



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT: COL CHARLES DALCOURT, USA RET

GREETINGS!



Hello members of the MOAA Tampa Chapter and all that have decided to enjoy our newsletter. It is my pleasure to share a few areas of interest and entreat your support in areas essential to our calling. I pray all have had a wonderful start to the month and look forward to seeing you at the luncheon.

We are preparing for the Advocacy in Action Campaign, gearing up for our scholarship assessments and awards, and looking forward to supporting the MOAA Florida Council of Chapters Convention in May of 2024. Please seek to help us accomplish these tasks by offering your time and talent.

Annual Gala

Our third Annual Gala was another incred-

ible event! Camaraderie, entertainment, artistry, and food all embraced at a private country club in South Tampa on the evening of 8 March and created both a delightful environment and warm experience for all. The outpouring of support from the community and other organizations across the Tampa Bay area was wonderful.

On behalf of the Board of Officers and Directors, thanks to Sara Marks for her incredible effort and sacrifice in leading the planning for the Gala. A very special thanks to all of those that came alongside and assisted in the planning and execution of the Gala. Your collective investment in time and energy enabled our seminal fundraising event for the year to fulfil its intent.

Advocacy in Action

The 2024 Advocacy in Action Campaign (AiA) will take place 15-18 April on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C.. All is on course for face-to-face meetings with lawmakers wherein MOAA leaders will address critical topics on MOAA's legislative agenda. Wherever you are, please remain engaged by writing letters in support of AiA and stay in tune via MOA's Legislative Action Center.

Key Events

Tampa Chapter's signature "Thriving After Military Service" Transition Seminar is planned for 30 April. Please pass the word to all transitioning or recently transitioned service members, of all ranks, and their

spouses about this great event. We focus on family and community and share credible insights that will heighten awareness and enable decision making.

Also, thanks to those that have registered for the 2024 MOAA Florida Council of Chapters Convention, 12-15 May at the Shores Resort and Spa in Daytona Beach, FL. This will be a memorable event. I look forward to seeing many of you there and having a strong number of Tampa Chapter members in the audience.

Thank You

To all who have stepped up and volunteered to serve our Chapter...to meet the needs we have, thank you! This is a volunteer organization that makes a difference. You enable our collective effort and are the source of power behind MOAA's voice. There are still a few critical positions, both primary and assistant, in the Chapter we need to fill, thanks in advance to those ready to step forward. Please note that assistants are critical to our succession planning and the development of future Officers and Directors. Exposure to different facets of the organization facilitates knowledge and context that enable decision making. Whether you have an hour, a day, a weekend, or a week to volunteer in support of the Chapter's initiatives, it brings value to our work. Please contact any board member, committee head, or me directly if you are

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UPCOMING EVENTS

4 April 2024
11:30AM
Virtual Board of Directors Meeting

11 April 2024
Chapter Luncheon
11:30 AM – 12:00 PM Social
12:00 PM – 1:30 PM Lunch
Columbia Restaurant
([see page 7](#))

15 April 2024
MOAA Tampa Scholarship Applications Due
([see page 22](#))

30 April 2024
Thriving After Military Service Seminar
Five Labs, Tampa
([see page 4](#))

13-15 May 2024
FCoC Convention
Daytona Beach, FL
<https://flmoaa.org/>

REMINDER:

SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR THE MAY 2024 ISSUE IS 20 APRIL 2024

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

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

LEGISLATIVE LOWDOWN



LTC REGINALD WILLIAMS, USA RET

Capt NORM BILD, USAF RET

BEN RITTER, SGT USMC (FORMER)/HONORARY MBR

LTC NICK CLEMETE, USA RET

MOAA's board of directors approved Jan. 19 the three topics for the association to take to Capital Hill in mid-April for our biggest advocacy campaign of the year. Here are three topics for Advocacy in Action April 17:

The Major Richard Star Act: Support our combat-injured veterans who have their service earned DoD retirement pay reduced for every dollar of VA disability they receive. These are two different payments for two different purposes. The Major Richard Star Act will correct this injustice, and it is part of MOAA's incremental strategy to secure concurrent receipt of all.

The BAH Restoration Act: Building on last year's effort, MOAA is seeking to create a path forward to restore Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) to 100% of the local rental and utilities costs. Requiring a 5% cost-share for our servicemembers, when the nation faces a rental housing shortage, is harmful to their financial readiness. We need troops to get their full housing allowance.

Protect TRICARE For Life (TFL): A key issue for MOAA membership and those of all ranks who turn 65 and rely on Medicare and TFL. While there are no legislative proposals

for TFL fees, MOAA is concerned about a Congressional Budget Office report that suggests a TFL annual enrollment fee or cost sharing as a means of reducing the federal deficit.

On the Hill: MOAA Outlines Key Priorities in Testimony Before Joint Veterans Panel¹

MOAA's latest Capitol Hill testimony addressed how the VA must improve its efforts to provide for an aging veteran population – and for the family members who serve as their caregivers.

"VA has made progress in advancing caregiving services, but today's demand outpaces availability," Cmdr. René Campos, USN (Ret), MOAA's senior director of Government Relations, told a joint session of the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees on March 13 in Washington, D.C. "And it's still difficult for veterans and caregivers to access these services, including respite care."

TAKE ACTION: Ask Your Legislators to Support Services for Aging and Disabled Veterans

This is an immediate concern for the department – while the overall veteran population is expected to drop by 8% from FY

2019 to FY 2035, the number of veterans age 85 and older will rise by 73% over that timeframe, Campos said in written testimony to the joint panel. With 80% of veterans expected to need long-term support services, she said, it's critical the VA expand its capacity, staffing, and funding to match the need.

A key step in the right direction would be the passage of the Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act, omnibus legislation that's still being negotiated but is expected to address many of MOAA's VA priorities regarding caregiver benefits, long-term care support, and other veterans' programs.

Asked about the consequences should the omnibus not become law, Campos told House Veterans' Affairs Committee Chair Rep. Mike Bost (R-Ill.) that "a lot of caregivers and veterans are counting on it."

"This is a bipartisan package. There's absolutely no reason why it shouldn't move forward," Campos said. "There's no amount of money this country could pay for the services [caregivers] provide in the way that they provide them. A lot of veterans, a lot of our members, a lot of the Military Coalition members, a lot of our colleagues here are waiting for this package to get across the line."

Campos addressed specifics on these issues and others in her written testimony, which included MOAA's support of active legislation designed to:

- Expand options for providing assisted living services to veterans at home – the preferred option for most, and a cost-saving measure for the VA in many instances.
- Improve caregiver benefits, to include more health care, mental health, and financial resources, while making the systems used to access these resources more transparent and easier to navigate.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE cont.

interested in making a difference.

Member of the Month

Our Honored Member of the Month for April 2024 is Lieutenant Colonel Carolyn Eberhart (USAF Retired). Carolyn is an incredible gift to our Chapter and has a storied history of sacrificial service, both in and out of uniform. Please join us on 11 April at our monthly luncheon and help us honor and enjoy Carolyn for her outstanding contributions to our Nation. Also,

please be sure to read Carolyn's biographical information later in this newsletter.

Closing Out:

In closing, we have already completed a quarter of the year and the next quarter looks very exciting. Thanks to those that are actively engaged in the Chapter's efforts; that give of themselves to support the accomplishment our mission. I ask that you continue to support MOAA's advocacy across the various

lines of effort being pursued. On behalf of the Board of Directors, thank you for your trust and support, your confidence and encouragement. We look forward to the future and to "Never Stop Serving."

All the best,
Charles Dalcourt

LEGISLATIVE LOWDOWN cont.

- Expand health care benefits under the Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs (CHAMPVA) to age 26 for young adult children of permanently and totally disabled veterans, veterans with service-connected disabilities, or veterans who died on active duty and did not qualify for TRICARE coverage.
- Protect veterans from "claims sharks" who charge unreasonable fees for assistance with claims processing.
- Address a series of veterans benefits programs (such as concurrent receipt under the Major Richard Star Act) and survivor benefits (such as expanded Dependency and Indemnity Compensation eligibility, as well as the removal of remarriage penalties).

TAKE ACTION: [Ask Your Lawmakers to Support Concurrent Receipt](#)

"It is imperative our servicemembers, retirees and veterans, as well as their caregivers and surviving family members, remain a priority for Congress, and lawmakers are not deterred in that mission," Campos said in the written remarks.

Campos testified March 13 along with several veterans service organizations, to include representatives of the American Legion, Vietnam Veterans of America, the National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS), and the Fleet Reserve Association. Along with the need to pass the omnibus bill and provide increased caregiver support, her testimony stressed the importance of stabilizing VA staffing and providing the department with "predictable funding to preserve its foundational missions."

It also covered the need for parity between the active duty and the reserve component, as evidenced by MOAA's support for the Guard and Reserve GI Bill Parity Act of 2024, which would allow more federal service performed by National Guard and Reserve members under certain duty statuses to count toward education benefits.

"We can't afford as a country, when we have recruiting challenges ... to have that talent lost," Campos told Rep. Mike Levin (D-Calif.), who recently reintroduced the House version of the bill. "So we see this as a national defense issue, and we should recognize as a country that these are important contributions that these servicemembers give."

Campos also previewed the work of MOAA and Disabled American Veterans on an upcoming report detailing the challenges of providing care for toxic-exposed veterans, including proposals to improve a system where decades-long delays are commonplace.

"Together, let's send a strong message our country cares and supports our all-volunteer force, in and out of uniform, which is one of the most important ways we can sustain a strong national defense." Campos said to conclude her testimony

What Does the Largest VA Budget Request Ever REALLY Mean for Veterans?²

The largest VA budget request ever – \$369 billion for FY 2025, 10% higher than the FY 2024 estimate – came March 11, five weeks after the often-neglected deadline for the White House to submit its annual budget proposal.

It dwarfs the \$48 billion appropriated in FY 2001, before two decades of war in Iraq and Afghanistan. And it reflects the growing responsibilities of the department – \$134 billion in discretionary funding (mostly for medical care) and \$235

billion in mandatory spending, including the Cost of War Toxic Exposures Fund mandated by the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act.

The proposed budget would allow the VA to deliver "the very best health care and benefits that this country has to offer," VA Secretary Denis McDonough said in a press release announcing the request. But the proposal itself is far from enough: MOAA and fellow veterans service organizations (VSOs) will work with Congress and the administration to get this budget passed in a timely fashion and avoid the months of wasteful continuing resolutions that plagued this year's budget cycle.

Here's a breakdown of some of the funding priorities included in the FY 2025 request, as well as how those priorities line up with MOAA's advocacy work on behalf of those who serve and have served, and their families and survivors:

Toxic Exposure

Budget: The \$24.5 billion proposed for the Toxic Exposures Fund reflects VA's commitment to supporting the 2022 PACT Act, which represents long-needed, cross-generation reform in VA's provision of health care and benefits to veterans exposed to environmental hazards in military service.

MOAA: We are closely monitoring how the VA implements the PACT Act, including decision-making for new presumptive conditions related to toxic exposures. The department has done an exceptional job making veterans aware of the expansion of care and benefits.

MOAA urges Congress to help the department with PACT Act infrastructure, workforce, and funding challenges, and we plan to publish a report along with Disabled American Veterans (DAV) in the coming months offering insights and recommendations to Congress and the VA for system improvements where decades-long delays are commonplace.

