After The Military"
Five Labs, Tampa FL

10 Aug
Chapter Luncheon
11:30 AM – 12:00 PM Social
12:00 PM – 1:30 PM Lunch
Columbia Restaurant
Andalucia Room
(Signs will be out to direct to this room during construction at the restaurant)
(see page 6)

17 Aug – 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
OpHH Dinner
USF Embassy Suites FL
(see page 12)

Summer Recess is the Perfect Time to Join our Legislative Action Center
(see page 11)

REMINDER:

SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR THE SEPTEMBER 2023 ISSUE IS 20 AUGUST 2023

Please submit articles in a Word Document and photos in JPEG
Email articles to
coms@moaatampa.org

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

LEGISLATIVE LOWDOWN



BY LTC REGINALD WILLIAMS, USA RET

During the NDAA process, your voice matters. Grassroots advocacy remains very important to lawmakers throughout debate on our annual defense bill. [Reach out to your senators and House member](#) and ask them to include language supporting MOAA's priorities for veterans, servicemembers, retirees, and family members in the final NDAA.

NDAA Clears House and Senate Committees: What's In, and What's Next?'

Both the House and Senate Armed Services committees advanced their versions of the FY 2024 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) last week — each containing provisions aligning with [MOAA's legislative priorities](#) in the 118th Congress.

This marks the 63rd consecutive year both committees have voted overwhelmingly in favor of advancing the NDAA — the House panel advanced its bill 58-1 on June 21, and the Senate panel did so with a 24-1 vote June 23. Both considered hundreds of amendments during the markup process.

So, why is the NDAA important? And what specifically does its passage mean to MOAA members?

Without the necessary authorizations and appropriations, federal agencies can't operate properly. An authorization bill establishes new policies and programs for a federal agency and can reauthorize programs set to expire—appropriations provide the funding for those authorizations.

Until Congress passes those bills, federal agencies, including those overseeing the eight uniformed services, lack the authorizations and funding needed for the annual military pay raise, quality health care coverage, and quality-of-life programs for servicemembers and their families, along with many other support programs and benefits necessary for an all-volunteer force.

Breaking Down the Bills

Although the Senate has not released the full text of its NDAA version, the bills do overlap in two areas at the top of MOAA's priority list:

- Both authorize a **5.2% pay raise** for servicemembers, which is on par with the Employment Cost Index.
- Both will **improve the calculation of Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH)** rates for junior enlisted members. The House version removes specified pay levels for those in grades E-1 to E-4; details on the Senate's approach to BAH have not been released, but the bill's executive summary notes a similar modification.

House Bill Provisions

Despite the areas of overlap, there likely will be key differences between the House and Senate versions which must be addressed during negotiations, most likely through a conference committee designated for that purpose.

MOAA will continue to evaluate the Senate's progress on their version of the bill and continue to engage with the Senate Armed Services Committee and other Senate offices to see where the Senate stands on those issues impacting our servicemembers of all ranks and their families.

Provisions in the House bill would:

- Expand eligibility for the Basic Needs Allowance (BNA) by excluding BAH from the calculation. MOAA has staunchly supported BNA and is working to ensure the program works effectively to end food insecurity within the ranks.
- Encourage DoD to increase the BAH rate to 96%, a 1% increase. This provision is not a

continued on page 2

LEGISLATIVE LOWDOWN *cont.*

- mandate; it would require appropriations from Congress before we can expect DoD to increase the rate.
- Require DoD to publish wait times for child development centers on a publicly available site.
- Extend commissary and exchange privileges for remarried surviving spouses.
- Require that the secretary of Defense and the secretary of Veterans Affairs submit a joint report offering ideas to increase capacity at Arlington National Cemetery.
- Provide zero out-of-pocket cost dental care to reserve-component servicemembers. Their dependents would still be eligible to purchase premium-based TRICARE Dental Program coverage.
- Remove TRICARE contraception copays for one year to bring TRICARE in line with federal requirements for commercial plans.
- Advance access improvements to mental health care, including reports on mental health provider credentialing and reimbursements, as well as a feasibility study on employing mental health providers in military treatment facilities (MTFs), under supervision, who are working toward licensure.
- Require a report on wait times in MTFs and the TRICARE network, including the impact of the new Military Health System (MHS) Genesis system on delays in accessing care, as well as a report on hiring practices for civilian nurses at MTFs.

What's Next for the NDAA?

While both the House and Senate Armed Services committees have honored their commitment to our nation's servicemembers and their families by advancing the NDAA, much more needs to be done before this year's defense bill becomes law.

Next steps for both chambers will be the floor consideration of their respective NDAA versions. Stay tuned for more updates on the NDAA and other defense-related issues in *The Retrospect*, *The MOAA Newsletter*, *Military Officer magazine*, and on [social media](#).

TO ENGAGE YOUR LAWMAKERS: [Register Here](#)

All MOAA members also can participate by registering with MOAA's Legislative Action Center, allowing them to take part in a much-improved system to ensure grassroots support for key legislative priorities. If we hit bumps along the way during NDAA negotiations between the House and Senate, we will seek your assistance to engage your lawmakers to make sure they know our priorities for the all-volunteer force.

What the NDAA Could Mean for Your TRICARE Coverage²

Two clear victories for MOAA and its members stemming from the FY 2024 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) come from what's *not* in either the House or Senate version of the bill, or any of the thousand-plus [proposed amendments](#) (in the House version).

First, the NDAA drafts include no TRICARE For Life enrollment fees or deductibles, a key priority for MOAA's advocacy efforts. And second, the legislation includes no mention of planned staffing cuts at military treatment facilities (MTFs), as last year's NDAA included MOAA-backed language shelving

such moves for at least five years.

TAKE ACTION: [Ask Your Lawmakers to Protect TRICARE For Life](#)

That doesn't mean the bill won't affect your health care benefit. While many pieces of the NDAA puzzle remain unsolved – the Senate just released the full text of its version July 11, the date the House Rules Committee begins its work on the House version – here are some areas where changes could be coming.

TRICARE Pharmacy

The TRICARE retail pharmacy network fell from about 55,000 locations in 2022 to about 42,000 as of February 2023. These cuts disproportionately impact some of the most vulnerable TRICARE beneficiaries – those with complex medical needs; beneficiaries with limited access to transportation; those in long-term care or other situations where pharmacy options are limited; and rural military families and retirees.

Restoring the network was part of MOAA's spring Advocacy in Action Campaign, and we have made progress on our short-term goal of a report on beneficiary access to retail pharmacies. A committee report accompanying the Senate bill directs the Comptroller General to review the pharmacy program under the new TRICARE contract and "TRICARE beneficiaries' ability to obtain the medications they need in a timely matter."

Also, a proposed House floor NDAA amendment asks for a DoD report to Congress "evaluating beneficiary access" to the pharmacy network under the two most recent TRICARE contracts to help quantify reductions in beneficiary access to retail pharmacies.

The fate of these proposals remains unclear. MOAA will continue its work both within and outside the NDAA process to restore this earned benefit for all TRICARE users.

Guard and Reserve

The House NDAA would provide a no-premium TRICARE dental plan to National Guard and Reserve servicemembers – a bipartisan, MOAA-backed proposal which would help ensure the readiness of the reserve component.

Neither bill includes a related, MOAA-supported proposal expanding no-premium TRICARE Reserve Select coverage to all reserve component members, more than 100,000 of whom do not have private health insurance.

Other TRICARE-Related Provisions

- A provision in the House NDAA would require a Government Accountability Office (GAO) report on the timeliness and accuracy of payments to TRICARE network behavioral professionals.
- A provision in both House and Senate versions would extend the TRICARE Reserve Select eligibility period for survivors of Selected Reserve members to three years, up from six months.
- The Senate version would waive cost shares for the first three outpatient mental health visits every year for dependents of active duty servicemembers and those in the TRICARE Young Adult program. A House amendment would provide a similar waiver.

Star Act Focus Turns to Senate: Act Now to Help Support Combat-Injured Veterans³

After important progress in the House, a MOAA-supported bill correcting a longtime injustice for combat-injured veterans faces a critical moment in the Senate as both chambers consider annual defense authorization legislation.

More than two-thirds of Congress supports the Major Richard Star Act (H.R. 1282/S. 344) – as of June 29, 325 of 435

House members and 68 of 100 senators had signed on as co-sponsors. MOAA and other military and veteran advocacy groups have turned attention to the Senate, where Sens. Jon Tester (D-Mont.) and Mike Crapo (R-Idaho) plan to introduce a floor amendment to that chamber's version of the FY 2024 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) including the text of the Star Act.

TAKE ACTION: [Ask Your Legislators to Support Combat-Injured Veterans](#)

Growing co-sponsors to reach the goal of over 70 in the Senate is nearing critical mass; if you haven't already, ask your senators to join the fight.

House Progress

The Star Act cleared the House Armed Services Committee (HASC) on June 21, but was not included in that chamber's NDAA legislation. While the bill could proceed to the House floor for a standalone vote, budgetary rules remain a problem.

HASC Chairman Mike Rogers (R-Ala.) indicated his support for the legislation, and his frustration over funding it, in his opening statement to the committee.

