



The RETROSPECT

TAMPA CHAPTER — A FIVE STAR CHAPTER OF MOAA NATIONAL

August 2025 VOLUME 31, NUMBER 8



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT: LTC PAULA STEWART USA RET

GREETINGS!



Greetings and happy summer to all. I hope this letter finds all of you healthy and content.

Welcome to another season when “those lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer” almost always seem to clash with the dread of hurricane predictions, collective endurance and resilience. The advisory: prepare now!

First, please accept my apology for confusing our September 2025 meeting schedules and fundraiser dates. The monthly chapter luncheon meeting will be at the same time and location, September 11, 2025. Of course, this year’s chapter fundraiser Golf Tournament will be September 12-13, 2025. The Transition After Military Service (TAMS) seminars will resume September 18, 2025, 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM at the Five Labs Conference Center, 4115 West Spruce Street, Tampa 33607. I am coor-

inating with speakers during the next several days for that evening event. Register to attend by email at president@moaatampa.org.

I’m sure everyone knows the many challenges of fundraisers. Non-profit organizations thrive on them and without them, organizations and communities weaken and more often than not, disappear. One popular example is Sunday Baroque for classical music aficionados. Without consistent donations and volunteer support, on which radio and television stations rely, these worthwhile programs will simply cease to exist. My point: donate with your time, money, both! If you cannot physically contribute to this effort—many of us just don’t play golf—please roll up your sleeves, search your wallets and contribute to this annual, chapter-wide fundraiser. It’s critical to what we stand for!

Speaking of volunteers, your board members and I are desperately searching for volunteers to keep this grand ship afloat. Here they are:

- Assistant Secretary
- Assistant Treasurer
- Chaplain and Assistant Chaplain
- Public Relations team for future enlightening and engaging speakers throughout the years, e.g., agencies, organizations, universities, international affairs.
- Archivist, Historian (summer, 2026)

I hope to rev up support for and participation with Buddy Calls, Gold Star Families, Surviving Spouses and My Warriors Place initiatives and events.

Next month’s speaker will be Kelly Kowall, President and Founder of My Warrior’s Place. Carol Zieres successfully obtained a grant from The MOAA Foundation for a partnership that will work to support a wide spectrum of veterans’ needs. Carol also will present Kelly with a check and certificate during our luncheon.

Soon after, the members of the board and I are going to research scheduling two meetings each month instead of the existing one monthly luncheon meeting each second Thursday. We hope this move will encourage members (and newcomers) who simply cannot commit themselves for two hours during a workday. We hope this group of our members will attend after work meetings and we’ll have speakers and refreshments there too.

I have mentioned surveys before, but I have not followed up yet. The purpose of the one page surveys will be to gather your opinions, suggestions and recommendations about issues from luncheon locations and costs to speaker topics, community outreach and recruiting. These questionnaires are coming soon.

Finally, I wish you well. I look forward to seeing more and more of the industrious team members we call the Tampa Chapter!

Very respectfully,
Paula

UPCOMING EVENTS

Aug 7, 2025
Board of Directors Meeting

Aug 14, 2025
Chapter Luncheon
11:30 AM – 12:00 PM Social
12:00 PM – 1:30 PM Lunch
Columbia Restaurant
([see page 9](#))

Save the Date: Sept 12-13, 2025
MOAA Tampa Chapter Golf Event
Walt Disney World Golf
Palm and Magnolia Courses
([see page 11-16](#))

Save the Date: Sept 18, 2025
Transition After Military Service
(TAMS) ([see page 19](#))
6:30 PM – 8:30 PM
Five Labs Conference Center
4115 West Spruce Street
Tampa, FL 33607
e-mail [Paula Stewart at president@moaatampa.org](mailto:Paula.Stewart@president@moaatampa.org)

For all upcoming events click on the link to our website calendar: <https://moaatampa.org/events/>

REMINDER:

SUBMISSION DEADLINE
FOR THE SEPTEMBER 2025
ISSUE IS 20 AUGUST 2025

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



BEN RITTER, SGT USMC
(FORMER)/HONORARY MBR

Capt NORM BILD,
USAF RET

Subsequent to the President’s signing the Budget Bill on July 4, Congress has made significant strides in the last few days to advance its most critical defense policy bill: The annual **National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA)**. This legislation will authorize military pay, benefits, and support programs for fiscal year 2026. Its impact reaches across the breadth and width of the uniformed services community - servicemembers, families, retirees, and survivors alike.