Women Veterans

Budget: The VA expects to spend over \$13 billion on caring for women veterans and a little over a billion dollars for women's gender-specific care. About 775,000 women are enrolled in VA health care and are the fastest growing veteran population accessing VA care and benefits – 30% of the increase in VHA care in the last five years have been women. The budget targets specialty care and surgical services, reproductive services, maternal health care, and child care programs.

MOAA: We will continue our work with Congress to eliminate disparities in health care delivery and advance research programs for women, minority, and underserved veterans. Data collection on underserved populations must improve.

MOAA also will urge Congress to establish an official joint House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee task force to represent the efforts of women, minority, underserved, and other vulnerable veteran populations, and urge the VA to expand health care and benefits for survivors of military sexual trauma.

RELATED: [More Veterans Could Go to DoD Medical Sites to Get VA Health Care](#)

Health Care Delivery

Budget: \$112 billion of the FY 2025 request would fund inpatient, outpatient, VHA's Whole Health initiative, mental health, and long-term care services, along with facility maintenance and infrastructure improvements.

MOAA: Along with supporting these efforts, MOAA will work with Congress to modernize VHA's workforce and facility infrastructure – critical components of improving veterans' access to high-quality care. The Whole Health initiative – which provides a personalized health plan based on a veteran's individual needs, to include associated programs like mental

health and dental care – should be implemented uniformly.

We also will work with Congress and the VA to keep the department ahead of the ever-increasing demand for long-term care services, to include expansion of at-home care for more veterans, which can provide the veteran with the care they desire at a savings to the VA, in many instances. This type of care remains significantly limited at medical centers across the country.

Caregiver Support

Budget: The FY 2025 request includes \$2.9 billion for the VA's caregiver support program, up from the \$2.4 billion enacted in FY 2024.

MOAA: We were early supporters of the legislation establishing the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC) for post-9/11 veterans, as well as expansion and improvements to caregiver benefits and programs for veterans of all eras. MOAA continues to work closely with Congress, the VA, and stakeholders on respite care and other caregiver improvements, including funding and resources to support program and policy changes.

Next

Congress will pour over budget details and hold hearings with VA officials in the coming weeks to consider the department's proposal. Passing appropriations legislation by Oct. 1 would avoid another series of harmful continuing resolutions.

All Veterans Exposed to Toxins and other Hazards during Military Service Eligible for VA Health Care beginning March 5

WASHINGTON — VA announces that all Veterans who were exposed to toxins and other hazards while serving in the military — at home or abroad — will be eligible to enroll directly in VA health care beginning March 5, 2024. This means that all Veterans who served in the Vietnam War, the Gulf War, Iraq, Afghanistan, the Global War on Terror, or any other combat zone after 9/11 will be eligible to enroll directly in VA health care without first applying for VA benefits. Additionally, Veterans who never deployed but were exposed to toxins or hazards while training or on active duty in the United States will also be eligible to enroll.

As directed by President Biden, this expansion of VA health care eliminates the phased-in approach called for by the PACT Act — meaning that millions of Veterans are becoming eligible for VA health care up to eight years earlier than written into law. This is a critical step forward because Veterans who are enrolled in VA health care are proven to have better health outcomes than non-enrolled Veterans, and VA hospitals have dramatically outperformed non-VA hospitals in overall quality ratings and patient satisfaction ratings. Additionally, VA health care is often more affordable than non-VA health care for Veterans.

TAKING ACTION

If these issues are important to you and your loved ones, make sure you are signed up for our Legislative Action Center at www.moaa.org/takeaction. Help us be a formidable force for advocacy.

Sources:

- 1) www.moaa.org, article by Kevin Lilley, March 13, 2024
- 2) www.moaa.org, article by René Campos and Cory Titus, March 19, 2024
- 3) www.floridavets.org, February 29, 2024

PUBLISHING FOR MAY:

Due to the Editor & Publisher's April travel schedule, the May newsletter will be published NLT 23 April. All input NEEDS to be submitted NLT 20 April.

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



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EDUCATION, TRAINING & EVENTS: TOM KUCHAR CDR USCG RET

COMMUNICATIONS: SARA MARKS CAPT NC USN RET

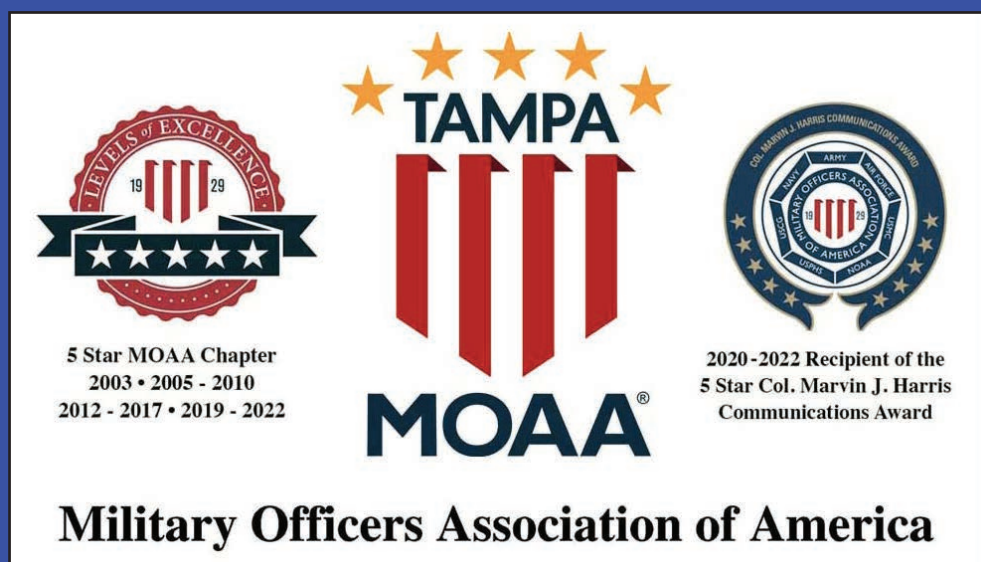
LEGAL AFFAIRS: WILLIAM MITCHELL LTJG (former) USN

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS: REGINALD WILLIAMS LTC USA RET



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)



It is a delight to report that MOAA Tampa's 3rd Annual Fundraising Gala held on March 8th was a wonderful success. As this year's Gala Chair, I'd like to thank everyone who supported this amazing event and to all who were able to attend. Know that you supported 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. Make sure to take time to read the various articles with photos about this year's Gala and look at the many photos shared in this edition of *The Retrospect*.

There are many things to look forward to this April, May and beyond. Our Luncheon guest speaker is Tampa City Councilman, Luis Viera. It's a great opportunity to hear what is going on in Tampa and to ask questions. MOAA Tampa Scholarship applications are due April 15th and the "Thriving After Military Service" Seminar is scheduled for April 30th. The Florida Council of Chapters Convention will be in Daytona this May, and all are welcome to attend. 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. I am the Group Leader for the Blue Danube River Cruise, so contact me with any questions via coms@moaatampa.org.

This month MOAA Tampa honors Lt Col Carolyn Eberhart, USAF (Ret) as our Member of the Month. A Vietnam Veteran, she had an interesting career that she wrote a book capturing her experiences and adventures. Come to the April luncheon and meet this impressive woman. We are also spotlighting a new chapter member, LTC Glenn Juman, USA (Ret), who recently retired and joined our chapter. He spent much of his career in the Middle East and has many interesting stories to share. Make sure to read about Lt Col Eberhart and LTC Juman in the newsletter. There are many articles that I hope you'll find interesting as

well as informative that include articles about our military children, TRANSCOM adjusting to the movement of ships and the Army Corps of Engineers helping to repair the Francis Scott Key Bridge in Baltimore. 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 or you may contact me at coms@moaatampa.org.

It is always my pleasure and honor to serve as your Editor for *The Retrospect* and work on our chapter's website. My role as you editor continues to be and enriching and rewarding learning experience, but one that I don't do alone. In the meantime, I continue to share my travel adventures and would love to hear about your travels. Please send your stories to my MOAA Tampa email: coms@moaatampa.org.

Spring is upon us and for me always brings a season of hope and renewal. I see it in the blossoming of so many plants and flowers that were dormant during the winter. For Christians we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ knowing that with all the troubles of this world, He has overcome the world. I wish the blessing of hope and renewal for everyone, and even more importantly that we see peace break out all over the world.

"It is spring again. The earth is like a child that knows poems by heart." –Rainer Maria Rilke

Let us never forget. - NEVER STOP SERVING!

Sara Marks, CAPT NC USN (Ret)

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 or going to the main menu to CONTACT and email us using the form provided. FACEBOOK: [MOAA Tampa Chapter](https://www.facebook.com/moaa.tampa) INSTAGRAM: https://www.instagram.com/moaa_tampa

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

FL COUNCIL of CHAPTERS: <https://flomoaa.org/>

MOAA NATIONAL: www.moaa.org

OPERATION HELPING HAND: www.operationhelpinghandtampa.com

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

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

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

APRIL LUNCHEON GUEST SPEAKER LUIS VIERA

Luis Viera was raised in Temple Terrace and is a 2000 graduate of the University of South Florida and 2003 graduated from Stetson College of Law. He was admitted to the Florida Bar in 2003 and is a Florida certified mediator. His great-grandfather, Dr. Juan Silverio, was a medical doctor at Centro Asturiano Hospital and lived in Tampa Heights. Luis' family left Cuba for the last time in 1960 as refugees and initially came here to Tampa.



Luis is a founder of Lawyers Autism Awareness Foundation, a previous Incoming President for the Tampa Hispanic Bar Association and is a member of the George Edgecomb Bar Association and numerous other civic groups. Luis was elected to Tampa City Council in 2016 by 65 votes and was re-elected in 2019 and 2023. He presently chairs the HART Board. Luis is married to Colleen O'Brien, has one son, Luis Viera II.



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.

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US Key Bridge collapse affecting shipments of some troops' belongings

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

Some shipments of troops' household goods and personal vehicles have stalled after [Baltimore's Francis Scott Key Bridge](#) collapsed Tuesday, halting vessel traffic at the Port of Baltimore, U.S. Transportation Command said Wednesday.

No military operations have been affected by the port's inability to send out or receive ships, command spokesman Erik Anthony told Military Times.

TRANSCOM officials are working with the military services, the household goods-shipping contractors and the vehicle-shipping contractor to identify which belongings are affected, Anthony said.

"We're able to mitigate a lot of those impacts," he said. "Thankfully, we have a host of ports on the East Coast that we can use as alternate ports."

The TRANSCOM team will be in contact with service members to notify them if their belongings are affected, he added.

Key Bridge, a major thoroughfare in the Baltimore-Washington region that hosted more than 30,000 travelers each day, was destroyed early Tuesday when a cargo ship lost power and rammed into a support column. The bodies of two men were recovered at the site Wednesday; another four people remain missing and are presumed dead.

Federal officials have estimated rebuilding the bridge could [cost at least \\$2 billion](#). At a White House press conference Wednesday, Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg did not say how long new construction could take but noted that building the original bridge took five years. Reopening the Port of Baltimore may come sooner.

The accident has snagged travel in the mid-Atlantic ahead of the military's busy moving season, which typically begins May 15.