"H.R. 1282 ensures that veterans who were medically retired from the military with less than 20 years of service AND are eligible for Combat-Related Special Compensation receive full concurrent receipt," Rogers said. "Although I support this bill, I am disappointed the committee is being forced to act on it before a pay-for could be found. Moving a bill forward with mandatory spending that isn't fully offset opens the bill up to a point of order against its consideration on the floor. That is the reason why we cannot carry mandatory spending provisions that have no offset in the NDAA."

Grassroots advocacy from across The Military Coalition and our military and veteran communities worked to achieve the House committee vote – it serves as evidence that messages from constituents matter to elected officials. Advocacy is still required for a negotiated solution to the budgetary requirement for an "offset" to keep overall mandatory spending at the same levels.

This is a frustrating situation – requiring an "offset" to remove the "offset" facing combat-injured veterans who lose the DoD retirement pay they earned through extraordinary sacrifice for years served and grade achieved.

Hope in the Senate

While the Senate Armed Services Committee has yet to release the full text of its NDAA version, it will not include the Star Act. Sens. Tester and Crapo hope to correct this oversight via a floor amendment, but cost remains the stumbling block for supporting combat-injured veterans.

Most senators have not served in uniform. It seems too many have not considered the impact of the recruiting crisis on the all-volunteer force. Servicemembers do not get to tell commanders they are concerned about cost when ordered to deploy, and lawmakers seeking a stronger military must begin by correcting policies unfairly punishing those who serve. The Star Act not only restores the earned compensation of more than 50,000 combat-injured veterans, it will serve to show a greater commitment by our lawmakers to the fair treatment of all who wear the uniform.

Check here ([Senate](#) | [House](#)) to see whether your lawmakers support the Major Richard Star Act.

Make your voice heard and Take Action now: <https://moaa.quorum.us>

Sources:
1) www.moaa.org, article by Brenden McMahon, June 28, 2023
2) www.moaa.org, article by Kevin Lilley, July 11, 2023
3) www.moaa.org, article by Mark Belinsky, July 05, 2023

4 people who sheltered from Maui wildfire in the ocean rescued by Coast Guard

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

The people were fleeing a wildfire that caused extensive damage to Lahaina, in western Maui. The fires on Maui were fueled in part by winds from the passing Hurricane Dora, officials say.

—By Phil Helsel



—Smoke from wildfires rises at Lahaina harbor in Hawaii, on Tuesday. Brantin Stevens via AP

With a [wildfire fueled by winds](#) from a passing hurricane destroying the [Maui town of Lahaina](#), 14 people escaped

the flames and smoke by heading to the ocean, officials said Wednesday.

Maui County confirmed on Thursday that 36 people died in the fire, as authorities said more than 11,000 had been evacuated from the island, with more expected to leave.

Earlier, the Coast Guard said Wednesday the 14 people were rescued from a breakwall by Lahaina harbor Tuesday evening, after boats and aircraft were sent to help.

The reports to the Coast Guard "regarding multiple persons in the water needing rescue after taking shelter from fire and smoke in Lahaina" prompted the dispatch of a cutter, a 45-foot boat, and helicopters, the agency said.

The reports came in around 5:45 p.m.

The harbor, and the community of around 12,700 people, suffered widespread damage in the wildfire, which officials say was fueled — along with two other fires on Maui — in part by winds from the passing Hurricane Dora.

Dora, a Category 4 storm, passed far to the south of Maui

and the rest of the state. But wind gusts on Maui Tuesday and Wednesday were in the 50 and 60 mph range, according to [the National Weather Service](#).

At least six people have died, Maui County Mayor Richard Bissen said at a news conference Wednesday. More than 271 structures in the Lahaina area have been impacted, the county government said.

The 14 people who were rescued were in stable condition, the Coast Guard said.

"On behalf of the U.S. Coast Guard, I wish to convey my sincere condolences to the communities who have been tragically affected by the fires in Maui," Capt. Aja L. Kirksey, sector commander of Coast Guard Sector Honolulu, [said in a statement](#).

The Coast Guard is still on the scene assisting, the maritime military branch said. The Navy as well as the National Guard have also been deployed to assist, officials said.

To continue reading article: <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/coast-guard-rescued-14-took-shelter-ocean-maui-wildfire-rcna99163>

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



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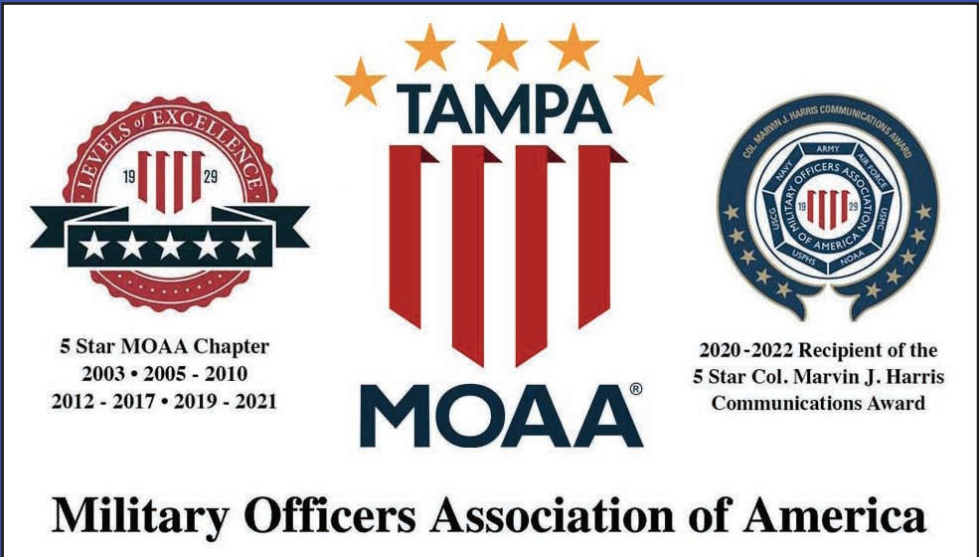
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MOAA MISSION STATEMENT

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



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.

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



It's a delight to be back home after a wonderful trip to Iceland! And I want to thank everyone for understanding my love of travel and that the "August Preview" email was helpful until I returned to complete my labor of love finishing the August newsletter, albeit a few days later than usual. There's something about going somewhere one has never been, learning about that place and coming home with a new and fresh outlook on life. Though too early in the year to see the Northern Lights, I saw beautiful waterfalls, glaciers, the North American and Eurasian tectonic plate divide, experienced many hot showers fueled by geothermal heat, drank tap water supplied by glaciers and satisfied my love of animals by seeing puffins, hump-back whales and went horseback riding on an Icelandic horse—they are so sweet and gentle. I could go on and on but wish a wonderful adventure to each of you. Adventure is everywhere, especially in our MOAA Tampa Chapter.

This month we are highlighting our Member of the Month, Nick Clemente, LTC, USA (Ret). Nick quickly jumped into the Legislative Committee for our chapter. I haven't had a chance to work with Nick but am so impressed with his "can do" attitude and gracious manner. Our Chapter Member Spotlight this month is Ms. Emily Yates, our newsletter's *The Retrospect* publisher. In case you didn't know, Emily makes *The Retrospect* look so amazing and easy to read and follow the articles and information. I personally appreciate working with Emily since she makes my job so enjoyable. Please read their bios in the newsletter.

As always, I appreciate articles submitted by our chapter members and their contributions to *The Retrospect*. This month Bob Sawallesh submitted an interesting article about War and Art. I would also like to thank all of our regular contributors, Charles Dalcourt (president's message), Reggie Williams (legislative affairs), Bernie Lieving (chaplain's corner), Jeanne Richard (medical corner), BGEN Larsen

(coalition corner), Jim Griffin (Operation Helping Hand), Matt Mularoni (membership updates), and Barbara Brotherton (luncheon updates), Kiley Stinson (assistance with Member of the Month and Chapter Spotlight) and for Ben Ritter for his photography support and looking forward to when Bob Sawallesh will be able to return to assist with photography.

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 or you may contact me at 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. In the meantime, I shared some of my travel adventures and would love to hear about your travels. Please sent to my MOAA email: coms@moaatampa.org. I pray that everyone stays cool in these hot last days of summer and that all the children are safe as we start the new school year.

"Never see a need without doing something about it." – St. Mary MacKillop, Australia's one and only recognized saint.

Let us never forget. - NEVER STOP SERVING!

Sara Marks, CAPT NC USN (Ret)

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

OUR EDITORIAL POLICY:

MOAA National, the Florida Council of Chapters, and the Tampa Chapter are non-partisan organizations. The views

expressed in individually signed articles and the advertisements that appear in this publication/website do not reflect an endorsement by MOAA or this affiliate. Articles in the newsletter/website are the opinions solely of the individual authors and do not necessarily express the policy or opinions of the newsletter's editor or publisher, nor do they reflect an endorsement by the Tampa Chapter or the National organization of the Military Officers Association of America, unless so indicated. The views expressed in individually signed articles do not necessarily reflect Chapter policy. MOAA National, the Florida Council of Chapters, and the Tampa Chapter are nonpartisan organizations. Our chapter membership is open to all Military officers (Commissioned and warrant), including Active Duty, National Guard, Reserve, former officers, and spouses/surviving spouses of military officers.

