



# The RETROSPECT

TAMPA CHAPTER — A FIVE STAR CHAPTER OF MOAA NATIONAL

March 2024 VOLUME 30, NUMBER 3



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

# GREETINGS!



Hello to all! It is a pleasure to greet you this month. I hope that all are doing very well and that you are enjoying 2024. I also hope to see many of you at the Gala on March 8th. Thanks to all that have already registered to attend or donate. As with prior years, you are in store a great event!

For the Chapter, the year has started quite nicely. We are currently in the

throws of completing grant applications for submission to the MOAA Foundation for seminal Chapter initiatives. We also recently completed our self-nominations for the 2023 Marvin J. Harris Communications and MOAA's Level of Excellence Awards. In all, the training and planning completed to date by members of our Board have been both exciting and inspiring. Please stay alert for more information on upcoming Chapter events and activities, especially modifications to our luncheon agenda and evening mixers.

### Volunteer Opportunities

As a reminder, several opportunities to serve and tangibly contribute to the organization exist – seize the chance to give back. Please consider assisting with the Gala, helping to plan a 5K/10K run, or lend your insight as we prepare to host our first golf tournament. We also have a few spaces open on our scholarship committee.

### Wrapping up:

In closing, thank you for continuing

to support and promote the initiatives MOAA is championing. Let's continue to advocate for this respected profession through active engagement and with unwavering resolve. Our leaders in Washington D.C. and Tallahassee need to know that we aren't distracted. Your sustained input via calls, letters, and emails to Congressional leaders will have a very profound impact.

As I've stated before, organizations are about people. We pray that all of you will remain connected with the Chapter through our newsletter. Moreover, we hope to see most of you throughout the year at the different events we host.

I remain grateful for the opportunity to serve you and will continue to strive, in every way, to both advance our chapter's great legacy and propel the organization forward. Thanks again for your understanding and support.

All the best,  
Charles Dalcourt

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- 7 March 2024  
12:00PM  
Virtual Board of Directors Meeting  
No Chapter Luncheon due to March Gala
- 8 March 2024  
3rd Annual MOAA Tampa Gala  
([see page 15](#))
- 28 March 2024  
MOAA Tampa Social  
Brick House Tavern & Tap  
([see page 9](#))
- 15 April 2024  
MOAA Tampa Scholarship  
Applications Due  
([see page 17](#))
- 30 April 2024  
Thriving After Military Service Semiar  
Five Labs Conference Center, Tampa  
([see page 4](#))
- 13-15 May 2024  
FCoC Convention  
Daytona Beach, FL

## REMINDER:

SUBMISSION DEADLINE  
FOR THE APRIL 2024  
ISSUE IS 20 MARCH 2024  
Please submit articles in a Word  
Document and photos in JPEG  
Email articles to  
[coms@moaatampa.org](mailto:coms@moaatampa.org)

NOTICE: if you have a change of  
address, please notify our membership  
team via email—Matt Mularoni at  
[membership@moaatampa.org](mailto: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

MOAA works to ensure the budget process doesn't eat away at the value of service-earned benefits or weaken the support system of the all-volunteer force. We must take action on multiple fronts this season. In March we have to continue to advocate for a budget bill passage as well as start our 2024 Advocacy in Action (AiA) campaign preparation. We need to message our Congress members to take positive actions on the AiA issues that are a priority to our current and past servicemembers, retirees, survivors, and family members.

### **March Madness: Wasteful Budget Delays Continue to Threaten Your Pay, Benefits<sup>1</sup>**

The ongoing battle to pass a timely budget – one that would fund the all-volunteer force and provide the service-earned benefits championed by MOAA and fellow advocacy groups – hits several milestones in March, with the calendar providing a useful snapshot of the current system's failures.

### **TAKE ACTION: Ask Your Lawmakers to Pass a Budget**

- On **March 1**, the first of two continuing resolutions keeping the federal government open is set to expire. If Congress does not act before

this date, funds for military construction projects and VA health care and benefit programs, along with many other federal programs, will dry up.

- On **March 8**, the second such resolution hits its deadline. With no congressional action, funds would run out for the rest of the federal government, to include DoD.
- On **March 11**, the White House plans to publish its FY 2025 budget request, doing so more than a month after the established filing deadline (a delay that has become more common in recent years).

So, in a span of 11 days, Congress will face another scramble to avoid a federal shutdown connected to a budget that should have been passed six months earlier, then move onto discussing next year's spending request from the administration.

MOAA members have sent more than 13,000 messages to their lawmakers about the current budget cycle alone, adding their voices to our advocates on Capitol Hill who are working

to improve this dysfunctional process. MOAA has engaged with both legislators and administration officials on the need to move faster and meet critical deadlines. That pressure needs to continue because of what's at stake if these costly behaviors continue.

### NDAAs Delays

Without a budget, any progress made on behalf of those who serve and have served, and their families and survivors, in the annual National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) goes unfunded. The NDAA only provides authorization for these improvements, not the money to make them a reality.

While some measures will receive funding through other means – the annual pay raise, for example – many others must wait until full budget bills take effect. This includes any new programs, which can't begin under continuing resolutions.

### DoD Waste

While lawmakers can't agree on a budget, there is bipartisan agreement on the billions of dollars wasted by continuing legislation.

First, misaligned funds can't be moved into deserving programs without a full budget in place, as continuing resolutions keep the money flowing into projects earmarked for cancellation or downsizing. A full-year delay would put tens of billions of dollars into this category.

Second, federal personnel must spend untold hours reworking budgets to accommodate these resolutions, as well as to prepare for a potential government shutdown. This staff time could be used to address the many needs of the all-volunteer force; instead, it has and will continue to be used to shuffle figures between accounts and come up with various contingency plans tied to potential congressional inaction.

### Shutdown Threat

Servicemembers will report for duty even if federal funding

*continued on page 2*



LEGISLATIVE LOWDOWN *cont.*

lapses, but they’d do so without compensation – Congress has not passed pay protections for this budget cycle, as it did during previous shutdown scenarios.

And while retiree paychecks would continue for most who’ve left uniform, U.S. Public Health Service and NOAA retirees aren’t covered by the Military Retirement Fund and would not receive checks during a funding lapse.

Make Your Voice Heard

Lawmakers will look to hear from their constituents during this election cycle, and MOAA members. [Send a message to your legislators](#) today through MOAA’s Legislative Action Center, and then spread the word (and the link) through your social media channels – membership isn’t required to sign up and use the service.

TRICARE For Life, Star Act, Housing Help Will Anchor MOAA’s Spring Advocacy Push?

The three issue areas comprising this year’s Advocacy in Action (AiA) campaign show the range of MOAA’s legislative priorities – not just for officers, not just for retirees, and not waver-ing on our commitment to long-term advocacy goals.

Concurrent Receipt

**What’s at Stake:** The Major Richard Star Act (H.R. 1282/S. 344) would end an unjust offset for combat-injured veterans who lose a dollar of service-earned retirement pay for every dollar of VA disability compensation. The bill has a superma-jority of bipartisan support – more than 325 House co-spon-sors and more than 70 in the Senate – thanks in part to past grassroots efforts from MOAA and partners in The Military Coalition.

**MOAA’s Mission:** We need to keep up this momentum and secure the bill’s inclusion in the FY 2025 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). It’s time for lawmakers to push this long-delayed step toward concurrent receipt for all past the finish line.

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

Full Housing Allowance

**What’s at Stake:** The BAH Restoration Act (H.R. 2537/S. 1823) reverses DoD policy capping the Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) at 95% of local rental and utilities costs – a policy that’s placing a financial burden on servicemembers and families in the middle of a nationwide rental short-age *and* ongoing recruiting challenges. Restoring this benefit – it was cut by Congress incrementally beginning in 2015 – would make a difference in the quality of life for all who serve, but especially among junior enlisted members and their fami-lies, who rely on this allowance as a large percentage of their compensation.

**MOAA’s Mission:** Language requiring an incremental in-crease reached the late stages of the FY 2024 NDAA process but ultimately was not included in the final bill. We must send a message to lawmakers that close isn’t good enough – ser-vicemembers deserve a full housing allowance, and more progress must be made this legislative session.

**TAKE ACTION ONLINE:** [Ask Your Legislators to Support Full BAH for Servicemembers](#)

TRICARE For Life

**What’s at Stake:** Protecting TRICARE For Life (TFL) remains a key issue for all MOAA members – those already covered by TFL and Medicare, along with those who’ll use the benefit when they turn 65. MOAA remains concerned about a Con-gressional Budget Office (CBO) report suggesting two mea-sures which would severely weaken the benefit – enrollment fees topping \$1,100 per family, and cost-sharing requirements including an \$850 deductible and up to \$4,675 in potential yearly medical bills.

