



The RETROSPECT

TAMPA CHAPTER — A FIVE STAR CHAPTER OF MOAA NATIONAL

November 2023

VOLUME 29, NUMBER 11



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT: COL CHARLES DALCOURT USA RET

GREETINGS!



Greetings to all and a special welcome to friends and supporters of our Chapter. November is such a very special month for many reasons. It serves as a point in the year that fosters introspection. It draws thought to both the sentiment and expression of thanks for family, friends, favor, and even frivolity. November warms us with joy, anticipation, and a celebratory bent, while cooling our cadence, charming us with collages of Fall, and challenging us to contemplate and caress life's gifts with gratitude.

As the month progresses, we'll commemorate the U.S. Marine Corps birthday; celebrate the devoted and sacrificial signifi-

cance our Veterans; and again, very deliberately carve out time to acknowledge, applaud, and appreciate the people and things in which we are, or should be grateful.

Areas of Interest

In the Chapter, we have a several activities and events going on during the month. Beyond the aforementioned events that will capture the 10th, 11th, and 23rd of November, I offer the following reminders...

- MOAA Tampa Chapter 2024 membership renewal window opens this month. The deadline for renewing our membership is January 2024.
- On 14 November, we will host the final session in the 2023 series of "Thriving After Military Service" Transition Seminars. This program has proven to be an invaluable asset to all attending and has sagely matured over the years. We invite you to come out and contribute to the dialogue.
- On 16 November, the Chapter has scheduled a no-host social at the Brick House Tavern on Dale Mabry Highway from 5–7pm. Please feel free to show up and bring a prospective member, friend of the Chapter, or supporter. I look forward to seeing you there!
- Also, of great import is our Chapter's preparation for the Winter Gala. Set for 8 March 2024, we are about four

months out. We are standing up our planning committee and are seeking volunteers to fill in both gaps on the team and to support "day of" activities. Please contact Kiley Stinson for additional details.

Member Highlight

We are taking an opportunity this month to forgo our Chapter's tradition of honoring an individual as the Member of the Month, to give deference and pay homage to two giants in our eyes. Two men that have poured into MOAA and have truly given their time and talent to enable our Chapter's success. They are Colonel William "Bill" Schneider (US Army, Retired) and Brigadier General Henrik Larsen, Royal Danish Air Force.

First to Bill... we can't thank you enough for the extended service you gave to MOAA Tampa Chapter as a Board Member, Committee Chair, a sage voice at the Florida statewide conventions, and as a counselor and consultant to several new officers and leaders in our Chapter. Your experience, heart to share and develop the organization, and persistent devotion to duty enabled the success, growth, and stability of this Chapter. Your resignation from the Chapter's Board of Directors is a blow, yet you blessed us in remaining an active member of the Chapter where you will, without doubt, continue to lead and inspire us all.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

2 Nov
10:00 AM
Board of Directors Meeting

9 Nov
Chapter Luncheon
11:30 AM – 12:00 PM Social
12:00 PM – 1:30 PM Lunch
Columbia Restaurant
Siboney Room
([see page 6](#))

14 Nov
Thriving After Military Service
Five Labs
([see page 17](#))

16 Nov
No-Host Social
Brick House Tavern and Tap
([see page 13](#))

7 Dec
BOD Meeting (Virtual)

14 Dec
Chapter Luncheon
11:30 AM – 12:00 PM Social
12:00 PM – 1:30 PM Lunch
Columbia Restaurant
Siboney Room

REMINDER:

SUBMISSION DEADLINE
FOR THE DECEMBER 2023
ISSUE IS 20 NOVEMBER 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



LTC REGINALD WILLIAMS USA RET



Capt NORM BILD, USAF RET



BEN RITTER, SGT USMC
(FORMER)/HONORARY MBR



LTC NICK CLEMETE, USA RET

MOAA has long brought forward the need to end this crippling cycle of continuing resolutions – to fully fund the government before the end of the fiscal year, and to eliminate yet another source of stress and instability from the lives of those in uniform, and of their family members. But as another Oct. 1 came and went, lawmakers again moved the goalposts instead of fulfilling a sacred obligation.

Actions like these damage our national security. Not just because a shutdown would disrupt key services, or because the lack of a full budget means new, innovative programs remain stalled while old, outdated processes move forward. The real threat doesn't come from the balance sheet – it comes from the lack of respect shown toward those who serve from the individuals who are proud to "support our troops."

Send a message to your legislators via [MOAA's Legislative Action Center](#) today. Tell them the budget brinksmanship needs to stop – not just to keep the lights on, but to maintain the trust of servicemembers, of veterans, of multigenerational military families who make up the backbone of the all-volunteer force. It's a simple step to show Congress truly "supports our troops."

There is no shortage of work for MOAA's advocacy team as

the start of the new fiscal year looms. From ensuring a budget solution protects the earned benefits of those who serve and have served to securing the passage of a strong defense authorization bill, there is much to be done in little time.

As many of us learned during our time in uniform, we must be able to plan for the future while we tackle the challenges of the present – it's the only way to ensure our association can continue the success we've had on the Hill in support of not just our membership, and not just military officers, but the entire uniformed services community.

NDA Update: Return to Joint Committee Setup Is Good News for MOAA Priorities¹

By: Mark Belinsky
OCTOBER 16, 2023

The appointment of a joint conference committee to iron out differences in must-pass defense legislation will give MOAA members a chance to reach out to their lawmakers and make their voice heard on critical issues like TRICARE reforms, military housing benefits, and other important quality-of-life concerns.

Congress didn't form a full-on conference committee for the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) last year, meaning decisions on the final bill were made behind the scenes, with limited chances for advocates to reach out to individual lawmakers and their staffs.

But the House of Representatives has named members ([majority](#) | [minority](#)) of the NDAA conference this year, and while the Senate has not formally done so, work is in progress on this annual legislation within the Senate Armed Services Committee (SASC). The bill takes on an added sense of urgency with significant armed conflict in the Middle East and Eastern Europe, especially as operational tempo has increased to the same levels as the "surge" in Iraq and Afghanistan.

[TAKE ACTION: Ask Your Lawmakers to Avoid a Government Shutdown and Finish the Appropriations Process]

Having Your Say

The conference committee gives MOAA and MOAA members a chance to make our case to committee members and other representatives on critical issues via our Legislative Action Center. We need your voice as a constituent to amplify our efforts; let your lawmakers know the importance of these issues to their constituents. If your House member or your senators are not involved in the NDAA, ask them to reach out to fellow members in support of programs addressing quality of life (QoL) concerns faced for our troops during our current recruiting crisis.

[TAKE ACTION: Contact Your Legislators and Urge Them to Improve the Quality of Life for Our Troops]

Congress will require discipline to focus on DoD personnel challenges this year – perhaps more than ever, as tone-deaf signals on the needs of those who serve have begun to emerge. These signals may convince lawmakers that the House NDAA proposal to boost pay for enlisted troops is not needed, and that systemic military housing/barracks mold

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT cont.

Thanks so much for all you and Georgia have contributed to MOAA. Your legacy is incredible, your service incomparable.

Next, we laud, thank, and send off Henrik and Sanne Larsen. While serving as the United States Central Command (CENT-COM) Coalition Chair and the Senior National Representative to the Coalition from Denmark, Brigadier General Larsen has cultivated an incredible relationship with our Chapter and etched an indelible bond between our organizations. His diligent attendance to Tampa Chapter and Operation Helping Hand functions, consistent contributions to our monthly Newsletter, and constant encouragement of other Coalition Officers to attend our events has fostered camaraderie and esprit that promotes understanding, cooperation, and respect across countries, military services, and amongst brothers and sisters in arms across the globe. Henrik, thank you so much for the care and consideration you extended our Team. May God bless you and your family as you complete your tour at CENT-COM this month and return to Denmark. All the best!

To all, please join us in honoring these great men and brothers in arms by extending your sentiment in person, by phone, or

via email. Thanks in advance!

Running Through the Finish Line

As we move closer to the year’s end, let’s ensure we remain engaged. Our active support and advocacy are needed to advance MOAA’s initiatives and narrative; to close out this year’s legislative priorities. Your advocacy and support of key issues and programs/projects are impactful, and the local support given by our members resonates loudly.

The following areas remain central to our Chapter’s year-end efforts locally and align with national objectives:

- Outreach – building existing programs and establishing relevant community initiatives and partnerships that address both unanswered issues and emerging challenges; and
- Membership – developing and sustaining an active and engaged cadre of members from across all of the uniformed services;
- Communication – ensuring our messages reach all demographics sharing interests in and the impact of our advocacy efforts.

In Closing:

As I close, I ask that you continue to support MOAA’s advocacy and our Chapter’s programs and initiatives. Please stay connected via our website and this newsletter to all that is happening in our sphere of influence. Let our walk, not just talk, be our Chapter’s hallmark and remember all those we represent.

I share my appreciation for you as members and comrades as we continue serving our nation. I pray that God’s grace covers you, His strength enables you, and His joy excites you all. Please be safe and discriminating as you move about and enjoy the wonderful transition of seasons. Also, please keep our colleagues in other Chapters across Florida in your thoughts and prayers as their mission and challenges mirror ours.

Again, Happy Birthday to the U.S. Marine Corps. Thanks again for all you do. May God bless you all, our Chapter, and this amazing Country!

Best regards,
Charles Dalcourt

LEGISLATIVE LOWDOWN cont.

problems found by the Government Accountability Office and addressed in part by Senate NDAA provisions are not necessary ... and could be solved if servicemembers just clean harder.

“Funding for DoD is like pistons in an engine,” one senior DoD official said. “When one of the pistons – modernization, operations or personnel – moves up, the others move down.”

Addressing Housing

This annual legislation spans the entirety of DoD programs and priorities, but key among the work this year are plans to improve military housing of all types across all services.

[TAKE ACTION: Urge Your Legislators to Pay Full Housing Costs for Servicemembers]

Along with plans to address barracks issues raised in high-profile reports and hearings, MOAA backs House NDAA language that would raise the Basic Housing Allowance to 96% of local rental and utility costs – one percentage point above the current level, and progressing toward MOAA’s goal of restoring 100% BAH for servicemembers giving 100% to our nation.

We have supported this change via the BAH Restoration Act (H.R. 2537 and S. 1823) and will work toward its inclusion in the final NDAA legislation alongside other plans to address housing problems, such as:

- A report on military housing waitlists during PCS moves.
- A study on availability of housing and best practices for expanding affordable housing.
- A pilot program on replacement of substandard enlisted barracks.
- A maintenance work order management process for military unaccompanied housing.

