



The RETROSPECT

TAMPA CHAPTER — A FIVE STAR CHAPTER OF MOAA NATIONAL

January 2024 VOLUME 30, NUMBER 1



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT: COL CHARLES DALCOURT USA RET

GREETINGS!



Happy New Year and greetings to all! To our members and readers alike, I pray that all found joy in, and rest during this past holiday season. Despite the challenges we face and the victories we attain, a soul settled in contentment and a mind that embraces gratitude facilitates a peaceable approach to and a sound perspective of both. Our hope is that this new year, notwithstanding trials and triumphs, will be overwhelmingly purposeful, productive, and providential for you and our Tampa Chapter.

As we enter 2024, we have high expectations. Our initiatives remain impactful, our direction clear, and our future bright. Tampa Chapter does indeed have work to do, gaps to fill, and problems to solve. With the as-

sistance of committed individuals, in and out of the Chapter, we can both accomplish our mission and also support other organizations across the Tampa Bay metropolitan area with the same objectives.

We also enter 2024 getting right to work. We have several activities occurring this month and others in which we have ongoing planning.

- MOAA Tampa Chapter 2024 membership renewal deadline is January 2024.
- 11 January – our monthly luncheon at the Columbia Restaurant.
- 19-21 January – Tampa Chapter will conduct our annual leadership retreat, at My Warrior's Place in Ruskin, FL.
- 26-27 January – The Florida Council of Chapter's 2024 Leadership Forum in Orlando.
- We begin a 30-day countdown for the first "Thriving After Military Service" Transition Seminars of 2024. It is scheduled for 6 February at Five Labs in Tampa.
- Also of great import is our Chapter's preparation for our 3rd Annual Gala. Set for 8 March 2024, we are just three 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.
- We are seeking volunteers to fill criti-

cal openings in our administrative and outreach areas such as assistants for the surviving spouse liaison, treasurer, and speaker's bureau. We are also in need of members for our Veterans Affairs, Communications, and Outreach Committees.

Please consider these activities and openings to volunteer, the impact you can make, and act immediately. You can always gain insight into the requests and requirements of any of the aforementioned events or volunteer opportunities from our Chapter Secretary, Kiley Stinson.

Again, welcome to 2024. I am honored to continue serving as the Chapter President and look forward to another year of progress. I remain very proud of and am privileged to serve with our Board of Officers and Directors. They repeatedly respond to challenges in a prudent, protective, engaging, and enthusiastic manner and embrace our triumphs with humility and a servant's heart. They keep us relevant, reliable, and in the fight.

Thanks again for all you do. I pray that God's protection covers you, His strength enables you, and His joy propels you throughout the New Year.

All the best!
Charles

UPCOMING EVENTS

4 January 2024
10:00 AM
Board of Directors Meeting

11 January 2024
Chapter Luncheon
11:30 AM – 12:00 PM Social
12:00 PM – 1:30 PM Lunch
Columbia Restaurant
Siboney Room
(see page 6)

19-21 January 2024
BOD and CMTE Lead Retreat
My Warrior's Place, Ruskin

26-27 January 2024
FCoC Leadership Seminar
Rosen Center, Orlando
<https://www.moaafi.org/LeadershipSeminar.aspx?Year=2024>

6 February 2024
Thriving After Military Service
Five Labs, Tampa, FL
(see page 4)

8 March 2024
3rd Annual MOAA Tampa Gala
(see page 10)

15 April 2024
MOAA Tampa Scholarship
Applications Due
(see page 16)

REMINDER:

SUBMISSION DEADLINE
FOR THE FEBRUARY 2024
ISSUE IS 20 JANUARY 2024

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 Mulatoni at membership@moaatampa.org

LEGISLATIVE LOWDOWN



LTC REGINALD WILLIAMS USA RET



Capt NORM BILD, USAF RET



BEN RITTER, SGT USMC
(FORMER)/HONORARY MBR



LTC NICK CLEMETE, USA RET

Happy New Year! Thanks to your ongoing efforts, MOAA was named a Top Lobbyist for the 17th straight year in 2023. The new year brings upon a fresh and new prospective on life, new challenges, new opportunities and new goals. As such, MOAA canvassed the membership to identify the 2024 legislative priorities. By hearing from the members, MOAA has developed a list of bills which require grassroots level action to act on in order to encourage our legislators to sign bills into law when they return to session this month. Let's tell Congress to make veterans' issues a priority

MOAA Named to The Hill's Top Lobbyist List for 17th Straight Year!

MOAA's work on Capitol Hill on behalf of the uniformed services community has been recognized again by *The Hill*, one of the nation's top Beltway-focused news outlets, with a position on the [publication's Top Lobbyists list](#) for the 17th straight year.

MOAA was among the honorees in the 2023 Grassroots category, which included AARP, Burn Pits 360, and Veterans of

Foreign Wars.

"This honor reflects not just the work of our Government Relations team on the Hill, but our entire headquarters team and our members and supporters throughout the country," said MOAA President and CEO Lt. Gen. Brian T. Kelly, USAF (Ret). "The grassroots support of our councils and chapters has been the backbone of our advocacy mission, along with the tens of thousands of MOAA members who bring our agenda items to their lawmakers via our [Legislative Action Center](#). It's a yearlong group effort, and I'm proud to be a part of it."

MOAA's advocacy efforts in 2023 included:

- Bringing several key legislative proposals into the final stages of the FY 2024 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) negotiations, to include an increase in the Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) and a requirement for a detailed report on beneficiary access to the TRICARE pharmacy network.

[TAKE ACTION: [Restore BAH](#) | [Protect the TRICARE Network](#)]

- Defending service-earned burial benefits by supporting H.R. 1413, [the Expanding America's National Cemetery Act](#), which would authorize the transformation of a VA-run national cemetery into the next location affording military honors as Arlington National Cemetery reaches capacity. The final NDAA also may include language supporting this process.
- Hosting and contributing to a series of successful events in the nation's capital, spearheaded by our annual Advocacy in Action campaign, a [congressional briefing on "TRICARE 101"](#), and work alongside our partners in The Military Coalition on behalf of [spouse employment programs](#) and other common issues.
- Leading the ongoing push for passage of the [Major Richard Star Act](#), which grew in co-sponsors throughout the year and now has the support of more than two-thirds of lawmakers.

MOAA's work on that issue, and many others, continues into the new year.

"Awards like this recognize the influence our organization and its members have on the Hill – providing even more motivation to continue our work on behalf of servicemembers past and present, their families, and their survivors," Kelly said. "The 118th Congress isn't over, and we need to take advantage of the progress we've made this year. With continued support from our membership, we'll push many of these long-term goals forward and will continue working with lawmakers from both parties to preserve service-earned benefits and strengthen the all-volunteer force."

continued on page 2

LEGISLATIVE LOWDOWN *cont.*

7 MOAA Legislative Priorities for Veterans in the New Year²

Congress has been racking up veteran-related bills and hearings throughout 2023, but to date, no major pieces of legislation have been signed into law this session. MOAA and other veterans organizations have been working nonstop to keep pressure on lawmakers, ensuring they don't let important bills languish so veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors are not forgotten.

Click on the bill topics below to urge your lawmakers to do all they can to support these MOAA-backed veteran measures, and to make them a top priority when they return in January:

- Protect Veterans From 'Claims Sharks':** The GUARD VA Benefits Act ([H.R. 1139](#) | [S. 740](#)) will impose criminal penalties on those who seek to collect unreasonable and unauthorized fees for assisting with service-connected disability claims. A veteran should never be charged to file an initial claim, and if an appeal is necessary, a veteran should not be charged excessive fees for that service.
- Preserve Earned Burial Benefits:** The Expanding America's National Cemetery Act ([H.R. 1413](#)) ensures our nation keeps its sacred promise to past, present, and future veterans and their families. Arlington National Cemetery eventually will run out of room, and proposed eligibility reductions will end the benefit some veterans and their families have planned on for years. The bill would authorize the transformation of a VA-run national cemetery into the next location that affords military honors as Arlington reaches capacity.
- Support Children of the Fallen and Disabled Veterans:** The CHAMPVA Children's Care Protection Act ([H.R. 2414](#) | [S. 1119](#)) would expand coverage under the VA program for children of

eligible veterans so they can have health care until age 26. The goal of this legislation is to close the age parity gap for vulnerable members of our community who need support: Young adult children of veterans who are permanently and totally disabled, have died of a service-connected disability, or lost their life on active duty and did not qualify for DoD's TRICARE program.