**MOAA’s Mission:** Legislators seeking solutions to budget gaps must hear a clear message: Maintaining TFL is not just a national obligation to those who spent decades in uniform, it’s also critical to ensuring key influencers in the recruiting process aren’t discouraged from recommending uniformed service to future generations. While TFL fees or cost shares aren’t part of any current legislation, we must counter CBO’s misguided options with our grassroots advocacy efforts. The

next CBO release is slated for December of this year, follow-ing the elections; MOAA will update our members as soon as we get the report.

**Take Action Online:** MOAA’s last online advocacy effort addressing potential TFL fees resulted in nearly 49,000 mes-sages to lawmakers. Register for [MOAA’s Legislative Action Center](#) today so you can be part of upcoming campaigns.

Get Involved

Engaging with your lawmakers online using the links above is a great way to support our AiA efforts. But if you’re ready to do more, here’s how:

- **Connect With Your Chapter:** Now is the per-fect time to reengage with your chapter if you’ve missed some meetings lately.
- **Watch for Details:** If you’re not subscribed to the weekly version of *The MOAA Newslet-ter*, [update your preferences today](#) to receive the latest advocacy news on AiA topics and other priorities, including new messaging to pass along to your legislators and their staffs.
- **Spread the Word:** MOAA membership isn’t required to use our Legislative Action Center – share the links above with your friends and your professional network, and let them know their engagement can help push these critical issues to the forefront of their legislators’ agenda.

On behalf of MOAA, thank you for your membership, engage-ment, and friendship along the way. This is our biggest annual effort to remind Congress that we are still out here and will keep our commitment to never stop serving.

Sources:

- 1) [www.moaa.org](#), article by Kevin Lilley, February 14, 2024
- 2) [www.moaa.org](#), article by MOAA Staff, February 07, 2024

# K-9 Veterans Day – March 13, 2024

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

K-9 Veterans Day is celebrated on March 13. On this day, K-9 breeders and handlers honor the service of their furry companions. K-9s serve vital roles in the military and law enforcement. They get embedded in border patrol and customs, airports, the Coast Guard, the F.B.I., the police, and even the Secret Service. This holiday also recognizes other service dogs that help people with disabilities and support animals for those with mental health issues. Service dogs often risk their health and lives to accomplish their mis-sions. It’s only fair that we should celebrate their efforts at least once a year.

HISTORY OF K-9 VETERANS DAY

Joe White, a Vietnam War veteran from Jack-sonville, Florida, started K-9 Veterans Day. White was a dog handler who saw firsthand how valiantly K-9s served in the conflict and was disturbed by the (now abolished) euthanasia of working dogs at the end of their military service. To help raise awareness and honor the sacrifices of military working dogs, he came up with the idea of a holiday commemorating them.

The Greeks and Romans used the earliest military working dogs, favoring the monstrous Cane Corso. The Corso served as a guard dog due to its fearsome appearance. The Persians utilized leaner, sleeker breeds like the Saluki — the ancestor of the Greyhound — for hunting wild game. Mongolians had canine sentries in their armies. These massive dogs were ancestors of the modern-day Tibetan Mastiff. Legend has it that Genghis Khan led 50,000 of his war hounds to Western Europe, where they devoured the enemy in an unstoppable march. While this account is probably military propaganda, it shows the importance of the martial role dogs occupied in ancient times.

During WWI, dogs were used as messengers by European forces. They also hauled supply carts and machine guns, located wounded soldiers, and carried medical kits. In WWII, dogs served in various branches, acting as scouts, guarding supply posts and camps, and rescuing downed pilots. The Vietnam War marked the largest deployment of dogs in U.S. military history. Canines proved invaluable in the jungle environment of Southeast Asia, with the military greatly refining techniques for handlers and K-9s alike. Unfortunately, less than 200 military working dogs made it back home from the original 20,000. Today working dogs detect explosives and narcotics, and they have much better welfare thanks to the military learning from its past mistakes.

HOW TO OBSERVE K-9 VETERANS DAY

1. Donate to an animal shelter

Some police and military dogs came from animal shelters. Donating money to animal shelters helps cover costs for daily operations, animal housing upgrades, staff training, and supplies. You can also donate old newspapers, feeding bowls, toys, and dog food.

2. Adopt a retired K-9

Most retired military dogs get adopted by their handlers. Sadly not all of them are lucky enough



to find a home, especially those that don’t meet training requirements. On K-9 Veterans Day, give a retired military dog a forever home where they can feel loved.

3. Read about the K-9 Corps

Study the history of the War Dog Program carried out by the U.S. military. During the Second World War, the K-9 Corps’ work laid the foundation for military working dogs as we know them today.

5 COOL FACTS ABOUT MILITARY DOGS THAT WILL AMAZE YOU

1.They’re super sniffers

K-9s have an exceptional sense of smell, about 100,000+ better than that of the average human.

2. Every K-9 has a rank

Like their human counterparts, every K-9 officer has a military rank; usually, this rank is higher than its handler’s to ensure they get treated with the proper care and respect they deserve.

3. One K-9 saves hundreds of man-hours

One well-trained K-9 officer cuts back on 600 to 1,000 man-hours each year, saving military and police units valuable time.

4. Every K-9 has a specialty

Each K-9 is trained to an expert level in a specific skill set; this could be sniffing out narcotics or explosives, tracking human scents, detecting accelerants in suspected arson cases — and recently, finding concealed electronic devices such as thumb drives.

5. Most working dogs come from Europe

Around 85% of working dogs in the U.S. military come from special-purpose breeders in Ger-many and the Netherlands.

WHY K-9 VETERANS DAY IS IMPORTANT

a. K-9s keep us safe

K-9s are essential in law enforcement and military operations, meaning they actively keep coun-tries and communities secure. They also assist in search and rescue operations, saving lives in emergencies. These four-legged friends stand at the frontline, ensuring we can live in a safer environment.

b. They serve every day

Just like human soldiers, military working dogs are always on the clock. They’re active in combat zones worldwide and help the police protect and serve back home. These K-9s deserve recogni-tion for their hard work, whether on active duty or retired.

c. Dogs make the world a better place

Can you imagine a world without dogs? We would undoubtedly be duller for it. Dogs keep us ac-tive, help lower stress, and are pleasant to be around overall.

Source: <https://nationaltoday.com/k-9-veterans-day/>



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



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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)



In less than two weeks our 2024 Fundraising Gala will be held at the same beautiful private country club in South Tampa where we held the last two Galas on Friday 8 March. As your fellow chapter member and 2024 Gala Chair I am so delighted to share that we have a wonderful evening lined up for all who attend. Please read in this newsletter about our musician for this event, Nathan

Mitchell. He's a Grammy nominated vocalist and pianist. What he didn't share in his bio is that his father was career US Air Force and that his uncle also served in the US Air Force. So having grown up in an Air Force family, Nathan has a soft spot for Veterans. I'm also excited to share that we are receiving many wonderful silent auction and raffle items for the Gala. Have your checkbook or credit card ready. Remember that everything you support at the Gala supports our Chapter's outreach initiatives for scholarships, the JROTC, homeless Veterans, "Thriving After the Military" quarterly seminars and Gold Star families to name a few of our endeavors. The deadline for registering is Monday February 26 which may have passed by the time my comments are published, but you can still donate to this wonderful fundraising event using the registration link. Don't hesitate to contact me with any questions.

There are many articles that I hope you'll find interesting as well as informative that include an article about an Army helicopter pilot and physician who has the current record for spending the longest time in space, thirteen Medal of Honor recipients you should know about and honoring our K-9 Veterans. Note that MOAA Tampa Scholarship Applications are due 15 April with information in this newsletter. We're still planning to travel on a beautiful Blue Danube River Cruise in October that will raise money for our MOAA Tampa Chapter. There is still time to book your trip and at the same time support our chapter. Make sure to take a look at all of the articles and future events updated in the

newsletter.

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](mailto:secretary@moaatampa.org) or you may contact me at [coms@moaatampa.org](mailto:coms@moaatampa.org).

It is always my pleasure and honor to serve as your Editor for *The Retrospect* and work on our chapter's website. My role as your 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](mailto:coms@moaatampa.org).

There is so much going on in the world that is distressing, but I offer to you that there are also so many good things happening as well. I have always loved Mr. Rogers who remembered that his mother always told him to look for the helpers when things look bad. My Dad always told me "Think good things and good things will happen." This March will be a wonderful month and hope to see many of you at the MOAA Tampa 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Gala.

"Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work." – Thomas Edison

Let us never forget. - NEVER STOP SERVING!

Sara Marks, CAPT NC USN (Ret)

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

### OUR EDITORIAL POLICY:

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

Our luncheon meetings are held 1130 hours every second Thursday of each month at the Columbia 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](mailto: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](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](http://www.moaafl.org)

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

OPERATION HELPING HAND: [www.operationhelpinghandtampa.com](http://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](http://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.