Since vessel traffic at the port is indefinitely suspended, TRANSCOM officials are working to mitigate the potential long-term effects, Anthony said. Alternate ports that handle commercial shipments are expected to grow increasingly congested; officials are looking at moving cargo by rail and truck, and perhaps sending some shipments to a West Coast port instead of one on the East Coast.

International Auto Logistics, the company that ships troops' personal vehicles to and from overseas, said on its website Wednesday that it didn't have any cargo aboard the Dali, the ship involved in the incident.

"IAL is currently working with our shipping partners for alternate shipping ports to minimize delays as much as possible,"

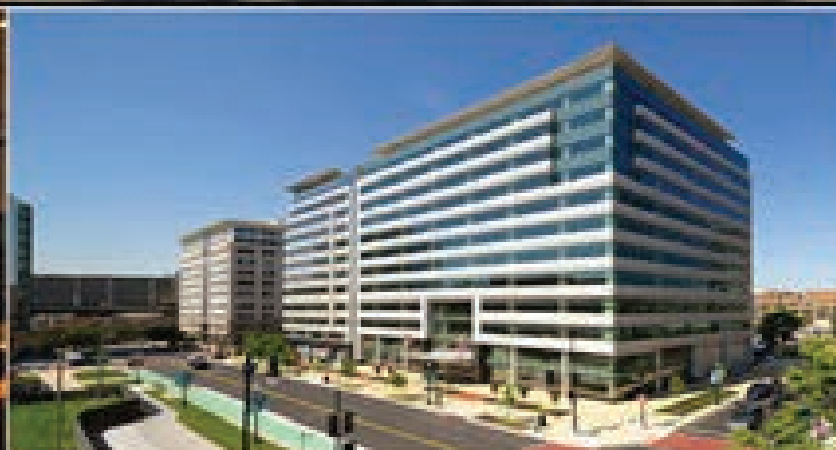
company officials said.

Company representatives will be contacting troops who may experience delays because of the incident "as soon as more information becomes available," IAL said.

"All carriers that use Baltimore as their primary port of call are competing for the same resources at other ports on the U.S. East Coast, so making a decision on where to move operations requires ensuring that assets to support loading and unloading along with adequate port space to stage cargo have been secured and are available," the company added.

Karen has covered military families, quality of life and consumer issues for Military Times for more than 30 years, and is co-author of a chapter on media coverage of military families in the book "A Battle Plan for Supporting Military Families." She previously worked for newspapers in Guam, Norfolk, Jacksonville, Fla., and Athens, Ga.

Source: <https://www.navytimes.com/news/your-military/2024/03/28/key-bridge-collapse-affecting-shipments-of-some-troops-belongings/>



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Mazda of Clearwater has built its reputation around respect and honesty. In doing so, we're able to deliver a superior experience in both Sales and Service. We think of MOAA members as family and will strive to exceed your Mazda ownership expectations.

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For More Information, Please Call Us at 727.344.3344 or Visit www.MazdaofClearwater.com



APRIL LUNCHEON MEETING

EVENT: Chapter Monthly Luncheon Meeting

DATE: Thursday, 11 April **TIME:** Social time 1130 hours, Meeting time 12 noon – 1330 hours

LOCATION: Columbia Restaurant, Museum, 2029 E 7th Ave, Ybor City

RESERVATIONS: Reservations must be made by NOON Friday, 5 January. Call 813-374-3309 OR via email to LunchReservations@moaatampa.org. Reservations are limited to 60. A reservation made is a reservation paid.

CANCELLATIONS: Cancellations must be made by NOON Monday, 8 January by calling 813-374-3309 OR via email to LunchReservations@moaatampa.org.

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

MASKS: Masks are optional.

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

MENU: 1905 Salad, Cuban Bread and Butter, Boliche, Arroz con Pollo, Fresh Broccoli Alioli, Black Beans, Dulce de Leche Chocolate Cake, Coffee, Iced Tea, and Soft Drinks

PARKING: Across the street from the Columbia Restaurant and behind the Columbia Restaurant Luncheon reminders are sent via email. If you are not receiving the reminders, please call 813-374-3309 or send an email to LunchReservations@moaatampa.org to be added to the distribution list.

This meeting will not be available via Zoom.



Welcome New Members

*MAJ Oliver Gibson, USA Active Duty
Former MAJ Robbie McGuinness, USA*

*LTC Patrick Riordan, USA Active Duty
Col John Sophie, USAF Active Duty*

BULLETIN BOARD

CARING FOR OUR "SHUT-IN" MEMBERS

Our Chapter wants to become aware of members who are hospitalized, homebound, in care facilities or just plain sick and has provided a way for you to inform us. Please contact Lt Col Kiley Stinson USAF Ret, Sick Call Chairman 813-957-1127 so that he may call or send cards to let them know they are missed.

Alternatively, you may send an e-mail to: Secretary@moaatampa.org

VETERANS TREATMENT COURT

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

VOLUNTEER POSITIONS AVAILABLE

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

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

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

Keep Your MOAA Contact Updated

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

IMPORTANT DATES IN APRIL

- 1 April Fool's Day
- 5 Gold Star Spouse's Day
- 9 National Former POW Recognition Day
- 9 Ramadan ends
- 14 Air Force Reserve Birthday
- 15 Purple Up! Day
- 15 Tax Day
- 22 Earth Day
- 23 Army Reserve Birthday
- 30 National Military Brats Day

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**

US Coast Guard Cutter Venturous returns home to Florida following multi-mission deployment

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

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. – The U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Venturous (WMEC 625) crew returned to their homeport in St. Petersburg, Friday, after a 60-day Caribbean patrol supporting Homeland Security Task Force – Southeast’s Operation Vigilant Sentry and Joint Interagency Task Force – South’s counterdrug missions.

While on patrol, the crew of Venturous repatriated 65 migrants. The migrants were safely transferred to Venturous from Coast Guard cutters Dauntless, Forward and Vigilant. Aboard Venturous, the migrants were given food, water, and basic medical care before being repatriated to the Haitian coast guard in Cap-Haïtien, Haiti.

Venturous patrolled the South Florida Straits and Windward Passage within the Coast Guard Seventh District’s area of responsibility to conduct maritime safety and security missions while working to detect, deter, and intercept unsafe and unlawful migrant ventures bound for the United States.

The Venturous also hosted the commandant and chief of naval operations of the Dominican navy during their port call in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, to discuss capabilities, training, and partnerships in the region.

“Our highest priority is to prevent the tragic loss of life at sea,” said Cmdr. Karen L. Kutkiewicz, commanding



officer of Venturous. “Often, interdicting migrants attempting to illegally enter the southeast maritime border turns into urgent rescue when homemade, overloaded, and dangerously unsafe vessels attempt passage. This mission is challenging both mentally and physically on our crew. I am proud of the crew’s care and professionalism displayed in this humanitarian mission.”

OVS was first established in 2004 as the operational plan to prevent, deter, prepare for, respond to, and recover from maritime migration events in the Caribbean.

Venturous is a 210-foot Reliance-class medium endurance cutter. The cutter’s primary missions are counter drug operations, migrant interdiction, and search and rescue in support of U.S. Coast Guard operations throughout the Western Hemisphere.

For more information about OVS and the cases mentioned in this release, please click [here](#).

For information on how to join the U.S. Coast Guard, visit GoCoastGuard.com to learn about active duty, reserve, officer, and enlisted opportunities. Information on how to apply to the U.S. Coast Guard Academy can be found [here](#).

Source: <https://www.news.uscg.mil/Press-Releases/Article/3719118/us-coast-guard-cutter-venturous-returns-home-to-florida-following-multi-mission/>

2023



Advertise in the monthly MOAA Tampa Chapter Newsletter



The **RETROSPECT**

TAMPA CHAPTER – A FIVE STAR CHAPTER OF MOAA NATIONAL



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

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

DIGITAL PUBLISHING

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

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

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

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

DEADLINE: See Digital Publishing table.

ADs are for 12 months. We can discuss pro-rating for shorter periods.

Call, email or visit moaatampa.org to reserve your spot today!

Email: Secretary@moaatampa.org
www.moaatampa.org

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









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

Turn Compassion Into Action!

Join the Service to the Armed Forces Team!

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


Volunteers Urgently Needed in the Following Areas at MacDill AFB:

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

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

To learn more, visit redcross.org or contact:

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



Scan with cell phone camera to apply!

251601-16

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

2024 Gala Photos

Photo credit: Joe Photo of Tampa and Bob Sawallesh



2024 Gala Photos

Photo credit: Joe Photo of Tampa and Bob Sawallesh



2024 GALA CHAIR, MOAA TAMPA'S 3RD ANNUAL FUNDRAISING GALA FINAL COMMENTS

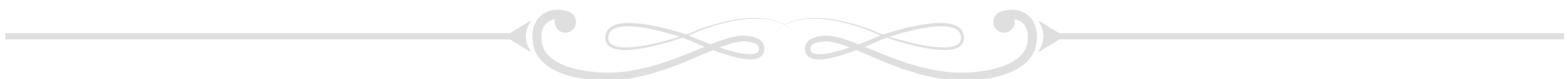
It was a pleasure and an honor to be the Chair for this year's Gala. What I enjoyed most was the enthusiasm of all who stepped up to help. I received much of the accolades for this year's success, but maybe because I simply volunteered to take the lead for this elegant event. The truth is that what makes an event successful is everyone. One of my previous commanding officers compared putting on an event or party to a picnic. Everyone brings something that makes the picnic that makes it a success, because everyone likes to contribute something.

I believe that we achieved our goal of fun, fellowship, and fundraising for MOAA Tampa's outreach initiatives. I also think that while we raised awareness of our local initiatives, we were also blessed to have Jim Carman from MOAA National raise awareness of MOAA at large.

There are so many people that I'd like to thank by name, but so that I'm not one of those Academy Award Winners who is drowned out by music because the show has to go to commercial, I want to thank everyone (MOAA Tampa Chapter at large, Sponsors, Donors, Gala attendees and the event venue staff) for bringing something to the picnic and making this year's Gala a success.

Warmest Regards, Sara

Sara Marks, CAPT NC USN (Ret)
2024 Gala Chair



CHAPTER MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

GLENN JUMAN, LTC USA (RET)

Lieutenant Colonel Glenn Juman is a Russian Foreign Area Officer and Intelligence Officer with a broad experience in security cooperation, military intelligence and program management. He studied business and economics in Russian universities, has conversational proficiency in Russian and elementary level of Pashtu.

Lieutenant Colonel Juman was commissioned as a Lieutenant in the Infantry via the Reserve Officer Training Corps in 1995. He was branch detailed and transitioned to the Intelligence Corps in 1999. In 2008, he entered the U.S. Army Foreign Area Officer (FAO) program. After his FAO training, he received the Russian FAO (48E) functional area.

His military education includes: Infantry Officer Basic Course, Military Intelligence Transition Course, Military Intelligence Advance Course, Combined Arms and Services Staff School (CAS3), Signal Intelligence and Electronic Warfare Officer Course, Command and General Staff Officer Course (CGSC), and the Foreign Area Officer Program and associated Courses.

He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics from George Mason University; Masters in Business Administration from Southeastern University; Technical Certificate and Studies in Russian Accounting / Economics / Computers, from Mari State Technical University, Russia; and Technical Certificate and Studies in Russian Finance / Management / Economics, from Moscow Specialization University, Russia.