- Improve Survivors' Benefits:** The Caring for Survivors Act ([H.R. 1083](#) | [S. 414](#)) aligns payments of Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) – a monetary benefit paid to the survivors of servicemembers who die while serving on active duty, or of service-connected disabled veterans – with other federal programs. DIC is paid at a monthly rate of \$1,562.74, with additional allowances in certain circumstances. That works out to 43% of what a veteran with a 100% service-connected disability rating receives from the VA. However, federal survivor programs provide up to 55% of a civil servant's pay, computed as if the employee retired on disability at the date of death.
- Support Military Sexual Trauma Survivors:** The Servicemembers and Veterans Empowerment and Support (SAVES) Act ([H.R. 2441](#) | [S. 1028](#)) will improve military sexual trauma survivors' access to essential care and services in the Veterans Health Administration, and ensure greater assistance when veterans are applying for disability benefits through the Veterans Benefits Administration. A series of audits by the VA Office of Inspector General revealed the VA was falling short on its support to this group of veterans.
- Expand and Support Services for Aging and Disabled Veterans:** Two pieces of legisla-

tion, the Expanding Veterans' Options for Long Term Care Act and the Elizabeth Dole Home and Community Based Services for Veterans and Caregivers Act, would provide the VA with critical flexibility to support a rapidly growing population of aging veterans needing long term care services outside the home, and to improve home- and community-based services for veterans and their caregivers.

- Allow Surviving Spouses to Remarry and Retain Benefits:** The Love Lives On Act ([H.R. 3651](#) | [S. 1266](#)) would reverse penalties faced by surviving military spouses who remarry prior to age 55. These survivors lose entitlement for DIC and survivor benefit pay, forfeit access to the Fry Scholarship, and lose commissary and exchange privileges.

MOAA and our veteran organization partners are grateful for our ongoing and open communications with the staffers on the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs committees; we appreciate their good faith efforts in negotiating a veterans' package this year. However, veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors do not want another year to pass without action on these critical issues. They want Congress to make a veterans' package a priority ... and get it signed by the president sooner rather than later.

For more about MOAA's veteran priorities, and to keep up with the latest veteran, caregiver, and survivor news and other MOAA advocacy updates, please subscribe to [MOAA's weekly newsletter](#), visit our [Advocacy News page](#), and register for our [Legislative Action Center](#).

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

- Sources:
- 1) [www.moaa.org](#), article by The MOAA Staff, December 06, 2023
 - 2) [www.moaa.org](#), article by René Campos, December 11, 2023

Surviving Spouse Corner: A New Year Without My Loved One In It

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

Author: Betsy Beard

Once upon a time we were a happy, complete family that thrived on holiday traditions. Before Brad died, we approached the winter holidays with delight, reveling in the extra time together and enjoying the fresh sparkling snow and thoughts of the coming new year—a clean slate with no mistakes in it!

New Year's Eve parties were planned. We joyously stayed up late and allowed the kids the same latitude so that we could all shout "Happy New Year" and run around the yard beating pots and pans and sharing the moment with the neighbors. In the days leading up to the end of the year, New Year's resolutions were contemplated and discussed and written down (if not always kept).

But the first New Year that I "celebrated" without Brad was painful and raw. As the days grew shorter and the year drew to a close, winter wrapped itself around me and I felt frozen. I really didn't want to exist in the New Year let alone resolve to do anything different or better. We unwisely allowed ourselves to be convinced to go to a party at a neighbor's house, and as the Times Square New Year's Eve Ball dropped and the countdown began, all our un-bereaved friends were enjoying the moment, toasting, counting aloud, smiling, laughing, cheering.

I suddenly realized that within seconds I would be living and breathing in a year that Brad would never experience. It was crushing. I stumbled from the neighbor's house, feeling infinitely alone. And for every New Year's Eve since that first year of loss, I have steadfastly ignored the concept of celebrating the end of one year and the welcoming of a new one. It's easy if I make sure I am in bed by 10:00 p.m.

However, in the eight years since Brad's death I have experienced a degree of healing, and this year I am able to contemplate a future that I might affect, a future that I actually want to impact. As I think through what might be appropriate as a resolution for a grieving person, I realize that my life no longer revolves solely around what I want to do for myself. I also want to bring Brad with me on this journey and integrate his thoughts and experiences into the new year as well. One way to do that is to care about the things he cared about and spend time doing the things he liked to do.

So as the ball drops in Times Square this year, I might still be awake, pondering my own countdown. Maybe you will find some ideas that will work for you, in case you stay up past midnight.

10. Honor and remember the sacrifices of those who put themselves in harm's way for others. I am continually grateful to our service members, both living and dead. Brad cared deeply about those he served with and I should do no less.

9. Share thoughts and feelings with family and friends so that they know when I am hurting. No one can read my mind, even after all these years, so it is my responsibility to openly



express how I am feeling, especially when I am feeling vulnerable and sad.

8. Be gentle with myself and others. All of us who are grieving, and even those who are not, are better served with gentleness.

7. Allow expressions of grief. One of my best friends, another mom who lost a son in Iraq, gets together with us each year on the same-day anniversary of our sons' deaths. One of the phrases she used years ago when we were feeling guilty about an action or emotion was, "We are so allowed!"

6. Allow joy. Again, whatever condition we find ourselves in on any given day, "we are so allowed."

5. Don't set false expectations. Our family and many others like ours have been able to avoid feeling extra pain when things don't go the way we expected by reminding ourselves, "It is what it is."

4. Resolve not to feel guilty. It is so easy to fall into the trap of thinking that we could have somehow done something to prevent our loved one's death. In most cases, we could not have foreseen, altered, or avoided what happened to them.

3. Take care of my health. Being in good physical condition was important to Brad. I think of him when I exercise, wondering if he would be proud of me.

2. Resolve that I won't *find* meaning as much as learn to *make* meaning of my new life. This one is harder... For a long time I thought that something would happen to me to suddenly bring fulfillment and meaning to a horrible situation. Now I realize that I have to take the circumstances and weave my own meaning around them.

1. Take a page from Brad's book: enjoy life, find the humor in every situation, tackle challenges, and live in the moment. I don't honestly know if I can do this, so I reserved it for the last of the resolution countdown. Perhaps by remembering what an awesome person he was, I will be able to tap in to Brad's fun-loving zest for living.

Following resolutions has never been easy, but neither is learning to live without our special loved ones. The start of a new calendar year is a chance to realize once again that we are, in fact, still living. It certainly isn't the life we would have chosen. But even though the earthly lives of our loved ones have ended, we are still in the midst of our lives. We still have something to offer others and we still have the opportunity to share our loved ones' lives with others. I hope that we all continue to find ways in this coming year to follow in the footsteps of our loved ones who have gone before us.