## National Vietnam War Veterans Day March 29

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

National Vietnam War Veterans Day is celebrated on March 29th in the US and was recently made a recognized annual holiday in 2017 when it was signed into law by President Trump. March 29th is the day that the last of the troops were withdrawn in 1973.

This is a separate holiday from Veterans Day which is celebrated on November 11th, that marks the end of the First World War.

The war originally started as a civil war between North Vietnam and the South Vietnam Government. The North Vietnamese Army was supported by communist allies such as the Soviet Union and China and the South Vietnamese Army was supported by anti – communist Allies such as the US, Australia and South Korea.

Citizens are encouraged to fly the US flag in honor of those who served in the Vietnam war as a way to thank the veterans and all those who made sacrifices during one of the longest wars in US history lasting almost 20 years.

Some may wonder why it took 44 years for the troops to be celebrated, but due to the huge number of casualties and domestic controversy a large part of the US population became opposed to the war.

Source: <https://www.awarenessdays.com/awareness-days-calendar/national-vietnam-war-veterans-day-in-the-usa-2024/>



**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!"

### Scan to Register



## Thriving After Military Service Transitioning Veteran Event

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

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

## The journey takes you home.

We invite you to call for a complimentary consultation.

855 OUR-PATH

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



### Specialty Move Management & Transition Services

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.





# MOAA at 95: A Leader in Military Advocacy

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

MOAA turns 95 years strong on Feb. 23, and while we have adapted and evolved over the years, our core mission has remained intact: advocating on behalf of our servicemembers, veterans, family members, and survivors to preserve and protect their earned benefits and support the “people” side of having a strong national defense.

Formed originally as The Retired Officers Association, founder Col. Arthur T. Marix, USMC (Ret), believed the retiree population could provide vital assistance and knowledge to defense leaders and lawmakers and thereby improve life for our entire military (today’s uniformed services) community.

Our association membership expanded 21 years ago when we became the Military Officers Association of America, and we stand tall today with 363,000 members from among the currently serving and previously served/retired communities. MOAA has been on the leading edge every year since our inception in continuously preserving earned benefits, but as we take a moment to celebrate MOAA’s birthday, I want to share some of the major advocacy milestones MOAA’s been a key part of over the years:

- In the 1940s, our advocacy mission was not achieved through meetings with Congress. Rather, we influenced laws by providing input and guidance through the Navy chief of the Bureau of Personnel and the Army deputy chief of staff for personnel. The association hired its first lobbyist in 1944, and by the 1950s, the association was working directly with Congress.
- In the 1950s, MOAA worked with other organizations to ensure military members were eligible for full Social Security benefits.
- In the 1960s, MOAA helped lead the charge in creating what is today the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP).
- In 1972, MOAA organized the Council of Military Organizations, a group of legislative representatives of 12 uniformed service-type organizations, both officer and enlisted, meeting monthly to discuss legislative affairs.
- A unified voice was needed again in 1985, and MOAA joined with 15 other military associations to form The Military Coalition and undo the complete elimination of the cost-of-living allowance (COLA) included in the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985. On Oct. 21, 1986, President Ronald Reagan signed the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act, which exempted military and federal civilian retirees from these cuts and linked their COLA payments to those of Social Security recipients.



—By: Brian T. Kelly — MOAA file photos; image by John Harman/MOAA

□ MOAA took the lead in organizing a program to make the nation aware of the financial hazards of the Medicare Catastrophic Coverage Act of 1988. A national coalition was founded called the Coalition for Affordable Health Care. When the impact of the act spread to the grassroots, it was repealed.

□ In the early 1990s, MOAA launched a series of friend of the court (amicus curiae) legal briefs to the U.S. Supreme Court to assist retiree groups in recovering state taxes illegally imposed on military (and, in some cases, federal civilian) retirees. Collectively, these briefs were instrumental in having the various states refund almost \$900 million to retirees for a cost to MOAA of about \$100,000.

□ MOAA worked with others in the coalition to win repeal of the REDUX retirement system.

□ MOAA and other military advocates fought throughout the 1990s for legislation to improve the military health care benefit for Medicare-eligible retirees. With the FY 2001 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), Congress established TRICARE For Life to cover out-of-pocket costs after Medicare reimbursement and expanded the TRICARE retail and mail-order pharmacy programs to Medicare-eligible retirees.

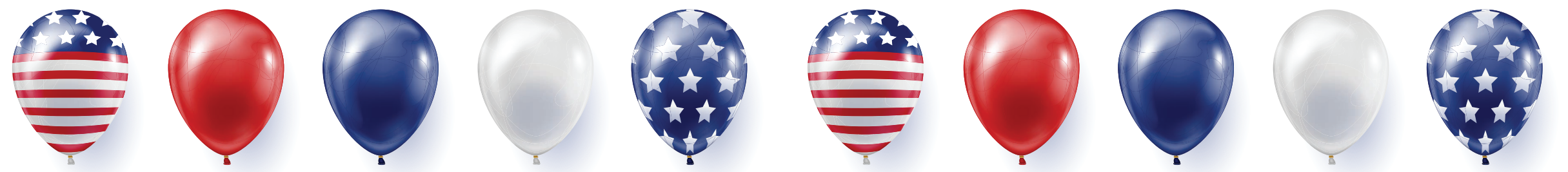
□ Lawmakers approved the FY 2020 NDAA and its provision to eliminate the Survivor Benefit Plan-Dependency and Indemnity Compensation offset, better known as the “widows tax,” which MOAA and supporters fought to eliminate for decades. This unfair policy cost up to \$12,000 per year for nearly 67,000 spouses.

□ The MOAA-backed Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act of 2022, which became law Aug. 10, 2023, supports millions of servicemembers and veterans exposed to harmful toxins.

As a member of our community, you’re already playing an important role in getting laws like these passed. As our founder knew, there is strength in numbers.

It’s truly a privilege to serve and continue our founders’ legacy. Happy birthday, MOAA!

Source: <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2024-news-articles/recommended-reads/moaa-at-95-a-leader-in-military-advocacy/>



## FEBRUARY LUNCHEON RAFFLE WINNERS



—By Sara Marks, CAPT NC USN (Ret)  
Photo Credits: Sara Marks, Ben Ritter and Bob Sawallesh

Congratulations to RADM Bill Merlin, USCG RET and MAJ Lyle Jaeger, USAF RET on winning the February MOAA Tampa Luncheon raffle items! Our guest speaker Gianna Russo and French General Hintzy helped with the drawing of the winning raffle tickets.







AV/VTC Modernization  
USCENTCOM Headquarters & Forward Headquarters

New Headquarters Facility  
Audiovisual Installation & Support Services  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION (FCC)

USSOCOM Command Group SCIF Project  
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# BULLETIN BOARD

**CARING FOR OUR “SHUT-IN” MEMBERS**  
Our Chapter wants to become aware of members who are hospitalized, homebound, in care facilities or just plain sick and has provided a way for you to inform us. Please contact Lt Col Kiley Stinson USAF Ret, Sick Call Chairman 813-957-1127 so that he may call or send cards to let them know they are missed.  
Alternatively, you may send an e-mail to: [Secretary@moaatampa.org](mailto:Secretary@moaatampa.org)

## 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, 6<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:Secretary@MOAATampa.org).

### Keep Your MOAA Contact Updated

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

### IMPORTANT DATES IN MARCH

3 Navy Reserve Birthday  
4 Hug a GI Day  
5 Seabee Birthday  
10 Daylight Savings Time Begins  
13 K-9 Veteran’s Day  
15 American Legion Birthday  
17 St. Patrick’s Day  
21 Rosie The Riveter Day  
25 Medal of Honor Day  
29 National Vietnam War Veteran’s Day  
31 Easter

### 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**



TRAVEL • ADVENTURE • FUN

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

\*Pricing is for the lowest priced cabin (category H). See page 4 for additional cabin pricing.

15 days from **\$5595**  
with international airfare from Tampa

14 days from **\$4495**  
River Cruise Tour only

**Romantic Blue Danube: Prague to Budapest**  
Czech Republic: Prague, Cesky Krumlov | Austria: Linz, Krems, Vienna | Slovakia: Bratislava | Hungary: Budapest

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.

For details click link: <https://s3.us-west-1.amazonaws.com/media.moaatampa.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/30223159/Blue-Danube-brochure.pdf> to view the flyer.

s You can also contact me by email: [coms@moaatampa.org](mailto:coms@moaatampa.org) for questions. It'll be a trip to remember and hope that you join us in October!