His key assignments include: Commander of the 6th Battalion,

95th Regiment and Facilities Commandant, Camp Bullis, Texas; Deputy Chief of Staff and Headquarters Commandant of Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan; Deputy Director Security Assistance Office-Afghanistan; Military Intelligence Group Detachment, Wright Patterson AFB; Chief Strategic Plans and Military Engagements, EUCOM Headquarters, Germany; Chief Defense Threat Reduction Arms Office, US Embassy – Baku, Azerbaijan; Kyrgyzstan Country Director, CENTCOM Headquarters, MacDill AFB; Intelligence Watch officer, Pentagon; Intelligence Liaison Officer, Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization Headquarters, Virginia; Targeting Officer, 101st Airborne Division, All Source Collection Element (ACE), Iraq; Joint Staff Intelligence Operation Officer, Defense Intelligence Agency Headquarters, Washington, DC; Intelligence Exploitation Operations Officer, Bosnia; Battalion S2 / Tactical Intelligence Officer, 9th Theater Support Command, Virginia; Engineer platoon leader, Virginia Army National Guard; and Light Infantry Platoon Leader, 29th Infantry Division Virginia Army National Guard.

Lieutenant Colonel Juman's key awards and decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Staff Badge, the Joint Chief of Staff Badge, the Germany Army Parachutist Badge, the Air Assault Badge, and the Parachutist's Badge.



Army ROTC shifting its footprint to the South and Southwest

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

The Army's leading source of new officers is launching one of its largest structural realignments in decades, Cadet Command officials told Army Times.

By 2030, Army Cadet Command plans to establish or expand at least 13 Reserve Officer Training Corps units at colleges and universities across the South and Southwest, where four-year college enrollment rates have sharply increased in recent decades. The program, known as ROTC, brings in [more than half](#) of the branch's new officers across all components annually.

The command will keep the moves resource-neutral by merging some existing programs, said spokesperson Maj. Dan Lessard, who added that "no Senior ROTC program will close, and no Senior ROTC cadet will be required to transfer to a new school." The initiative will impact 18 existing units by downgrading them from standalone host programs to slightly smaller "extension units" that maintain their identity, on-campus classes and resources, according to planning documents reviewed by Army Times.

Cadet Command calls the initiative "ROTC Reset." Lessard argued the moves will help the command "keep pace with long-term trends in higher education and shifting college age populations and demographics."

The 18 programs downgrading from host to extension unit status are mostly located across the Northeast and Midwest, regions with declining four-year college enrollment, said a Cadet Command planning official who requested anonymity to detail the pending changes. The planner added that the merging programs largely "have not met" commissioning quotas "for the majority, if not all, of the last 10 years."

But by maintaining the existing units at the "extension" program level, planning documents said, the command believes they can continue the Army's relationship with the affected institutions.

According to the planner, selecting locations to start or supplement programs was largely a data-driven decision. In addition to aligning with large-scale trends in college enrollment across the country, Cadet Command considered numbers such as institutions' freshman student retention rates and graduation rates.

Planning documents said the move will provide more than 200,000 undergraduate students access to ROTC on their respective campuses. Such units often also act as community ambassadors, the planning official noted, and the new and expanded programs will bolster the Army's presence in Los Angeles, central California, San Diego, Dallas-Fort Worth, and the greater Miami area.

The two program expansions located outside of the deep South and Sun Belt are slated for historically Black institutions, or HBCUs: Tennessee State University in Nashville, Tennessee;



—An ROTC Cadet from Brigham Young University Idaho competes in the One-Rope Bridge event at an ROTC competition on February 10, 2024 at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington. (Sarah Windmueller/Army)

and Delaware State University in Dover, Delaware. The Cadet Command planner said both universities have a growing population, and such programs are important for ensuring the Army's officer corps better mirrors the demographic profile of the enlisted force.

Lessard provided a list of pending shifts to Army Times, but cautioned that some of the planned expansions still require the Army and the host university to negotiate agreements before they can take place. A portion of the expansions are already approved. The planner said that establishing or expanding an ROTC unit requires careful consideration of building space, facilities access and supplies — the process "takes 12 to 18 months to finalize," typically, and "the university gets a say in this process." Cadet Command officials assess the move will allow ROTC to catch up to demographic trends and recruiting market shifts that planning documents candidly say the Army "has not kept pace with."

The Army's top leaders have adopted similar messaging about the major reforms unfolding across the Army's enlisted recruiting enterprise as well. Cadet Command, as part of the initiative, now reports to Recruiting Command, which also aims to target prospective enlisted troops who have completed some post-high school education.

Those efforts remain underway at the Fort Knox, Kentucky-based command, which is also gaining control of the service's marketing arm.

About [Davis Winkie](#)

Davis Winkie covers the Army for Military Times. He studied history at Vanderbilt and UNC-Chapel Hill, and served five years in the Army Guard. His investigations earned the Society of Professional Journalists' 2023 Sunshine Award and consecutive Military Reporters and Editors honors, among others. Davis was also a 2022 Livingston Awards finalist.

To continue reading: <https://www.armytimes.com/news/your-army/2024/03/26/army-rotc-shifting-its-footprint-to-the-south-and-southwest/>

How will Army ROTC's footprint change between now and 2030?

Tentative changes to Army ROTC's programs scheduled to take place between 2024 and 2030



Map: Davis Winkie, Army Times • Source: Army Cadet Command • Created with Datawrapper

(Davis Winkie/Staff)

SIMPLE, YET ELEGANT DECORATIONS FOR THE GALA!

By Sara Marks, CAPT NC USN (Ret)
Photo Credits, Joe Photo of Tampa, Sara Marks and Bob Sawallesh

Thank you to Carol Zieres for her simple, yet elegantly inspired decorations for the Gala. Also behind the scenes were Fran Chancey, Linda Howard and Ruth VanDyke who made the beauty of each table happen and contribute to such a wonderful evening of fun, fellowship and fundraising.



—Carol Zieres, Ruth VanDyke, Fran Chancey, and Linda Howard

THE GALA OPENED WITH PRESENTATION OF COLORS BY THE FREEDOM HIGH SCHOOL COLOR GUARD

Photo Credits: Joe Photo of Tampa



GRAMMY NOMINATED VOCALIST AND PIANIST PROVIDED BEAUTIFUL MUSIC AT THE GALA



By Sara Marks, CAPT NC USN (Ret)
Photo Credit: Joe Photo of Tampa

Nathan Mitchell provided beautiful music that greatly added to an elegant evening at the 3rd Annual MOAA Tampa Gala. He graciously sang the National Anthem at the opening ceremony and played Amazing Grace for the presentation of the POW/MIA Table. Nathan grew up in a military family. His father served a career in the United States Air Force.

These are just a few of his many accomplishments:

- Grammy Nominated Producer / Composer
Signed Artist w/ #1 BILLBOARD Smooth Jazz Label 'Trippin N Rhythm'
- International Contemporary Jazz / Gospel / Soul Artist whom has toured over 38 countries sharing his love of music and message of hope and love
- Multi-Instrumentalist, Producer, Vocalist, and Composer
- 3x Consecutive NAACP Image Award Nominee for Outstanding Jazz Album's

To read more about Nathan: <https://www.nathanmitchellmusic.com/home>





Five artists displayed their art at The Gala



—By Sara Marks, CAPT NC USN (Ret)
Photo Credits: Joe Photo of Tampa and Carol Zieres

For our 3rd Annual Gala we were blessed to have two Gold Star Parents, two MOAA Tampa Chapter members and a local artist display and sell their artwork. Their talent is amazing and especially touching. Thank you for sharing your talent.



Kelly Kowall, Gold Star Mother and owner of My Warrior's Place



Craig Gross, Gold Star Father



Rebekah Lane



Robert Sawallesh, LTC USA (Ret)



Carol Zieres, COL USA (Ret)



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**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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MEMBER OF THE MONTH: LT COL CAROLYN J. EBERHART, USAF NC RET

Excerpt from *The Shifting Sands of Cam Ranh Bay*
As Told By Lt Col Carolyn Eberhart

The Night the Fuel Depot Lit Up the Sky

August 30, 1970 began like every other day in Cam Ranh Bay. We had a large patient census (600 Patients), which included the 483rd USAF Hospital and Casualty Staging Unit. There was constant activity with lots of dust offs (helicopters) coming in with wounded GI's still in their uniforms.

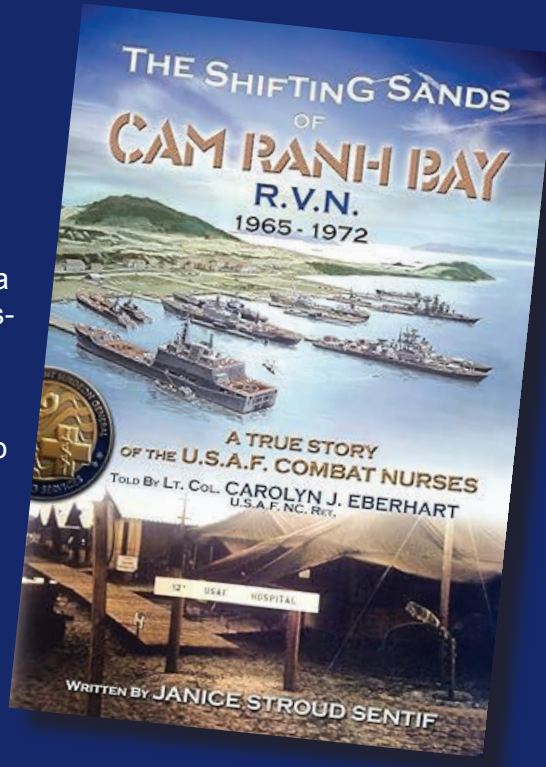
We moved many patients from the wards to casualty staging for flights to the United States. Patients had to be constantly moved to free up beds for NEW patients.

It was Vi's birthday and we were planning a little party for her. We charcoaled a few steaks and gave her gifts. The party broke up early because of the curfew.

I had just turned off the lights when I heard the "giant Voice" siren signal an enemy attack. A few minutes later I realized they had hit a major target—"The fuel Depot." The roaring flames shot high in the air, causing an eerie rose colored glow.

We were all very frightened as we didn't know how many people had been hurt and how far the blaze would spread.

I remember as a child, when a chemical plant blew up and broke all the windows in our school. I was scared then but nothing compared with the fear of being under a mortar attack with the fuel dumps blowing up! I will never forget that night, as long as I live.



Will this Terror Never STOP?

It has been 50 years since this incident happened and I still remember it as if I was still there!!

My Life:

My father worked for the Army Corp of Engineers for over 50 years. I was born on Lock 6 in South Charleston, West Virginia. I graduated from South Charleston High School. I decided at that point in my life I would become a nurse. I graduated from University of Virginia. In those the days there were not student loans or grants. While in school one of my instructors recommended me for the Anesthesia program at Ohio State University School of Anesthesia. I was privileged to work under one of the greatest doctors of Anesthesia, Dr. Jay Jacoby.

I worked at Charleston West Virginia Hospital School of Anesthesia for 7 years as a clinic instructor.

I joined the Air Force in 1961. I was stationed at 10 different AF Bases over the years: Gunter, Barksdale, Dover, Sheppard, Myrtle Beach, Can Rahn Bay, Macdill, Moron and Wright Patterson. During that time I attended Operation Bootstrap Schools: University of Nebraska & Airforce School of Administration St. Leo's University. Would I do it all over again...Yes.. I joined the Air Force to see the world. I completed my mission.