Source: <https://www.taps.org/articles/18-4/newyear>

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



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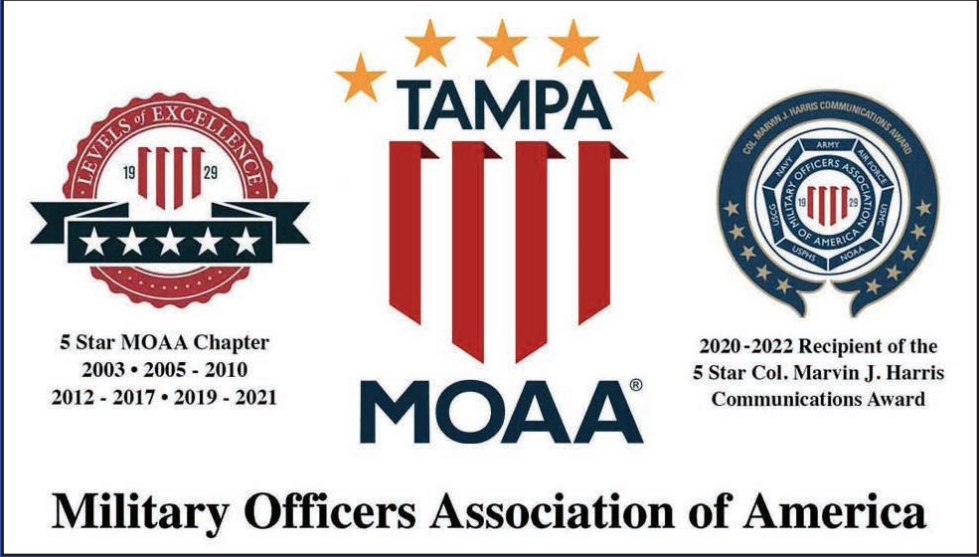
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MOAA MISSION STATEMENT

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



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)



As I'm writing my Editor Notes, I can tell you that MOAA Tampa has many fun and interesting events ahead for 2024! These include our Chapter's Leadership Retreat 19-21 January, the Florida Council of Chapter's Leadership Conference the following weekend in Orlando that is open to all of our chapter members, "Thriving After the Military" Seminar will be held on 6 February, and our 2024

Fundraising Gala that will be held at the same beautiful private country club in South Tampa on Friday 8 March. Note that MOAA Tampa Scholarship Applications are due 15 April with information in this newsletter. We're also working with a travel company to go on a beautiful Blue Danube River Cruise in October that will raise money for our MOAA Tampa Chapter. All anyone who supports us has to do is use the code provided to note they are traveling with us and then just have fun and enjoy the trip. Please see my comments in this newsletter on the article that has the link to the flyer. Amanda, from Grand Circle Travel will be attending our January luncheon and will be able to answer any questions about this trip as well.

There are many other articles that I hope you'll find interesting as well as informative. As the 2024 Gala Chair I've provided a question and answer article in tandem with the Gala Flyer. The Gala Planning Committee has a lot of wonderful things planned for this and those who have attended before can attest to this elegant event that shouldn't be missed! We're also looking for volunteers to help with the Gala, so contact me. You'll love working with us to make this another amazing event! As we are entering a brand new year, I hope you'll enjoy the articles about New Year's recipes, a 1943 blog about ending a year and beginning a year with a war but the hope that the author still envisions, and some interesting facts about Martin I'd also like to thank so many people for the blessing they have been to me in helping to make *The Retrospect* an informative, eye appealing and interesting newsletter. Ben Ritter and Bob Sawallesh have been so instrumental in helping me with luncheon photos—you are priceless, and I love your artistic eye in the pictures you take. So many have provided articles consistently to include Carol Zieres, Bob Sawallesh, Steve Swift, Ben Ritter, Paula Stewart, Paul McAneny, Pettis Sims, Jeanne Richard, Ken Martin,

Bill Schneider, BGEN Henrik Larsen, COL Erik Andresen, and our regular contributors (President's Message, Legislative Affairs & Chaplain's Corner) for each issue that makes this newsletter so rich. I would be remiss if I didn't mention Kiley Stinson, Barbara Brotherton and Lewis VanDyke for helping as a "second pair of eyes" to edit and our publisher, Emily Yates, who is so creative, professional and flexible in working to put all of our stories and articles together in such a beautiful, professional and eye catching way for each edition. I hope that I captured all who have helped, and also hope that more will reach out and contribute to our newsletter. I'm standing by...

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 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.

As we begin 2024, I pray for peace in these difficult times. Cheers to a wonderful new year ahead.

"Write it on your heart that every day is the best day in the year." – Ralph Waldo Emerson

Let us never forget. - NEVER STOP SERVING!

Sara Marks, CAPT NC USN (Ret)

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

OUR EDITORIAL POLICY:

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

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Our luncheon meetings are held 1130 hours every second Thursday of each month at the Columbia Restaurant in Ybor City.

ON THE WEB:

Tampa Chapter <https://moaatampa.org>

Communications directed to specific board members listed in the main menu ABOUT US then LEADERSHIP may be made by emailing secretary@moaatampa.org or going to the main menu to CONTACT and email us using the form provided.

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

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

A password protected MOAA Tampa MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY is posted on the website under the "MEMBERSHIP" category.

FL COUNCIL of CHAPTERS: www.moaafl.org

MOAA NATIONAL: www.moaa.org

OPERATION HELPING HAND:

www.operationhelpinghandtampa.com

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

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

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



Paratrooper's Afghan War book helps platoonmates tell their story

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

By Todd Sout

William Yeske didn't want to be the one to write about his unit's deployment to Afghanistan.

The former Army sergeant wrestled with the thought of putting his memories down for about a decade. It wasn't until after he sat down for interviews with another writer who later published a book that stirred up some emotions among his former platoonmates and their tour that he started typing.

Yeske deployed as part of 1st Platoon, Bravo Company 2nd Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment from 2009 to 2010 in Afghanistan. The unit would face its crucible in the IED-laden Arghandab River Valley in Kandahar Province, losing four soldiers during the deployment and three since its end.

The book "[Damn the Valley: 1st Platoon, Bravo Company, 2/508th PIR, 82nd Airborne in the Arghandab River Valley Afghanistan](#)" begins with Yeske's experience, joining the Army a little later than most during the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. Once the text reaches the Afghanistan deployment, Yeske pulls in multiple accounts of key events from various members of the unit.

Yeske said he chose to write the book to tell the platoon-level story of his unit after another book, "[Bravo Company: An Afghanistan Deployment and Its Aftermath](#)" by journalist Ben Kesling focused on the trauma members of the unit faced after the deployment, some of them turning to suicide, and how the unit was [the basis for a new approach](#) to group, rather than only individual therapy by the Veterans Health Administration.

The fallen of Bravo Company, both those lost to combat and since the deployment:

- Spc. Jason Johnston, Dec. 26, 2009
- Staff Sgt. Scott Brunkhorst, March 30, 2010
- Spc. Joseph Caron, April 11, 2010
- Spc. Christopher Moon, July 13, 2010

To continue reading click: <https://www.armytimes.com/news/your-army/2023/12/19/para-troopers-afghan-war-book-helps-platoonmates-tell-their-story/>



—William Yeske, (center) with fellow members of 1st Platoon, Bravo Company, 2nd Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division while on deployment in Afghanistan in 2009-10. (William Yeske)



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

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

What are people saying about this event:

"Extremely valuable! I'm in the middle of my transition now and this was the only venue I've seen that covers these topics."

"This was an amazing day; so much info that I didn't get from my Base."

"Love the energy and purpose!"

REGISTER:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/783787057187?aff=oddtcreator>

This in-person event is mask optional



Thriving After Military Service Transitioning Veteran Event

Hosted at the
FIVE Labs Conference Center
4115 W Spruce St., Tampa
Tuesday, 6 February 2024
9:00 am - 4:30 pm

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



Military Trivia Facts

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



—Dwight D. Eisenhower, left, was one of only two presidents who earned the rank of 5-star general. (Courtesy of Dwight D. Eisenhower Library)

—By Marco O'Brien

Although some military experts have an incredibly in-depth knowledge of the military, no one person can know everything there is to know. I have searched books and the internet and have come up with 15 military facts I bet you didn't know. These facts make great dinner conversation and could help you win on any one of our [trivia games](#).