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

ON THE WEB:

Tampa Chapter <https://moaatampa.org>

Communications directed to specific board members listed in the main menu ABOUT US then LEADERSHIP may be made by emailing secretary@moaatampa.org 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

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

MOAA NATIONAL: www.moaa.org

OPERATION HELPING HAND: www.operationhelpinghandtampa.com

TAKE ACTION: <https://moaa.quorum.us/>

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

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



WHY? There are several events for transitioning military members, BUT none quite like this! Typical transition events and services focus on job placement, resume development, interview skills, etc. Our event goes a completely different direction...

- We focus on family, community, education, and resilience with engaging and insightful guest speakers;
- We share unique insights on healthcare, legal imperatives, finances, and other areas that help military members support themselves and their families in a positive, impactful, and long-term manner; and
- We expose you to many different ways to enjoy the opportunities available if you put down real and lasting roots in our Tampa community.

What are people saying about this event:

"Extremely valuable! I'm in the middle of my transition now and this was the only venue I've seen that covers these topics."
"This was an amazing day; so much info that I didn't get from my Base."
"Love the energy and purpose!"

REGISTER: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/thriving-after-military-service-all-ranks-transition-seminar-tickets-666921719817?aff=oddtcreator>

**Space is limited and personal masking is optional for this event.



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Thriving After Military Service Transitioning Veteran Event

Hosted at the
FIVE Labs Conference Center
4115 W Spruce St., Tampa
Tuesday, 8 August, 2023
9:00 am - 4:30 pm

FREE & OPEN TO ALL RANKS
with complimentary lunch,
drinks, and snacks!!!

2023



Advertise in the monthly MOAA Tampa Chapter Newsletter



The
RETROSPECT

TAMPA CHAPTER — A FIVE STAR CHAPTER OF MOAA NATIONAL



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This award-winning, informative monthly newsletter, The Retrospect, is available on-line at www.MOAA Tampa.org and published on the MOAA Tampa FaceBook site. This publication is packed with information addressing our community based projects and updates readers on the national and local initiatives that improve the quality of life for all servicemembers, their families, and survivors. It also includes myriad non-political articles that are of interest to both military and civilian communities.

DIGITAL PUBLISHING

Ad Deadline Inserts

Dec. 20 (2023)	Jan. 1
Jan. 20	Feb. 1
Feb. 21	Mar. 1
Mar. 21	April 1
April 20	May 1
May 20	June 1
Jun. 20	July 1
July 20	Aug. 1
Aug. 19	Sept. 1
Sept. 20	Oct. 1
Oct. 20	Nov. 1
Nov. 21	Dec. 1

Advertising Cost (Artwork supplied) Cost (Ad creation)

Half page (12.95" wide x 9.75" tall)	\$1,000.00	+\$75.00
Quarter page (6.5" wide x 6.25" tall)	\$500.00	+\$50.00
1/8 page (6.5" wide x 3.5" tall)	\$250.00	\$35.00

DIGITAL AD FORMAT: Digital ads **must be** submitted in PDF, JPEG or EPS formats.

NEED HELP? If you do not have a digital ad, we can create one for you. See chart above for pricing based on desired ad size.

DEADLINE: See Digital Publishing table.

ADs are for 12 months.
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MEMBER OF THE MONTH

LTC NICK CLEMENTE, US ARMY RET

Previously a civilian police officer, LTC Clemente joined the Army following the attacks of 9/11 attending basic training and officer candidate school before being commissioned as an Armor officer. During the first ten years of his career, he deployed twice to Iraq and once to Afghanistan. During those tours, he proudly led formations of American Soldiers tasked with conducting combat operations and helping professionalize the local security forces.

In the second half of his career, LTC Clemente became an

Army Strategist and was fortunate to serve as a campaign planner focused on strategic deterrence at United States Strategic Command. He was then selected to serve as the career manager for all the other Army Strategists at the Army's Human Resources Command at Fort Knox, KY. Nick finished his as a Strategic Planner at U.S. Special Operations Command on MacDill Air Force Base.

LTC (R) Clemente is the recipient of the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal (3rd award), the Defense Meritorious

Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal (2nd award), the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Iraq Campaign Medal with Campaign Star (2nd award), and the Afghanistan Campaign Medal with Campaign Start (2nd award).

Nick and his wife Karen reside in the Westchase area while their son Joey attends Champlain College in Burlington, VT. After two decades of moving, they are extremely excited to make Tampa their permanent home.



CHAPTER MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

EMILY YATES, Publisher *The Retrospect*



I was born and raised in Monroe, in southeast Michigan. I am the youngest in my family; I have three older brothers. My brother Robert, who is the youngest of my brothers, served in the US Army 11M, for 2 years and 8 months. He was deployed to Desert Storm for a month and a half. My father served in the US Army (1953) as well. His basic training was at Fort Knox and he went to radio school and was a communication specialist. He was stationed overseas in Austria, 70th combat engineering 350th infantry. He

served 18 months.

My oldest brother Brad lives in Longmont, Colo., and my brother Todd lives in Brooklyn, Mich., on Timber Lake. My mother passed away when I was thirteen years old, and while it was devastating it brought me, my dad, and my brothers closer to each other. I'm very blessed.

I consider myself an artist and love to participate in anything creative. I have a bachelor's degree in visual communications, I went to college at Kendall College of Art & Design in Grand Rapids, Mich. After graduating college, I moved to

Boston, Mass., and lived there for two years. I enjoyed living there, but I was not working in my field. I moved back to Monroe and shortly after I got my first graphic design position at my local newspaper, *The Monroe Evening News*. I loved working at the newspaper! So much so, I worked there two different times during my career journey. The newspaper job was a great experience. I learned so much and I worked with wonderful people and made lifelong friendships. I am currently working for Fluid Equipment Development Company (FEDCO). FEDCO designs and manufactures high-pressure pumps and energy recovery devices for fresh, brackish, and sea water reverse osmosis systems. I enjoy my job as a marketing specialist. I design marketing materials, social media graphics and videos. I also maintain the updates on the website. FEDCO sells pumps all over the world and I love the fact that our equipment supplies many countries with fresh water. I also do freelance work when I'm not working at my day job.

I live with my dog Piper and she and I love to kayak. We especially love kayaking on the small lake that my brother Todd lives by. I have an electric bike and I enjoy riding my bike to Sterling State Park on Sunday mornings where I take sunrise photos. I have been riding to the beach for years and share my sunrise photos on my Facebook page. I call the photo series "Breakfast at the Beach." My passion is travelling the

world! My most recent trip was to Ireland. My next trip will be London in December. My favorite place that I've traveled to is Greece. The best experience I had was seeing the northern lights in Lapland, Finland; it was magical! Photography is another passion, and it goes hand-in-hand with my travels. I have a room in my condo that I call my "travel room" where the walls are covered in photos that I've taken on my trips.

On my way back to Michigan from Finland at the beginning of 2020, I was on a flight seated next to Charles Dalcourt. We struck up a conversation, I mentioned that I am a graphic designer and he said he may have some work for me. After the plane landed Charles gave me his business card and asked me to get a hold of him. Once settled back home, I sent him a message and we got busy working together on some projects. He also introduced me to Reggie Williams via email and the three of us struck up a working relationship and also friendship. I can't recall which of them told me about MOAA Tampa, but I was asked if I'd be interested in helping with the newsletter, and I said "yes." I was introduced to Sara Marks and she and I had a conversation, and the rest is history. I very much enjoy working on *The Retrospect* every month, I love seeing the photos and enjoy reading some of the interesting articles that have been shared.



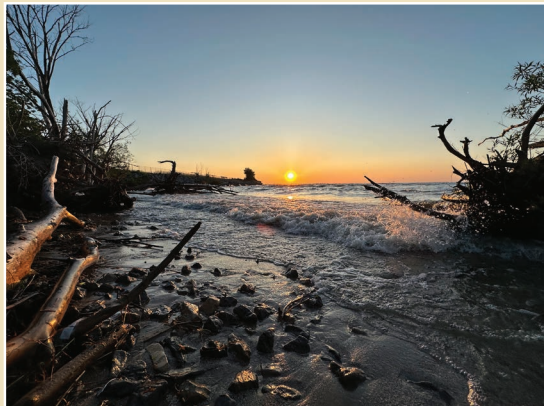
—My family (left to right) Robert, Todd, Brad, Dad, Me & Piper



—Dad, Walden Yates



—My dog Piper kayaking on Timber Lake



—"Breakfast at the Beach" number 7 June 4, 2023



—Northern lights, Lapland, Finland February 6, 2020

Mobile medical units to be deployed across US to aid homeless vets

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



—By Leo Shane III

Tents owned by veterans without stable housing sit outside the Veterans Affairs West Los Angeles Healthcare Campus on Sept. 24, 2020. (Frazer Harrison/Getty Images)

[Veterans Affairs officials](#) will deploy 25 mobile medical units to cities across the United States over the next six months in an effort to boost [homelessness prevention and assistance efforts](#), department leaders announced Thursday.

The first unit arrived in Orlando, Florida, on Thursday morning. The vehicles are staffed by a variety of medical providers and have private space for veterans to receive services such as primary care, mental health assistance and telehealth services.