FREEDOM HIGH SCHOOL JROTC PRESENTED THE POW/MIA TABLE

By Sara Marks, CAPT NC USN (Ret)
Photo Credits: Joe Photo of Tampa

The Freedom High School JROTC presented the POW/MIA Table at the Gala and honored local Tampa veterans as they described each element of the table setting. Nathan Mitchell softly played Amazing Grace during the presentation and Calvin Van Pelt played TAPS at the conclusion of this solemn ceremony.

Let us always remember...



Thank You

TO THE MANY SPONSORS AND DONORS OF THE MOAA TAMPA 3RD ANNUAL FUNDRAISING GALA

Financial Support:

Corporate Donor:
Mazda of Clearwater



Individual Donors:

- Gerardo De Jesus
- Jo Ann Enriquez, Lt Col USAF (Retired)
- Frank Moore, MG, USAF (Retired)
- William Mitchell, LTJg US Navy (former)
- Jeanne Richard, Lt Col USAF (Retired)
- William Scheider, COL USA (Retired)
- Paula Stewart, LTC USA (Retired)
- Jeff Tierny, LTC USA (Ret)

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- Brookdale Senior Living
- Dillard's Westfield Brandon
- Angie Nimmo, CAPT NC USN (Ret)
- Path Finders
- Jennifer Stinson Noonday Collection

2024 Gala a Great Success Dillard's Westfield Brandon

Lieutenant Colonel Robert F. Sawallesh, U.S. Army, Retired, proudly stands by the Dillard's Westfield Brandon donations which Dillard's donated to the MOAA Tampa Gala 2024 silent auction and raffle.

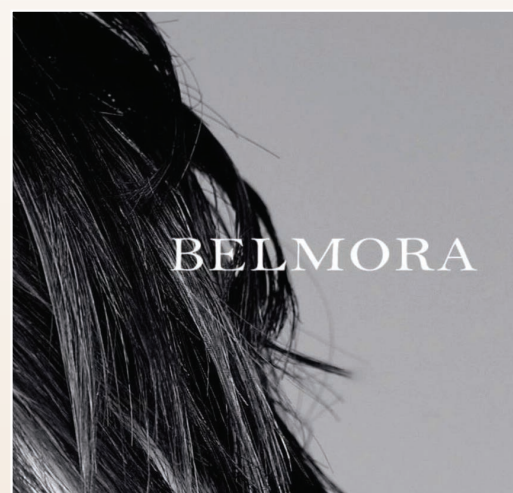
The donations included such famous and popular brands as Michael Kors, Patricia Nash and Stanley. With special thanks to Dillard's, the Gala 2024 was a great success!



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Jennifer Stinson
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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

TRAVEL • ADVENTURE • FUN

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

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.moaaatampa.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/30223159/Blue-Danube-brochure.pdf> to view the flyer.

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

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 • Mauthausen
- 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.**

New analysis of Air Force suicides explores contributing factors

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

Troops, veterans and family members experiencing suicidal thoughts can call or text the 24-hour Suicide and Crisis Lifeline at 988 or visit VeteransCrisisLine.net.

Gallows humor. Toxic or disengaged leadership. High operational demands. Rampant and normalized alcohol use. Unwillingness to seek help or show weakness.

Those are just a few of the dozens of trends and themes observed in a new, comprehensive analysis of suicides across the Air Force in 2020.

The [new study](#), released earlier this month in conjunction with the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences and the Defense Suicide Prevention Office, aims to create a better understanding of the factors that drive airmen to die by suicide, develop recommendations to deter the act and provide services to those affected. It also tries to standardize the process by which the Air Force assesses that data, which can be decentralized and anecdotal.

The report comes as military leaders try to wrangle a mental health crisis that has plagued the armed forces for years.

In 2020, the Department of the Air Force recorded a total of 117 suicides, including 81 active duty troops, 16 Air National Guardsmen, 12 reservists and eight civilian employees, the report showed. Department-wide data includes the Space Force, which logged no suicides in 2020.

The Air Force clarified that the new report incorrectly listed the number of Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve suicides as 17 and 11, respectively.

Though the Air Force avoided a spike in self-inflicted deaths among uniformed personnel in 2020, the figure remains among the service's highest suicide counts in recent years. In [2019, 137 uniformed airmen died by suicide](#), prompting units to stand down operations for a day to discuss resiliency and suicide prevention.

The new analysis found that 9 in 10 airmen who died by suicide in 2020 men, and 9 in 10 were enlisted. About a quarter of those who died had a history of prior suicide attempts; more than one-third had contacted a mental health provider within a year of their death.

Other findings include:

- 68.4% died by use of firearm, 70% of which were owned by the decedent
- Alcohol use was a factor in 39.3% of deaths
- 68.4% of decedents reported suicidal thoughts at some point in their lives, while 58.1% had previously communicated an intent to die by suicide
- Those who died by suicide had documented problems with their intimate partners (74.4%), family members (37.6%) and military members (24.8%). Workplace (53.8%), administrative or legal (43.6%) and financial problems (29.9%) also played a factor, and 80.3% faced issues in multiple categories

The report relied on a socioeconomic model used by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that considers factors that may contribute to or compound suicide risk, including social, relational and individual concerns, as well as factors that can disproportionately affect the military community compared to their civilian counterparts.

It also took into account suicide reports developed by the Defense Department, as well as



—Firefighters with the 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron Fire and Emergency Services display suicide-awareness patches, Sept. 22, 2022. (Tech. Sgt. Jim Bentley/Air Force)

medical, personnel and investigatory records, to build profiles. The research included factors such as evidence of military sexual trauma evidence, drunk driving convictions and other information as available.

"No one factor exists in a vacuum," the report said.

Researchers found that mental health problems related to childhood trauma, like abuse and household violence, contributed to Air Force suicides in 2020. So too did dozens of other factors, including failing to seek help, and worry that doing so could hurt a person's career; job stress related to deployments and permanent changes of station; failures of leadership and the military medical community; relationship and financial problems.

The report encourages Department of the Air Force leaders to better promote firearm safety, publicly post materials to educate troops on the warning signs of suicide, and encourage a culture of seeking help, among dozens of other recommendations to address the underlying causes

of suicide.

Katherine Kuzminski, a military personnel expert at the Washington-based Center for a New American Security, said the report reflects greater emphasis by the Pentagon and service secretaries to reduce harmful behaviors, from suicide to toxic commands, as well as a greater focus on firearm safety.

She applauded its holistic approach in addressing problems like stereotypes about masculinity and alcohol use, as well as the impact a suicide can have on a community.

"At the end of the day ... the goal is to increase our lethality and our readiness, right? The impact that a suicide has on a whole unit and on a military installation is much broader than simply the people who knew that individual or who were in the same unit," she said.

Suicide continues to be a problem for the Air Force, which has pledged more efforts to help. According to [the most recent DOD data](#), 70 uniformed personnel — including 51 active duty airmen and two Space Force guardians, 13 Air National Guard and four reservists — had died by suicide in the first nine months of 2023. That outpaced the 65 suicides recorded in the Department of the Air Force in the same period of time in 2022.

Air Force leaders, including its top brass, [acknowledge the need to improve access to mental health care and destigmatize seeking help](#). The service has launched a team to discuss ways to boost troop and family resiliency and other initiatives, such as a campaign to distribute gun locks that can slow access to firearms.

Installations across the Air Force will use the report, along with command climate assessments, to develop an annual suicide-prevention plan, service spokesperson Master Sgt. Deana Heitzman told Air Force Times.

Future reports will retroactively examine deaths in 2018, 2019 and 2021, which researchers said could better inform future mitigation efforts. The Air Force is also planning an annual analysis of all suicides, starting with 2022 data, as it seeks to better understand the problem and drive down the number of deaths, Heitzman said.

"We found this report provided a more comprehensive view and understanding of the problem sets surrounding military suicide prevention, intervention and postvention, which led to the decision to continue to use this method for analysis," Heitzman said.

Source: <https://www.airforcetimes.com/news/your-air-force/2024/03/27/new-analysis-of-air-force-suicides-explores-contributing-factors/>

Gold Star Spouses Day 2024

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

The terms Gold Star family, Gold Star Spouses, and Gold Star Wives traditionally refer to the surviving loved ones of military members who lost their lives in the line of duty. Gold Star Spouses Day was created to honor these loved ones.

Gold Star Spouses day will be observed on Friday, April 5, 2024.

As with many things in American culture, it can take time for our institutions to catch up with society, which is why over time the word “wives” in the name of the remembrance has been replaced by the word “spouses” many use the terms Gold Star Wives Day and Gold Star Spouses Day interchangeably.

This recognition of the sacrifices made by military spouses is a memorial for the fallen, a remembrance day for the survivors, and an appreciation for those who are sometimes in danger of being overlooked for their support and service to the country.

What Is The Gold Star?

The U.S. Army official site explains that the Gold Star is a tradition that began during World War I. [Service flags](#) were flown by military families during this time, with [blue stars](#) for every family member serving in uniform.

“If that loved one died,” Army.mil reports, “the blue star was replaced by a gold star. This allowed members of the community to know the price that the family had paid in the cause of freedom.” Later, the tradition evolved to include the wearing of a Gold Star lapel button, awarded by the military to surviving family members.

In 1947 Congress approved the design of the official Gold Star Lapel Button, allowing it to formally recognize service members who lost their lives in combat. The official Gold Star pin has a gold star on a purple background.



The Gold Star lapel button for next-of-kin was created in 1973 to “symbolize active duty service members who lost their lives in non-combat operations” according to Navy.mil. The design of the next-of-kin Gold Star button is slightly different with a gold star with laurel leaves against a gold background.

Who Awards The Gold Star?

Gold Star pins and colors are traditionally presented by an officer to the next-of-kin during funeral honors for the fallen military member.

A Brief History Of Gold Star Spouses Day

This tradition began in the early part of the 20th century as [Gold Star Mother's Day](#), observed on the last Sunday of September beginning in 1936. An organization known as Gold Star Wives began operating before the end of the Second World War, and the Gold Star lapel button tradition was established in the summer of 1947.

All of this set the stage for Gold Star Spouses Day, which began as Gold Star Wives Day—the first of which occurred in December 2010. Two years later a Senate resolution codified Gold Star Wives Day, observed on April 5 each year. Later guidance changed the recognition to be more inclusive.

Today the event is known as Gold Star Spouses Day, though (as mentioned earlier) many still use “Gold Star Wives Day” interchangeably with Gold Star Spouses Day.

The organization [Gold Star Wives](#) welcomes all Gold Star spouses, for example, but retains the original name. The organization welcomes membership applications from “Any surviving spouse of any person of the United States military who died while a member of the armed forces of our country, or who died after such service as a result of an injury or disability incurred during such service.”