- An expansion of the Uniform Code Of Basic Standards for Military Housing to include military unaccompanied housing.
- Implementation of comptroller general recommendations relating to strengthening oversight of privatized military housing.
- Establishing a DoD Military Housing Readiness Council.
- A report on how military construction affects quality of life.

More NDAA Needs

The housing issue is not the only one of MOAA’s priorities which could be advanced via the NDAA. Members can reach out at the links below to ensure related language is included in the must-pass bill, and that their members show their support for the all-volunteer force on these issues by co-sponsoring related legislation.

TRICARE Pharmacy Cuts: Require a report on access of TRI-CARE beneficiaries to network retail pharmacies, especially as the network shrank by nearly 25% in the last 12 months.

Dental Care for Reservists: Establish zero out-of-pocket cost dental care for reserve component servicemembers.

Military Spouse Support: Require a report on portability of professional licenses of servicemembers and spouses, and expand eligibility for reimbursement of qualified licensure, certification, and business relocation costs incurred by military spouses.

‘180-Day Rule’: Repeal the mandatory six month cooling-off period for servicemembers to apply for DoD civilian positions and support DoD civilian talent management.

Arlington Eligibility: Require a joint DoD/VA report on the “next Arlington National Cemetery” that will afford military honors as it approaches capacity (in 40 years). This provision signals a significant change compared to previous proposals to reduce eligibility; your continued support to grow co-sponsors for H.R. 1413 is still needed to shape this and future NDAA legislation.

Maximize Your Impact

Thank you to all of you who have already supported these legislative efforts. If you’ve yet to take action, or if you’re looking to reengage with your lawmakers, consider these tips:

- When using our Legislative Action Center, please customize the message with your personal story to add impact.
- Share the link to your message with your network; you do not need to be a MOAA member to use the action center.
- Amplify your message via MOAA’s toll-free hotline – 866-272-MOAA (6622) – which will let you contact your lawmakers directly. Ask to speak with their military legislative assistant or legislative director, and schedule a follow-up call if they are not available. These congressional staffers work hard for elected officials and need to hear your voice as a constituent.

Make your voice heard via the Legislative Action Center: <https://moaa.quorum.us>

Sources:
1) www.moaa.org, article by Mark Belinsky , October 16, 2023

USO Therapy Dogs are Spreading Joy Throughout the Central United States - and Beyond

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

—By Tammie Pech

This year, USO Canines have touched the lives of almost 21,000 people at USO centers in the Central Region of the United States.

The program, which is growing throughout the USO’s more than 250 locations around the world, brings certified therapy dogs into USO Centers to provide support to the military community. Throughout the Central Region, the USO Canine program has become a mainstay for service members and their families. Each week, Paws with Love, a therapy dog organization, visits the USO Center at Fort Sill during service members’ lunch breaks.

The USO Canine Program has expanded at the [USO Fort Cavazos](#), Texas Center to include visits by USO Canine Volunteers at events such as weekly Power Hour lunches, Hotdogs & Hounds events and Family Game nights. The Pup Stop Friday at the [USO Warrior and Family Support Center in San Antonio, Texas](#), **brings comfort to wounded, ill and injured service members, while therapy dog visits at the USO center at Fort Riley provide support for service members and their families through companionship at events.**

USO Volunteer Natalie Pittman, who is also the handler of USO Canine, Freedom, a Giant Schnauzer, thinks it is important for soldiers at USO Fort Cavazos to interact with the dogs, **especially individuals who need a calming influence to get through their day.**

“We get big smiles, [the dogs] get pets and soldiers get down on the floor to hug him,” Natalie said. She loves that service members get so excited when they visit the USO center.

Staff Sgt. Colin Peden commented, **“I can come to the USO and actually have a dog,** a canine partner that I can hang around with and just love. It makes my day better!”

After Colin’s dog passed away a while back, he was not feeling like himself and wasn’t interested in being around other dogs. Since going to the USO and getting to know Freedom and Natalie’s other canine, Shiloh, he was inspired to adopt a dog named Mila from a local kennel into his family.



Service members and their families visit the USO to find comfort, connection and reprieve from the busy days and challenges of military life. Unlike service animals, USO Canines are therapy dogs that love getting hugs and pets, while bringing joy, smiles and raising spirits during their visits.

During a recent visit to the USO at San Antonio, one service member commented, “I really miss my dog back home. Going through training can be extremely grueling, and I have little to no time to relax. It does make me a little depressed, but **when I came [to the USO] today it was such a nice surprise to see a dog. It absolutely made my day and weekend!**”

At the [Fort Leonard Wood USO center](#), therapy dogs Maverick and Apache welcome service members with a touch of home and unconditional love. Apache has followed his brother’s footsteps by helping military children with their reading at school and caring for guests at the center. [Maverick won the USO Canine Volunteer of the Year](#) and took home the honor of the American Humane Hero Dog Therapy Dog category award. Maverick’s exceptional intuition allows him to empathize with emotions, and he actively works with the military on suicide watch, **demonstrating the true essence of unconditional love and guiding them towards healing.**

Maverick, a USO Canine Volunteer, sits with a service member and USO staffer.

Volunteer handlers who bring their dogs to events are essential to the USO Canine program. Those who handle the canines understand the benefits of dogs and are happy to share their furry companions with others. Diana White, a dog handler with Canine for Christ, visits the USO at Fort Sam Houston and Warrior and Family Support Center during Pup Stop Friday. You can see the immediate joy these small puppies bring as service members enjoy the snuggle and hug sessions.

To continue reading click: <https://www.uso.org/stories/3641-uso-therapy-dogs-are-spreading-joy-throughout-the-central-united-states-and-beyond>

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



2023 OFFICERS:

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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.

GENERAL CONTACT INFO:

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



This has been my year of travel. I hope that everyone received the email update of this newsletter with a few important tidbits as I was on an extended travel over the last month. It was a thrill for me to visit the South Pacific, specifically Australia, New Zealand and Fiji. My biggest fear was getting on a 15 hour flight to Melbourne, Australia, but it turned out to be a good flight. I traveled with 22 other intrepid adventurers and marveled at all we saw and did. I so loved the Great Barrier Reef, the Sydney Opera House, the Penguin Parade in Philips Island, riding camels in the Outback—all in Australia, then New Zealand’s lush green land and snowcapped mountains and finally the pristine and clear waters in Fiji. Though I loved my trip, I am glad to be home and want to thank everyone for your flexibility in the later publishing on this month’s newsletter. So many things to look forward to the rest of this month, to include the quarterly “Thriving After The Military” Seminar and our first “No Host Social” that will be held from 5-7 PM on Thursday November 16th at the Brick House Tavern & Tap. Please see the flyers for each in this newsletter.

This month we are saying thank you and farewell to two previous Members of the Month, COL Bill Schneider, USA RET for his enduring and dedicated service to the MOAA Tampa Chapter and to BGEN Henrik Larsen, Danish Senior National Representative, Coalition Chair and Honorary Member of MOAA Tampa. Bill, I want to thank you for your wisdom, wit, and sage guidance during my time with you on the Board of Directors and all that you brought to the MOAA Tampa Scholarship program. I’ve so enjoyed working with you and getting to know you. You are a joy, and I’m going to miss seeing you every month at our board meetings. BGEN Larsen, you’ve brought so much to the MOAA Tampa Chapter to include bringing so many Senior National Representatives to our luncheons, but as the Editor for *The Retrospect* I’ve appreciated your contributions to the Coalition Corner. You’re quite a good writer and so creative with all that you submitted. I know that I speak for the Chapter at large and all those who read the Coalition Corner when I say that you have enriched us all with your monthly updates and that we’re going to miss you. You’ve helped bring a very unique dimension to the MOAA Tampa Chapter with your perspectives. Safe travels home to you and Sanne. Enjoy your next adventure as you transition

from military life to the civilian world. In Navy speak, Fair Winds and Following Seas.

I appreciate articles submitted by our chapter members and their contributions to *The Retrospect*. This month Bob Sawallesh submitted an article updating the addition of a traffic light for those crossing the street to the James A. Haley VA and for Jeanne Richard for submitting updates for the Medical Corner from the 6th Medical Group at MacDill AFB. And if I may, I shared my experience at the Bob Hope USO at the Los Angeles International Airport. There are some other articles that I hope you find interesting to include an article about the Marine Corps Birthday this month, the history of Veteran’s Day, and an article on how the military helped bring Thanksgiving. There are other articles that I hope you’ll enjoy as well.

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 continue to 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. My role as you editor continues to be and enriching and rewarding learning experience, but one that I don’t do alone. In the meantime, I continue to share my travel adventures and would love to hear about your travels. Please send your stories to my MOAA Tampa email: coms@moaatampa.org.

There are so many unsettling things going on in this world today. I’m praying for peace in our times. Wishing everyone a joyful, safe, family and friend filled Thanksgiving.

“Ask, and it will be given to you; Seek, and you shall find; Knock, and it will be opened to you.” – Matthew 7:7 (NKJV)

Let us never forget. - NEVER STOP SERVING!

Sara Marks, CAPT NC USN (Ret)

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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)

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/>

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

US flying drones over Gaza in search of hostages, Pentagon says

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

—By Meghann Myers

While U.S. officials have insisted that the Israel Defense Forces will take the lead on rescuing hostages taken from Israel to Gaza on Oct. 7, the Pentagon acknowledged on Friday that U.S. forces have launched reconnaissance **unmanned aerial vehicles** over Gaza as part of the search.

The flights began following Oct. 7, Air Force Brig. Gen. Pat Ryder, a Pentagon spokesman, said in a statement.

“In support of hostage recovery efforts, the U.S. is conducting unarmed UAV flights over Gaza, as well as providing advice and assistance to support our Israeli partner as they work on their hostage recovery efforts,” he said.

On Thursday, Ryder reiterated during a briefing, “Just to be crystal clear, that it is [Israel’s] operation, they’re running their operation” when it comes to strikes on Gaza. But the U.S., Ryder said, is helping with planning and intelligence for hostage recovery.

Senior officials have said since the days following the Oct. 7 attack on Israel by the militant group Hamas that the U.S. would not be sending combat troops to Israel, nor would it be sending its own forces into Gaza to recover American hostages.

“The Israelis have made it very clear that they don’t want foreign troops on their soil, that they want to prosecute these operations on their own,” National Security Council spokesman John Kirby said during a briefing Oct. 12. “The Israelis have made it clear that they would not welcome [foreign involvement] in any event.”