**GRAND CIRCLE CRUISE LINE**

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PLEASE MENTION THIS CODE WHEN BOOKING

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[www.gct.com/edr](http://www.gct.com/edr)



ITINERARY OVERVIEW  
Oct. 18, 2024 - Nov. 1, 2024

**Day 1 • Depart U.S.**

**Day 2-4 • Prague, Czech Republic**  
*Included Tour* Prague  
*Optional Tour* Jewish Prague

**Day 5-6 • Prague • Cesky Krumlov • Linz, Austria**  
*Port* Linz  
*Included Tour* Cesky Krumlov • Linz • Mautausen

**Day 7-8 • Wachau Valley • Krems • Vienna**  
*Port* Krems  
*Included Tour* Wachau Valley • Krems • Gottweig Abbey • Winery Visit • Durnstein

**Day 9-10 • Vienna**  
*Port* Vienna  
*Included Tour* Vienna  
*Optional Tour* Musical Vienna • Schoenbrunn Palace tour

**Day 11-12 • Bratislava, Slovakia**  
*Port* Bratislava  
*Included Tours* Bratislava • School Visit

**Day 13-14 • Budapest**  
*Included Tour* Budapest  
*Optional Tour* Hospital in the Rock

**Day 15 • Budapest • Return to U.S.**

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](http://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		Advertising	Cost (Artwork supplied)	Cost (Ad creation)
Ad Deadline	Inserts			
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	<b>DIGITAL AD FORMAT:</b> Digital ads <b>must be</b> submitted in PDF, JPEG or EPS formats.		
April 20	May 1	<b>NEED HELP?</b> 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	<b>DEADLINE:</b> 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			

Call, email or visit [moaatampa.org](http://moaatampa.org) to reserve your spot today!

Email: [Secretary@moaatampa.org](mailto:Secretary@moaatampa.org)  
[www.moaatampa.org](http://www.moaatampa.org)

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

**Turn Compassion Into Action!**

**Join the Service to the Armed Forces Team!**

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

**Volunteers Urgently Needed in the Following Areas at MacDill AFB:**

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

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

**To learn more, visit [redcross.org](http://redcross.org) or contact:**

**Molly Gallagher, Senior Volunteer Recruitment Specialist**  
[molly.gallagher@redcross.org](mailto: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?!**

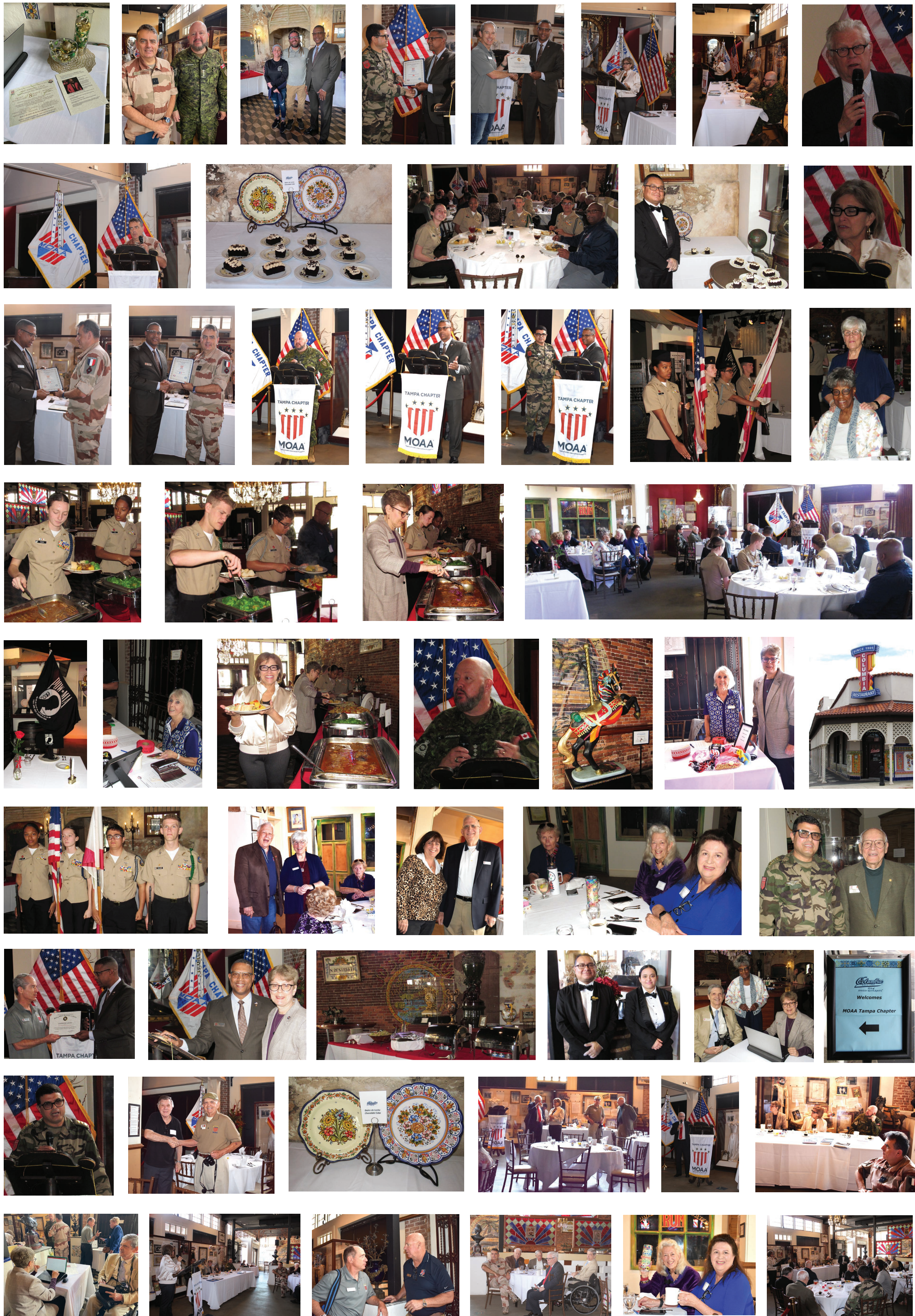
Annual Subscription Costs:  
Half Page Ad: \$1000  
Quarter Page Ad: \$500 • 1/8 Page Ad: \$250

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



# February Luncheon Photos

Photo credit: Sara Marks, Ben Ritter & Bob Sawallesh





# The Tampa Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America

## No-host Social Hour

### Thursday, March 28, 2024

### from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM



No RSVP is required.

**Who:** Tampa Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America

**What:** No-Host Social Hour

**When:** Thursday, March 28, 2024, from 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM (1730 - 1930)

**Where:** The Brick House Tavern + Tap  
1102 N Dale Mabry Hwy, Tampa, FL 33607 (Dale Mabry & I-275)  
[www.brickhousetavernandtap.com/location/brick-house-tavern-and-tap-tampa-fl/](http://www.brickhousetavernandtap.com/location/brick-house-tavern-and-tap-tampa-fl/)



**Why:**

- 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.

**Other details:**

- No RSVP is required – just show up!
- **Please bring a prospective member, friend of the Chapter, or supporter.**
- Questions? Email [events@moaatampa.org](mailto:events@moaatampa.org)
- Printable flyer attached for your convenience.
- Separate calendar invitation to follow shortly.

# Women’s History Month

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



Every March, Military.com marks Women’s History Month by recognizing the contributions made and the glass ceilings broken each day by women in the U.S. [Army](#), [Navy](#), [Air Force](#), [Marine Corps](#) and [Coast Guard](#).

Female members of the U.S. military have not always received the recognition they’ve earned. Yet from sea, to ground, to sky and beyond, women have worn the battle flag of the United States of America and have bravely served in her name. We honor them.

To see more photos folow the link: <https://www.military.com/history/womens-history-month>



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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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# 13 Medal of Honor recipients you should know about

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

—By David Wilkes

The Medal of Honor is the nation’s highest award for battlefield valor, and every citation can be an emotional rollercoaster, even written in dry, bureaucratic language.

All recipients, living or dead, are proven heroes, but the list of people can be daunting to go through. As Americans reflect on the sacrifices of troops this Memorial Day weekend, here is a sampling of recipients from every major conflict from 1900 until now.

### Army Spc. Ross McGinnis, Iraq war

McGinnis saved the lives of four fellow soldiers on patrol when his vehicle was attacked in Northeast Baghdad on Dec. 4, 2006.

While McGinnis was manning the .50-caliber machine gun on top of the vehicle, an insurgent threw a fragmentation grenade inside. McGinnis, age 19, yelled “grenade ... it’s in the truck!” At this moment, he had the choice to either jump out of the vehicle or cover the grenade and prevent others from injury. Without hesitating, he jumped on the grenade. McGinnis’ platoon sergeant, Cedric Thomas, recounts how he saw McGinnis quickly “pin down” the grenade. Thomas said, “He had time to jump out of the truck ... he chose not to.”



—AP Photo

McGinnis, a private first class at the time, was posthumously promoted to specialist. Doing what he did was a matter of kindergarten math, McGinnis’ parents said. “The right choice sometimes requires honor.” He was awarded the Medal of Honor on June 6, 2008.

### Army Staff Sgt. Robert Miller, Afghanistan war

In January 2008, Miller volunteered to lead a team of Afghan National Security Forces and coalition soldiers on a combat patrol along the border of Afghanistan and Pakistan. Their mission was to confirm enemy forces were in a specified compound and help get Air Force bombs on the target.