- 1. Thirty of the 45 presidents served in the [Army](#), 24 during time of war, two earned the rank of five-star general (Washington -- who was promoted posthumously to a six-star general in 1976 -- and Eisenhower) and one earned the [Medal of Honor](#) (Theodore Roosevelt)
- 2. Less than 28% of Americans between the ages of 17-23 are qualified for military service, that's only about 1-in-4.
- 3. The U.S. [Air Force](#) was part of the Army until 1946. It was called the Army Air Corps.
- 4. Only one president (James Buchanan) served as an enlisted man in the military and did not go on to become an officer.
- 5. The Defense Department employs about 1.8 million people on active duty. It is the largest employer in the United States, with more employees than Exxon, Mobil, Ford, General Motors and GE combined.
- 6. The Defense Department owns 29,819,492 acres of land worldwide.
- 7. The United States has 737 military installations overseas alone.
- 8. The [Navy's](#) bell-bottom trousers are commonly believed to be introduced in 1817 to permit men to roll them above the knee when washing down the decks and to make it easier to remove them in a hurry when forced to abandon ship or when washed overboard. In addition, the trousers may be used as a life preserver by knotting the legs and swinging them over your head to fill the legs with air.
- 9. The [Coast Guard](#) seizes 169 pounds of marijuana and 306 pounds of cocaine worth \$9,589,000.00 every day.
- 10. The Coast Guard is smaller than the New York City Police Department.
- 11. The [Marine Corps](#) adopted «Semper Fidelis» as its official motto in 1883. It is Latin for Always Faithful.
- 12. The nickname "Leatherneck" originates from the stiff leather stock that early Marines wore around their necks, probably to protect their jugular vein against saber blows.
- 13. The English Bulldog, also known as "Teufel-hunden" or "Devil Dogs," is the unofficial mascot that symbolizes the ethos of the warrior culture of the U.S. Marines. The Marine Corps earned this unofficial mascot during World War I, when many German reports called the attacking Marines "teufel-hunden," meaning devil dogs. "Teufel-hunden" were the vicious, wild and ferocious mountain dogs of German Bavarian folklore.
- 14. The U.S. Army was in charge of exploring and mapping America. The Lewis and Clark Expedition was an all-Army affair. Army officers were the first Americans to see such landmarks as Pike's Peak and the Grand Canyon.
- 15. The Air Force's F-117 fighter uses aerodynamics discovered during research into how bumblebees fly.



—Photo WeAreTheMighty.com



—Photo Dovesdesigns.com

So there they are, 15 facts you didn't know, but now you do. Now you can amaze your friends and family with your knowledge of military trivia.

Source: <https://www.military.com/join-armed-forces/military-trivia-facts.html>

TRAVEL • ADVENTURE • FUN

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



MOAA Tampa is cruising the Romantic Blue Danube: Prague to Budapest next year in October! We'll start in Prague, then travel to Linz, Austria to board our ship and cruise to Melk Abbey, Krems, Vienna, Bratislava, and Budapest. I've traveled on two land tours with Grand Circle Travel this past year to Iceland and then to the South Pacific to Australia, New Zealand and Fiji. What I love about traveling with this company is that we get to meet the people in countries we visit. In Iceland, I had dinner with an Icelandic family in their home and also learned about the day in the life of an Icelandic horse farmer. I met many Indigenous people of Australia and the Māori people of New Zealand and learned about their concerns, customs and history. In Fiji I learned so much about their history and culture and had lunch with one of the local tribes in their village and made a stop at one of their elementary schools to talk with the children.

I'm heading to France this summer on a Seine River Cruise and can't wait. I'm told the Danube River is something to behold and quite stunning to cruise. Fall will be a beautiful time of year to see that part of the world. The other advantage is that with enough people to sign up (and they don't have to be MOAA Tampa members) a percentage of the money we spend will come back to MOAA Tampa to support our many worthy endeavors. All we have to do is enjoy the trip.



It's included...

International airfare, airport transfers, government taxes, fees, and airline fuel surcharges, unless you choose to make your own air arrangements.

Accommodations for 10 nights aboard a private river ship with wireless Internet access in all common areas and cabins, and 3 nights in the Grandior Hotel Prague or similar

34 meals: 13 breakfasts, 9 lunches, 12 dinners—including 3 meals in local restaurants—plus all onboard house beer, wine, and soft drinks (Our Prague to Budapest itinerary features 33 meals)

11 included tours with personal headsets and 2 Exclusive Discovery Series Events—Home-Hosted Visit • School visit

Local Program Directors, a Grand Circle Cruise Line exclusive: Our dedicated experts are with you and your group of 38-45 travelers from beginning to end to provide an insider's knowledge and perspective

Gratuities for local guides and motorcoach drivers

All port charges

Baggage handling for 1 piece of luggage per person, including tips

5% Frequent Traveler Credit toward your next trip



For details click link: <https://s3.us-west-1.amazonaws.com/media.moaatampa.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/26225833/MOAA-Danube-Cruise-2024.pdf> to view the flyer. Our Grand Circle Travel point of contact will be at our luncheon on January 11th and will answer any questions. You can also contact me by email: coms@moaatampa.org for questions. It'll be a trip to remember and hope that you join us in October!



JANUARY LUNCHEON MEETING



EVENT: Chapter Monthly Luncheon Meeting
DATE: Thursday, 11 January **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, 5 January.
 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, 8 January
 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, Cuban Sandwiches, Ropa Vieja, Yellow Rice,
 Yuca, Flan, Coffee, Iced Tea, Soft Drinks

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.

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.



Welcome New Members

Lt Col Kelly Johnson, USMC (Retired)
LTC David Zallo USA (Active Duty)

COL Dana Hampton, USA (Retired)
LTC Glenn Juman, USA (US Army Reserve)

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 JANUARY

1 New Year's Day
 15 Martin Luther King Jr Birthday



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Buddy Call Program

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



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

DECEMBER LUNCHEON GUEST SPEAKER

William “Billy” Hogan, Rough Rider

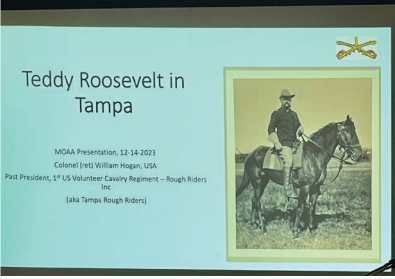
Billy Hogan is an active member of the Rough Riders and served as the 44th President of the organization. He was born and raised in the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations. Joining the Army in 1979, Second Lieutenant Hogan began a career that would last 24 years, retiring as Colonel Hogan in 2003 after the fall of Baghdad. Colonel Hogan led soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines and government civilians at every level and served in Europe, Southwest Asia, Southeast Asia, Northeast Asia, and Central America in addition to numerous stateside assignments. A paratrooper for nine years, he commanded in the 82nd Airborne Division, served in the Joint Special Operations Command and commanded the Joint Communications Support Element at MacDill Air Force Base.

After retirement from the Army, Billy began a career in the defense contracting industry.

Along with several business partners he helped form and manage companies in Yemen, Turkey and the British Virgin Islands. In early 2018 Billy elected to retire from industry after selling his interests in the overseas businesses to two of his partners.

Billy is a Distinguished Military Graduate of the University of Rhode Island where he earned a Bachelor's Degree in Zoology. He holds a Master's degree in Strategic Studies from the US Army War College and a Master's degree in Telecommunications Management from DeVry University.

Billy is married to US Navy Commander (retired) Karen S. Hogan. Their two adult children Maureen and Sean live in Sarasota and St Petersburg respectively.



THE ROUGH RIDERS CAME TO MOAA TAMPA'S DECEMBER LUNCHEON

Website link: <https://www.tamparoughriders.org/>

The 1st U.S. Volunteer Cavalry Regiment - Rough Riders, Inc. was formed for the purpose of creating and perpetuating a living memorial to the unique accomplishment of President Theodore Roosevelt and the members of the 1st U.S. Volunteer Cavalry Regiment known as "The Rough Riders."