The U.S. has **repositioned troops** to other parts of the Middle East, however.

Two carrier strike groups, an amphibious ready group with embarked Marine Expeditionary Unit, several Air Force fighter squadrons and 300 support troops have all been tapped to deter further escalation of the Israel-Hamas war and to increase U.S. force protection in U.S. Central Command.



—U.S. reconnaissance drones are helping the search for hostages in Gaza. (Spc. Orion Magnuson/U.S. Army)

MEMBERS OF THE MONTH

FAREWELL TO BGEN LARSEN & COL BILL SCHNEIDER, USA RET

THANK YOU AND FAREWELL TO TWO DEDICATED MOAA TAMPA CHAPTER MEMBERS

Though the Chapter normally recognizes a different individual each month as the Member of the Month, it was appropriate this month to highlight again the significant and enduring contributions of two of our dedicated Chapter members.

William (Bill) Schneider, COL, US Army (Ret) served as the First Vice President, as well as the Chair of the Scholarship Committee and his efforts have had and will continue to have an enduring positive impact on the Chapter as well as the lives and futures of the scholarship recipients.

BGen Henrik Larsen is departing soon to return home to Denmark, and his contributions to the Chapter and development of the Coalition involvement in the Chapter will remain long after he has moved on.

Thanks again to both leaders as they exemplify the standard of “Never Stop Serving!”

BGEN HENRIK LARSEN

Henrik Larsen is a Brigadier-General in the Royal Danish Air Force with more than almost 40 years of service. He has held multiple national and international senior and command positions including several NATO Headquarters assignments, the United Nations and also Commanding Officer of the Danish Air Tactical Wing, the Air Force Training Center and Division Head of Joint Operations at Defence Command in Denmark. He also served as the aide-de-camp to the Danish Queen for two years. Been deployed as the Senior Military Advisor to the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan from 2011 to 2012. He is a 1997 US Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama graduate.

His decorations include Commander of the Order of Dannebrog, Denmark, Danish Defence Distinguished Air Service Medal, Knight of First Class of the Order of the White Rose, Finland, Officer's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany, Officer's Cross of the Order of the Crown, Belgium, United Nations Special Service Medal, and the Danish Defence International Service Medal

As a Senior National Representative, he is currently directing the Danish Liaison Element as part of the United States Central Command Coalition, whose work includes promoting peace and stability in the Central Command area of responsibility. He also serves as the Coalition Chairman and his leadership and coordination actions on behalf of Denmark contribute directly to international coalition efforts to address destabilizing issues in the Middle East region and around the world.

Henrik Larsen is married to Sanne with three children (Julie, Catrine, and Nikolai) and three grandchildren.



COL BILL SCHNEIDER, USA RET

Bill was born at a very young age. He planned it that way so he would have lots of time to get to know his family and friends before he ran off and joined the Infantry. His boyhood years were spent with his three brothers spending their winters in northern New Jersey and their summers at the Jersey Shore. His first job, at age 15, was as a second mate on a deep-sea fishing boat. Much later, he met his wife Georgia in a beach bar and invited her to join him for lunch. She declined. Two years later, he proposed to her while driving through the Lincoln Tunnel. She accepted.

Bill's military career began upon receiving a commission through the ROTC program at Saint Peter's University in New Jersey where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Liberal Arts. He later earned a master's degree in Public Administration from Central Michigan University and a master's degree equivalent from the Naval War College.

As an infantry second lieutenant, his initial assignment was as a tank platoon leader in the Second Armored Division at Fort Hood, Texas. That convinced him he did not want to spend the rest of his career in a tank motor pool.

He returned to civilian life as a management trainee with Railway Express in New York City. That convinced him he did not want to spend the rest of his career in a railroad loading terminal.

Bill remained active in the reserve and was invited to return to active duty when the Vietnam War began to heat up. He accepted and was assigned to the 7th Infantry Division at Fort Ord, CA. Following that assignment, he spent two of the next three years in Vietnam. As a captain

assigned to the First Cavalry Division, he served as a civil affairs officer tasked to win the minds and hearts of the local folks with limited success. As a major, he served with the Fourth Infantry Division as an infantry battalion S-3 and later at the division level as the command and staff briefing officer. His combat decorations include the Distinguished Flying Cross, four Bronze Stars, three Air Medals and the Combat Infantryman's Badge. Following his second tour in Vietnam, he was assigned as instructor and course director at the United States Military Academy, West Point.



While most Infantrymen were being assigned to locations no gentleman would visit, let alone live, Bill's follow-on assignments took him and his family to resort like locations such as Honolulu, Newport, Monterey and New York City.

His terminal assignment, selected by his wife, was as Senior Advisor to the Commanding General, 42d Infantry Division, New York Army National Guard, headquartered in New York City. This is the famous Rainbow Division organized by the then Colonel Douglas MacArthur for deployment to Europe in World War I.

Following that assignment and upon his retirement, he was awarded the New York State Meritorious Service Award from Governor Mario Cuomo. His peacetime

awards include the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Award, Joint Service Commendation Medal and the Army Commendation Medal.

Along the way, his wife started Jazzercise franchises in Georgia, California and New York. While in New York City, she co-sponsored an exercise clothing fashion show with Mikhail Baryshnikov, the famous Russian Dancer. Following his retirement from the military, Bill was instructor and Department Chair at Florida Metropolitan University, Lakeland campus. In his leisure time, he officiates NCAA Track and Field meets.

Bill's community involvement has included Chairman, Tampa Palms Covenants Committee, Secretary, Sanctuary at Tampa Palms HOA. His volunteer work has included group facilitator at The Spring of Tampa Bay and The Compassionate Friends of America.

He and his wife are active with the Catholic Student Center at USF, he as an usher and she as a Eucharistic Minister and lector.

Bill and Georgia live in Tampa Palms. They have four children and four grandchildren.





NOVEMBER LUNCHEON MEETING



EVENT: Chapter Monthly Luncheon Meeting
DATE: Thursday, 9 November
TIME: Social time 1130 hours, Meeting time 12 noon – 1330 hours
LOCATION: Columbia Restaurant, Siboney Room, 2117 E 7th Ave, Ybor City
RESERVATIONS: Reservations must be made by NOON Friday, 3 November.
Call 813-374-3309 OR via email to LunchReservations@moaatampa.org. Reservations are limited to 60.
A reservation made is a reservation paid.
CANCELLATIONS: Cancellations must be made by NOON Monday, 6 November by calling 813-374-3309
OR via email to LunchReservations@moaatampa.org.
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.
MENU: 1905 Salad, Cuban Bread and butter, Boliche, Polo Salteado, White Rice, Black Beans,
Fresh Broccoli Alioli, Coffee, Iced Tea, Soft Drinks and Celebration Cake for the Marines
Guest Speaker: Mrs. Michele Carey, President of the Tampa Area Gold Star Moms
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.
This meeting will not be available via Zoom.



—Marines have been called “Jarheads” as far back as World War II. (Canva/Lance Cpl. Antonino Mazzamuto)

How Marines became known as ‘Jarheads’

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

—By Sarah Sicard

If you’re a civilian, the word “jarhead” may conjure up the gory image of a person’s noggin encapsulated in a cylindrical glass container. But if you’re a U.S. Marine, you know the term as a loving moniker. What you might not realize, however, is where that nickname originated.

“The term first appeared as early as World War II and referred to Marines’ appearance wearing their dress blue uniforms,” according to the National Museum of the Marine Corps. “The high collar on the uniform and the Marines’ head popping out of the top resembled a Mason Jar.”

At the time, it was intended to be an insult, but much like today’s stereotype of crayon eating, the Marines chose to own it as their own.

“Since World War II, the term has been applied more widely to Marine Corps recruits with their ‘squared head’ appearance because of the close-cropped haircuts,” the museum archive added. “Some Marines refer to the ‘high and tight’ haircut as a ‘Jarhead cut.’”

So synonymous has the term become with Marine Corps service that author Anthony Swofford, who served during the Gulf War, gave the name to his 2003 memoir. That book then served as the basis for the 2005 movie “Jarhead,” starring Jake Gyllenhaal.

According to the National Museum of the Marine Corps, the jarhead moniker has “become a source of pride for all Marines.”

Source: <https://www.navytimes.com/off-duty/military-culture/2023/11/07/how-marines-got-the-nickname-jarheads/>

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 NOVEMBER

- National Veterans & Military Family Month
- Warrior Care Month
- National Family Caregivers Month
- 5 Daylight Savings Time Ends
- 1-5 National Veterans Small Business Week
- 10 Marine Corps Birthday
- 11 Veteran’s Day
- 11 Armistice/Remembrance Day
- 23 Thanksgiving

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

Veterans Day was originally called Armistice Day — here’s how it evolved

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

The U.S. holiday began as a celebration of the end of WWI. But in the wake of even deadlier conflicts, November 11 became a day to honor all military veterans.

—By Byerin Blakemore

Parades, ceremonies, and a much-needed day off—Veterans Day, observed on November 11 each year, is one of the nation’s 12 Congressionally designated federal holidays. The holiday is distinct from [Memorial Day](#), which grew out of the Civil War-era tradition of decorating the graves of deceased soldiers. While Memorial Day honors those who died in military service, Veterans Day celebrates the living and the dead.

But Veterans Day didn’t always celebrate all military veterans. Once known as Armistice Day, it has roots in one of the most destructive conflicts in history. Here’s how the holiday evolved from a day of postwar mourning to a celebration of all those who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces. (*These were history’s deadliest conflicts.*)

The first Armistice Day

The holiday’s beginnings can be traced to the late days of 1918, when a weary world began to look toward the end of what was commonly called the “Great War.” Over four long years, [World War I](#) had obliterated European landscapes, ushered in the use of deadly new technologies such as poison gas, and entangled more than 30 nations. Revolutions had



—Celebrated each November 11—the anniversary of the end of World War I—the holiday originally recognized the U.S. soldiers who had fought in the Great War. Now Veterans Day honors all those who served in the military, including these U.S. soldiers on patrol in Afghanistan in 2004. PHOTOGRAPH BY YORAY LIBERMAN, GETTY IMAGES

upended the governments of many of the combatant countries, and [an influenza pandemic was sweeping the world](#).

After a long stalemate, the United States entered the war, and the Allied forces launched an offensive that would prove decisive. The Allies’ terms were tough, but Germany was in no position to argue. Finally, on November 11 at 11:00 a.m. Paris time, an armistice came into effect.