The coalition was moving toward the suspected building through a narrow valley. When they got close enough, there was a boulder that couldn’t be moved by ordinary means. Staff Sgt. Eric Martin recalled, “We had to come to a stop again and blow that boulder. I believe that’s when the enemy was tipped off.” As the coalition was maneuvering into position, they started taking enemy fire. According to Martin, there was nothing unusual about the fight, until bombs started dropping and the coalition fired heavy weapons at the compound.



—Wikimedia Commons

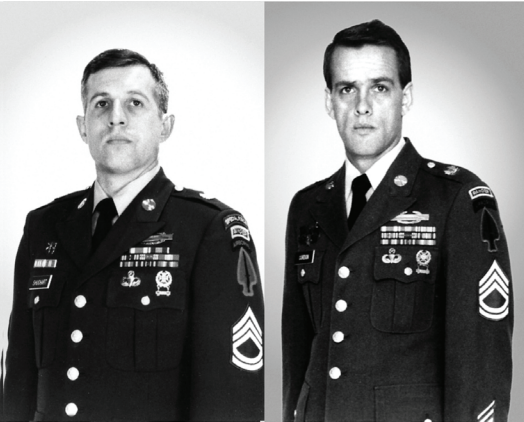
Martin said Miller was always prepared for a fight and had packed heavy firepower that night. As the fight got within 50 feet, the coalition leader, Capt. Robert Cusick, was wounded immediately and Miller became the commander. “[Miller] bounded forward; we moved back,” Martin said. While Martin and his teammate tended to their wounded captain, Miller kept moving forward, throwing grenades and constantly shooting. Miller’s actions suppressed the enemy until backup could arrive. “He saved lives that day...it was in his personality.” This was the last time his teammates saw Miller alive.

Miller’s teammates said it was his concern for the team that drove him. “It’s about doing the right thing and not letting our brothers down.” Miller was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor Oct. 6, 2010.

### Army Master Sgt. Gary Gordon and Sgt. 1st Class Randall Shughart, Somalia

The streets of Somalia, Mogadishu, were filling with armed insurgents, American troops were pinned down, and a Black Hawk helicopter was just shot out of the sky. Yet Gordon and Shughart volunteered for what would be a suicide mission to rescue the doomed helicopter pilot.

Gordon and Shughart, Army Delta Force snipers, were circling over the Black Hawk crash site when they saw a growing mob of armed militia troops getting closer. After three frantic requests back to headquarters, their mission to rescue the helicopter pilot was approved. Gordon and Shughart knew there was no backup. There was no one who would be able to save them.



—Wikimedia Commons

The plan was to maneuver Gordon and Shughart’s helicopter onto the crash site, but that was quickly scratched. A barrage of insurgent gunfire and rockets hit their own helicopter. Gordon and Shughart were forced to jump out 100 meters away from the downed Black Hawk while their helicopter pilot flew the injured bird back to base. Chief Warrant Officer 3 Michael Durant, the severely injured helicopter pilot, recounts his experience saying, “I never saw where they came from ... it was a surreal feeling. I mean it was like this awful situation that you just realized you’re in is now suddenly over.”

As the militia mob encompassed them, Gordon and Shughart shot in every direction. It is unclear who died first, but Durant recalls a Delta operator “sounding almost irritated” when he was hit. The remaining operator had no option but to continue clearing the streets of the militia. He went to the downed helicopter, found extra ammunition, and took to the streets. For as long as he could, the remaining operator did everything possible to overcome the mob. Eventually, the opposition was too much and the remaining Delta operator was killed.

According to Durant, “Without a doubt, I owe my life to those two men and their bravery. Those guys came in when they had to know it was a losing battle. If they had not come in, I wouldn’t have survived.” Gordon and Shughart were posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor on May 23, 1994.

### Navy Capt. William McGonagle, Eastern Mediterranean

When McGonagle received the Medal of Honor, it was not done in standard fashion. In fact, the medal was presented by the Navy secretary in a secluded part of the Navy shipyard near Washington.

McGonagle was in command of the USS Liberty in 1967 when it was attacked by Israeli forces. The Liberty was an intelligence gathering ship sent to the Mediterranean by the National Security Agency to spy on Soviet pilots.



—Wikimedia Commons

One day, for no foreseeable reason, Israeli fighter jets and attack ships converged on the Liberty. The ship was “in international waters, properly marked as to her identity and nationality, and in calm, clear weather when she suffered an unprovoked attack,” according to an official report. Machine gun fire, rockets, napalm and torpedoes rained down on the Liberty. One torpedo even tore a 40-foot hole in the ship, according to a report.

McGonagle, on the bridge, was severely injured from shrapnel and napalm burns. Even so, he refused medical attention so he could maintain command of a badly beaten ship. McGonagle said his crew is what inspired him to stay despite profusely bleeding. “I would lay down on the deck, and put my leg on the captain’s chair to stem the loss of blood,” he said. The captain stayed at his post the entire time, navigating by using the North Star so he could lie down.

Finally, 17 hours after the initial attack, U.S. forces arrived to help. Israel later apologized for the attack, saying it was a case of mistaken identity. But survivors have maintained the attack, which killed 34, was deliberate. McGonagle died March 3, 1999, at 73 years old.

### Army Master Sgt. Roy Benavidez, Vietnam War

In May 1968, 12 special operators were sent deep into the jungle to gather information on enemy movement. Helicopters dropped the team into the dense forest, but quickly after beginning their patrol, they met heavy resistance. The radios lit up, “Get us out of here!”

Benavidez was at a nearby base and is said to have volunteered to rescue the special operators without anyone asking. “I’m coming with you,” Benavidez screamed as he raced toward the helicopter preparing to launch a rescue mission. He didn’t even bring his M16, only a bowie knife, according to reports.



—AP Photo

The special operators were surrounded. Benavidez grabbed his medic bag and jumped out of the helicopter, racing toward the wounded men. Before reaching them, he took a bullet in the leg and shrapnel to the face. Continuing on, he reached the troops and started to dress wounds and hand out ammunition. He then called in “danger close” airstrikes. As the battle progressed, Benavidez was coughing blood. A soldier reportedly asked him, “Are you hurt bad, Sarge?” He replied, “Hell no.”

When the rescue helicopter landed, Benavidez famously said to his fellow soldiers, “Pray and move out.” Benavidez took seven major gunshot wounds, 28 pieces of shrapnel, and both arms had been slashed. Benavidez was told that his one-man battle was extraordinary. He replied, “No, that’s duty.” After years of bureaucracy, Benavidez was presented with the Medal of Honor Feb. 24, 1981. He died Nov. 29, 1998, at 63.

### Air Force Capt. John Walmsley, Korean War

Walmsley was awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously for the daring risks he took to drop bombs on targets during the Korean War. Walmsley, a former flight instructor, piloted a B-26 belonging to the 8th Bombardment Squadron. He was developing strategies for searchlight attacks against enemy convoys.

Korea was resupplying its army overnight through truck and train convoys. One night, Walmsley discovered an enemy supply train near Yankgdok, Korea, as he flew over. This train was a high value target, according to a report. Walmsley identified and dropped bombs on the train, eventually running out. The train, as a result, was disabled.

Instead of returning to base, Walmsley called for more friendly aircraft to complete the destruction of the train. While flying, he used his searchlight to expose the train. This, however, made him an easy target for the enemy. Walmsley made two low-level passes over the top of the train to guide the other B-26s. Before he could complete another pass, his plane took enemy fire. The damage to the aircraft was catastrophic and he crashed into the mountains nearby. Walmsley was a combat veteran and had already completed 25 combat missions. His courageous actions allowed his comrades to continue the fight even at the cost of his own life. Walmsley was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor June 12, 1954.



—Wikimedia Commons

To continue reading the article: <https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/news/2155198/13-medal-of-honor-recipients-you-should-know-about/>





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# Army Secretary Says Astronaut's Army Values Inspire Others

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

—By David Vergun

Army Col. (Dr.) Frank Rubio, an astronaut, orbited Earth for 371 days, setting a U.S. record for the most days in space on a single spaceflight.

Rubio “is a stellar example of the Army’s core values and what it means to lead a life of service,” said Army Secretary Christine Wormuth, who presented him with the Army Astronaut Device during a pinning ceremony at the Pentagon today.



**Spotlight: DOD Space Strategy**  
Rubio’s 371 days started Sept. 21, 2022, when he left Earth on the Soyuz MS-22 spacecraft from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan to the International Space Station.

On Sept. 27, he landed back on Earth, having traveled 157,412,306 statute miles. During his time in space, he saw the arrival of 15 visiting space vehicles to the space station, and he conducted three spacewalks that totaled 21 hours, 24 minutes.



Those core values, she said, include leadership, team building and resilience. All values that have served him well on Earth and in space.