2023

Advertise in the monthly MOAA Tampa Chapter Newsletter

The

RETROSPECT

TAMPA CHAPTER — A FIVE STAR CHAPTER OF MOAA NATIONAL

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				
Ad Deadline	Inserts	Advertising	Cost (Artwork supplied)	Cost (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.		
Jun. 20	July 1	ADs are for 12 months. We can discuss pro-rating for shorter periods.		
July 20	Aug. 1			
Aug. 19	Sept. 1			
Sept. 20	Oct. 1			
Oct. 20	Nov. 1			
Nov. 21	Dec.1			

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

Turn Compassion Into Action!

Join the Service to the Armed Forces Team!

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

Volunteers Urgently Needed in the Following Areas at MacDill AFB:

Coping with Deployment Facilitator

Help provide skills to help military families cope with military life, especially deployments.

Must be mental health professional, holding a current license

MacDill AFB Clinic

Provide assistance with tasks in a clinical setting such as surgical prep; runner; charting; reception; prepare patients for treatment and administrative tasks.

MacDill Clinic Professional Volunteer

Provide assistance with a specific service or treatment to designated clients in an urgent care, outpatient/inpatient unit, or other health care settings.

MacDill AFB Pharmacy

Provide assistance with tasks in a clinical setting as well as support staff in a variety of direct and indirect patient care activities.

Additional security clearance may be required in compliance with government regulations

**Some positions such as clinic professional volunteer require a valid and current license in their field.

To learn more, visit redcross.org or contact:

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

Scan with cell phone camera to apply!

251601-16

6th Medical Group, MacDill wants YOU!

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

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

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

POINT OF CONTACT: Diana Pagan - 813-827-9785



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

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

E-Mail: Secretary@moaatampa.org

Photo credit: Sara Marks, Ben Ritter & Bob Sawallesh



Homelessness among veterans jumps more than 7%

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

By Leo Chane III

The number of [homeless veterans](#) rose more than 7% from 2022 to 2023, the largest such yearly jump since federal officials launched a nationwide focus on the problem [more than a decade ago](#).

According to data released by the [Department of Housing and Urban Development](#) on Friday, officials saw an increase of more than 2,400 veterans without stable housing during their annual point-in-time count conducted last January.

That put the total number of veterans experiencing homelessness that night in cities across America at 35,574. [Advocates for homeless veterans](#) have noted that the actual number of veterans dealing with housing issues is likely even higher, given the limitations of the single-night survey.



—A woman gathers her possessions ahead of a homeless encampment being cleaned up by city officials in San Francisco. (Jeff Chiu/AP)

The increase in [homeless veterans](#), meanwhile, was less severe than the rise in homelessness in the general population (12%) and is still 4.5% below veteran levels reported in 2020. The 35,574 estimate is also less than half the 74,000 estimate in 2010, when the

White House and [Department of Veterans Affairs](#) launched a series of high-profile initiatives targeting the problem.

But the point-in-time count took place several months before the expiration of pandemic programs offering extra assistance to veterans facing financial hardships, a move that advocates have warned may have driven up homelessness totals even further in the last half-year.

In a statement, [VA Secretary Denis McDonough](#) announced the White House plans to increase a pair of grant programs designed to prevent housing issues among veterans.

“One veteran experiencing homelessness will always be one too many, and we will do everything in our power to ensure that veterans get the safe, stable housing that they deserve,” he said. “These new grants are a critical part of that effort, empowering VA and our partners to provide more housing and wraparound services to more homeless and at-risk veterans than ever before.”

Last month, VA leaders announced that for the second year in a row they had met their goal of permanently housing 38,000 veterans facing financial problems and uncertain shelter options. However, those efforts in 2022 were not enough to help reduce the national numbers.

VA and HUD officials said they are still researching the reasons for the increase, including the rising cost of housing in communities across the country and the end of COVID-related support programs.

Earlier this week, HUD leaders announced the number of grants to homeless service organizations rose 15% from the end of 2022 to the end 2023. That translates into more than 330,000 individuals who sought assistance.

In a statement, officials from the National Coalition of Homeless Veterans called the new homelessness report disappointing but not surprising.

“These numbers reflect what many have long known, we are facing a crisis of housing affordability,” they said. “NCHV, our members across the country, and our national partners have long sounded the alarm regarding the seriousness of this crisis and the need for further and deeper federal investment in solutions.

“The administration and Congress should heed continued warnings that a lack of investment and programmatic change will continue to be disastrous for veterans facing housing instability. Congress must restore expired pandemic-era legislative provisions to improve veteran access to both transitional housing and supportive services.”

Veterans seeking help with homelessness or related financial problems can call 877-424-3838 for help or [visit the department's web site](#).

Source: <https://www.navytimes.com/veterans/2023/12/15/homelessness-among-veterans-jumps-more-than-7/>



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You dedicated your life to our country. Now we'd like to return the favor, with exceptional senior living at Brookdale Bayshore. If you served in the Army, are a member of US Air Force and Space Association through the US Air Force, or are a member of the Fleet Reserve Association through the Navy, Marines, Coast Guard or National Guard, you and qualifying family members may be eligible for exclusive senior living discounts that can help you and your family get the care you deserve.

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*Discount is only applicable to new residents of a Brookdale independent living, assisted living, or memory care community admitting under an executed residency agreement. Discount applies only to the monthly fee/basic service rate, excluding care costs and other fees and is calculated based on the initial monthly fee/basic service rate.
**Discount is only applicable to new clients of personal assistance services by a Brookdale agency under an executed service agreement.
***Discount is only applicable to new residents of a Brookdale assisted living or memory care community admitting under an executed respite agreement. Discount applies to the daily rate.

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Tampa Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America



3RD ANNUAL GALA

FUNDRAISING, FELLOWSHIP & FUN

FRIDAY
AT 6 O’CLOCK

| 8 MARCH
2024

| PRIVATE COUNTRY
CLUB
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Our principle fundraising event that provides vital support to our numerous outreach programs in the Greater Tampa Area:

- TRANSITION SEMINARS • JROTC PROGRAMS • VETERANS AFFAIRS
- NATIONAL GUARD & RESERVE OUTREACH • SCHOLARSHIPS
- GOLD STAR FAMILY OUTREACH

EVENING INCLUDES:

- Cocktail Hour • Plated Dinner • Music • Silent Auction
- Raffle • Art Show & Sale
- Chapter Awards Presentations • Military Fellowship

This evening of elegance will raise funds critical to allow the Chapter to expand the tremendous services we provide to the Tampa Bay Veteran Community

Hurry 2/26/2024 is the last day to purchase your tickets!

Questions: coms@moaatampa.org • Ticket cost \$150 • Formal attire
Purchase tickets at: <https://www.moaatampa.org/annual-gala/>

MOAA Tampa Chapter Gala Chair Answers Questions About the 3rd Annual Fundraising Gala

What is the 3rd Annual Gala?

“The MOAA Tampa Chapter’s 3rd Annual Gala is its premier fundraising event in support of our outreach and scholarship programs.”

How do you see the Gala raising funds?

“Through ticket sales, donations, and business sponsorships we have set a goal of raising \$35,000.00 this year to support our outreach activities. In previous years, the Chapter used our operating funds to cover our outreach activities and we were taking the required monies from our investment accounts – that is not a sustainable model. The Board of Directors made a deliberate decision to have a distinctive campaign to raise outside money to support our activities. That manifested itself in the Gala.”

What is the price of the ticket? What do you get for it?

“Tickets cost \$150.00 per person. For that, you get your choice of 4 plated entrees, two drink tickets which can be used beer or wine at the bar, as well as a glass of wine for the ceremonial toasts. We will also have photographers taking portraits and candid photos – they will be able to print a photo for you on site and we will email all your pictures to you as well. Further, we will have a live music, a live art show, and an auction and raffle. We have checked other area fundraising galas, or balls, and don’t think any of them compare to the value we are offering.”

Who is invited?