To continue reading this article: <https://veteran.com/gold-star-spouses-day/>

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/>



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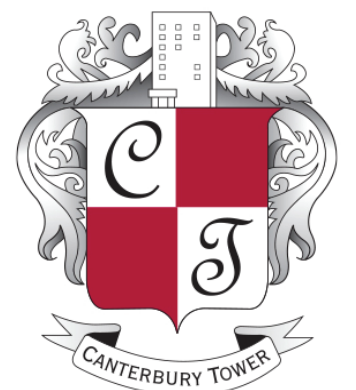
Call [00 1 800 273 8255](tel:0018002738255) or DSN 111

In the Philippines

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Former POW Recognition Day

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

Former POW Recognition Day is a day that, while not as well-known as National POW/MIA Recognition Day, is just as important. The word “former” is the key to remembering the major difference between these two events honored every year on their respective days. The late Senator John McCain is a former POW. His memory and the memories of many others who came home from POW camps are on the minds of those who observe both holidays. And there are troops still unaccounted for to this day who should be remembered in the same manner as those who came home.

National Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day will be observed on Sunday, April 9, 2024.

“On National Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day, we honor the more than 500,000 American warriors captured while protecting our way of life. We pay tribute to these patriots for their unwavering and unrelenting spirit.”

In every major conflict in our Nation’s history, American prisoners of war (POWs) have stared down our enemies, knowing at any moment their captors might torture them yet again or even kill them. These patriots, however, knew that they were fighting for something much larger than individual survival. They persevered for the sake of their fellow POWs, comrades in arms, families, and country.”

Excerpt of Presidential Proclamation on National Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day, 2020

National Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day

National Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day is a day to honor captured wartime service members who eventually came home. It is observed annually on April 9th, and commemorates the surrender of between 60,000 and 80,000 US and Filipino service members to the Imperial Japanese army at the Bataan Peninsula, Philippines in 1942.

The initial day of recognition was created by joint resolution during the 100th Congress, and was signed into law by President Ronald Reagan on April 8, 1987. A later joint resolution designated April 9, 1988 and April 9, 1989 as days of recognition, which President Reagan signed into law on March 28, 1988. The law requires that the sitting president issue an annual proclamation regarding observance of the day.

How to Observe #FormerPOWRecognitionDay

Government officials, veterans, civic and private organizations observe the day with ceremonies and events. Some states require organizations and government facilities to fly the POW/MIA flag on this day.

Honor former POWs by helping to organize events. Ensure your organization flies the POW/MIA flag. Volunteer to help a veteran organization. Use hashtag #FormerPOWRecognitionDay on social media and support others who do post their messages to help bring awareness to do this day.

National POW/MIA Recognition Day

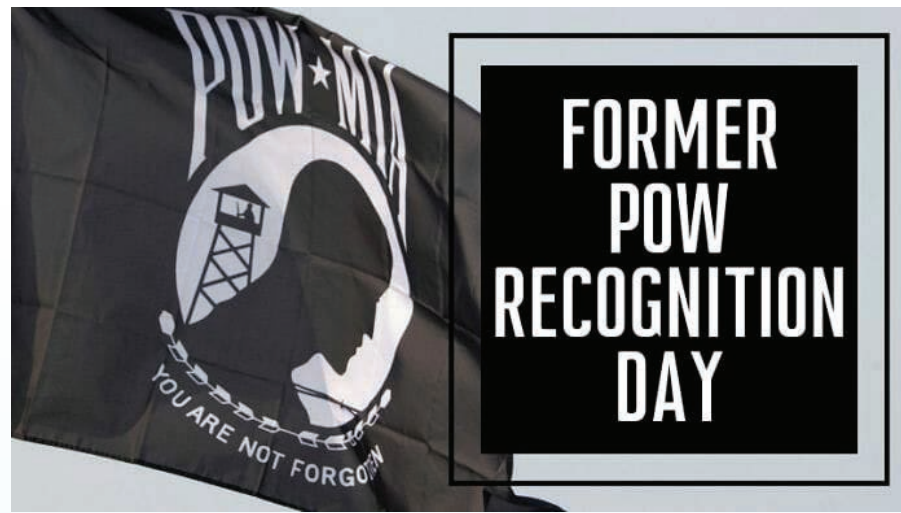
[National POW/MIA Recognition Day](#) is a day of remembrance to honor wartime service members captured and/or missing who are still unaccounted for. While not a national holiday, it is annually observed through commemoration ceremonies and services held nationally on the 3rd Friday of September.

Across the country, military installations fly the National League of Families’ POW/MIA flag, while veterans hold rallies in several states. The Pentagon holds remembrance ceremonies, and other events are held both nationally and internationally: at state capitals, at war museums and memorials, at schools, on military installations, and so on.

National POW/MIA Recognition Day posters are also displayed in various public places to raise awareness about the ongoing efforts to bring POW and MIA service members home.

Private organizations, such as the VFW and the [American Legion](#), also hold ceremonies.

The American Legion also implemented the POW/MIA Empty Chair Program at its National Convention.



This program involves having a designated empty chair at every official meeting, to serve as a visual and tangible reminder of all who are still held prisoner or are unaccounted for, and the continued effort to bring these service members home.

The Backstory of National Former POW Recognition Day

It is said that the Vietnam War is the conflict most closely associated with POW/MIA Day in terms of what inspired the occasion and who was motivated to push for its recognition. In the same way, specific wartime events which inspired the formal creation of Former POW Recognition Day occurred during WWII following the surrender of US and Filipino service

members at the Bataan Peninsula.

Dubbed the Bataan Death March, on April 9, 1942, the Imperial Japanese army began to force-march the American and Filipino POWs from Mariveles, situated at the tip of the Bataan Peninsula, 65 miles away to a train station in San Fernando.

It has been estimated that over 20,000 men died on the march to San Fernando. During the march, American and Filipino POWs were beaten, robbed, starved, tortured, denied medical care, and executed by Imperial Japanese service members.

The original intent of Former POW Recognition Day is focused on the events described above and on World War Two in general, but over the decades the emphasis on POWs overall has expanded greatly.

A Brief History of POW/MIA Recognition Day

[POW/MIA Recognition Day](#) came into being relatively recently. Prior to 1979, no official federal ceremonies or days of recognition and remembrance were held to honor either MIA or POW service members.

This began to change during the legislative session of the 96th Congress. On June 4th, 1979, Congress passed a joint resolution to declare July 18th as National MIA/POW Recognition Day, and President Jimmy Carter issued the first proclamation for this day to be “a day dedicated both to all former American prisoners of war as well as those still missing and to their families.”

Commemorative services were held at the National Cathedral, Washington, DC, and the 1st Tactical Squadron out of Langley AFB, Virginia, flew a Missing Man Formation. After this initial Recognition Day, subsequent annual days of observance continued to be held from 1980 to 1985.

During each of these years, President Ronald Reagan issued a proclamation for POW/MIA Recognition Day. In 1986, the date of observance was moved to the third Friday of September, where it remains to this day.

Is There A Connection Between The Two Days of Recognition?

While there is no formal or official connection between the two, a search for one day will provide links for the other day in search results. This may cause confusion regarding the purpose and significance of each day. However, both days share the distinction of raising awareness regarding POWs.

According to recent Defense MIA/POW Accounting Agency statistics, service members from the following conflicts remain unaccounted for:

- 1,589 service members from the Vietnam War
- 7,761 service members from the Korean War
- 126 service members from the Cold War
- 72,719 service members from WWII

With 82,195 service members MIA or POW, this issue may benefit from added visibility, regardless of which day it occurs.

Source: <https://veteran.com/former-pow-day/>

Army Corps of Engineers supports Baltimore bridge recovery efforts

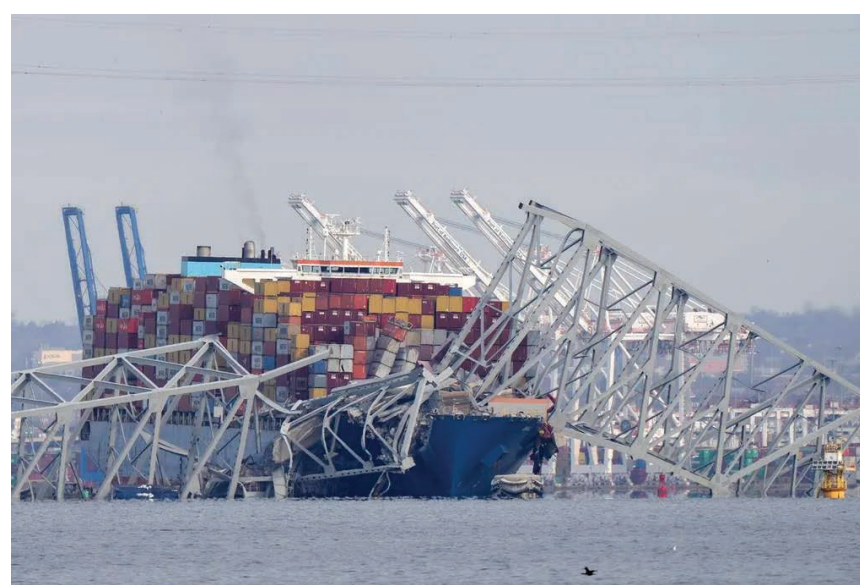
—Submitted by Sara Marks, CAPT NC USN (Ret)

More than 1,100 Army Corps of Engineers engineering, construction, contracting and operations specialists will take part in recovery efforts and clearing debris following the bridge collapse in [Baltimore, Maryland](#), according to a statement from the Army Corps of Engineers on Tuesday.

The Army Corps of Engineers will lead the efforts to clear the federal channel as a part of federal, state and local response efforts, according to the Corps. Remotely operated vehicles and sonar will be used by the Corps, along with the debris removal vessel Reynolds, which patrols the waters of the Baltimore Harbor for drift and debris that could be hazardous to navigation.

Hydrographic and topographic surveying will also take place via the 61-foot survey vessel Catlett, the Corps said.

“Our thoughts are with those impacted by the tragic collapse of the Francis Scott Key Bridge,” said Col. Estee Pinchasin, the Baltimore District Commander, in a statement. “Our Emergency Managers are closely monitoring the incident and coordinating with partner agencies for any potential support requests.”



—The Francis Scott Key Bridge, which spanned the harbor of Baltimore, Maryland, collapsed early Tuesday morning. (Mark Schiefelbein/AP)

The Francis Scott Key Bridge, which spanned the harbor of Baltimore, Maryland, collapsed early Tuesday morning. The [Baltimore City Fire Department](#) said a container ship rammed into a support beam, which caused the bridge to collapse. Six construction workers who were on the bridge at the time of the incident [are presumed dead](#), according to the Associated Press.

The Army Corps of Engineers are not the only military responses to the bridge collapse. As initial news of the collapse spread, Coast Guard stations Curtis Bay and Annapolis [responded with search and rescue crews](#). An MH-65 Dolphin helicopter crew from Coast Guard Air Station Atlantic City also moved into the area.

Zamone “Z” Perez is a rapid response reporter and podcast producer at Defense News and Military Times. He previously worked at Foreign Policy and Ufahamu Africa. He is a graduate of Northwestern University, where he researched international ethics and atrocity prevention in his thesis. He can be found on Twitter [@zamoneperez](#).

Source: <https://www.armytimes.com/news/your-military/2024/03/28/army-corps-of-engineers-supports-baltimore-bridge-recovery-efforts/>

MEDICAL CORNER

The HIPAA Privacy Rule and Military Health Care: What Parents of Minors Need To Know

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

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act Privacy Final Rule protects minors' privacy concerning their health care choices and treatment. If you're the parent or legal sponsor of a minor child, this rule limits your access to your child's protected health information.