World War I was over, but the world reeled from its losses. A total of about 10 million men were [killed](#) in action, and another 20 million were wounded worldwide. The U.S. had only joined the conflict in 1917, but it alone had [lost](#) over 116,000 lives and seen about 320,000 other casualties. Those losses were bitterly felt, [especially](#) among those whose loved ones had been buried in over 2,300 temporary cemeteries on European soil.

A year after the armistice, Americans made plans to observe the anniversary nationwide. Multiple governors declared legal holidays. Veterans’ associations and groups around the country made plans to commemorate the occasion with ceremonies, religious ceremonies,

and fundraising for the American Red Cross. On November 11, 1919, the *New York Times* [noted](#) that people around the world would hold moments of silence at 11:00 a.m.

To continue reading click: <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/history/article/veterans-day-was-originally-called-armistice-day-heres-how-it-evolved?loggedin=true&r>

2023

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The

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The Retrospect is published monthly by the Tampa Chapter of the Military Officers’ Association of America (MOAA), P.O. Box 6383, Tampa, FL 33608-0383. The MOAA Tampa Chapter is a 501-C-(19) tax exempt veterans’ organization not associated with the Department of Defense. The views expressed in individually signed articles do not necessarily reflect Chapter policy.

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			Cost	
Ad Deadline	Inserts	Advertising	(Artwork supplied)	(Ad creation)
Dec. 20 (2023)	Jan. 1	Half page (12.95" wide x 9.75" tall)	\$1,000.00	+\$75.00
Jan. 20	Feb. 1	Quarter page (6.5" wide x 6.25" tall)	\$500.00	+\$50.00
Feb. 21	Mar. 1	1/8 page (6.5" wide x 3.5" tall)	\$250.00	\$35.00
Mar. 21	April 1	DIGITAL AD FORMAT: Digital ads must be submitted in PDF, JPEG or EPS formats.		
April 20	May 1	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.		
May 20	June 1	DEADLINE: See Digital Publishing table.		
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July 20	Aug. 1			
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Nov. 21	Dec.1			

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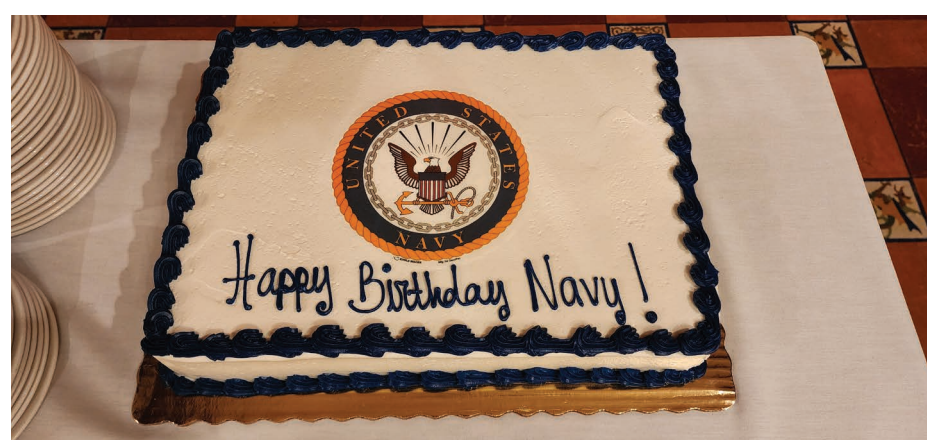
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Photo credit: Ben Ritter and Carol Zieres



How Military Efforts Helped Bring About Thanksgiving

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

—By Katie Lange

You have accessed part of a historical collection on defense.gov. Some of the information contained within may be outdated and links may not function. Please contact the DOD Webmaster with any questions.

Thanksgiving is a hallowed American tradition filled with family, food, football and fun, but did you know we can attribute its creation largely to the military?

While conventional wisdom dates the first Thanksgiving back to 1621, when pilgrims in Plymouth, Massachusetts, joined in with local Native Americans to celebrate the fall harvest, it wasn't a celebration that continued from year to year.

In fact, Thanksgiving didn't really become any kind of tradition until we were trying to unify the nation during two of our biggest early struggles – the Revolutionary War and the Civil War.

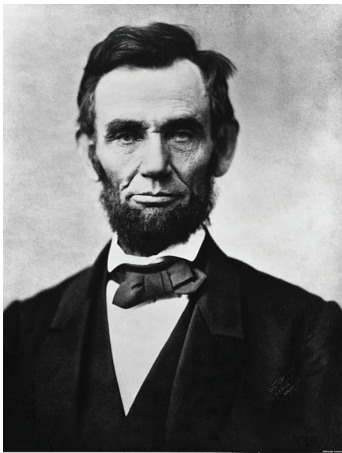
Inspiring Our Troops, Bringing Unity

During the revolution, the Continental Congress decided to declare several days of thanksgiving to help inspire our troops to victory. The first such day fell on Nov. 1, 1777, when news of some victories against the British reached their ears.

Gen. George Washington also called for a day of thanksgiving on Dec. 18, 1777, as a victory celebration for the colonial army's win during the Battle of Saratoga that October. He later issued the first formal Thanksgiving Day proclamation for the U.S. when he was president, setting the date for Nov. 26, 1789.

While that date fell around that of our current-day holiday, Thanksgiving still failed to become an annual tradition until about 75 years later – when President Abraham Lincoln decided to renew the celebration in 1863, during the height of the Civil War.

Even as war raged across the country, Lincoln called for a day of thanks to be held on the last Thursday in November. The day would be known as Thanksgiving – and the tradition finally became official.



—President Abraham Lincoln: At the outbreak of hostilities between the states, President Abraham Lincoln declared Vicksburg “the key,” and said “the war can never be brought to a close until that key is in our pocket.” (Library of Congress)

For many years, the presidents who came after Lincoln kept Thanksgiving on that final Thursday of the month. But during World War II, there were two years in a row in which November had five Thursdays, confusing a lot of people and causing a lot of arguments about which date Thanksgiving would fall on.

In 1942, Congress passed a resolution to clarify that every fourth Thursday of November would be Thanksgiving Day.

Making Sure Our Troops Celebrate, Too

As all service members know, not everyone in the military can stop what they're doing to celebrate the holiday. But preparations have always been made to make sure service members could celebrate in some capacity, even if they were deployed or on the battlefield.

During World War I, the Red Cross and other auxiliary organizations started providing Thanksgiving aid to soldiers, while families in places like France, where our soldiers were stationed, would take them into their homes for the day.

During World War II, C- or K-rations were replaced with turkey and cranberry for the holiday. It was either shipped in by the military or collected from local farmers. Nowadays, the Defense Logistics Agency is able to ship out a traditional Thanksgiving dinner of turkey, pumpkin pie and all the fixins to tens of thousands of service members across the world.

Deployed service members have also seen some commanders in chief roll through their bases during the holiday. President George H.W. Bush served Thanksgiving dinner to troops stationed in Saudi Arabia in 1990 ahead of the Gulf War, while his son, President George W. Bush, did the same in a surprise visit to Baghdad in 2003, at the height of the Iraq War. President Barack Obama made a surprise visit to Afghanistan just after the Thanksgiving holiday in 2010.

No matter where you're celebrating Thanksgiving this year, know that the tradition grew out of your predecessors' efforts to bring unity to the United States. We can all be thankful for that!

Source: <https://www.defense.gov/News/Inside-DOD/Blog/Article/2062670/how-military-efforts-helped-bring-about-thanksgiving/>



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New addition to National WWII Museum addresses the conflict’s legacy

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

—By Kevin McGill, The Associated Press



—Artifacts of American soldiers wounded and captured by the Germans during World War II, are part of the exhibits in the new pavilion which will be opening at the National World War II Museum, in New Orleans, Tuesday, Oct. 31, 2023. The latest major addition to the museum is called the Liberation Pavilion. (Gerald Herbert/AP)

A new, permanent addition to the sprawling [National WWII Museum](#) in New Orleans is a three-story complex with displays as daunting as a simulated Nazi concentration camp bunk room, and as inspiring as a violin pieced together from scrap wood by an American prisoner of war.

The Liberation Pavilion opened Friday with ceremonies attended by surviving veterans of the war, Holocaust survivors, historians and actor [Tom Hanks](#), a longtime supporter of the museum.

“Everybody should see this,” proclaimed John Cristando, one of about 40 surviving WWII veterans attending opening ceremonies.

The new pavilion is ambitious in scope.



—Replicas of real dog tags worn by U.S. soldiers in World War II cover the entry wall to the new pavilion that will be opening at the National World War II Museum, in New Orleans, Tuesday, Oct. 31, 2023. The latest major addition to the museum is called the Liberation Pavilion. (Gerald Herbert/AP)

Its exhibits, which fill 33,000 square feet (3065.80 square meters), commemorate the end of the war’s death and destruction, emphasize its human costs and capture the horror of those who discovered the aftermath of Nazi atrocities. Films, photos and recorded oral histories recount the joys and challenges awaiting those who returned from battle, the international effort to seek justice for those killed and tortured, and a worldwide effort to recover and rebuild.

Underlying it all is the idea that almost 80 years later, the war’s social and geopolitical legacies endure — from the acceleration of civil rights and women’s equality movements in the U.S. to the formation of international alliances to protect democracy.

“We live in a world created by World War II,” Rob Citino, the museum’s Samuel Zemurray Stone Senior Historian. said when asked what he wants the pavilion’s visitors to remember.

It’s a grim tour at first. Visitors entering the complex pass a shimmering wall of military dog tags, each imprinted with the name of an American killed in action, a tribute to the more than 414,000 American war dead. The first centerpiece exhibit is a large crate used to ferry the coffin of an Army private home to his family in Ohio.

Steps away is a recreation of the secret rooms where Anne Frank and her family hid from the Nazis in Amsterdam. Then, a dimly lit room of wooden bunks and life-size projected images of the emaciated survivors of a Nazi concentration camp. Nearby is a simulated salt mine, its craggy walls lined with images of centuries-old paintings and crates of statuary — representing works of art plundered by the Germans and recovered after the war.

Amid the bleakness of the pavilion’s first floor are smaller and more hope-inspiring items, including a violin constructed by an American prisoner of war. Air Force 1st Lt. Clair Cline, a woodworker, used wood scavenged with the help of fellow prisoners to assemble the violin as a way of fighting the tedium of internment.