The mobile units have been used in the past as [part of disaster relief efforts](#) and to help with initiatives like rural veterans health care enrollment. Now, they'll be part of the department's stated goal of finding housing for at least 38,000 veterans this year, and providing support services to go along with that newfound stability.

"Veterans experiencing homelessness face a variety of barriers to accessing health care, including a lack of transportation," [VA Secretary Denis McDonough](#) said in a statement. "With these new mobile medical units, homeless and at-risk veterans don't have to visit VA hospitals. We come right to them."

Source: <https://www.armytimes.com/veterans/2023/08/03/mobile-medical-units-to-be-deployed-across-us-to-aid-homeless-vets/>

AUGUST LUNCHEON MEETING

EVENT: Chapter Monthly Luncheon Meeting

DATE: Thursday, 10 August **TIME:** Social time 1130 hours, Meeting time 12 noon – 1330 hours

LOCATION: Columbia Restaurant, Andalucia Room, 2117 E 7th Ave, Ybor City

RESERVATIONS: Reservations must be made by NOON Friday, 4 August.

Call 813-374-3309. **PLEASE NOTE – THIS IS A NEW NUMBER.** OR via email to LunchReservations@moaatampa.org.

Reservations are limited to 60. A reservation made is a reservation paid.

CANCELLATIONS: Must be made by NOON Monday, 7 August by calling **OUR NEW NUMBER** - 813-374-3309.

COST: Event cost is \$30 payable by check or cash, \$31 by credit card (includes service charge).

MASKS: Masks are optional.

DRESS CODE: Proper attire is business casual for all (i.e., for men, slacks/collared shirts). Military uniforms are always appropriate.

SCHEDULED GUEST SPEAKER: Representative from the Coast Guard

MENU: 1905 Salad, Cuban Bread and butter, Boliche, Roast Pork, Platanos Maduros, Fresh Green Beans, White Rice, Coffee, Iced Tea, Soft Drinks and a Celebration Cake for the Coast Guard

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

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

Or by Zoom:

One Tap Mobile: US: [+13052241968..89747483931#....*031275#](tel:+13052241968..89747483931#....*031275#) or [+16469313860..89747483931#....*031275#](tel:+16469313860..89747483931#....*031275#)

Meeting URL: <https://triple-strand-global-solutions.zoom.us/j/89747483931?pwd=dE5YN0gxbWY0ZEdNM2lkM2ZmTFBhZz09&from=addon>

Meeting ID: 897 4748 3931 Passcode: 031275

Join by Telephone:

For higher quality, dial a number based on your current location.

+1 305 224 1968 US, +1 646 931 3860 US, +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC),
+1 309 205 3325 US, +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago), +1 646 558 8656 US (New York),
+1 507 473 4847 US, +1 564 217 2000 US, +1 669 444 9171 US, +1 689 278 1000 US,
+1 719 359 4580 US, +1 720 707 2699 US (Denver), +1 253 205 0468 US,
+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma), +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston), +1 360 209 5623 US,
+1 386 347 5053 US

Meeting ID: 897 4748 3931 Passcode: 031275



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

VETERANS TREATMENT COURT

Norm Bild is the MOAA Tampa contact for the highly successful Veterans Treatment Court in Hillsborough County. Contact him at (813) 205-1476 if you are interested in being a veteran mentor. He will also serve as an escort if you want to attend court sessions as an observer.

VOLUNTEER POSITIONS AVAILABLE

You'll hear the Chapter President frequently mention “Never Stop Serving,” and you'll see it sprinkled throughout this newsletter. This Chapter depends on that volunteer spirit from you its members to accomplish so many great things.

Everything the Chapter does is accomplished by volunteers, and there are currently several volunteer positions open, including: Surviving Spouse Liaison, Director of Outreach, Assistant Editor for the chapter newsletter *The Retrospect*, Assistant Secretary, Assistant Membership, Historian/Archivist, Public Affairs, Guard and Reserve Liaison, Scholarship Committee, Buddy Calls, Photographer, Fundraising and Advertising, 6th Medical Group Liaison, and VA Hospital Liaison.

If you would like to volunteer for or learn more about any of these positions, please contact the Secretary at Secretary@MOAATampa.org.

Keep Your MOAA Contact Updated

Please email any email address changes to “membership@moaatampa.org” or go to your account at moaa.org and update mailing address, phone number, email address under the “Profile Info” once logged into your account.

IMPORTANT DATES IN AUGUST

4 Coast Guard Birthday
7 Purple Heart Day
14 Victory over Japan (VJ) Day
29 Marine Corps Forces Reserve Birthday

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



Buddy Call Program

We're restructuring the Buddy Call Program. Looking for volunteers to assist with calling our members.

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

TUNNEL TO TOWERS FOUNDATION Tampa Bay Event Updates & Call for Volunteers

Tunnels 2 Towers has a number of great events on the calendar for the remainder of 2023 and they will need volunteers to help make them successful. These are the upcoming events that we should consider supporting.

SAVE THE DATES:

We have our other two annual race fundraisers on the calendar as follows:

Saturday, October 21 - Tampa Tower Climb (now open for participant registration and volunteer signup)

Saturday, October 28 - Trinity/Pasco 5K (REVISED DATE) (opening soon for participant registration and volunteer signup)

Participant registration and volunteer sign up for the Tampa Climb opened this past weekend. The Trinity/Pasco 5K registration will open in a few weeks. As usual, we will need help at both events.

Saturday, September 9 - Annual OCC Roadhouse 9/11 Remembrance and fundraiser - Clearwater. This is a big, wonderful event, and as usual, we will need help. Please reply to this email if you are interested in helping. We will post details about it on our Facebook pages as they become available.

Saturday, Sept. 23 - Veterans Art Center Tampa Bay Gala - location TBD (raising funds to bring the T2T 9/11 NEVER FORGET Mobile Exhibit to Tampa in 2024). HELP IS NEEDED to plan and work the gala. Please reply to this email to sign up. Click here for information about the Veterans Art Center of Tampa Bay. www.vactb.org Major (Retired) Mack Marksam US Army.



Honor Flight West Central Florida



Applications for veterans and guardians/escorts can be printed from their web site: HonorFlightWCF.org and mailed to the address on the application. The guardian maximum age has been raised from 70 to 75, and no covid vaccine is required.

Honor Flight Mission:

To transport America's Veterans to Washington, D.C. to visit those memorials dedicated to honor their service and sacrifices. Priority is given to WWII and Korean Veterans, along with those other Veterans who may be terminally ill. Our NO COST mission continues as we fly our Korean, Vietnam and all Veterans on future missions. Departure for this one day trip to Washington, D.C. is from the St. Pete – Clearwater International Airport (PIE).

**Honor Flight
of West Central Florida
has two remaining flights
scheduled this year:
Sept 12 and Oct 24.**

AUGUST LUNCHEON GUEST SPEAKER COMMANDER CHARLES “BEN” STANLEY

CDR Stanley assumed the duties and responsibilities of Deputy Sector Commander of Sector St Petersburg Florida in June 2023 after serving as the Future Operations Branch Chief at Coast Guard Pacific Area within the Maritime Forces Operations Department in Alameda, CA.

CDR Stanley is a native of Centerville, Massachusetts where he enlisted in the Coast Guard in 1995 and was assigned to CGC CAMPBELL. In 1996 he attended Telecommunication Specialist “A” school and graduated a Third Class Telecommunication Specialist. CDR Stanley's TC enlisted assignments include: CG Group Moriches and CGC DEPENDABLE.

In 2003, CDR Stanley was selected for Officer Candidate School and upon graduation was assigned to the District Eight Command Center where he served as a Command Duty Officer. CDR Stanley's other officer tours include: Waterside Team



Leader at MSST Kings Bay, District Boat Manager for District Five, Commanding Officer of Station Monterey, Maritime SME at NORAD and USNORTHCOM within the J5, Strategy, Policy and Doctrine Division, and as Executive Officer for the Maritime Force Protection Unit in Bangor WA.

CDR Stanley holds a Bachelor's degree in Business and Management, as well as a Master's degree in Organizational Leadership. His military awards include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Achievement Medal, three CG Commendation Medals, three CG Achievement Medals, Commandant's Letter of Commendation, and numerous other individual and unit awards.

CDR Stanley is married to the former Ashley Anderson of Birmingham, Alabama and has two children (twins), Blake and Paige.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE JULY LUNCHEON RAFFLE WINNERS

Photo credit: Sara Marks, CAPT NC USN (Ret)



FOOD TO VETERANS IN NEED

—By Sara Marks, CAPT NC USN (Ret)

After every luncheon, food from the buffet is shared with a Veteran family in need. Paula Stewart takes the prepared leftovers to that family.



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 Costs:
Half Page Ad: \$1000
Quarter Page Ad: \$500 • 1/8 Page Ad: \$250

E-Mail: Secretary@moaatampa.org

July Luncheon Photos

Photo credit: Ben Ritter and Sara Marks



JULY LUNCHEON GUEST SPEAKER

DAMELZA TORRES-CONTRACTOR



Damelza Torres is a Senior Benefits Advisor for the Department of Veteran's Affairs. She assists Service Members, Veterans, Reservists, Family Members, and Caregivers with their various benefits they have earned. She is located on MacDill AFB and services from Central Florida down to the Florida Keys and Puerto Rico. She is a Marine Corps Veteran, proud Air Force Mom and has been stationed on over 12 military bases over her lifetime.