FALLS CHURCH, Va. — Are you the parent or legal sponsor of a minor child? If so, there are things you should know about what access you have to your child's health care records and choices. The [Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act Privacy Final Rule](#) protects minors' privacy concerning their health care choices and treatment. To protect your child's health records, this rule limits your access to your child's [protected health information](#) (PHI).

"The HIPAA Privacy Rule gives clear guidance to ensure Americans' private health information is protected," said Dr. Anmarie Widener, chief of the Defense Health Agency's Privacy and Civil Liberties Office. "The HIPAA Privacy Rule extends this protection to minors. It's important for parents and legal sponsors to understand what they can and can't access about their child's own health care information."

The Defense Health Agency (DHA) complies with HIPAA privacy rule policies on how parents and legal sponsors access their minors' PHI. These policies apply stateside. The privacy rule defines minors as people who are:

- Under the care, custody, and support of their parents or legal sponsor until the child is 18
- Students under 21 years old who are still under the care, custody, or support of their parents or legal sponsor
- Under 18 years old who aren't or haven't been married
- Not a member of the U.S. uniformed services
- Under 18 years old and not self-supporting or living separately from their parents or legal sponsor

Overseas, a minor can request reproductive health services. This includes telehealth services received from a provider located at a military hospital or clinic. If their health care provider determines that the child is mature enough, the child can get care without parent or legal guardian consent.

Key points for stateside PHI access

Stateside, all Americans have access to both electronic and print health records.

So, what are the limitations for accessing your child's PHI?

Within the military's health system, you can access your and your family's electronic health records (EHRs) using [MHS GENESIS](#). MHS GENESIS offers each beneficiary a secure [patient portal](#). This portal lets you view health records and prescriptions. You can also use it to make and track appointments, send messages to your provider, and more.

According to the [Parental Access to Protected Health Information of Unemancipated Minors](#)



[Memorandum](#), access to EHRs is as follows:

- Minors ages 12 and under:** Parents and legal sponsors can access EHRs and all online PHI.
- Minors ages 13-17:** Parents and legal sponsors have access to their children's online patient portal to view appointments, messaging, immunizations, and allergy care only.

You can also access paper health records under certain circumstances:

- Minors ages 17 and under:** Parents and legal sponsors may still get health records for their children. To get paper records, you must go through the hospital or clinic's medical records department.

Keep in mind, you can only get both paper and electronic records when your child:

- Didn't give their own consent for the visit, or
- Consented to the care and gave their permission in writing to allow you access to their PHI for that visit only.

Informed consent is when a patient is competent to make a voluntary decision about whether to undergo a procedure of intervention. Minors can give informed consent for certain types of care. This includes mental health, pregnancy, and sexually transmitted disease care. In these cases, state and federal HIPAA laws protect their privacy. Each of the 50 states, U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia have their own rules for when a minor can consent to the care they get. The DHA observes those state-by-state rules under all circumstances. Check your state's laws for details.

Key points for overseas PHI access

Things are different overseas with accessing PHI related to your child's reproductive health care services. The DHA can't mandate state or federal law overseas. Because of this, [military hospitals and clinics](#) must follow guidance provided by the [Minors and Reproductive Health Care Services \(Overseas\) Memorandum](#). This guidance helps military providers overseas decide if a minor is mature enough to make their own reproductive health care decisions.

As defined in this memo:

- A "minor" is a patient 18 or younger.
- A "mature minor" is a patient 15 or older.

Some countries may interpret these terms differently. Check with the [TRICARE Overseas contractor](#) to learn more.

The minor's informed consent to receive care at a military hospital or clinic overseas determines parental access to PHI overseas. If the minor gives consent for a healthcare visit, you can't access to the child's health records for that visit unless the child has consented to provide you that access.

To continue reading: <https://health.mil/News/Dvids-Articles/2024/03/21/news466790>

Surviving Spouse Corner:

Are Your Personal Documents Ready for an Emergency?

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

By: Renée Brunelle Matthews

Emergencies can strike unexpectedly, leaving individuals and families grappling with chaos and uncertainty. Whether it's a natural disaster like a hurricane or earthquake, a house fire, or a medical crisis, being prepared can make all the difference in navigating through the turmoil. One often-overlooked aspect of preparedness is having essential documents readily accessible for yourself or a trusted person.

It might sound simple, but having your important documents organized and easily accessible can significantly expedite critical decision-making during emergencies. Imagine being evacuated from your home due to an impending hurricane (yes, that has happened to me), and in the rush to leave, you forget to grab essential documents like identification, insurance policies, or medical records. Having these documents readily available in a designated "important documents kit" ensures you have the necessary information on hand to prove your identity, access medical care, or file insurance claims promptly.

Also, having your documents prepared in advance can alleviate stress and anxiety during already tense situations. Emergencies are inherently chaotic, and the last thing you want to worry about is rummaging through drawers or files, searching for vital paperwork. By proactively organizing your documents and keeping them in a secure location, you can focus on prioritizing safety and addressing immediate needs rather than scrambling to gather paperwork under duress.

Another compelling reason to have your important documents ready for an emergency is to safeguard against loss or damage. Disasters such as floods, fires, or earthquakes can destroy physical documents stored in homes or offices. While some documents can be replaced, others, like birth certificates, passports, or irreplaceable family heirlooms, might be lost forever.

Digitally storing copies of essential documents in secure cloud storage like [Ever plans](#) or on encrypted USB drives provides an extra layer of protection against physical damage or loss, ensuring critical information remains accessible even if the originals are destroyed.



—Reptile8488/Getty Images

Your Life. Organized with Everplans.

No more sticky notes, dusty binders, and outdated files! MOAA membership offers exclusive discounts on Everplans Premium, starting at 30% off for BASIC members.

Furthermore, having your important documents organized facilitates seamless communication and coordination with emergency responders and relief agencies. Whether you're seeking medical assistance, applying for government aid, or navigating insurance claims, having all necessary documentation readily available expedites the process and ensures you receive the support and resources you need in a timely manner.

What documents should you include in your important documents kit? While the specific documents might vary depending on individual circumstances, some essential

items to consider include:

- Personal identification (driver's license, passport, Social Security card)
- Medical records (health insurance cards, medication lists, immunization records)
- Financial documents (bank account information, insurance policies, wills, deeds)
- Emergency contacts (family members, doctors, insurance agents)
- Important legal documents (DD Form 214, birth certificates, marriage certificates, power of attorney)
- Property records (homeowner's insurance, mortgage documents, property deeds)
- Copies of valuable photos or sentimental items

Every day you see stories about natural disasters, car accidents, medical emergencies, and unforeseen events that change someone's life forever. The peace of mind that comes from knowing you're well-prepared is invaluable. Take the time today to gather your important documents and create an important document kit — it could make all the difference tomorrow.

Source: <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2024-news-articles/member-spotlight/surviving-spouse-corner-are-your-personal-documents-ready-for-an-emergenc>



Month of the Military Child 2024

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

April is designated as Month of the Military Child – a time to honor the sacrifices made by military families worldwide, with an emphasis on the experience of the dependent children of military members serving at home and overseas. Month of the Military Child is sponsored by the Department of Defense Military Community and Family Policy and supported by many other organizations such as the DoDEA.

Month of the Military Child Events

Like many similar military recognition efforts, the Month Of The Military Child is often celebrated “internally” with military communities and military association planning contests, parades, fairs, seminars, and special events centered around the message of the month. It is also celebrated “externally” by many communities, schools and organizations.

According to the Army official site, “military children will be able to tell their story on what it means to be a military child through drawings or words for a chance to win great prizes.”

For some military-related private organizations, April is a time to put special emphasis on the programs they administer year-round. The Military Child Education Coalition, one such group accredited by the International Association for Continuing Education and Training (IACET), has a stated goal of ensuring “inclusive, quality educational opportunities for all military-connected children affected by mobility, transition, deployments and family separation.”

The group offers year-round “Student 2 Student” programs (student-led initiatives) and a “Parent To Parent” version of similar efforts. During the month of April, the coalition offers Month Of The Military Child downloadable toolkits and other resources.

There are also the usual military base-level events, ceremonies, contests, and special nights through the month of April, urging military families to get involved, be more vocal about their military lifestyle, and learn from the past experiences of other military families.

Where Can I Learn About Month of the Military Child Activities and Events?

Since many of the April events are sponsored by military communities, it’s best to start your search for events with the base Public Affairs office, Military Family Readiness Centers, Department of Defense Dependent School admin offices, and even on-base Child Development Centers (the military base equivalent of daycare).

You may also find activities listed at [Morale Welfare and Recreation \(MWR\) Centers](#) at military installations overseas and stateside. The official sites for all these organizations often post calendars of upcoming events and programs.

Evolution of the Month of the Military Child

Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger was responsible for establishing April as the Month Of The Military Child in 1986, and the Department of Defense has honored his initiative ever since.

The month of April is an important one for children who have one or both parents serving in uniform. Since 1986 there have been an increasing number of awareness campaigns aimed at recognizing the needs of military children in all areas from coping with the deployment of parents to war zones to education of military dependents at on-base Department of Defense Dependent School System (DoDDS) campuses around the globe.

Since the debut of the original Month of The Military Child, there are a growing number of activities both on military bases and in local military communities. The U.S. Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA), which operates 166 schools for military children worldwide, instructs its school administrators to “plan special events to honor military children and have administrators and principals incorporate the themes of this month into their everyday duties and responsibilities” according to the DoDEA official site.

Military Children by the Numbers

- According to a report by the Department of Defense there are 700 military child



development program facilities around the world, running approximately 155,000 child-care spaces, with another 3,000 Family Child Care homes.

- It’s estimated that military child development centers welcome around 200,000 children daily. There are 300 youth and teen centers worldwide serving more than 645,000 youth through a variety of educational and recreational programs.
- Approximately 2 million military children have experienced a parental deployment since 9/11.
- There are currently 1.2 million military children of active duty members worldwide.
- Nearly 80% of military children attend public schools throughout the United States.
- The average military family moves three times more often than their civilian counterpart.
- There are nearly two million “total-force dependent children” including more than 900,000 Army dependents, 400,000 Air Force dependents, nearly 300,000 Navy and approximately 118,000 Marine dependents.

Who Are Military Dependent Children?

The familiar Hollywood trope of the “military brat” brings to mind the notion of military families who constantly move from base to base, overseas and stateside, experiencing a seemingly never-ending series of short-term homes, jobs, and schools.

That sometimes is the experience of military families, but the “hidden” side to military life includes assignments at bases in Japan, Germany, and elsewhere. Some military children never attend a stateside K-12 school; they grow up getting their education via DoDDS schools on the same military bases their parents live and work at.

The military child experience also includes situations where the family itself never leaves the United States, but the military parent(s) still serve overseas and at remote bases in Alaska, North Dakota, and Montana. Sometimes the entire family packs up and moves, other times the military member goes on [assignment or deployment](#) without the family.

There are many situations that fall somewhere between these two examples. The military child is expected to support the mission by understanding the needs of the parents to deploy, to relocate, and to put the family’s needs second to the call of duty.

Children bear a difficult burden as Department of Defense dependents; they don’t always fully understand what’s going on when the parents deploy or get re-assigned, but they are always part of the military’s attention when it comes to supporting these families at the same time as accomplishing the mission.

What’s a “Military Brat”?