“He used bed slats and table legs. He scraped glue from the bottom of bits of furniture around the camp,” said Kimberly Guise, a senior curator at the museum.

The pavilion’s second floor focuses in part on what those who served faced upon returning home — “the responsibilities at home and abroad to defend freedom, advance human rights, protect democracy,” said Michael Bell, a retired Army colonel and the executive director of the museum’s Institute for the Study of War and Democracy.

Black veterans came back to a homeland still marred by segregation and even violence against people of color. Women had filled non-traditional roles at home and abroad. Pavilion exhibits make the case that their experiences energized efforts to achieve equality.

“Civil rights is the fifties and women’s equality is more more like the sixties,” Citino said. “But we think both of those seminal changes in American society can be traced back in a significant way to World War II.”

Other second-level exhibits include looks at the Nuremberg war crimes trials, the post-war emergence of the United States as a world superpower and the formation of international alliances meant to sustain peace and guard against the emergence of other worldwide threats to freedom.

“We talk about NATO or the United Nations, but I don’t know that most people understand that these are creations, American-led creations, from the war,” said Bell. “What our goal is, at least I’d say my goal, is to give the visitor a frame of reference or a lens in which way they can look at things going on in the world.”

The third floor includes a multi-format theater with moving screens and a rotating audience platform featuring a production of images and oral histories that, in Bell’s words, “really lays out a theme about freedom under pressure and the triumph of of the American-led freedom.”

It was a recurring theme in speeches heralding the pavilion’s opening.

“We are lucky. We are fortunate. We are blessed that we live in the United States of America, where that concept of liberating the oppressed, no matter how long it takes, is part of our national fight,” said Hanks.

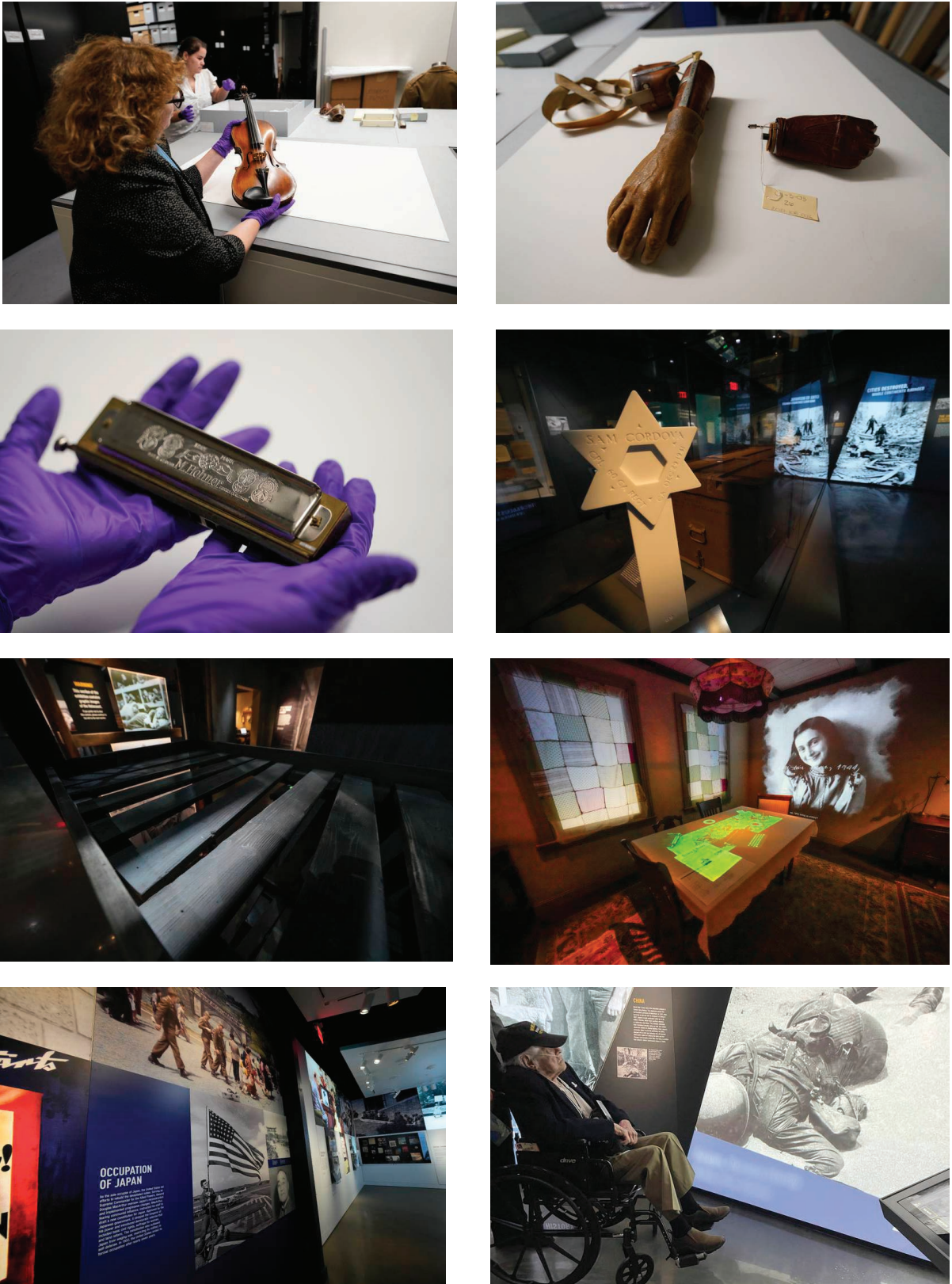
Museum officials say the pavilion is the final permanent exhibit at the museum, which opened in 2000 as the National D-Day Museum — a project spearheaded by two University of New Orleans professors and historians, Gordon Mueller and the late author [Stephen Ambrose](#).

Over the years it expanded to overflow a city block and encompass all aspects of the Second World War — overseas and on the home front. It is now a major New Orleans tourist attraction and a downtown landmark near the Mississippi River, highlighted by its “Canopy of Peace,” a sleek, three-pointed expanse of steel and fiberglass held roughly 150 feet (46 meters) over the campus by towers of steel.

The Liberation Pavilion is the latest example of it the museum’s work to maintain awareness of the war and its aftermath as the generation that lived through it dies off — and as the Baby Boom generation raised on its lore reaches old age.

“World War II is as close to the Civil War as it is to us. It’s a long time ago in human lives, and especially our media-drenched culture. A week seems like a year and 80 years seems like five centuries,” said Citino. “I think the museum realized a long time ago it has a responsibility to keep the memory of this war, the achievement of that generation alive. And that’s precisely what Liberation Pavilion’s going to be talking about.”

Source: <https://www.armytimes.com/veterans/2023/11/05/new-addition-to-national-wwii-museum-addresses-the-conflicts-legacy/>



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‘It’s larger than us.’ Arlington Cemetery staff preps for Veterans Day

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

—By Molly Weisner

Even on the quietest mornings, when the sun is still low in the sky, the visitor center is empty, and errant leaves haven’t yet been blown off the walkways, Arlington National Cemetery is bustling.

The 640 acres of paradisiacal hills are peaceful and serene, like an impressionist painting. That’s purposeful; the cemetery is the final resting place for 400,000 people who are connected by the bond, and sacrifice, of service to the U.S. military.

The reverent quiet on a recent November morning belies the fact that more [200 federal employees](#) and 300 contract staff are busy readying the grounds and facilities for the [estimated 5,000 visitors](#) who will attend the cemetery’s 70th [Veterans Day observance](#), one of the park’s largest annual events honoring those who serve.

The event involves a host of organizations, including the Department of Veterans Affairs, White House officials, Secret Service, local law enforcement and the Army Military District of Washington.

What that entails is a highly choreographed dance of electricians, grounds crew, arborists,



—Arlington National Cemetery employees hang U.S. flags in the Memorial Amphitheater in anticipation of the National Veterans Day Observance, Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Va., Nov. 6, 2023. (U.S. Army photo by Elizabeth Fraser / Arlington National Cemetery / released)

mechanics, security guards, planners and others who are responsible for the national shrine’s safety and aesthetic. That work is done all year long, workers told Federal Times, but attention to detail and special touches are heightened this time of year when so much of the cemetery is in the public eye.

“Any day that you’re here, you can expect the unexpected,” said Roy “Rex” Rexroat, who oversees facilities and horticulture.

[Planning for Veterans Day](#) starts six months in advance, said Jay Walker, the cemetery’s director of operations. Around the three month mark, preparation work includes painting the ballards, fixing flagstones and heavy pruning of the [landscape’s 9,000 trees](#).

“At this stage, we’ve done the planning, now it’s in the execution phase,” Walker said on Monday. “It’s now time to start putting things in place.”

He means that literally. Chairs are set up with name cards on them. Extension cords and microphones will be staged in the Vermont-quarried marble Memorial Amphitheater to prepare for speeches by the President and other officials.

Tyler Day, an electrician for the cemetery, stood several dozen feet off the ground and hung 43 flags between its columns on Monday. The flag is connected to a rope that he pulls up, unfurling the flag as it rises out of the rolling cart following him on the ground.

To continue reading click: <https://www.airforcetimes.com/fedlife/career/2023/11/09/its-larger-than-us-arlington-cemetery-staff-preps-for-veterans-day/>



—Arlington National Cemetery employees prepare the Memorial Amphitheater for the National Veterans Day Observance, Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Va., Nov. 6, 2023. (U.S. Army photo by Elizabeth Fraser / Arlington National Cemetery / released)

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.

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Accessible 24/7/365.

Trained Counselors

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

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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

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My Afternoon at the Bob Hope USO at the Los Angeles International (LAX) Airport

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

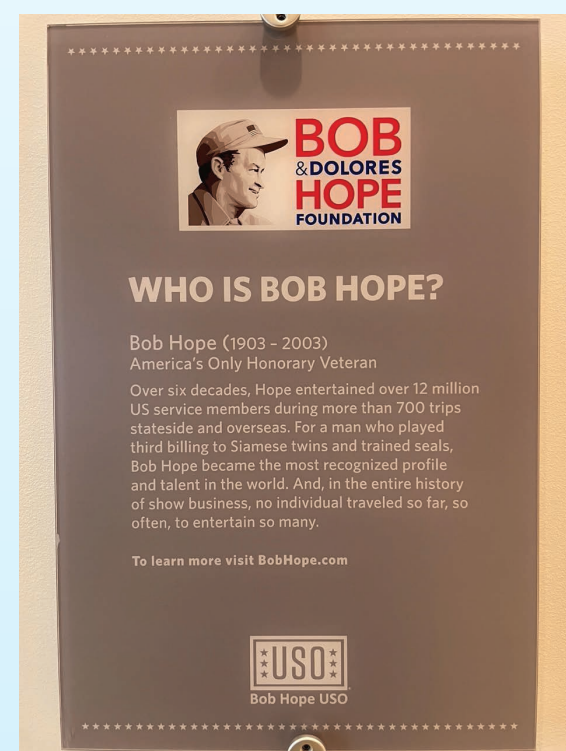


—Thanks for the memories Mr. Hope.