VA Military Life Cycle Resources

VA Military Life Cycle (MLC) modules are available for units, commands, and military organizations through your local VA Benefits Advisor. These modules are short (1 hour or less), focused courses on specific VA benefits and services available. Contact us for scheduling and coordination.

Military Life Cycle Modules Available:

- ✓ VA Benefits 101
- ✓ VA Education Benefits
- ✓ Disability Compensation
- ✓ Community Integration Resources
- ✓ Mental Health for Families
- ✓ Vet Centers
- ✓ Reserve Component Dual Payments
- ✓ Social and Emotional Health Resources
- ✓ VA Life Insurance Benefits
- ✓ Survivor and Casualty Assistance Resources
- ✓ VA Home Loan Guaranty Program
- ✓ VA Education and Training Benefits for Spouses and Dependent Children



Damelza Torres
Senior Benefits Advisor
(Contractor)

8104 Condor Street
Room 104
MacDill AFB, FL 33621
(813) 828-8590 (Office)
(571) 461-8688 (Cell)
damelza.torres.ctr@vatap.calibresys.com





American Red Cross
Central Florida and
the U.S. Virgin Islands

Turn Compassion Into Action!

Join the Service to the Armed Forces Team!

Our Service to the Armed Forces volunteers at MacDill AFB support service members, their families, and our veterans every day! Become a part of our team providing support to the MacDill clinic, pharmacy, and beyond. By volunteering at the clinic, you will provide support to our military community. Our vital work is only possible because of people like you. Bring your skillset, experience, and compassion to MacDill AFB clinic today!



Volunteers Urgently Needed in the Following Areas at MacDill AFB:

Coping with Deployment Facilitator	MacDill AFB Clinic	MacDill Clinic Professional Volunteer	MacDill AFB Pharmacy
Help provide skills to help military families cope with military life, especially deployments. <i>*Must be mental health professional, holding a current license*</i>	Provide assistance with tasks in a clinical setting such as surgical prep; runner; charting; reception; prepare patients for treatment and administrative tasks.	Provide assistance with a specific service or treatment to designated clients in an urgent care, outpatient/inpatient unit, or other health care settings.	Provide assistance with tasks in a clinical setting as well as support staff in a variety of direct and indirect patient care activities.

Additional security clearance may be required in compliance with government regulations
**Some positions such as clinic professional volunteer require a valid and current license in their field.

To learn more, visit redcross.org or contact:

Molly Gallagher, Senior Volunteer Recruitment Specialist
molly.gallagher@redcross.org



Scan with cell phone camera to apply!



Active? Retired? We *welcome* the opportunity to serve you.


You dedicated your life to our country. Now we'd like to return the favor, with exceptional senior living at Brookdale Bayshore. If you served in the Army, are a member of US Air Force and Space Association through the US Air Force, 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.

Brookdale Bayshore
Independent Living
Assisted Living
4902 Bayshore Boulevard
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Assisted Living Facility # AL7565

► **For more information or to schedule a tour, call (813) 835-4475.**

Applicable to all discounts: 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. Discounts are available to members and their family members, including spouse, adult children, siblings, parents, grandparents, and corresponding in-law or step adult children, siblings, parents, and grandparents through current spouse. Subject to availability. Further restrictions may apply.
*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 the initial monthly fee/basic service rate.
**Discount is only applicable to new clients 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.

851506 HVS

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TAPS Tribute

Lt Col Bill Lewis, USAF RET MOAA Tampa Chapter President 1998-1999



Rest in Peace to a dedicated member of the MOAA Tampa and St. Petersburg Chapters.

William C. Lewis, 93, died July 18, 2023 at Suncoast Hospice. He was born, June 9th 1930, in Cincinnati, Ohio, the son of William R. and Margaret E. (Pettit) Lewis. He married his high school sweetheart, Margaret C. (Askren) Lewis, and in February they celebrated 71 years of marriage. He was an avid golfer, enjoyed traveling the world with his wife Margaret, he was an enthusiastic pilot and would fly whenever.

Bill graduated from Lockland High School, class of 1948. He earned several degrees; Bachelor of Science, Miami University (Ohio), 1954, Masters of Education, Miami University (Ohio), 1955, Specialist in Science, Eastern Michigan University, 1967, and Doctor of Philosophy, THE Ohio State University, 1972

Bill serviced in the United States Air Force and retired, Lt. Colonel in 1990. He was a member of the Air Force Communication and Air Traffic Control Association, Air Force Association, United States Air Force Academy of Graduates, Untied Flying Octogenarians, the Tampa Chapter and The St. Petersburg Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America, Past President of the retired Officers Association, MacDill Air Force Base and was a private Aircraft Pilot.



Bill was also the first swimming coach at Eastern Michigan University in 1963, and then coached for Miami University of Ohio. He retired from Miami University, in 1991 from the Department of Health and Physical Education, Professor Emeritus.

Bill also was a member of the Raymond Mollyneaux Hughes Society (a society of Distinguished Alumni of Miami University); He was a former Board of Directors; Athle-Tech Computers Systems Incorporated and Miami University Alumni Association. He was member of Phi Epsilon Kappa, Kappa Phi Kappa, and Delta Chi.

He served as past president of Kiwanis Club of Oxford, Ohio, Countryside rotary Club of Clearwater. Bill was a Thirty-second Degree Mason with Valley of Cincinnati, Ohio; he was member of American Youth Hostel, International, and an Eagle Scout.

Survivors in addition to his wife, Margaret (Askren) Lewis, his brother Glenn David (Barbara) Lewis of Cincinnati, Ohio, son, Glenn R. Lewis and his wife, Beverly of Columbus, Ohio: daughter Elizabeth Eargle and her husband, Charles Eargle of Statesboro, Georgia; five grandchildren, Kelley Scott (Jonathan), Frankfort, Kentucky, Lauren Collins (Morgan), Metter, Georgia, Layne Akins (Kory), Statesboro, Georgia, Jessica Lewis, Clarkston, Michigan and Dillon Jackson (Kate), Metter, Georgia; 3 great grandchildren, Kaydence Scott, Avery Jackson, and Troy Mason.

Services were held on July 26, 2023, 11:00 at the Northwood Presbyterian Church. In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to Northwood Presbyterian Church, Clearwater or Suncoast Hospice Community Services, 2675 Tampa Road, Palm Harbor, Florida
Link: <https://www.tributearchive.com/>

Support for All Who Serve

The Military Crisis Line is a free, confidential resource for all service members, including members of the National Guard and Reserve, and Veterans, even if they're not enrolled in VA benefits or health care.

Website: <https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/get-help-now/military-crisis-line/>



The Military Crisis Line is Here for You

Free & Confidential

There's no charge and you decide how much information to share.

Always Available

Accessible 24/7/365.

Trained Counselors

Many are Veterans who understand the challenges service members and their loved ones face.

Calling from Overseas?

In Europe

Call [00800 1273 8255](tel:0080012738255) or DSN 118

In Korea

Call [080-855-5118](tel:080-855-5118) or DSN 118

In Afghanistan

Call [00 1 800 273 8255](tel:0018002738255) or DSN 111

In the Philippines

Dial #MYVA or [02-8550-3888](tel:02-8550-3888) and press 7

There's a lot of retirement options out there, but once you visit Canterbury Tower, Bayshore Boulevard's only CCRC, the choice is clear. You've planned wisely for this day and when it comes time to find the place you WANT to call home ... look no further than Canterbury. We're close to all that South Tampa has to offer – medical facilities, restaurants, downtown and MacDill Air Force Base.

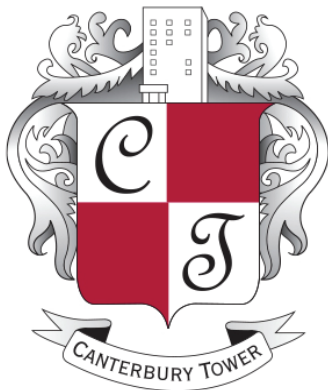
Since 1976, Canterbury Tower has built a reputation for stability, comfort and grace. Offering independent living, assisted living and a Health Center with short-and long-term care options, we have the place for you.

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This 1/8 Page Ad is \$250

E-Mail: Secretary@moaatampa.org

LEGISLATIVE

LOWDOWN

continued from page 2



Summer Recess is the Perfect Time to Join our *Legislative Action Center*

Dear MOAA Member;

Members of Congress have begun their summer recess, and this is a pivotal time where we can unite and influence positive change for our servicemembers, veterans, families, caregivers and survivors.

You can help today by visiting our Legislative Action Center at www.moaa.org/takeaction and sending MOAA’s advocacy messages to your lawmakers.

If you have not signed up, you are not alone. Currently, only 16,000 MOAA members are registered advocates through the Legislative Action Center — less than 5% of our more than 360,000 members. Our voice is strong, but it could — and should — be stronger with everyone’s help, so **please make registering a priority.**

After a quick signup, the Legislative Action Center is a powerful tool enabling you to send pre-written letters to your members of Congress with just a couple button clicks.