The children of a parent or parents serving full-time in the United States Armed Forces are sometimes referred to as [Military Brats](#). Many Military Brats wear the name like a badge of honor, often because of the moves, stressors and cultural experiences make them more resilient than their civilian counterparts. Outside the military it can often be construed as derogatory. Military brats move an average of 10 times while growing up, and some have moved as many as 36 times. These frequent moves, exposure to different cultures and languages and immersion in military customs are all common, life-defining experiences in the military brat subculture.

Source: <https://veteran.com/month-of-the-military-child/>

Purple Up! For Military Kids Day

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

The entire month of April is designated as the [Month of the Military Child](#), but April 15th has a special place in that observance. April 15 brings a special dread for some because it is traditionally the day federal income tax filings are due at the IRS.

But there’s a happier and more encouraging aspect to April 15th each year in the form of observance among military families, military family support communities, and others worldwide in the form of Purple Up! For Military Kids Day.

Held on April 15th of each year, “Purple Up! For Military Kids” is a day for Department of Defense Education Activity communities to wear purple to show support and thank military children for their strength and sacrifices.

Purple Up! Day will be celebrated on Monday, April 15, 2024.

How Purple Up! Day Began

There’s an emphasis in United States military culture on “the total force”, the “whole person concept” and similarly-themed philosophies that hold that troops, their families, and their extended families are more than the sum of their parts.

The notion of the “total force” should rightfully include families as they are the lifeline between military service (especially overseas) and individual officers or enlisted members.

With that in mind, former Defense Secretary Casper Weinberger established the Month of the Military Child as a Department of Defense-wide commemoration in 1986.



Why Purple?

There’s a tradition in the military referring to the color purple; one use of the color involves the phrase “purple suit” which can refer to a military activity or organization that includes civilians and/or multiple military branches.

In the context of April 15th, this tradition continues. Purple indicates that all branches of the military are supported. All the service colors are represented including Air Force blue, Army green, Navy blue, Marine red, and Coast Guard blue; said to combine for the mutual benefit of all into the color purple.

Not To Be Confused With...

Purple Up! Day should not be confused with two other observances that share similar names. One such event is Purple Day, an epilepsy awareness day held on March 26 each year.

Another observance, International Purple Hijab Day (also honored as Global Hijab Day, or International Purple Hijab and Kufi Day) is an international day recognizing those who have endured domestic violence.

Internationally there’s an annual event designed to raise awareness of people with disabilities in Singapore known as The Purple Parade. Established in 2013, this event may be viewed as part of or in response to a larger commemoration paying respects to the International Day of Persons With Disabilities.

To continue reading the article: <https://veteran.com/purple-up-day/>

How We Help and Why You Should Join!

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

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

NEVER STOP SERVING!



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

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



MOAA Tampa Chapter Dues Renewal Form

Deadline for renewing your membership is January 31, 2024

Name _____

Rank _____ Service _____ Status _____ (AD, Retired, Former)

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

Address _____

EMAIL address _____

Phone _____ Cell _____

Spouse _____ Phone _____

Check here if there are no changes _____

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

There are 3 ways to pay your dues:

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

Please consider donating to our chapter scholarship fund.

Amount enclosed:

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

Please make checks payable to: **MOAA Tampa Chapter**

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

Email questions to: membership@moaatampa.org



MOAA Tampa Scholarship Announcement



To: MOAA Tampa Chapter members

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

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

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

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

Scholarship winners will be announced on May 1, 2024.

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

Sincerely,

MOAA Tampa Chapter Scholarship Committee.

Eligibility Requirements

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

Required attachments

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

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

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

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



MOAA Tampa Scholarship Announcement



Date of application _____

Sponsor name _____

Date sponsor joined chapter _____

Student name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Graduating school _____

College accepted _____

Academic awards _____

School activities _____

Community activities _____

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



Coalition Corner



Dear MOAA members,

I would like to start this month's contribution to the newsletter by offering you mine and my colleagues heartfelt thank you for inviting us to your annual MOAA Tampa Gala which was held at the beautiful Country Club venue in South Tampa. I attended this wonderful event with my spouse and Senior National Representatives from Belgium, COL Koen Verdoodt, and Italy, BG Pietro Addis. As always, you welcomed us with open arms, and we thoroughly enjoyed our exchanges with many of the guests in attendance that evening. I also appreciated the guest speakers' comments throughout the evening. In particular, comments from your chapter president, COL (Ret) Charles Dalcourt, which highlighted the importance of advocacy for veterans. The

importance of stepping-up to help those in need within the veteran community but also supporting the new generation through your involvement with the local ROTC and Junior ROTC units.

These inspiring comments led me to reflect on the importance of accountability and how its erosion can adversely impact organizational trust. I would therefore like to offer the following thoughts.

Demystifying Accountability - Although we can generally agree that accountability is key to not losing organizational trust. Countless examples exist of organizations who have fallen short on accountability yet have maintained a significant amount of trust (as this is a reflection piece I suggest you reflect on your own experiences rather than me propose specific examples). Such examples can be seen in the private sector and government alike, who have both maintained a relatively high level of trust despite failing to be truly accountable. Organizations have at times admitted wrong doings, hence acknowledged their accountability, yet much still needs to be done to address the myriad issues that still exist to this day. The MOAA's advocacy is a shining example of the need for organizations to do better. Recent advocacy wins are an example of what can be achieved through meaningful discourse.

Why would accountability not always bring about the downfall of such organizations? Maybe because other elements are at play when looking at the trust enjoyed by organizations.

A 2017 study cited in the Public Relations Review, found the following:

- Denial is more effective than apology in repairing trust in a company accused of corruption, even in the face of strong evidence of its guilt.
- An open and honest attitude can, in the short term, be more detrimental to companies than a defensive strategy.
- Long-standing assumptions about the effectiveness of apology as a crisis response strategy are called into question.

These examples indicate that accountability can be corrupted and/or ignored to shield



an organization from negative consequences. The narrative can be twisted in a way that shifts blame or sees the accusations disappear given the speed of the evolving news cycle. Furthermore, accountability is defined as "a willingness to accept responsibility for our own actions." Therefore, it's about admitting mistakes, without any specific mention of repercussions. How does one know then if such apologies are not simply aimed as a token or empty gesture to minimize damages to an organization's reputation and trust? Accountability is therefore reactionary. It's about self-preservation in the same way a child expresses contrition to avoid the ire of their parents. Should organizations therefore not aspire to a higher standard, by focusing on areas that will set the necessary organizational culture to minimize the risk of blunders that would see an organization's trust compromised?

Accountability is therefore often nothing more than a smoke screen aimed at expressing contrition whilst also protecting an organization's interests. We can and should therefore expect more!

Don't accept the veneer of accountability to determine an organization's ability to maintain trust, it's time to end the charade, organizations should be built on strong tenets. We should therefore collectively hold ourselves and those around us to the highest standards. This can be achieved by informing ourselves, allowing space for individuals and/or organizations to make mistakes as long as the overall intentions were noble.

I thank you as always for your attention and look forward to the next time we meet. As always, I welcome your suggestions regarding topics you would like me to discuss within the forum.

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

MOAA TAMPA CHAPTER MEMBERS RECEIVE NATIONAL RECOGNITION AT THEIR 3RD ANNUAL GALA

Photo Credits: Joe Photo of Tampa and Bob Sawallesh



—Carol Zieres, COL USA (Ret) received the President's Award from MOAA National



—Lewis VanDyke, COL USA (Ret), Barbara Brotherton, Lt COL USAF (Ret), Paul McAneny, COL USAF (Ret) and Sara Marks, CAPT NC USN (Ret) received the MOAA National Leadership Award.

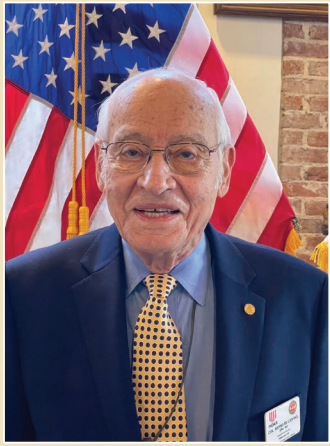


—Jim Carman, CAPT USN (Ret) and MOAA National President Council/Chapter and Member Support presented the MOAA National President's Award and Leadership Awards at the 3rd Annual Gala.



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

CHAPLAIN (COL) BERNARD H LIEVING JR USA RET



I have been sorting through "stuff" in my home office and in the garage boxes. I recently came across a series of books that were published by various churches, organizations, and the U.S. Government. They were all published to be given to military personnel serving in combat or tactical environments.

In order of publication dates they are: "A Prayer Book for Soldiers and Sailors" published by the Protestant Episcopal Church in 1941; "The New Testament" "prepared for use of Protestant personnel of the Army of the United States" under the direction of the Chief of Chaplains and printed 1942; "The Armed Forces Prayer Book" published by the Armed Forces Division of the Protestant Episcopal Church in 1951 "with the assurance of the affection, the deep interest, and the prayers

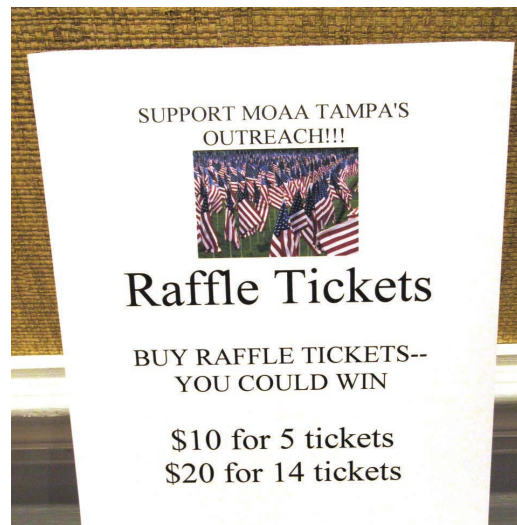
of the Church people at home for God's blessing upon you"; a "Protestant Book of Worship" a small paperback published to supplement the Armed Forces Field Hymnal which I used with my soldiers in Vietnam. I also used the "Worship Hymnal" provided by The Chaplains Tape Library which provided tape cassettes with all the hymns in the Hymnal. In 1988 The Episcopal Church published "A Prayer Book for The Armed Forces" and about the same

time the International Bible Society published a "New Testament Psalms & Proverbs" with a desert camouflage cover. In 1990/91 I received thousands of both for distribution to those serving in Desert Storm. A "Soldiers' Book of Worship" was published in the early 1990's by the Army Chief of Chaplains' Office and included worship helps for Christians, Jews, and Muslims.

Without doubt, all major religious faith groups have provided such materials for their military personnel as evidenced in the resources I have accumulated. Without knowing it, they were following the counsel of General G. George Marshall, a quiet Episcopalian, who said, "I look upon the spiritual life of the soldier as even more important than his equipment. The soldier's heart, the soldier's spirit, the soldier's soul are everything. Unless the soldier's soul sustains him, he cannot be relied upon and will fail himself and his country in the end."

The role of military chaplains is to nourish and support the spiritual lives of the military personnel within their responsibility. Our daily role is to pray for, and support in any way possible, our active-duty military and their families as well as those who have served. Maybe you can be blessed remembering your unit's chaplain using such a book in support of your spiritual life.

A myriad of items were sold by auction and raffle to help support MOAA Tampa's outreach



HAVE YOU VISITED OUR WEBSITE AND 'LIKED' OUR FACEBOOK PAGE?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



"NEVER STOP SERVING"