Over 30 years ago on my way to Okinawa, Japan I was welcomed by the USO at the LAX Airport. I learned that pizza delivery was possible while I awaited my flight to my first overseas assignment. Fast forward to last month, I was welcomed to a much newer USO dedicated to entertainer Bob Hope. It was a wonderful place to relax while I awaited my late-night flight to Melbourne, Australia, but this time as a retired veteran. I loved seeing all the memorabilia and photos of Mr. Hope. Though I never had an occasion to meet or see him in person, I've always appreciated his dedication to all veterans, especially those overseas in harm's way. How appropriate to have this beautiful USO facility named after him. I did meet two lovely ladies who volunteer at the USO, Joan Procopio and Linda Huthmaker (see photo), who were so gracious and so caring of all veterans, active and retired and made me feel so welcomed. They shared their stories of volunteering at the Bob Hope USO. So if you're traveling through the LAX Airport, stop by the USO. You may meet a fellow shipmate or battle buddy and make a new friend while you have a quiet and welcoming place to relax before your next flight. And thanks for the memories, Mr. Hope.



Bob Hope USO Volunteers: (L to R) Joan Procopio and Linda Huthmaker



For information on the Bob Hope USO hours of operation: <https://california.uso.org/>



Tampa Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America
No-Host Social Hour

Thursday
November 16, 2023
5 PM – 7 PM

Brick House Tavern + Tap
1102 North Dale Mabry Highway
Tampa, FL 33607

We will have a social gathering for all current and prospective Tampa MOAA Chapter members, friends, and supporters. The Brick House Tavern + Tap provides a fantastic, covered patio where we can socialize around the fire pit. There is a full food menu and bar; the first hour will include happy-hour specials for your enjoyment. This is a pay-as-you-go event.

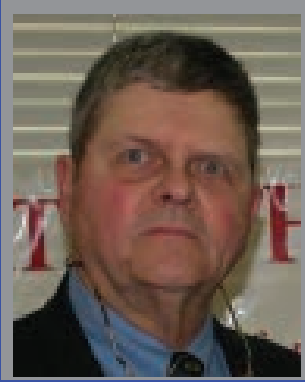
No RSVP is required – just show up!

Please bring a prospective member, friend of the Chapter, or supporter.

Questions? Email events@tampamoaa.org




UPDATE OPERATION HELPING HAND



LTC JIM GRIFFIN
Chairman, OPHH

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



On OCTOBER 28TH, the 9th ANNUAL STAR-SPANGLED ART EXHIBIT was held at UNISEN SENIOR LIVING. Several hundred visitors were able to enjoy the artwork presented by over 30 veteran artists. At the reception, ribbons were awarded to the artist by the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, DIANE BERI. The food provided was excellent and enjoyed by everyone. A special thanks goes out to MR GLENN PALACINO, ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DIRECTOR, whose painstaking care of hanging all the artwork contributed to make this a very spectacular event. Also special thanks to CAROL ZIERES AND STUART DWORK, the CO-COORDINATORS of the event. Since this event has grown each year, we are looking forward to the 10th ANNUAL EXHIBIT!

If you are in town for veterans day, BOBBY A'S BACKYARD BBQ WILL BE HELD NEXT TO HANKS ON NDM HYWAY FROM 1200-4:00. This is a fund raiser for OPERATION HELPING HAND AND THE CARROLLWOOD KIWANIS CLUB. COME JOIN US AND HAVE SOME GREAT BBQ!!

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 OCTOBER. 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/DANCE 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. OPERATIONHELPING-HANDTAMPA.COM.

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

*** PRESS RELEASE - 11 OCTOBER 2023 ***

Press Release by Lieutenant Colonel Robert F. Sawallesh, U.S. Army, Retired, 813-654-3900.



Traffic Lights at the Tampa Veterans' Hospital Increase Safety and Traffic Flow

From the back, left to right: Lieutenant Colonel Robert F. Sawallesh, U.S. Army, Retired, Valrico, FL, Co-Chair of OTS; Joe D. Battle, Immediate Past Retired Medical Center Director of the James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital and Clinics, Temple Terrace, FL and David K. Dunning, Medical Center Director of the James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital and Clinics, U.S. Army Colonel, Retired.

—Photo Credit: Alicia Burden, VA Public Affairs Specialist

In 2014, Lieutenant Colonel Bob Sawallesh, US Army Retired and a volunteer at the James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital (JAHVH) in Tampa, Florida, realized, as others did, that traffic signals were greatly needed at the main entrance to the JAHVH. The main entrance is at Richard Silver Way and Bruce B. Downs Boulevard.

Located at this intersection are the JAHVH, the University of South Florida and the IQ Luxury Student Apartments. Fifty thousand vehicles travel through this intersection per weekday and Sawallesh has seen massive traffic jams and has read about many serious accidents.

When Sawallesh officially contacted the Hillsborough County Government by letter in January 2014 the battle for the construction of traffic signals began. Following a Tampa Chapter MOAA (Military Officers Association of America) Board meeting in June of 2016, Major Dolores Incremona, USAF, Retired, recommended to Sawallesh that a petition be initiated to support the traffic signal project. Sawallesh initiated the GoPetition in July 2016. Prior to that date, Sawallesh had already placed videos of the dangerous intersection on YouTube.

“Operation Traffic Signal (OTS) – Tampa” was officially named in 2016 with Sawallesh and Mary Ellen Harlan as Co-Chairs. Harlan was also a volunteer at the JAHVH. In September of 2016 Harlan arranged for herself and Sawallesh to appear before the Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners to address the need for traffic signals at the JAHVH main entrance. JAHVH Director Joe Battle also attended the presentation to the commissioners.

In 2017 Ritter arranged for Sawallesh to address the traffic signal issue on the Jack Harris AM Tampa Bay morning radio program on 970 WFLA which had a tremendous audience in the Greater Tampa Bay area.

In 2018, Director Joe Battle announced that the Hillsborough County Commissioners had accepted \$1.4 million from the US Department Veterans Affairs, which included the money to modify turn lanes and add sidewalk improvements for pedestrians at the very busy intersection of Bruce B. Downs Blvd and Richard Silver Way, the hospital's main entrance.

David K. Dunning, the current Medical Center Director for the James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital and Clinics ensured that the traffic signal project would be brought to successful completion.

The Traffic and Pedestrian Signals went live on 05 September 2023 at approxi-

mately 11:04 am. Sawallesh said that social media was a great aid in promoting OTS. There are nearly a total of 52,000 OTS views on YouTube, GoPetition, Facebook and Instagram

Former U.S. Marine Sergeant Ben Ritter, OTS Director for Communications stated: “Entering the JAHVH grounds from busy Bruce B. Downs Blvd at Richard Silver Way during traffic rush hours has been challenging and dangerous. The traffic and pedestrian signals and sidewalks at this intersection that have been recently installed and made operational will enhance the safety of vehicular traffic, pedestrians, and the USF IQ Apartment students who live adjacent to the JAHVH. Kudos to the immediate past VA Hospital Director Joe Battle and the current Director David Dunning for making this a reality!”

And Major Dolores M. Incremona, USAF Retired, Director of OTS Social Media stated: “I am extremely pleased to see a dream and hard work come to fruition. The new traffic signals will make travel to the VA Hospital, Fisher Houses, USF Medical Library and the IQ Student Apartments much easier and safer. I applaud the Hillsborough County Public Works Department, Tampa Electric Company (TECO) and the contractors who set up the traffic and pedestrian signals. And they no doubt did this in the blazing sun of Florida.”

“Special thanks to Tampa MOAA and Operation Helping Hand and the many civic and veteran organizations which supported OTS. University students can now safely walk across Bruce B. Downs Blvd going from IQ Apartments to USF. What was once a hazardous drive for Fisher House residents is now a safe drive when they travel to the Moffitt Cancer Center to visit their loved ones.”

Coincidentally, Sawallesh and Incremona are members of the Tampa MOAA, Harlan is a Surviving Spouse member and Ritter is an Honorary Member of Tampa MOAA.

The OTS GoPetition only lacks 175 signatures to reach 1,000. If you would like to make a comment go to <https://www.gopetition.com/petitions/remove-the-danger-highway-intersection-at-usf-and-tampa-veterans-hospital-campuses.html>. You may sign anonymously. See the photo of an ambulance at the OTS intersection at night.

Note: Not available at the time for the above photo was Major Dolores M. Incremona, USAF Retired, Director of OTS Social Media.

How We Help and Why You Should Join!

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

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

NEVER STOP SERVING!



The Tampa Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America, Inc.
P.O. Box 6383
Tampa, FL 33608-0383



MOAA Tampa Chapter Dues Renewal Form

Deadline for renewing your membership is January 31, 2024

Name _____

Rank_____ Service_____ Status_____ (AD, Retired, Former)

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

Address _____

EMAIL address_____

Phone _____ Cell_____

Spouse_____ Phone_____

Check here if there are no changes_____

Dues must be paid by 31 January 2024 to remain an active member of the MOAA Tampa Chapter.

- There are 3 ways to pay your dues:
- 1. Online at <https://chapterdues.moaa.org/Membership.aspx>
 - 2. Paying at the monthly member luncheons
 - 3. Mailing this dues renewal form

Please consider donating to our chapter scholarship fund.

Amount enclosed:

2024 Dues	\$ 30.00
Additional Contribution	\$_____ (Scholarship / JROTC Support / Other)
Total Enclosed	\$ _____

Please make checks payable to: MOAA Tampa Chapter

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

Email questions to: membership@moaatampa.org

The Marine’s Hymn

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

The story behind the song



They go by fearsome nicknames like “Leathernecks,” “Jarheads,” and “Devil Dogs.” They take pride in being the roughest, toughest warriors in the world. They are often the first American troops to fly, charge, or sail into battle when the United States goes to war.

They are the United States Marines, and they can also lay claim to the snappiest song of any branch of the U.S. Armed Services. This is the story behind “The Marines’ Hymn” and how its spirited, sometimes amusing lyrics trace the rich history and pride of this elite fighting force.