**Spotlight: Value of Service**  
There are only two other active-duty soldiers who have this device today, she noted.

“Col. Rubio has a powerful U.S. Army story to tell, how his experiences in the Army developed him into the leader he is today and how he has managed to maintain strong relationships with his family that weathered deployments everywhere on Earth, as well as in space,” she said.



Among the places he deployed to were Bosnia, Iraq and Afghanistan. During those deployments, he logged over 600 combat flight hours piloting his Black Hawk helicopter, she said.

Besides being an astronaut, Rubio is also a medical doctor and has worked in a number of Army medical treatment facilities, Wormuth said.

Rubio said what he did was a team accomplishment — the teams being the Army and NASA, as well as his wife and four children.



Of his family, Rubio said, “Without them and the support that I get from them, none of this would have been possible.” He also thanked the NASA team who provided him with outstanding training.

Source: <https://www.defense.gov/News/News-Stories/Article/Article/3684630/army-secretary-says-astronauts-army-values-inspire-others/>



Young soldiers today have great opportunities to make incredible achievements, he said.

# National Guard Conducts Patriot Exercise in Mississippi

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

—By Maj. Sabrina Dalton, 152nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

CAMP SHELBY, Miss. – The National Guard conducted a disaster readiness exercise with state and county emergency management agencies and industry partners Feb. 18-22.

PATRIOT is a joint, interagency exercise sponsored by the Air National Guard Bureau at Camp Shelby, Gulfport Combat Readiness Training Center and Camp McCain, Mississippi. It is a training exercise enabling civilian emergency management and responders to work with military entities as they would during disasters.

This exercise tested the National Guard’s abilities to support response operations based on simulated emergencies. Those scenarios included storms that created simulated mass casualties, debris, and the need for search and rescue operations and medical evacuations of injured victims.

“PATRIOT provides Airmen and Soldiers a chance to focus and improve their skills in response to a natural or manmade disaster while working with federal, state and local partner agencies,” said Lt. Col. Sarah Ashley Nickloes, exercise director. “Training jointly allows National Guard members to provide a synergistic response to any disaster. The National Guard serves a dual role, to protect the homeland in addition to serving alongside the active-duty forces across the globe when called upon.”

More than 300 civilians, volunteers and National Guard Airmen and Soldiers from over 20 states supported this year’s exercise. It included National Guard units from neighboring states, volunteer organizations and county emergency management agencies.

Source: <https://www.nationalguard.mil/News/Article-View/Article/3683772/national-guard-conducts-patriot-exercise-in-mississippi/>





# USS Gunston Hall (LSD-44) arrives in Harstad, Norway, for Steadfast Defender 2024

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

—From MC1 Ryan Seelbach

HARSTAD, Norway — USS Gunston Hall (LSD-44), a Whidbey Island-class dock landing ship arrived in Harstad, Norway, Feb. 21, 2024 for a scheduled port visit during NATO exercise Steadfast Defender 24.

USS Gunston Hall will later be joined by Italian aircraft carrier Giuseppe Garibaldi and amphibious transport dock San Giorgio. The USS Gunston Hall has embarked French forces onto the ship in Portsmouth, U.K. and will be embarking Finnish and Swedish forces in Harstad to conduct amphibious training exercises in Norway.

Exercise Steadfast Defender will involve approximately 90,000 Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, and Airmen from across the 31 NATO Allied countries and Sweden participating in Steadfast Defender 2024. Beyond the significant contribution of personnel supporting these operations, we have approximately 50 naval assets and over 80 aircraft assigned to the exercise, all bringing diverse capabilities. Through exercises like Steadfast Defender, the collective aim is to prevent conflict, solidify relationships and enhance force readiness through robust training.

“We are excited to be here in Harstad to begin staging for the upcoming amphibious training events,” said Cmdr. Christopher W. Van Loenen, commanding officer, Gunston Hall. “As our Allies and partners integrate with our ship we will learn from one another and have a tremendous opportunity ahead of us sending allied and partner amphibious crafts from our welldeck to the shores of Norway.”



This is the second port call for Gunston Hall following its departure from Naval Station Norfolk, Jan. 24. During Steadfast Defender, Gunston Hall will participate in exercises Joint Warrior and Nordic Response.

Gunston Hall is one of the most versatile amphibious platforms in the U.S. Navy. With two large helicopter landing pads, the largest well deck in the fleet and troop berthing facilities, she has the ability to embark a diverse array of military forces, including NATO Allies and partners when needed. The U.S. ship is among approximately 50 NATO naval assets, 80 air platforms, and 1,100 combat vehicles participating in Steadfast Defender. This year marks the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the NATO Alliance, and the exercise is the largest NATO exercise in 36 years.

For over 80 years, U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa (NAVEUR-NAVAF) has forged strategic relationships with allies and partners, leveraging a foundation of shared values to preserve security and stability.

Headquartered in Naples, Italy, NAVEUR-NAVAF operates U.S. naval forces in the USEUCOM and USAFRICOM areas of responsibility. U.S. Sixth Fleet is permanently assigned to NAVEUR-NAVAF, and employs maritime forces through the full spectrum of joint and naval operations.

Source: <https://www.navy.mil/Press-Office/News-Stories/Article/3682221/uss-gunston-hall-lsd-44-arrives-in-harstad-norway-for-steadfast-defender-2024/>

## 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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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

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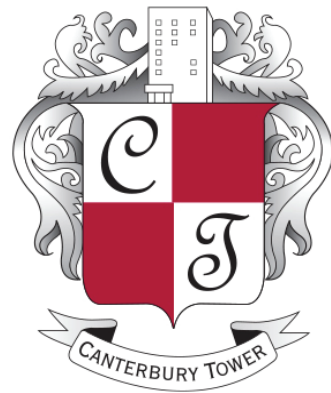
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# MEDICAL CORNER

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

## Headed To the Doctor? Bring Proof of Your TRICARE Coverage

—By TRICARE Communications

FALLS CHURCH, Va. — Are you preparing for a trip to the doctor’s office or the pharmacy? If so, make sure you have your proof of TRICARE coverage.

For most people with TRICARE, you’ll need to show your Uniformed Services ID card to your provider as proof of TRICARE eligibility. If you’re an active duty service member, you’ll need to show your Common Access Card.

Each ID card has a unique 11-digit [Department of Defense Benefits Number](#) (DBN), which confirms TRICARE coverage. The DBN helps you and your provider [file claims](#). When getting care, filling a prescription at a [military or retail pharmacy](#), or signing up for [TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery](#), your ID card is your proof of coverage.

“Without the proper documents, you could be denied treatment and have to reschedule your appointment,” said Jim Frank, DEERS Integration Manager, TRICARE Health Plan Division. “Knowing what proof of coverage you need is an important step to getting the care you need. You’ll also avoid unexpected out-of-pocket costs.”

How do you find and maintain your TRICARE proof of coverage? Follow these tips to ensure you have everything you need before your next provider appointment.

### Update DEERS

Using your ID card starts with making sure your [Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System](#) (DEERS) record is up to date. You must be registered in DEERS to use your TRICARE health program benefit. If you’re already in the system, be sure to update your or your family’s information in DEERS too.

To add or remove family members to DEERS, sponsors must go in person to a [local RAP-IDS ID Card Office](#). You can make an [make an appointment](#) online to do this. Remember to bring all required forms, documentation, and identification to your appointment. Learn more about [getting your ID card](#). If you need to renew your ID card, you may be able to do so on-



line. A [Department of Defense pilot program](#), which was recently expanded, allows family members, retirees, and others to renew a Uniformed Services ID card online. At this time, the pilot is limited to cardholders in the United States.

### Eligibility letters

Eligibility letters are another way for providers to verify your TRICARE coverage. Sponsors can access these letters for themselves and their eligible family members. You can bring this letter with you to your health care appointments. To download an [eligibility letter](#), go to [mil-Connect](#) and click “Obtain proof of health coverage.”

### TRICARE For Life

Do you have [TRICARE For Life](#) (TFL) coverage? You need to show both your Medicare card and your Uniformed Services ID card when getting care, as noted in the [TRICARE For Life Handbook](#). It’s a good idea to check with your provider to see if they take Medicare. You should also check that Medicare and TFL cover the type of care you’ll receive. Otherwise, you may have out-of-pocket costs.

### Premium-based plans

If you’re enrolled in [TRICARE Reserve Select](#) or [TRICARE Retired Reserve](#), you can show your provider your enrollment card as proof of coverage. If you need a replacement card, log in to [milConnect](#) to print a copy.

You can enroll in [TRICARE Young Adult](#) without a Uniformed Services ID card. When your coverage begins, and you’re notified by your [regional contractor](#), visit any ID card office to get a new ID card. You should show your ID card when you go to the doctor or pharmacy.