If you are already a user, thank you. Please continue to visit the site as we update frequently with new legislation and priorities. You can also track bill progress and learn about your legislators and find their contact information.

The August recess makes for a perfect opportunity to engage with members of Congress on the legislative priorities MOAA members discussed with them during Advocacy in Action Day on Capitol Hill in April.

We have launched the [Advocacy in Action Summer Campaign](#) while lawmakers prepare to complete the various appropriations bills and the FY 2024 National Defense Authorization Act, due to be signed sometime between September and December.

We need MOAA’s priorities reflected in that bill — priorities such as restoring the Basic Allowance for Housing to 100%, stopping TRICARE network pharmacy cuts, and funding the government at the end of the fiscal year.

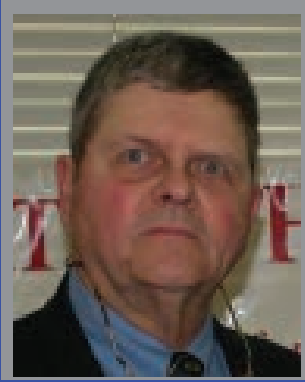
Imagine if we had at least half our membership supporting our advocacy efforts — just about every topic we champion would be top of mind for legislators across Congress. Please do your part to protect the pay, benefits, and quality of life of the military and veterans’ communities. Thank you so much for supporting our cause.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B.T. Kelly".


Lt. Gen. Brian T. Kelly, USAF (Ret)
MOAA President and CEO

UPDATE OPERATION HELPING HAND



LTC JIM GRIFFIN
Chairman, OPHH

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



The JULY DINNER had to be cancelled due to a sponsor pulling out at the last moment and we were unable to arrange a replacement at such a late date.

OPERATION HELPING HAND will continue the monthly dinners through SEPTEMBER, then we will only have a very special CHRISTMAS DINNER. This will be an annual event every year. This year's dinner will be held on 14 DECEMBER AT 6:00PM AT THE EMBASSY SUITES USF. We are hoping for a very large turnout with as many of the veterans' kids in attendance with SANTA HANDING OUT GIFTS!

Our mission will not change as far as the immediate assistance to new patients and their

families. We will continue to support the many dynamic therapy programs with the emphasis on helping them maintain state of the art programs across the board. For this reason, we ask for your continued support.

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. This is a commitment that all our volunteers have made and continue to make.

Due to the assistance of many talented folks, we will have a completely redesigned website completed probably in AUGUST. Updates will appear on our CONSTANT CONTACT messages.

OPERATION HELPING HAND continues 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 mission 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.

**STAY SAFE, HEALTHY, AND RESILIENT
OUR TREMENDOUS GROUP OF VOLUNTEERS
MAKE ALL OF THIS POSSIBLE!**

U.S. Coast Guard Birthday August 4, 2023

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



Every year, August 4 is celebrated as the U.S. Coast Guard Birthday, commemorating the military organization for its valor and discipline. Since 1790, the U.S. Coast Guard has kept the nation's waterways safe, playing a critical role in national security.

The U.S. Coast Guard patrols our coasts for drug smugglers, human trafficking and both domestic and international terrorism. As the bad guys (and girls) have gotten more savvy with technology, the Coast Guard has developed sophisticated, effective technology to combat crimes on the water and at our ports. It's a 24/7 job. Today, let's give the U.S. Coast Guard the love it deserves.

U.S. Coast Guard is celebrating its 231st Birthday in 2021.


HOW TO OBSERVE U.S. COAST GUARD BIRTHDAY

- Show up at a Coast Guard event**
Neighborhoods often host events which mark the founding of the U.S. Coast Guard. These usually include games, food and music. Learn some Coast Guard history and see why we owe a debt of gratitude to this unique arm of our military.
- Indulge in some Lego family fun**
There are plenty of Lego sets dedicated to the U.S. Coast Guard, complete with rescue planes and ships. Get a Lego set, assemble some family and friends to lend some creativity, pop some corn and have some fun!
- Treat retirees to a special lunch**
Do you have U.S. Coast Guard retirees in your neighborhood? Show some appreciation for their service with an outing to their favorite restaurant. Or, go one further and get together with your neighbors and make it a real community event. Invite a group of retirees, cook a special lunch and even get the kids to put on a show!
- 4 SEAWORTHY FACTS ABOUT THE U.S. COAST GUARD**
 - The oldest serving Coast Guard member was 105**
Anthony Christy, who manned the Christiana Lighthouse in Delaware, died while on duty in 1862.
 - High standards for U.S. Coast Guard rescue swimmers**
The qualifying criteria is so tough that 50% of applicants fail every year.
 - A dog served in the U.S. Coast Guard during World War II**
Sinbad was an official member of the crew, complete with his uniform, his own bunk, and paperwork.
 - U.S. Coast Guard tracks movements of icebergs**
The U.S. Coast Guard is a part of the International Ice Patrol, which monitors and reports movements of icebergs around the world.

V-J Day

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

“It was too much death to contemplate, too much savagery and suffering; and in August 1945 no one was counting. For those who had seen the face of battle and been in the camps and under the bombs—and had lived—there was a sense of immense relief.”



The Allied celebrations on Victory in Europe Day (V-E Day), on May 8, 1945, were subdued by the knowledge that war raged on in the Pacific. As the fighting ended in Europe, US troops were drawing a noose around the Japanese home islands. But there were ominous signs that Japan's fierce resistance would continue. The battles for Iwo Jima and Okinawa during the first half of 1945 were marked by spectacular carnage, and Americans were chastened by the knowledge that Japan had never surrendered to a foreign power and that no Japanese military unit had surrendered during World War II.

After Okinawa fell to US forces on June 22, 1945, an invasion of the Japanese home islands was set to begin. But before the invasion was to take place, the most destructive war in history came to a shattering and rapid end. On August 6, the United States dropped the first atomic bomb over Hiroshima, ultimately killing as many as 140,000 people. Two days later, the Soviet Union declared war on Japan. Then, on August 9, the United States dropped a second atomic bomb over Nagasaki, ultimately killing approximately 70,000.

Finally recognizing that victory was impossible, the Japanese government accepted Allied surrender terms without qualifications on August 14, 1945. That same day, President Harry S. Truman announced from the White House that the Japanese acceptance met the terms laid down at the Potsdam Conference for unconditional surrender. As soon as the news of Japan's surrender was announced on August 14, celebrations erupted across the United States. The United Kingdom announced that its official V-J Day would be the next day, August 15, 1945, and Americans exuberantly joined in that day's merriment, too.

—Victory over Japan Day (V-J Day) would officially be celebrated in the United States on the day formal surrender documents were signed aboard the USS *Missouri* in Tokyo Bay: September 2, 1945.

From the Collection to the Classroom: Teaching History with The National WWII Museum: The War in the Pacific

In New York City's Times Square, sailors climbed lampposts to unfurl American flags as ticker tape rained down upon the throngs gathered to celebrate the war's end. In thousands of small towns like North Platte, Nebraska, similar scenes included fireworks, confetti, and impromptu parades down Main Street. In San Francisco, parades celebrated that troops would soon return home through that city.

In Honolulu, marching bands, parades, ticker tape, and blowing papers filled the streets. In backyard celebrations, shirtless veterans drank celebratory toasts in the warm sunlight. Veterans and their girlfriends also crowded into and on top of trucks and cars (some even riding on fenders), waved flags, and excitedly drove through the city, relishing the moment Americans had hoped for since the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Victory over Japan Day (V-J Day) would officially be celebrated in the United States on the day formal surrender documents were signed aboard the USS *Missouri* in Tokyo Bay: September 2, 1945.

But as welcome as victory over Japan was, the day was bittersweet in light of the war's destructiveness. More than 400,000 Americans—and an estimated 65 million people worldwide—had died in the conflict. As historian Donald L. Miller, PhD, wrote in his book *The Story of World War II*, “It was too much death to contemplate, too much savagery and suffering; and in August 1945 no one was counting. For those who had seen the face of battle and been in the camps and under the bombs—and had lived—there was a sense of immense relief.” The war was over.

Source: <https://www.nationalww2museum.org/war/articles/v-j-day>

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.

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Tampa Chapter Annual Dues: \$30.00; ----- No fee for Active Duty or Surviving Spouses.-----

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

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

Coalition Corner



Dear MOAA members,

I hope you are all doing great enjoying the (extremely) warm temperatures here in the Tampa Bay area. Having spent more than five years in Florida I am somewhat getting used to the high temperatures, but I will never be able to adjust to the humidity around here. Anyway, there are other places in the world struggling far more than us to deal with the high temperatures. So certainly not complaining.

Most of the International Coalition members are enjoying their annual holiday in July and August. Many take the opportunity to go back to their respective countries to spend time with family and friends. Others are having family members and friends coming to Tampa to enjoy the beaches and the Floridian lifestyle.

This time of the year is also the period where we have a lot of rotating Senior National Representatives and crew members from our various delegations. That obviously includes saying farewell to a lot of very nice colleagues from all over the globe. Many lasting friendships are established among coalition members. I know for certain that my wife and I will

be visiting numerous colleagues in their home countries once we eventually depart from here by late November. We will of course also be hosting in Copenhagen, Denmark. Saying farewell means saying hello to new great coalition members. With that new friendships are established. It is a huge privilege being part of the international environment here at MacDill Air Force Base. On top of that many friendships are built between coalition members and all of our American military friends and indeed also among the local surrounding community.