The USMC

The U.S. Marines have been around as long as the U.S. itself. The Continental Congress created their branch in 1775 to put fighting men on the decks of naval ships during the American Revolution. The Marines have seen action in every major U.S. military engagement since.

Along the way, the Marines have earned their reputation for bravery and never-say-die wit in the face of desperate odds. In the famous 1918 **Battle of Belleau Wood**, for example, a battalion of Marines arrived at the front lines just as German units were attacking. A French officer drove up and told the Marine commander to retreat.



“Retreat, hell!” the commander is said to have replied. “We just got here.” The Marines held the position and drove the Germans back.

The History of the Hymn

The origins of “The Marines’ Hymn” are hard to track. No one knows who wrote the lyrics. Legend has it that the author was a Marine who fought in the Mexican-American War in 1845–1847. But the song itself does not show up in the historical record until the late 1860s.



The music is a little easier to trace—all the way to France, or maybe Spain. “The Marines’ Hymn” melody was clearly taken from *Geneviève de Brabant*, an opera written by the German-born, Jewish-French composer Jacques Offenbach and first performed in 1859. There is evidence, however, that the song was a popular Spanish folk tune even before that. This classic American fighting song is truly a cross-cultural creation.



The lyrics, however, are all U.S. Marine Corps-- see if you can find all the references below.

In 1845, the U.S. launched the Mexican-American War to seize Mexican lands. In September 1847, U.S. Marines and Army troops fought Mexican forces defending Mexico City. In the **Battle of Chapultepec**, the Americans captured Chapultepec Castle, a historic site also known as the **Halls of Montezuma**. The victory effectively ended the war.

In the early 1800s, the U.S. stood up to the Barbary States in North Africa that demanded protection payments for U.S. shipping. In 1805, **Marine Lieutenant Presley O’Bannon** and eight Marines led a force of mercenaries on a 500-mile trek across the desert. Their surprise attack on the city of Derna, on **“the shores of Tripoli,”** helped bring an end to the conflict.



In 1942, the Commander of the Marine Corps changed **“On the land as on the sea”** to the current wording, to reflect the addition of air power.

When the U.S. goes to war, the Marines are usually **the first troops** thrown into battle.

The Marines played a key role in recapturing **Pacific Islands** from the Japanese during World War II.

Marines believe they are the toughest branch of the U.S. Armed Forces. They sometimes tease their brothers and sisters in the Army, Navy, and Air Force about how Marines always get to the action first—**perhaps even in heaven**.

Today, U.S. Marines serve as **guards** at 149 U.S. embassies around the world.

“The Marine’s Hymn”

From the halls of Montezuma,
To the shores of Tripoli,
We fight our country’s battles
In the air, on land, and sea.
First to fight for right and freedom,
And to keep our honor clean,
We are proud to claim the title
Of United States Marines.

Our flag’s unfurl’d to every breeze
From dawn to setting sun;
We have fought in every clime and place
Where we could take a gun.
In the snow of far-off northern lands
And in sunny tropic scenes,
You will find us always on the job
The United States Marines.

Here’s health to you and to our Corps
Which we are proud to serve;
In many a strife we’ve fought for life
And never lost our nerve.
If the Army and the Navy
Ever look on Heaven’s scenes,
They will find the streets are guarded
By United States Marines.

The U.S. did not declare war during World War II until the Japanese attacked Hawaii’s Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. The summer before, though, about 1,000 U.S. Marines were stationed in **Iceland** to help ward off an invasion by Nazi Germany. The mission inspired an unofficial verse to “The Marines’ Hymn.”

Again in nineteen forty-one
We sailed a north’ard course
And found beneath the midnight sun,
The Viking and the Norse.
The Iceland girls were slim and fair,
And fair the Iceland scenes,
And the Army found in landing there,
The United States Marines.

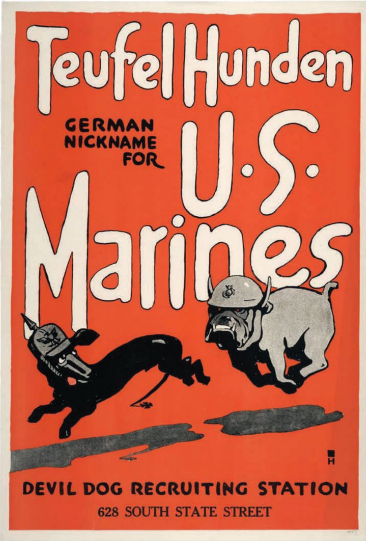
U.S. Marine Terms

Leathernecks: Named for leather collars on Marine dress uniforms in the 1800s.

Jarheads: Refers to the Marine haircut—buzzed on the sides, a little longer on top. The hair on top supposedly looks like the lid on a jar.

Semper Fidelis: “Always Faithful” in Latin. It is the motto of the Marines, and “Semper Fidelis March,” written by John Philip Sousa, is the Corps’ official march. Marines will often shorten the phrase to “Semper Fi.”

Devil Dogs: According to tradition, German troops in World War I referred to the fierce-fighting Marines as *Teufel Hunden*—“devil dogs.” In truth, American newspapers probably made up the story, but the nickname stuck.



A Tradition of Music



The U.S. Marines have a proud tradition of music as well as soldiering. The U.S. Marine Band has been in existence since 1798, making it the oldest musical group in the history of the U.S. John Philip Sousa, the great march composer, served as conductor of The Marine Band from 1880–1892.



Today, the Marine Corps features more than a dozen musical performing groups. They include “The President’s Own,” a Marine band that frequently performs at White House events.

Source: <https://www.kennedy-center.org/education/resources-for-educators/classroom-resources/media-and-interactives/media/music/story-behind-the-song/the-story-behind-the-song/the-marines-hymn/>



MEDICAL CORNER

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

6th Medical Group Update

The 6th Med Group Patient and Family Partnership Council met Thursday, 26 October. Here are some updates:


1. There are now TWO (2) ways to **activate** your prescriptions:
- * DosePharm: available to download on your mobile device.

* MHS Genesis Patient Portal. Sign up for an MHS GENESIS Patient Portal account now! <https://patientportal/mhsgenesis.health.mil>
2. **Refill** Call-in Line: 800-272-0201 or 813-828-5367
3. ALL pharmacies will be closed on Federal Holidays and 6 MDG Training days (every Wednesday 7:30 A.M. – 10 A.M. Training requirements are ever increasing which could impact availability of services.
4. For up-to-date closures, refer to the 6th Med Group Facebook page – you don’t have to have a Facebook account:
<https://www.facebook.com/6thMedicalGroup>


As you might imagine, the Med Group is committed to supporting the changing mobility requirements based on fluid global activities. This means that normal clinic appointments may be limited, and Pharmacy services could be disrupted.

PLEASE DO NOT FORGET that we are still in HURRICANE season. You can appreciate that MacDill has a high potential for flooding based on storm surge - even if we are not directly in the storm’s path. We are constantly reminded to **PREPARE** for the worst – have enough supplies on hand!!! I urge you to check out Facebook, MacDill AFB website, 6th Med Group website for current closures or altered hours of operation. It was reported during the meeting that many folks arrived on base for refills during the last storm only to find out the Pharmacy was closed. SAVE time, gas, and your sanity by checking out the status of operations at MacDill before driving to the base.

If you are evacuating and will be close to a military facility, you may be able to get refills there. Check for that installation’s operating procedures. As difficult as it might be to embrace all of the electronic advances, it is critical that we stay abreast of technology. Hard as it may be - Either get on the train OR be left behind.



6 MDG Degraded Services & Closures



Date	Event	Impact to Operations
Every Wed	MDG Training Day	All 6 MDG Facilities - Closed 7:30 a.m. - 10 a.m.
Fri, 10 Nov 2023	Veterans Day	All 6 MDG Facilities - Closed All Day
Mon, 13 Nov 2023	AMC Family Day	All 6 MDG Facilities - Open 7:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Wed, 22 Nov 2023	Pre 4-Day Weekend	*No normal Wednesday Readiness Training* All 6 MDG Facilities - Open 7:30 - 4:30 p.m.
Thu, 23 Nov 2023	Thanksgiving Day	All 6 MDG Facilities - Closed All Day
Fri, 24 Nov 2023	AMC Family Day	All 6 MDG Facilities - Closed All Day
Wed, 8 Dec 2023	6 ARW Goal Day	*No Closures* All 6 MDG Facilities - Open Full Day 7:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Fri, 22 Dec 2023	AMC Family Day	All 6 MDG Facilities - Closed All Day
Mon, 25 Dec 2023	Christmas Day	All 6 MDG Facilities - Closed All Day
Wed, 27 Dec 2023		*No normal Wednesday Readiness Training* All 6 MDG Facilities - Open 7:30 - 4:30 p.m.
Fri, 29 Dec 2023	AMC Family Day	*No Closures* All 6 MDG Facilities - Open Full Day 7:30 - 4:30 p.m.
Mon, 1 Jan 2024	New Years Day	All 6 MDG Facilities - Closed All Day
Mon, 3 Jan 2024		*No normal Wednesday Readiness Training* All 6 MDG Facilities - Open 7:30 - 4:30 p.m.
Mon, 15 Jan 2024	MLK Day	All 6 MDG Facilities - Closed All Day

OPR: 6 MDG PA

CONTROLLED UNCLASSIFIED INFORMATION (CUI)

Last Update: 07 Nov 23

MISSION FOCUSED – TO PREVENT, HEAL, & DEPLOY!

Commemorating the 30th Anniversary of the Vietnam Women’s Memorial

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

—By Katie Lange



Anyone who’s ever scanned the list of 58,318 names etched into the Vietnam Veteran’s Memorial in Washington, D.C., may have noticed a few that were different from the rest – particularly, the eight names that belong to women.

While women weren’t allowed to serve in combat back then, plenty volunteered for other roles that still saw them deployed to Vietnam and put in harm’s way.

As the nation recognizes all who have served this Veterans Day, a special spotlight will be on these women because Nov. 11 also commemorates the 30th anniversary of the Vietnam Women’s Memorial. Standing about 300 feet behind the apex of the Wall, the memorial was the first in the nation’s capital to exclusively recognize the patriotic service of women, both military and civilian.



It took a long time to be realized, though. In fact, the idea for it didn’t even begin to take shape until the Vietnam Veterans Memorial was dedicated in 1982. Diane Carlson Evans, who eventually founded the women’s memorial, made sure she was at that unveiling.