“We naturally want all chapter members to attend – so buy your tickets soon, as we only have 120 seats available. We are inviting representatives from the Florida Council of Chapters, MOAA National, and business leaders/owners from the Tampa Bay Metroplex. Our sponsors are also invited to attend so they can see firsthand what their support will provide. We are inviting members of the



US Central Command and the International Coalition and their families as well. It should be a great evening of comradery and friendship. Hopefully, you will leave with a new friend!”

What else should everyone know?

“This will be a wonderful evening. Our Planning Committee has many things planned for this year’s Gala! The evening will begin at 6:00 PM with a cocktail hour on the patio overlooking the golf greens with served hors d’oeuvres. During this time, guests can view the art show, place a bid on an item from the silent auction and take a chance on a raffle item. Then, we will head to the main ball room for dinner and the “business” of the night – recognizing our sponsors and donors and highlighting some of our great chapter members with awards. We’ve got a couple other “special things” planned as well before the evening ends at 10:00 PM.

How does someone get a ticket?

“Easy, go to www.moaatampa.org, click on the red button on the home page that says “3rd Annual Gala,” and give us your information. You can pay for your tickets on the website with your credit card NLT 26 February

or you can mail a check after filling out your information online NLT 20 February. It’s that simple: do it soon!”

What if I need help registering?

“Email me at coms@moaatampa.org.

How can I contribute?

“We can always use help to spread the work. If you know of a business that may be interested in donating money or sponsoring a table or individual (e.g., JROTC students, Gold Star Family) at the Gala, we’d love to reach out to them. We also need items donated for auction or raffle, too.”

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New Year's Eve 1943: The end of a year spent at war... and the beginning of another!

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

—By Neil White

On 31st December 1943, Deputy [Prime Minister Clement Richard Attlee](#) broadcast a New Year's message to the nation. He spoke to a country that had suffered a heavy year of fighting, but was starting to feel that it might be possible to see the Axis powers defeated. Nineteen-forty-four was not to bring [World War Two](#) to a close, but colossal efforts and acts of bravery by the Allies that year would see them poised for victory by New Year's Eve. In the meantime, they saw the Siege of Leningrad end, the Russians entering Romania and surging through the Crimea, the Gustav Line in Italy penetrated, the Great Escape crushed, the Allied invasion of Europe on [D-Day](#), the first V1 and V2 [Flying Bombs hitting Britain](#), the failure of Operations Epsilon and Market Garden and the successes of Operations Goodwood, Cobra and Dragoon, an attempt on Hitler's life, the crushing of the Warsaw Uprising, the breaking of the Siegfried Line, the liberations of Paris, Brussels and Belgrade, the sinking of the Tirpitz, US landings in the Philippines, the failure of the German counter-attack at Antwerp and the end of the Home Guard. Quite a year! But back to Attlee's speech on New Year's Eve 1943:

"I suppose that most of us, on New Year's Eve, look back on the old year and count our blessings, and look forward to the New Year with hope. If we are wise, we also note our failings and resolve to correct them. Every one of us has had his or her particular losses and gains in 1943, but as a nation we can say thanks to the Old Year as it departs. Let me just in retrospect recall some of its features: the expulsion of the enemy from Africa; the invasion of Europe and the surrender of Italy; the growing strength of our Allied offensive; the brilliant victories of the Russian armies.

"This year, for the first time, instead of Russian winter successes being followed by a German advance in the summer, the Russian attack has moved on successfully throughout the whole year. In the Far East, the Japanese advance has been halted, and month by month her outer ring of defences on the islands of the Pacific has been penetrated. In the Battle of the Atlantic, after the difficult months at the beginning of the year, the anti-U-boat war has gone in our favour



and Allied shipping resources have been steadily growing. On the continent of Europe the activity of resistance groups increasingly embarrassed the enemy, and tied down forces which he urgently needs elsewhere.

"Cold and dark is the outlook for Hitler and the Nazis. The passing year has been for their forces one of continued retreat and of failure by land, sea and air. The Germans have felt the weight of a bombing weapon which they used so ruthlessly and so light-heartedly against defenceless victims in the day of their strength. The hour of reckoning has come, and they know that 1944 will mean for them only heavier attacks. They still fight hard and skilfully, but the hope of victory is dead in them, though some trust that a secret weapon may enable them to postpone the inevitable.

"We can therefore close this year in a spirit of thankfulness for the past and of hope and confidence for the future, but we must not translate hope into relaxation or confidence into complacency. We cannot tell what unsuspected trials may lie ahead of us: a war is full of surprises. We do know that in 1944 the war will blaze up into greater intensity than ever before, and that we must be prepared to face heavier casualties. Nineteen-forty-four may be the victory year; it will only be so if we continue to put forward our utmost efforts, and if we allow nothing to divert us from our main purpose.

"As I read in the lists of awards of the deeds of quiet heroism performed by so many men and women in various walks of life, whether as members of the fighting services, the mercantile marine, the A.R.P services, or in industry or as ordinary citizens, knowing also that these are only a few of those who deserve recognition, I think what a great people it is that I am privileged to serve. I think what nobility resides in the ordinary man and woman. From this springs a great hope for the future.

"May I wish you all health, happiness and victory in the New Year."

Source: <https://blog.forceswarrecords.com/new-years-eve-1943-the-end-of-a-year-spent-at-war-and-the-beginning-of-another/>

Support for All Who Serve

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

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



The Military Crisis Line is Here for You

Free & Confidential

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

Always Available

Accessible 24/7/365.

Trained Counselors

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

Calling from Overseas?

In Europe

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

In Korea

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

In Afghanistan

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

In the Philippines

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

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

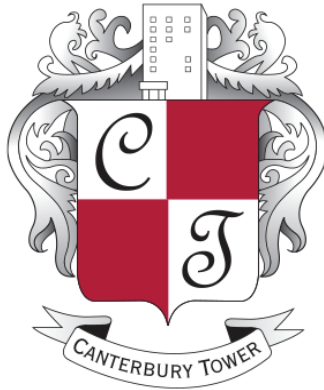
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LET IT SNOW!

—By Sara Marks, CAPT NC USN (Ret)

I moved to Florida to escape the snow, but it sure is fun to enjoy it for a brief time. I flew to Munich, Germany for a few days to find adventure which included unexpected snowfall of over two feet. It was beginning to look a lot like Christmas! Garmisch-Partenkirchen didn't expect so much snow, and Munich hadn't seen that much snow in decades! The airport, trains and roads were shut down for a brief period of time, but my friends and I were safe and warm at the Edelweiss Military Hotel in Garmisch-Partenkirchen. We managed to tour the Benedictine Monastery in Ettal and taste some schnapps and then beer tasting and dinner in the evening before we were snowed in the next day. The following day the roads were clear and the buses were running, so off we went to the Christkindlesmarkt in Innsbruck. Of course one has to taste the gluhwein, a warm spiced wine, while admiring all the Christmas items. The next morning my friends and I flew out of Munich for home and not a day too soon. The Munich Airport closed for the next three days due to an upcoming ice storm. It was a quick but wonderful adventure. I think I'll have to go back and explore some more one day soon. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!!



FINANCE

Retirees and Annuitants: 2023 Tax Year Statements

Taxes

Tax Documents

Each year we provide millions of tax statements, such as Form 1099-R, to our customers. Some arrive in the mail and others are downloaded from accounts.

Did you know you have options for getting the information you need to prepare for the annual April tax deadline?

Tax statements sent through the U.S. Postal Service **will be in the mail by January 31, 2024**. In many cases, the electronic online forms are available through myPay (<https://mypay.dfas.mil>) much earlier and more securely than those sent to customers electing delivery by mail.

1099-R Reissues can be sent beginning February 12, 2024. Please see below for the convenient options for getting a 1099-R reissue:

Options for getting your 1099-R

Use myPay to get your tax documents

Get the information you need – day or night – using [myPay](#). Your tax documents are available earlier in myPay than through the mail.