Having proof of TRICARE coverage is the first step to getting care. Remember to keep your information in DEERS up to date and your Uniformed Services ID card current so you and your family have access to health care services when you need them.

Source: <https://newsroom.tricare.mil/News/TRICARE-News/Article/3663635/headed-to-the-doctor-bring-proof-of-your-tricare-coverage>

## More vets could be headed to DoD medical sites to get VA health care

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



— Veterans will be able to receive some Veterans Affairs health care services at Blanchfield Army Community Hospital in Kentucky next month thanks to a new partnership between the military and VA. (Fred Holly/Army)

—By Leo Shane III

Fort Campbell’s Army hospital in Tennessee will open its doors to veteran patients for the first time next month, part of a series of partnerships between military and [Veterans Affairs medical facilities](#) that officials hope will make health care easier to access.

Local leaders unveiled details of the new arrangement on Friday, which will allow VA staffers to operate in offices at the [Blanchfield Army Community Hospital](#) and provide dental care, women’s health care, intensive care, and pain management services to nearby veterans. Officials expect to serve about 3,000 veterans living in Tennessee and Kentucky.

The move comes a few weeks after the two departments announced a similar partnership at [Naval Hospital Pensacola](#) in Florida, with VA staff moving into unused military medical space to provide more health care options for local veterans.

Source: <https://www.militarytimes.com/veterans/2024/02/23/more-vets-could-be-headed-to-dod-medical-sites-to-get-va-health-care/>

## Surviving Spouse Corner: Know Your Benefits

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

By: Pat Green

Many states have made legislative decisions that show appreciation for the sacrifices of servicemembers and veterans and their survivors. Benefits differ in each state, though. To know what the benefits are in your state, you need to do homework. Your research could result in monetary savings and opportunities.

Below are some resources and places to start.

- ❑ **Veterans Service Office:** There might be printed materials that enumerate county and state benefits for surviving spouses.
- ❑ **MOAA Council and Chapter Legislative Chairs:** Ask about benefits they are aware of that apply to surviving spouses.
- ❑ **County Property Appraiser:** Ask about a homestead exemption, a widow (widower) exemption, or an over age 65 exemption on your property tax or school tax. If income caps apply, what are your state’s limits and guidelines? In Florida, for example, there is a homestead, widow, and



—skynesher/Getty Images



age exemption and property taxes on homesteaded homes. In addition, the property tax for homesteaded homes of disabled veterans is reduced by the same percentage of the disabilities affecting the veteran as certified by the VA. In Florida, that benefit passes to the unremarried surviving spouse and is transportable to a downsized home.

❑ **State Legislator.** If you have income tax in your state, some or all of your military retirement pay, or Surviving Benefit Plan may be deducted from your reported income. Ask about any other benefits from the state.

❑ **Mayor’s Office.** Call and ask about the benefits the city offers.

Source: <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2024-news-articles/member-spot-light/surviving-spouse-corner-know-your-benefits/>





# *It's almost time for the*

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Military Officers Association of America

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- 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*

# *We look forward to seeing you there!*

## NATHAN MITCHELL

**Grammy Nominated musician to perform at the 3rd Annual MOAA Tampa Gala**

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

Nathan Mitchell, an accomplished American contemporary jazz / soul (composer, producer, and multi-instrumentalist) music educator and humanitarian. A Grammy Nominated, 3x NAACP Image Award nominated and BILLBOARD charting artist with 10 top 30 BILLBOARD hits including three #1 BILLBOARD songs; has become one of the most respected “musical storytellers” in the contemporary jazz industry. This award nominated and winning artist is known best for his electric showmanship, unique talents, and enthusiastic energy.

Nathan’s musical fingerprint was first marked in 2017 with his first national debut release entitled “Smooth Groove”. From this musical work two of his songs accomplished great success on mainstream media “Inspiration”, which made the top 30 on the BILLBOARD charts (#22) and “Smooth Groove” (#20). One of his greatest achievements was his 2nd musical release “Soulmate” which marked his 1st NAACP Image Award Nomination (2020). From this release his hit single “Swing City” accumulated over 1 million streams on Spotify within its 1st year. “Swing City” received great success reaching #7 on the BILLBOARD charts, #7 on the Smooth Jazz Network Charts, and #1 on the Mediabase Smooth Jazz charts. In 2021 Nathan was nominated for a 2nd NAACP Image Award for “Outstanding Jazz Album” for his creative release during the global pandemic entitled “Donny, Duke, & Wonder”. In 2022, his release “Love Languages” honored him with his 3rd NAACP Image Award for “Outstanding Jazz Album”.

Nathan’s career took a major leap into the eyes of mainstream music lovers all over the world following his 2023 “Rising Star” stellar performance at the Seabreeze Jazz Festival in Panama City, FL. His performance caught the attention of major festivals, as well as music lovers globally which made him an immediate house-hold name. In addition, the impact of the “Nathan Mitchell Experience” was noticed by national syndicate talk show host Sherri Shepherd who also attended the festival. She acknowledged and featured Nathan in a segment of her show (The Sherri Shepard Show) along with some of the top elite talents of the contemporary jazz industry.





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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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 \_\_\_\_\_

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School activities \_\_\_\_\_

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Community activities \_\_\_\_\_

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



# Coalition Corner



Salutations MOAA members. As I was considering what to write this month, I offer the following insights into what strategic leadership means to me. Leveraging the statement ‘what got you here, won’t get you there’ within the context of strategic leadership, got me to consider the differences between leadership approaches from the tactical and operational, to the strategic level. These reflections were contextualised by the presentations of senior leaders I’ve had the privilege to meet such as GEN Sir Peter Cosgrove, MAJGEN Steve Day, MAJ GEN Craig Furini, Ms. Justine Greig, VADM David Johnston, and Mr. Greg Moriarty within the Australian Defence Organisation as they shared their insights into strategic leadership. I had the privilege to meet these great leaders during my time at the Australian War College where I completed the Defence and Strategic Studies Course (DSSC). The following five key observations represent my main takeaways from my engagements with these strategic leaders:

- 1. Authenticity** - Regardless of the job you’re in or the organisation you lead, you must remain authentic. This means, adhering to your core values (these must be aligned with those of your organisation), having the internal fortitude to speak truth to power, acting in a manner that is congruent with the organisation’s values, and also to present yourself in a way that is genuine and authentic. Such authenticity can enable a leader to better persuade others and gain their trust.
- 2. Create a climate of trust** – This includes effective communication in all directions and the ability to form genuine professional relationships. These professional relationships need to span across departments and organisations. This will enable a leader to yield influence which will in turn increase the organisation’s effectiveness and ability to overcome challenges as they arise. As a strategic leader, boundaries start blurring and the need to be more collegiate and develop new ways of thinking are essential to your long-term success. Such an approach from the top, should also help reduce stove piping and increase inter-organisational cooperation.
- 3. You will no longer be the expert** – As a Tactical commander, you knew every aspect of your unit and were usually the technical expert. As you move to the Strategic level, your span of control and responsibilities increases. Therefore, you will need to rely on the

expertise resident within members of your team or outside organisations, which you may need to call upon from time to time. Understanding that you will not always have all the answers, despite your experience, will enable you to form appropriate teams to deal with various situations as they arise.

**4. Requirement to be the right fit for the organisation** – As a strategic leader, you have to accept that at times, you may be qualified for the job, but may not be the best fit. This can be a significant blow to the ego but is part of the leadership challenges which exist at the strategic level. It is therefore important to develop your personal skills and leadership techniques to enhance your abilities to operate within a variety of contexts. Jans’s work ‘The Chiefs’ identifies strategic acumen, communications skills, resilience and small ‘p’ political sense as the most important attributes of a strategic leader which all contribute to your ability to be the right organisational fit.

**5. Custodian of institutional credibility, responsive to government, and steward of resources** – As a strategic leader, we need to ensure we are responsive to the government of the day. This means that we need to be well integrated and should ensure we are well informed about governmental priorities and those areas where Defence may be called upon to lead or assist other government departments. We also need to be technically proficient, and use assigned resources in a judicious manner. These aspects all contribute to your ability to be an effective steward of the organisation.

Thank you once again for allowing me the privilege to share my thoughts with you.

Kind regards,

Erik

Colonel Erik Andresen, CD

Senior National Representative to United States Central Command  
Canadian Armed Forces / Forces armées canadiennes

Représentant national principal au Commandement des opérations au Moyen Orient des États-Unis Forces armées canadiennes / Canadian Armed Forces

Chairman of the Coalition

## What is a Seabee? 9 Things to Know About the Navy’s Construction Battalion

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

—By Sandi Gohn

The [Navy Construction Battalion](#) – better known as the Seabees – is responsible for building much of the temporary and permanent infrastructure at U.S. military locations around the world.

With roots dating back to World War II, the [Seabees were formally established on March 5, 1942](#), to meet the Navy’s growing need to build bases, camps and other structures as part of the war effort. In the over seven decades since its founding, Seabees have gone on to serve in most major U.S. conflicts.