“I had to be at the dedication. I had to find names,” Evans said.



Evans was a captain in the Army Nurse Corps during the Vietnam era and served in the country as a nurse at two hospitals from 1968 to 1969. She said she and many other women saw a lot of trauma, and they did their best to save lives.

Spotlight: Commemorating the Vietnam War

An estimated 10,000 women served in Vietnam, while more than 265,000 military and civilian women served around the world during that era. While 90% of the women who served in Vietnam were nurses, many were also in administrative roles, military intelligence or air traffic control. The eight women listed on the Wall were military nurses, but dozens more women died during the war working as civilian war correspondents, photojournalists, humanitarian aids and more.



When Evans and the other women returned home, much like thousands of male service members of that era, they didn’t receive a warm welcome.

“I believe in protesting war if we don’t support it, but they didn’t separate the war from the warrior, and we were feeling the brunt of it,” she said. “For so many of us, our way of surviving our homecoming was to just not talk about [the war].”

However, about a year after the Wall’s dedication, Evans saw a photo of the statue that would be added to the memorial depicting three servicemen. And that’s when something just clicked.

“If they’re going to have a statue to the men, there has to be one to the women, or they’ll never know we were there,” Evans remembered saying to her husband.



So, she began what turned into a 10-year quest to get a memorial built for female Vietnam veterans. (To put this effort into perspective, the larger memorial, the Wall, took three years.) After years of planning and finding allies to support the cause, Congress approved a site on the National Mall for it in 1988, but the initial design was rejected by the D.C. Commission of Fine Arts, Evans said. So, they held a national open-design competition that received 350 submissions. The design by Glenna Goodacre, a New Mexican sculptor, came out on top. She created the bronze statue that’s now in place depicting three women and a wounded soldier.

Spotlight: Women’s History Month

“The nurse tending to the wounded soldier directly faces the apex. The standing woman ... is facing the [Abraham] Lincoln [Memorial], and the kneeling woman is facing towards the Washington Monument,” Evans explained. “The eight trees that surround this monument represent the eight women whose names are on the Wall.”

She said while many people assume the statue depicts nurses, it’s a memorial to honor all women who served.



“There is no rank on the figures. There is no insignia identifying any of them,” Evans said. “We embrace the 265,000 women who served around the world.”

Once it was built, Evans said letters of thanks from servicewomen of the era began to pour in.

“They were just so thankful for the Vietnam Women’s Memorial because it was the starting point for their healing,” she said. “Once they started sharing their stories, the public was incredulous. They had no idea that that’s what we had seen, that’s what we had done. ... And so, the appreciation and the gratitude from the public for these women has all been part of that healing process.”

Over the years, more and more women have opened up to tell their stories publicly. For this year’s Veterans Day commemoration on the National Mall, Evans said that, for once, it wasn’t hard to find women willing to participate.



“They’re just coming out of the woodwork. It’s wonderful. I’m hearing from so many of them that they’re coming in,” she said. For those who can’t attend in person, the event will be a livestreamed at <https://www.vvmf.org/live/>.

Evans said that, in the past 30 years, female veterans have contributed greatly to America and should be celebrated.

Spotlight: Honoring Our Veterans

“Some of them went on to become colonels and generals and stayed in the military. Others came out and ... changed occupations. They furthered their degrees, and they’ve been contributing to research that’s being done on PTSD and Agent Orange. They’ve fought for legislation for gender-inclusive benefits at VA facilities which were not friendly to women veterans when we came home in the 60s and 70s,” Evans said. “We proved ourselves, and we opened doors for the next generations. Now, the sky’s the limit.”

Evans said she and other female vets will continue to share their legacy “every day until we’re all gone.”

Spotlight: Value of Service

“I want to say how proud I was of the women I served with, and how much we cared for these young men who served during that era,” she continued. “I’m so grateful to all those wounded soldiers in particular who came to stand by our side and support us to help us get that memorial built. ... They were so appreciative and so grateful.”



To learn more about the special events honoring servicewomen this Veterans Day weekend, visit the [Vietnam Women’s Memorial](https://www.vvmf.org/) website.

Source: <https://www.defense.gov/News/Feature-Stories/Story/Article/3582809/commemorating-the-30th-anniversary-of-the-vietnam-womens-memorial/>

Surviving Spouse Corner: Thrift Savings Plan Considerations

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

By: Kathy Thorp

The Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) is a tax-deferred retirement savings and investment plan for members of the uniformed services. When your military spouse dies, you — as the surviving spouse — will need to make many decisions about the TSP’s future in your financial planning.

For spouse beneficiaries of deceased participants’ TSP accounts with a share of the balance of \$200 or more, TSP will establish a beneficiary participant account (BPA) in your name.

Having a good financial planner, who is particularly familiar with the TSP, is the key. He or she can guide you to the best option for your new investment plan, known now to you as a BPA.

According to [TSP.gov](#), as the owner of a TSP BPA, benefits include:

- a diversified choice of investment options, including individual funds; professionally designed Lifecycle (L) Funds, which mix the individual funds with an eye toward specific target dates; and an option for investing in mutual funds
- tax-deferred earnings on traditional money
- tax-free earnings on Roth money if qualified
- low administrative and investment expenses
- the ability to roll your beneficiary participant account over to an existing civilian or uniformed services TSP account if you have one
- a variety of distribution options

Learn all that you can through hosts of various veteran financial planners’ podcasts, websites such as [MOAA.org](#), and other social platforms. The most vital of all these is the [TSP webpage](#), where you will find a plethora of resources for your perusal.

Source: <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2023-news-articles/member-spotlight/surviving-spouse-corner-thrift-savings-plan-considerations/>



—designer491/Getty Images

TSP investment options

Three approaches to investing your TSP savings to help you meet retirement goals:

[Lifecycle Funds \(L Funds\)](#)

[Individual TSP funds](#)

[Mutual fund window](#)

For basic information about how to invest your retirement savings in the TSP, [read through our investing strategies](#).

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CHAPLAIN’S CORNER

CHAPLAIN (COL) BERNARD H LIEVING JR USA RET



I grew up in rural West Virginia and Thanksgiving was a special day for my immediate family and extended family on my mother’s side. About thirty of us would gather before daylight at my Uncle Earl’s house to begin the process of butchering six to eight 300-pound hogs. We would finish by early evening when all the meat had been cut into various shapes – hams, shoulders, porkchops, and bacon. The sausage had been ground and stuffed and the fat rendered into lard.

It was a special time for me and my five male cousins as we began the day helping to scrape the hair off the scalded hogs and then as the day got brighter, we would begin to play football and other games and sometimes get into trouble – like the time we discovered Uncle Earl’s stash of homemade blackberry wine and began helping ourselves.

The day was much more than I just described. It was a time of deep gratitude and expressed thanksgiving for the gifts of life, health, and the freedoms of the nation we often took for granted. As we gathered around the lunch table with no turkey, only fresh pork – men and boys at first table, followed by women and girls – conversation most often cen-

tered around thanksgiving for family, new children born in the past year, jobs, and the joy of being together in that annual event.

I remember that in the days of the Korean conflict the names of family members, friends, and neighbor serving in uniform were called out and prayers offered for them. During my years as an Army chaplain, Thanksgiving was special in a different way as it always included a chapel service and then Thanksgiving dinner with soldiers and families in the mess hall. In Vietnam the commander’s helicopter flew me from company to company in the field and I ate Thanksgiving dinner with one of them with the mess hall food delivered in the insulated containers. No C-rations for Thanksgiving there.

I am sure each of you remember something special about Thanksgiving and have wonderful stories to tell about how the day has been and how November 23, 2023 is special for you. It will be a day for which President Biden will have issued a proclamation calling upon us as a nation to give thanks for the many blessings of living life here in America.

As we each individually and as family live out our own traditions, cultures, and recipes for Thanksgiving Day – whether around a family table or in a community gathering – may we give thanks for all the blessings in our lives and express our appreciation to those whose lives enrich our own.

U.S. Has 4 Objectives in Middle East

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

—By David Vergun

The Defense Department currently has four lines of effort in the Middle East, said Pentagon Press Secretary Air Force Brig. Gen. Pat Ryder, who briefed the media today.

Protection of U.S. forces and citizens in the region.

Flow of critical security assistance to Israel as it defends against further Hamas terrorist attacks.

Coordination with the Israelis to help secure the release of hostages held by Hamas, to include American citizens.

Strengthening of force posture across the region to deter any state or nonstate actors from escalating the crisis beyond Gaza.

Strengthened force posture includes the deployment of the USS Gerald R. Ford and USS Dwight D. Eisenhower Carrier Strike Groups, which are currently in the U.S. Central Command area, along with an Ohio-class submarine.

Over the past few weeks there have been attacks by Iranian proxy groups at al-Asad air base, Iraq, and al-Tanf, Syria, on U.S. forces there, Ryder said.

The attacks, by drones and missiles, resulted in several dozen injuries, including a mix of minor injuries and traumatic brain injuries, he said.

Some of those injured didn’t immediately report their condition, he said.



“The reporting data is highly dependent on self-reporting when individual injuries are not visually evident to medical personnel providing care directly following an incident,” he said.

Source: <https://www.defense.gov/News/News-Stories/Article/Article/3581319/us-has-4-objectives-in-middle-east/>

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

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

The MOAA Tampa website is a comprehensive and valuable tool that you can use to make the most of your MOAA Membership. Some of the things you can find on our website include:

Events Calendar: We have a new “Events” page where you will find an updated calendar, displaying our upcoming MOAA events, as well as events happening with Operation Helping Hand. Click on our [Events Page](#) to check it out!

Photo Gallery of Events: This is our photo gallery, where you will see all of the photos during our luncheons, special meetings, conventions and more! If you’ve had your picture taken at our events, you can likely find it by scrolling through our [Photo Gallery](#)!

Newsletters: Here you will find the latest volume of *The Retrospect*, our award winning Tampa Chapter Newsletter. You can also access archived versions of *The Retrospect* for reference and research. In addition, you can find archived versions of the Military Spouse Newsletter, which has been merged into *The Retrospect* starting in August 2019. Visit [The Retrospect](#) page to read on!

Member Directory: You can access an electronic version of our Member Directory on our website. The list is password protected for safety of our private information, but MOAA Tampa Chapter Members can be provided the pass-word to access. You can also download an Excel version of the list once permitted into the page. Check out the [Member Directory](#) now!

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

Check out our NEW Instagram account!
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