We remain a strong and dedicated International Coalition. We currently have 45 nations onboard with some 140 military members. When including our family members, we are normally seeing a total number of almost 250-300.

With this short holiday greeting and on behalf of the entire coalition I wish you all a happy August.

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



—Holiday greetings from Denmark



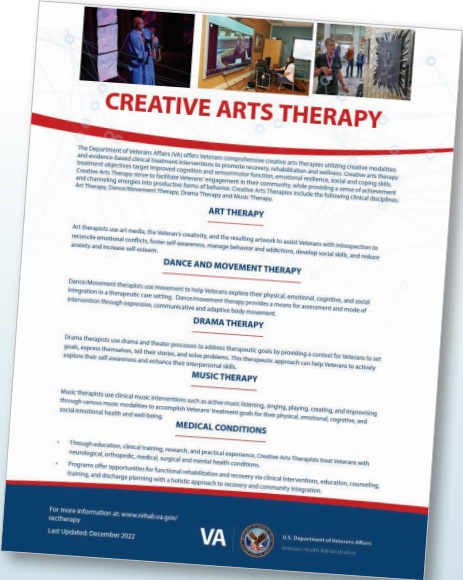
War and then Art

—Comments on the article by Robert Sawallesh, LTC, USA, Retired

The James A. Haley Veterans Hospital in Tampa has an outstanding Creative Arts Therapy program which receives strong support from Operation Helping Hand.

See VA at <https://www.prosthetics.va.gov/factsheet/RecTherapy-Creative-Arts-Fact-Sheet.pdf>.

I scanned the globe looking for other countries which have a keen interest in art for and about veterans. The United Kingdom has a very interesting site with a painting by Horace Vernet, "Peace and War," showing a veteran no doubt remembering his very proud days in the military and now he doubts his future or where will get his next meal.



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MEDICAL CORNER

UPDATES FROM THE PATIENT AND FAMILY PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL JULY MEETING

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

IMPROVEMENT FOR PHARMACY SERVICES AT MACDILL. At the Patient and Family Partnership Council Meeting last week, I learned that a phone app has been approved and funds allocated that will allow you to renew your scripts filled at MacDill Pharmacy via text messaging. The app is DosePharm - there is no rollout date set as of yet but 6th Med Group personnel are in the process of testing it out. It will also allow you to access the Genesis Patient Portal.

RED CROSS VOLUNTEERS are needed to assist active duty folks in the Pharmacy, at the Front Desk and at the clinic check-in desks. Volunteers are a vital asset which allows active duty members to concentrate on activities that can speed up Pharmacy and Clinic



services. See attached flyer for important contact information.

Oh, and did you know: You can register for important updates from MacDill's 6 MDG !!! Text the following key words to **866-992-6377**:

“MEDICAL” - general and emergency info

“PHARMACY” - Pharmacy updates

“MEDEFMP” - EFMP updates

Surviving Spouse Corner:
Finding Your Path After Losing Your Spouse

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

By: Barbara Smith

When you lose your spouse, you often face lifestyle questions that need to be answered. Do I stay in my home? Should I move closer to my children? Should I go back to work? Should I start volunteering?

Like others, when I lost my husband 20 years ago, I needed to address those questions.

My situation was different than some because my mother, who was 94 at the time, had been living with us for 13 years. She wasn't keen on moving, which meant we weren't going anywhere.

When she passed away four years later, I decided to get back to work. But my home wouldn't remain empty for long.



—Photo by Tara Moore/Getty Images/Stock

Soon after my mother's death, my older sister retired and wanted to move in with me. She relocated from California to my home in Virginia. She stayed two years and then moved to Colorado, where she had wanted both of us to move initially.

Was that the end of my roommate revolving door? Far from it: Next came my grandson and



his best friend for what was supposed to be a six-month stay while one found a job and the other finished school. Instead, one stayed with me for two years and the other for six. I learned living with young boys was much different than raising my three daughters.

Next came my daughter and son-in-law, who wanted to relocate from the Washington, D.C., area after retiring. They have been here for going on five years.

Do I miss my privacy sometimes? Of course. I'm sure my housemates also miss theirs from time to time. But it's been a very good fit.

There are pros and cons to an open-door policy — what has worked for me and my family in recent decades might not be ideal for you. But I believe life has a way of leading us to where we're meant to be — and in this case, it's kept me in my home.

Evidently, that is what I always wanted.

Source: <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2023-news-articles/member-spot-light/surviving-spouse-corner-finding-your-path-after-losing-your-spouse/>

Defense Department Announces
Establishment of Generative AI Task Force

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

The task force will help minimize risk and redundancy while pursuing generative AI initiatives across the Department.

By Homeland Security Today

Today, the Department of Defense (DoD) announced the establishment of a generative artificial intelligence (AI) task force, an initiative that reflects the DoD's commitment to harnessing the power of artificial intelligence in a responsible and strategic manner.

Deputy Secretary of Defense Dr. Kathleen Hicks directed the organization of Task Force Lima; it will play a pivotal role in analyzing and integrating generative AI tools, such as large language models (LLMs), across the DoD.

The establishment of Task Force Lima underlines the Department of Defense's unwavering commitment to leading the charge in AI innovation," Hicks said.



—An artificial intelligence-based app allowed participants to practice talking to superiors about difficult subjects and sharpen their leadership skills at the Agile Patriot conference June 6-8, 2023, at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. (Photo by Michele Donaldson/Air Force Materiel Command)

"As we navigate the transformative power of generative AI, our focus remains steadfast on ensuring national security, minimizing risks, and responsibly integrating these technologies. The future of defense is not just about adopting cutting-edge technologies, but doing so with foresight, responsibility, and a deep understanding of the broader implications for our nation."

Led by the Chief Digital and Artificial Intelligence Office (CDAO), Task Force Lima will assess, synchronize, and employ generative AI capabilities across the DoD, ensuring the Department remains at the forefront of cutting-edge technologies while safeguarding national security.

"The DoD has an imperative to responsibly pursue the adoption of generative AI models while identifying proper protective measures and mitigating national security risks that may result from issues such as poorly managed training data," said Dr. Craig Martell, the DoD Chief Digital and Artificial Intelligence Officer. "We must also consider the extent to which our

To continue reading article: <https://www.hstoday.us/industry/industry-news/defense-department-announces-establishment-of-generative-ai-task-force/>

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The Purple Heart: America’s Oldest Medal

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

— By Claudette Roulo

Did you know that the Purple Heart is America’s oldest military award? In 1782, although the Revolutionary War was basically over and peace talks were happening in Paris, Gen. George Washington needed a way to quell the talk of rebellion. Congress was running out of money after years of war against England. Troops were hungry and unpaid and there was talk of mutiny.

He decided to create the Badge of Military Merit to recognize heroic acts by his troops.

The requirements for earning the badge were a lot different from today’s Purple Heart. Soldiers had to do something unusually heroic or perform some act that was essential to the success of the Continental Army. While that sounds more like something you’d have to do to earn the Medal of Honor, the badge was actually a cloth purple heart with the word “merit” stitched across it in white. So, in a way, both the Medal of Honor and the Purple Heart came from the Badge of Military Merit.



One thing that made the badge different was that it was the first award meant for enlisted troops. Before this, the only way to recognize heroism by an enlisted soldier was to promote him, or for a general to give him a battlefield commission.

No one knows for sure how many soldiers ever received the Badge of Military Merit, though. It could be as few as three. And the book in which recipients’ names were recorded has been lost for more than 200 years.



Washington’s order was allowed to lapse after the war ended and the Purple Heart wasn’t revived until Feb. 22, 1932, on Washington’s 200th birthday. Designed by Elizabeth Will, an Army heraldic specialist, the modern medal features a profile image of Washington. Once again, the medal was awarded for meritorious service, but now soldiers could also receive it if they’d been wounded by the enemy.

The award was made retroactive — World War I soldiers who had earned certain awards could apply for the Purple Heart. The first medal was presented to Gen. Douglas MacArthur, the Army chief of staff at the time.

At first, the Purple Heart was only available to soldiers, but in 1942 Congress changed the rules for earning the award, authorizing it only for wounds, and made it available to all services, including some civilians.

Civilians who worked with the military, like Red Cross workers or war reporters, remained eligible for the award until 1997. Civilian employees of the Defense Department who are killed or wounded by an enemy now receive the Defense of Freedom Medal.

Army Sgt. Stubby, a dog who was smuggled to Europe by members of the 102nd Infantry Regiment, earned the Purple Heart twice during World War I — once for being wounded in a gas attack and once for being wounded by a grenade.



However, as of April 25, 1962, when President John F. Kennedy signed Executive Order 11016 and formally established the rules for awarding the Purple Heart medal, military service animals are no longer able to receive the award.

About 1.07 million Purple Hearts were awarded during World War II, more than were awarded in all of the other conflicts of the 20th century combined.