Here are nine things to know about the Seabees’ monumental history:

- 1. The Seabee Motto is “Construimus, Batuimus.”**  
The Latin phrase, which means “We build, We fight,” was the brainchild of [Rear Adm. Ben Moreell](#), who is considered the father of the Seabees.
- 2. The Nickname “Seabee” Comes From the First Letters of the Words That Make Up the Unit’s Formal Name, “Construction Battalion.”**  
When said together as one word, the letters “C” and “B” sound like the word “Seabee,” hence the battalion’s iconic nickname.
- 3. True to Their Motto, Seabees Can Build Just About Anything, Anywhere.**  
“The men and women of the Seabees have been deployed globally in every theater around the world constructing bases, building airfields, conducting underwater construction and building roads, bridges and other support facilities while providing protection for themselves and those around them,” [wrote Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Heather Salzman in a 2020 DVIDShub.net story](#).
- 4. The Seabees Have One Medal of Honor Recipient, Marvin G. Shields.**  
During the Vietnam War in 1965, Navy Construction [Mechanic 3rd Class Marvin G. Shields](#), then just 25 years old, showed great heroism when a camp he and his fellow Seabees were constructing suddenly came under attack. Despite being wounded several times, Shields continually ignored his own injuries to defend the area and stay in the fight for roughly 14 hours. His actions helped save 15 Seabees and Green Berets who were at the camp. Ultimately, Shields’ injuries proved fatal, and he died before the survivors were rescued. He was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor in 1965, which his wife and young daughter accepted on his behalf.
- 5. Seabees Used to Celebrate the Battalion’s Birthday With a “Seabee Ball” That Featured a “Seabee Queen.”**  
The tradition started in 1943 at Port Hueneme, California, and featured Susan Hayward, who co-starred alongside John Wayne in the film “The Fighting Seabees,” as the first



—A Seabee diver prepares steel sheet pile for measurement during SCUBA operations within the Tinian Harbor in September 2020.

queen. As time went on and the tradition expanded to other areas where Seabees were stationed, Seabee Queens grew to include other famous faces or relatives of the Seabees themselves. This tradition was discontinued in 1992.

- 6. Seabee Units Were Some of the First Fully Integrated Units in the Navy at the end of WWII.**  
During WWII, over 12,500 Black service members enlisted in Seabee battalions – notably the 34th, 20th (Special) and 80th. Many of these units deployed all around the world. As they fought for our nation, these pioneering Black sailors also fought against racial prejudices and paved the path toward a fully integrated U.S. military.

- 7. Seabees Helped Build Some of the First Structures at the South Pole.**  
After WWII, [Seabees first traveled to Antarctica in 1946](#) to help the Navy establish a research base on the continent.

Over the next several decades, Seabees continued to deploy to the harsh frozen environment to build the Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station, which features the iconic South Pole dome. This remote research area is extremely isolated and is located 1,000 miles away from the continent’s larger McMurdo Station.

- 8. There is a Seabees Memorial.**  
Located just outside of Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia, the [Seabees Memorial was dedicated in 1972](#) and was sculpted by [Felix de Weldon](#), a [Seabee veteran](#) himself. De Weldon also sculpted the [United States Marine Corps Memorial](#), which is also located in Arlington, Virginia.

- 9. You Can Spot Seabees By Looking Closely at Their Uniforms.**  
Seabees sport a unique sewn-in logo, or patch, on their [left chest pocket](#). The embroidered patch features the battalion’s official “Fighting Bee” logo along with the word “Seabees.”

Source: <https://www.uso.org/stories/3009-what-is-a-seabee-9-things-to-know-about-the-navy-s-construction-battalion>

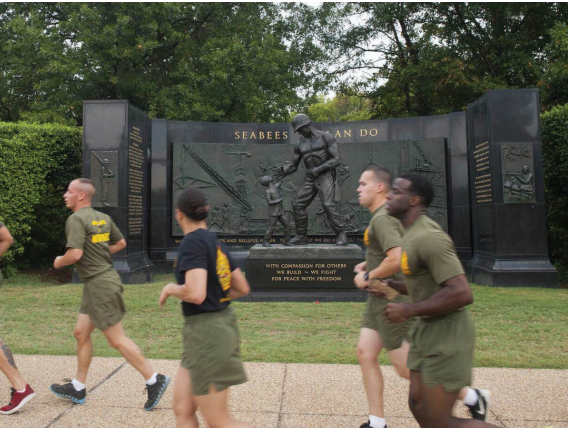
”



—During World War II, Seabees erect a steel tank constructed deep in the jungles of one of the South Pacific bases.



—As part of Deep Freeze 73, Seabees deployed to Antarctica to construct a six-story high dome at South Pole Station. The dome covered and protected most of the buildings at South Pole Station.



—U.S. Marines consisting of both staff and students attached to the Quantico Staff Non-commissioned Officers Academy run past the National Seabee Memorial in Arlington, Virginia in 2016. | Photo credit U.S. Marine Corps/Lance Cpl. Cristian L. Ricardo



# CHAPLAIN’S CORNER

CHAPLAIN (COL) BERNARD H LIEVING JR USA RET



March 29th is National Vietnam War Veterans Day. The day’s first observance was in 2012 when President Obama issued the proclamation naming that day in observance of the 50th anniversary of the conflict in Vietnam. His proclamation called upon all Americans to observe the day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War. The first combat in which American troops were involved occurred on January 12, 1962 but it was on March 29,, 1973, that MACV disbanded and the last of our combat troops departed.

In 2017 after Congress passed the Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act, President Trump signed it into law naming March 29th as the date for the annual observance of National Vietnam Veterans Day, a day to recognize the previously unsung patriotism of Vietnam veterans.

The action of Congress and the President’s signature were actions to overturn the fact that Vietnam War veterans received little or nothing in terms of recognition and gratitude for their uniformed service in the 11 years of combat. 58,000 service members were killed in action, 150,000 were wounded, and more than 1,700 are listed as “missing in action.”

In 1974 when I was a student in the Chaplain Advanced Course at the USA Chaplain Center and School on Staten Island, NY, the class, along with spouses, were invited to an event in Manhattan. We were to wear our uniforms and when we got off our busses in the city, we were yelled at, called “baby killers”, spit on, and had trash thrown at us. Many Vietnam veterans tell similar stories. Memories linger...

This month, not just on March 29th, speak words of thanks to those you know who served their time in Vietnam during the years from 1962 until 1973.

## Rosie the Riveter Inspired Women to Serve in World War II

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

—By David Vergun

Mae Krier, 93, an original Rosie the Riveter, worked at Boeing aircraft, producing B-17s and B-29s for the war effort from 1943 to 1945 in Seattle. She is advocating Congress for getting March 21 recognized annually as a Rosie the Riveter Day of Remembrance. Saying she wants to inspire a “We Can Do It!” attitude among young girls everywhere, she also is advocating that Congress award the Rosies the Congressional Gold Medal for their service.

**Did you know Rosie’s cultural impact went far beyond the poster itself?**

The U.S. Postal Service issued a stamp in the 1990s featuring the image of Rosie the Riveter.

In 1942, Redd Evans and John Jacob Loeb composed a song called “Rosie the Riveter.”

Artist Norman Rockwell’s cover for the May 29, 1943, issue of The Saturday Evening Post magazine was an illustration of a female riveter with the name “Rosie” painted on the lunch pail.

Women who worked to produce tanks, ships, planes and other materiel during World War II called themselves “Rosies.”

American women played important roles during World War II, both at home and in uniform. Around 5 million civilian women served in the defense industry and elsewhere in the commercial sector during World War II with the aim of freeing a man to fight.

Around 350,000 American women served in uniform, both at home and abroad, volunteering for the newly formed Women’s Army Auxiliary Corps – later renamed the Women’s Army Corps – the Navy Women’s Reserve, the Marine Corps Women’s Reserve, the Coast Guard Women’s Reserve, the Women Airforce Service Pilots, the Army Nurses Corps, and the Navy Nurse Corps.

Some women served near the front lines in the Army Nurse Corps, where 16 were killed as a result of direct enemy fire. Sixty-eight American service women were captured as prisoners of war in the Philippines. More than 1,600 nurses were decorated for bravery under fire and meritorious service, and 565 WACs in the Pacific Theater won combat decorations. Nurses were in Normandy four days after the invasion began.

Source: <https://www.defense.gov/News/Feature-Stories/story/Article/1791664/rosie-the-riveter-inspired-women-to-serve-in-world-war-ii/#:~:text=%22Rosie%20the%20Riveter%22%20was%20an,11%20factories%20producing%20war%20materiel>



“Rosie the Riveter” was an iconic poster of a female factory worker flexing her muscle, exhorting other women to join the World War II effort with the declaration that “We Can Do It!”



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

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

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

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

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

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

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# “NEVER STOP SERVING”