If you've never used myPay, go to <https://mypay.dfas.mil> using the internet from your computer or your mobile device browser and click «Forgot or Need a Password» to have a temporary password mailed to you. The password will be mailed via regular mail to the address you have on file with DFAS and you will receive it in about 10 business days. Once you have received a password, return to the [myPay home page](#) and click «Create your myPay Profile» to get started. Enter your SSN and temporary password.

Here's our handy downloadable "[Get Started with myPay](#)" guide. Or watch the "[Get Started with myPay](#)" how-to video on our YouTube channel.

If you haven't logged in for a while, and you've forgotten your login ID or password: Here's our handy downloadable "[How to Request a New myPay Password](#)" guide. Here's our handy downloadable "[How to Request Your myPay Login ID](#)" guide.

Retirees: Use our telephone self-service option

If you are a retiree, don't use myPay and your mailing address on file with DFAS is current, you can get a copy of your 1099-R through our telephone self-service option.

To continue reading click: <https://www.dfas.mil/RetiredMilitary/manage/taxes/>

The journey takes you home.

We invite you to call for a complimentary consultation.

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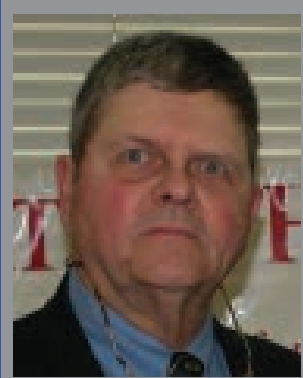
Are you having sleepless nights, overwhelmed with the details of a move for yourself or an senior loved one? The biggest question is always- where to start?

With over 40 years experience in the senior living, estate sale and the design industry PathFinders can coordinate a tailored move for you.

These can be both painful and precious times for families. We have the remedy for clearing a path for our clients so they can embrace laughter, memories and love - life's important gifts.

We love to give the gift of home.

UPDATE OPERATION HELPING HAND



LTC JIM GRIFFIN
Chairman, OPHH

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



On DECEMBER 14, OPERATION HELPING HAND HELD ITS FIRST ANNUAL HOLIDAY DINNER AT EMBASSEY SUITES-USF. This dinner was our 213th event held as the first dinner was held to honor the wounded and injured and their families who receive their primary care at the JAH VA SCI/POLYTRAUMA FACILITY. As always, the dinner was zoomed to the patients and families who were unable to attend the event. Our OPERATION HELPING HAND CHAPLAIN, COL, USA (RET) BERNIE LEIVING PRESENTED THE INVOCATION AND THE HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE PROVIDED THEIR RENOWNED HONOR GUARD TO PRESENT THE COLORS. SPECTICULAR!

GEOFF HOPKINS, VA- DIR OF REC THERAPY, introduced all of the patients in attendance to be honored. PAULINE EVANS, THE POET LAUREATE OF UNISEN, presented a special poem for this very special occasion. One of the evening highlights, was the presentation by I J KARPAY, a WWII NAVY VETERAN. His patriotic presentation was both memorable and inspirational.

The servers of the dinner were from all of the KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS CHAPTERS IN THE TAMPA AREA: SACRED HEARTS, CHRIST THE KING, MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS, AND TAMPA CATHOLIC HS. Also assisting in the dinner presentation were the great folks from ARMA GLOBAL, and the dedicated NAVY JROTC CADETS FROM FREEDOM HS, led by LCDR PETTIS SIMS,USN (RET).

We were very blessed to receive donations from KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS, ST PAUL, KOC 13525. SPONSOR, ARMA GLOBAL, MARINE DETACHEMENT FROM THE VILLAGES, FLORIDA GROUND WATER ORGANIZATION, AND THE TAMPA BAY RAYS. Thank you all for your continued support of OPERATION HELPING HAND.

Of course, our thanks and blessings could not be complete without a very special thanks to MIKE MARTIN AND MIKE’S PIES and BARRY SIMPSON, BLUEBELL ICE CREAM.

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. 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.

OPERATIONHELPINGHANDTAMPA.COM

STAY SAFE, HEALTHY, AND RESILIENT A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL OUR TREMENDOUS GROUP OF VOLUNTEERS MAKE ALL OF THIS POSSIBLE!

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C3EL delivers a complete, end-to-end solution with a single point of responsibility. Our core expertise is in building and integrating Command Centers and Control Rooms of all types. C3EL executes projects worldwide, in-theatre or otherwise. We have extensive experience in the Middle East, Europe, and the Pacific. Regardless of the location, we bring the same level of acumen and attention to detail to every project.

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



MOAA Tampa Scholarship Announcement



To: MOAA Tampa Chapter members

The Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce that the MOAA Tampa Chapter will award college scholarships of up to \$2,000.00 each to high school seniors who are planning to attend college during the academic year 2024-2025. Applicants must be a dependent or grandchild of a MOAA Chapter member who has been in good standing for at least one year prior to the date of application. The selection committee reserves the right to limit scholarship awards to one per sponsor.

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

Completed applications and documentation must be submitted no later than midnight April 15, 2024 to:

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

Scholarship winners will be announced on May 1, 2024.

If you have any questions, please contact Colonel Schneider at (813) 977-2572 or via email at wajs33647@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

MOAA Tampa Chapter Scholarship Committee.

Eligibility Requirements

- 1. Be a dependent or grandchild of a MOAA Tampa Chapter member who has been in good standing for a minimum of one year prior to the date of application.
- 2. Have a GPA of 3.0 or higher.
- 3. Complete the scholarship application
- 4. Attend the May 9, 2024 Luncheon and Awards Ceremony. Attendance is required by the recipient or immediate family member in order to receive the award.

Required attachments

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

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

Submit application and attached documents not later than midnight April 15, 2024 to:

Colonel (Ret) William A. Schneider, USA
15888 Sanctuary Drive, Tampa, FL 33647
(813) 977-2572
wajs33647@gmail.com



MOAA Tampa Scholarship Announcement



Date of application _____

Sponsor name _____

Date sponsor joined chapter _____

Student name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Graduating school _____

College accepted _____

Academic awards _____

School activities _____

Community activities _____

Completed application and supporting documents must be submitted no later that April 15, 2024.

Coalition Corner



Good day MOAA Tampa members,

As we collectively prepare for the Holiday Season, I've reflected on this past year and wondered what I might want to share with you in this short article. As you are aware, global instability has been at the forefront of global news cycles. With the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, War in Sudan, and the Israel-Hamas war (to name a few), overlay Global Strategic Competition, and political uncertainties, there is much cause for concern.

However, I've chosen to highlight an annual MNCC event, our International Night, which showcased culinary delights and traditional drinks from many members of the 45-country coalition at USCENTCOM. This annual event reminds us all of how much we really have in common and how important it is to take some time to appreciate one another, share some laughter, and be thankful for what we have. I don't mean to trivialize the previously mentioned events that occupy most of our time at CENTCOM, however, it is essential to take time to take a mental load off and remind ourselves that much good exists. We all care for our families and enjoy time with new and old friends.

Such events also highlight the importance to communicate and focus on common bonds rather than chose to emphasize our differences. A wise person once told me, "You have two ears and one mouth. You should therefore listen twice as much as you speak." Although not always successful at following this advice, I frequently remind myself of the importance of considering the opinions of others. This means, not simply to listen to their words, but also to understand their perspective, often shaped by decades of history and lived experience. Listening intently to the views of others also allows you to identify areas of common interest and thus opportunity to collaborate. The MNCC continuously strives to achieve this aim. The coalition and common bond we share is our competitive advantage when faced with the multitude of challenges we continue to endure.



I wish you all a wonderful Holiday Season with family and friends and look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

Happy Holidays from the USCENTCOM MNCC!

Kind regards,

Erik
Colonel Erik Andresen
Canadian Senior National Representative (SNR) to US CENTCOM and
Chairman of the Coalition



MEDICAL CORNER

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

Changes to your TRICARE prescription drug copayments in 2024

Copayment changes for your prescription drugs will go into effect January 1, 2024. Copayments will change at TRICARE Home Delivery and retail network pharmacies. There is still a \$0 copay for prescriptions filled at military pharmacies.