Chief Nurse Beatrice Mary MacDonald was assigned to a British Clearing Hospital in Belgium during World War I. In 1917, she lost her right eye when German aircraft bombed her hospital. She received the Purple Heart for her wounds in 1936, retroactively making her the first woman to earn the award. She was also the first woman to earn the Distinguished Service Cross. MacDonald served with the Army in Belgium and France for the rest of the war.



One of the most famous civilians to earn the Purple Heart was Ernie Pyle, a war correspondent who covered World War II from the trenches of Europe before being killed in the Battle of Okinawa.

Audie Murphy received the Purple Heart three times during World War II. He also received every combat award for valor available from the Army — including the Medal of Honor — as well as French and Belgian awards for heroism.

Marine Corps Staff Sgt. Reckless, a horse, received the Purple Heart twice for wounds she received in combat during the Korean War.

The National Purple Heart Hall of Honor is in New Windsor, New York. (This article was first published on Oct. 15, 2018.)

Source: <https://www.defense.gov/News/News-Stories/Article/Article/1650949/the-purple-heart-americas-oldest-medal/>

SECNAV Names Future Navajo-Class Towing, Salvage, and Rescue Ship Solomon Atkinson

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

—From Office of the Secretary of the Navy

WASHINGTON -- Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV) Carlos Del Toro announced today that a future Navajo-class Towing, Salvage, and Rescue (T-ATS) ship will be named in honor of Solomon Atkinson, a pioneering Navy SEAL and an Alaskan Native of the Metlakatla Indian Community, Annette Islands Reserve.

Del Toro made the announcement on the Metlakatla’s Founders Day, Aug. 7.

The name selection of USNS Solomon Atkinson (T-ATS 12) follows the tradition of naming towing, salvage, and rescue ships after prominent Native Americans or Native American tribes.

“I am honored to name the next T-ATS after Solomon Atkinson, a man who achieved many firsts, even in the face of adversity, and continued to lead,” said Del Toro. “Atkinson’s achievements as a SEAL have left behind an enduring legacy, not just in the Special Warfare Community, but with our nation’s astronauts as well. I am pleased to ensure that his name will extend globally to all who views this great ship.”



Born in 1930 in Metlakatla, Alaska, Solomon Atkinson was raised by his parents on the sole Indian Reserve in Alaska. Atkinson worked as a commercial fisherman before enlisting in the U.S. Navy in 1952. A year later, Atkinson volunteered for the underwater demolition teams and became a frogman, the precursor to present day SEALs. In 1962, Atkinson became one of the first Navy SEALs and was a plank owner for SEAL Team 1. As a SEAL, he deployed to Korea and completed three combat tours in Vietnam. His Vietnam service-related awards include a Bronze Star, a Navy Commendation Medal with Combat “V,” and a Purple Heart. Atkinson also had the distinction of training numerous astronauts, including Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin, in underwater weightless simulations at the Underwater Swimmers School in Key West, Florida. Atkinson retired from active naval service in 1973 as a Chief Warrant Officer 4 and returned to Metlakatla, where he continued to serve his people and state on the Indian Community Council and Board of

Education, as founder and president of the first veterans’ organization on Annette Island, and as mayor of Metlakatla. Upon his passing in 2019, an honor guard from SEAL Team 1 served as pallbearers at his funeral.

“Chief Warrant Officer 4 Solomon “Sol” Atkinson embodied the spirit of dedication to family, community, and country,” said Rear Adm. Keith Davids, commander, Naval Special Warfare Command. “His pioneering role as one of the first U.S. Navy SEALs, and his unwavering commitment to service both in and out of uniform, serves as an inspiration for the entire Naval Special Warfare community. Naming the USNS Solomon Atkinson in his honor is a testament to his remarkable legacy and the enduring impact he has left on NSW, the Navy, and the nation.”

Along with the ship’s name, Del Toro announced the sponsors for the future USNS Solomon Atkinson as his widow, Joann Atkinson and their two daughters, Michele Gunyah and Maria Hayward, who, in their role, will represent a lifelong relationship with the ship and crew.

“There exists a long-held Tsimshian tradition, ‘akadi lip a’algyaga sm’ooygit,’ loosely translated ‘a chief never speaks for himself,’” said sponsor, Maria Hayward. “Through all of his time as a U.S. Navy UDT and SEAL, as well as a leader of veterans and Native Alaskans, Sol lived this ethos. And, here today, in the shadow of Sol’s death, he holds to it still. Thank you to the

U.S. Navy for speaking to Solomon’s honor and helping his family and fellow Frogmen shout his legacy to the seven seas!”

Navajo-class ships will provide ocean-going tug, salvage, and rescue capabilities to support Fleet operations. The current capabilities are provided by Powhatan-class T-ATF Fleet Tugs and Safeguard-class T-ARS Rescue and Salvage vessels, which began reaching the end of their expected service lives in 2020. Navajo-class ships will be capable of towing U.S. Navy ships and will have 6,000 square feet of deck space for embarked systems.

Source: <https://www.navy.mil/Press-Office/News-Stories/Article/3484809/secnav-names-future-navajo-class-towing-salvage-and-rescue-ship-solomon-atkinson/>

CHAPLAIN’S CORNER

CHAPLAIN (COL) BERNARD H LIEVING JR USA RET



Back in mid-May I gave the invocation at the annual meeting for the installation of newly elected officers of the Tampa Chapter of the American Red Cross Auxiliary. One of the attendees came to me and introduced herself as the Vietnam era Red Cross “Donut Dolly” who had several years previously, having heard I was an Army chaplain during Vietnam, asked me to give the invocation at a “Dolly Reunion” in St. Pete.

My wife and I attended the reunion, and I was thrilled to see women who, fifty years earlier, wore those powder blue uniforms and flew by helicopter to visit my troops in the field or on a fire base. Over 600 women in their early twenties who were college graduates served as Donut Dollies in Vietnam. Whenever and wherever they visited they brought a touch of home to the troops who were glad for a brief respite from their daily duties. Unlike their World War II counterparts for whom they were named, “Donut Dollies”, in Vietnam they brought no do-

nuts, only Kool-Aid and perhaps some bits or pieces of candy, along with games and much needed conversation. They brought smiles, laughter, and sometimes tears to soldier faces. Their stories are available in documentaries on-line.

The overlooked story of the World War II Dollies is told in a powerful, uplifting novel, “Good Night, Irene,” written by Luis Alberto Urrea, author of fiction, poetry, and non-fiction. He was inspired to write the novel based on the stories and pictures of his mother who served as a “Donut Dolly” in World War II and traveled alongside soldiers driving their Club mobiles, remodeled London busses equipped with donut making machines, coffee pots, and Victrolas playing music over loudspeakers. It is a great story.

One comment I read from a Vietnam veteran said the Donut Dollies exiting a helicopter was for him and his unit “a God moment that was totally unexpected for all our us.” I hope that reading this article has brought back to your memory a “God moment,” a time that served as proof of God’s presence in your life when you found faith, courage, and strength in the face of difficulty, danger, or the everyday stresses of life.

Gonna need a bigger boat: what the Navy does when whales go rogue

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

—By Sarah Sicard

The U.S. Navy endeavors to protect marine life. (Navy/Canva)

This summer kicked off with a rumored rash of Orca attacks on vessels in the Strait of Gibraltar. Tales of the killer whales bumping, damaging, and sinking boats amassed — and panic ensued.

But what would the U.S. Navy do if it encountered a massive marine mammal? Alas, a war of the whales is not an option.

“The U.S. Navy is committed to the protection of marine mammals and the marine environment,” according to the Navy Office of Information’s Lt. Andrew Bertucci. “The Navy implements mitigation procedures, developed in conjunction with the National Marine Fisheries Service, during training and testing activities to identify the presence of marine mammals near vessels and respond appropriately to avoid effects.”

The seafaring service’s goal is to respect the domain in which it operates as well as the life that calls it home.

“If a marine mammal is sighted, activities that may affect marine mammals are ceased or modified until the animal is an appropriate distance away,” Bertucci added. “Additionally, the Navy has developed programs like the Marine Species Awareness Training and the Protective Measures Assessment Protocol to ensure sailors have access to training and tools necessary to continue to protect the environment.”

And unlike cases with other vessels, if the U.S. Navy encounters a large whale, it’s typically the mammal that is in danger, not the ship.

For example, [it was found in the early 2000s](#) that sonar was linked to whale deaths. Moreover, the U.S. Navy was forced to review its policies as recently as 2021 when a partnership exercise [with the Australian Navy](#) left two fin whales dead on the hull of a Royal Australian Navy ship in Southern California.

And while there has [indeed been an uptick in Orca](#) interference near Spanish and Portuguese waters, they are exceedingly rare and unlikely to involve military vessels or any boat with a mo-



tor.

One expert told the [Washington Post](#) that the attacks are likely not a coordinated effort or even aggression at all. Instead, the boat interactions are by young Orcas simply horsing around.

“The game is very simple,” president and coordinator at CIRCE Conservación Information and Research, Renaud de Stephanis, told the Post. “If there is a rudder, they push it and break it.”

Source: <https://www.armytimes.com/off-duty/military-culture/2023/07/25/gonna-need-a-bigger-boat-what-the-navy-does-when-whales-go-rogue/>

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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.

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