Why the change?

Congress determined this change to prescription drug copayments in the Fiscal Year 2018 National Defense Authorization Act. Your prescription copayments vary based on where you fill your prescription and on the prescription's formulary status (generic, brand-name, or non-formulary).

If you are an active-duty service member (ADSM), you will continue to have \$0 copays for covered drugs at military pharmacies, retail network pharmacies and TRICARE Home Delivery. Copayments for dependent survivors of ADSMs and medically retired service members and their dependents will remain the same.

What are the copayment changes as of January 1, 2024?

TRICARE Home Delivery (Up to a 90-day supply)

- Generic formulary drugs will increase from \$12 to \$13
- Brand-name formulary drugs will increase from \$34 to \$38
- Non-formulary drugs will increase from \$68 to \$76

Retail network pharmacies (Up to a 30-day supply)

- Generic formulary drugs will increase from \$14 to \$16
- Brand-name formulary drugs will increase from \$38 to \$43*
- Non-formulary drugs will increase from \$68 to \$76*

Non-network pharmacies (Up to a 30-day supply) for non-TRICARE Prime plan

- Generic formulary drugs and brand-name formulary drugs will cost \$43 (up from \$38) or 20% of the total cost, whichever is more, after you meet your annual deductible.
- Non-formulary drugs will cost \$76 (up from \$68) or 20% of the total cost, whichever is more, after you meet your annual deductible.

Beneficiaries with a TRICARE Prime plan will pay a 50% copayment after meeting the point-of-service deductibles.

*Select [maintenance medications](#) (taken for long-term conditions) may only be filled twice at retail network pharmacies and then must be filled via home delivery or military pharmacy. Acute (short-term) use medications are available at retail pharmacies.

Where can I learn more about the coverage and cost of a medication?

[The Formulary Search Tool](#) provides information about your medication coverage and cost. A medication search through the Formulary Search Tool will show you:

- Information about the drug and where it can be filled (home delivery, retail network pharmacies, and military pharmacies)
- Coverage results and requirements, such as prior authorization and medical necessity forms
- Alternative drug options
- Copayments (if applicable)

The Formulary Search Tool will not reflect 2024-2025 copayments until January 1, 2024.

How can I find a local, retail network pharmacy?

Find a local, retail network pharmacy by using the [Find a Pharmacy tool](#).

Where can I find a military pharmacy?

Find a military pharmacy by visiting the [tricare.mil/mtf](#).

How can I get started with Home Delivery?

- Online. Log in to or [create your account](#), then you can switch medication to home delivery.
- e-Prescribe. Ask your doctor to submit your prescription electronically. Express Scripts Pharmacy will process your prescription and mail it to you. If a copayment applies, you'll receive an invoice in the mail.
- Mobile app. If you have an existing prescription at a retail or military pharmacy, you can transfer it using the Express Scripts Pharmacy mobile app.
- Phone. Call **(877)363.1303** and have your prescription bottle ready. A patient care advocate will work with your doctor to transfer your medication to home delivery.
- Mail. Fill out the [Home Delivery Order Form](#) (PDF) and then mail the form and your 90-day prescription to the address listed on the form.

Who should I contact if I have questions?

If you have any questions about copayment changes, or you need help, please call Express Scripts, toll-free at 877.363.1303

Source: <https://militaryrx.express-scripts.com/blog/changes-your-tricare-prescription-drug-copayments-2024#>

CHAPLAIN’S CORNER

CHAPLAIN (COL) BERNARD H LIEVING JR USA RET



Well, here we are once again at the close of a year and, hopefully, ready to step into a New Year, this one with the extra day, February 29th. It comes every fourth year to balance the fact that the earth takes 365.2421 days to orbit the sun. So to make up for the shortage of a quarter of a day per year we add the extra day, and it is 2024’s turn to get February 29th. “Leap Day” as it is called, is often associated with proposals and marriages. I remember marrying a couple in 2020 and

they told me they would still count the number of years they were married every year.

As 2023 comes to an end, we approach 2024 with anticipation, reflection and perhaps uncertainty with what the year will hold for us. At the center of the transition between the old year and the new year lies the need to express our sentiments. Crafting the right message for ourselves is not always easy to do. Most of us in some way will say 2024 is going to be different than 2023. We may make resolutions dealing with the physical, emotional, and spiritual changes by which we plan to live out the year.

As a foundation for our decisions about the New Year, the words of a Psalm may give us wisdom, courage, and strength. Read now, one of the eight verse stanzas of the longest psalm in the Book of Psalms, Psalm 119. Here are verses 33-40, as paraphrased by Eugene Peterson in *The Message*.

*God, teach me lessons for living
so I can stay the course.
Give me insight so I can do what you tell me—
my whole life one long, obedient response.
Guide me down the road of your commandments;
I love traveling this freeway!
Give me an appetite for your words of wisdom,
and not for piling up loot.
Divert my eyes from toys and trinkets,
invigorate me on the pilgrim way.
Affirm your promises to me—
promises made to all who fear you.
Deflect the harsh words of my critics—
but what you say is always so good.
See how hungry I am for your counsel;
preserve my life through your righteous ways!*

In these verses the psalmist makes a series of requests – or, perhaps demands, of how God is needed in the psalmist’s life. He prayed: “God, teach me lessons for living...give me insight...guide me down the road of your commandments...give me an appetite for your words...divert my eyes from toys and trinkets...invigorate me on the pilgrim way...affirm your promises...deflect harsh words of my critics...preserve my life.”

The psalmist’s use of the imperatives acknowledges God as the One who responds to the needs of the psalmist. The response the psalmist then gives is obedience to God’s Word and staying on God’s path in his journey of life. If we were to make the psalmist’s words our daily theme for 2024 there is no promise of an easy life with no obstacles or hardships. There is, however, the promise of reinforcement, strengthening, guidance, and God’s presence with us in response to our needs. May it be so for you in 2024! Happy New Year!



This is why the Navy wears bell bottoms, and it’s not for fashion

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

—By Tim Kirkpatrick

The Navy dress uniform — also known as “cracker jacks” — is one of the most **iconic symbols** in the military today. You can spot a Navy sailor from a mile away after they don the familiar dressing. Every piece of the uniform from head-to-toe has some symbolic or practical use — and the famous bell bottoms are no different. During the ‘60s and ‘70s, bell bottoms were all the rage in fashion culture as men and women of all ages walked the streets with the popular look.

But the fad didn’t make its debut on a famous red carpet or in an elegant fashion show — it’s the brilliant invention of the U.S. Navy.

Although no one has been officially accredited with inventing the bell bottom trouser, the flared out look was introduced for sailors to wear in 1817. The new design was made to allow the young men who washed down the ship’s deck to roll their pant legs up above their knees to protect the material.



—A girl in the 1970s sporting some fashionable bell bottoms near a beach. (Source: Wikipedia Commons)

This modification also improved the time it took to take them off when the sailors needed to abandon ship in a moments notice. The trousers also doubled as a life preserver by knotting the pant legs.

Years later in 1901, the **Navy authorized** the first use of denim jumpers commonly known as “dungarees.” This new fabric was approved to be worn by both officers and enlisted personnel.

The dungarees also featured the unique bell bottom look and are considered iconic in their own right.

Source: <https://www.wearethemighty.com/mighty-trending/this-is-why-the-navy-wears-bell-bottoms-and-its-not-for-fashion/>



—Young sailors aboard a ship play [tug-of-war](#) in their classic bell bottoms. (Source: Pinterest)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THE TAMPA CHAPTER RATED FIVE STARS 2003, 2005-2010, 2012-2017, 2019-2021

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

MOAA
Military Officers Association of America

2020-2022 Recipient of the
5 Star Col. Marvin J. Harris
Communications Award

“NEVER STOP SERVING”