The latest from both chambers

* **Senate:** The Senate Armed Services Committee (SASC) reported its bill out of committee on July 11 with near-unanimous support (26-1 vote) following a swift, bipartisan markup.

* **House:** The House Armed Services Committee (HASC) reported its version out of committee late July 15, also with a near-unanimous (55-2) vote after a longer process, debating over 700 amendments.

The next big hurdle for both versions will be full floor consideration. And MOAA is closely tracking what’s in – and what’s miss-

ing – as the NDAA continues to move forward. Here’s a look at what both bills contain after their committee markups, and how you can help MOAA’s work on the must-pass legislation.

* **Military Pay:** Both the House and Senate versions support a base pay increase of 3.8% in 2026, which would keep pace with the Employment Cost Index.

* **Separation Pay:** The House version would boost the Family Separation Allowance to \$400 per month. Previous authorizations allowed DoD to increase the allowance from \$250 to \$400 per month; this provision creates a new floor.

* **Allowances:** The House version requires studies to improve the accuracy of both the Basic Allowance for Housing and the Basic Allowance for Subsistence.

TAKE ACTION and ask our Lawmakers to help ensure that our servicemembers can afford Housing: Restore Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) to 100%. The cost of housing is skyrocketing across the country, and military families are feeling the strain. Unlike civilians, servicemembers don’t get to choose where they live. They move frequently, making homeownership difficult, and their spouses often face job instability due to these relocations.

For those living on-base, the government covers 100% of projected housing costs. But for the majority of servicemembers - about two-thirds of the forces - who must live off-base, their Basic Allowance for Housing only covers 95% of rent and utilities. That leaves military families paying out of pocket just to afford a roof over their heads.

This cost-cutting measure is unfair and puts unnecessary financial stress on those who sacrifice so much for our nation. Our troops don’t cut corners in their service - why should we cut corners on their housing?

Restoring full BAH isn’t just about housing - it’s about keeping our promise to those who serve. Congress must act now. Urge your legislators to support, and ensure our servicemembers can afford a safe and stable home. Specifically, ask our legislators both in the House and Senate to restore BAH to 100% of projected housing costs.

NOTE: H.R. 1956 - A bill to amend Title 37, United States Code, to increase the basic allowance for housing inside the **United States** for members of the uniformed services, was introduced in the U.S. House on March 6, 2025. A similar bill is expected to be introduced in the Senate by Senator Raphael Warnock (D-Ga.). The act was introduced last session and was part of MOAA’s 2024 Advocacy in Action efforts; partial funding for BAH restoration was included in the House version of the FY 2025 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) but was not part of the final legislation.

Link to H.R. 1956: <https://www.congress.gov/119/bills/hr1956/BILLS-119hr1956ih.xml>

Call Your Lawmakers and ask them to restore BAH to 100% of Projected Housing Costs.

Families and Survivors - The latest from both chambers

* **Child Care:** The House version includes a three-year extension of the **In-Home Child Care** pilot program, which provides fee assistance for military families seeking in-home care. The House bill also requires a Government Accountability Office (GAO) review of privatized military family housing inventory.

* **Impact Aid:** The Senate version authorizes \$50 million “to educational agencies affected by the enrollment of military and DoD civilian dependents,” according to the executive summary, along with \$10 million in impact aid payments for children with disabilities and \$20 million “for local educational agencies

continued on page 2

LEGISLATIVE LOWDOWN *cont.*

determined by the Secretary of Defense to have high concentrations of military children with severe disabilities.” The House version authorizes \$35 million to local educational agencies impacted by the presence of tax-exempt federal property and an additional \$10 million for locations serving military-connected children with severe disabilities.

*** Food Security:** The House bill excludes BAH from the eligibility calculation for the **Basic Needs Allowance**, a long-standing MOAA priority.

Retirees and Veterans

Transition Help: The House bill enhances the Transition Assistance Program (TAP) by standardizing the presentation of VA offerings while introducing transitioning servicemembers to VA-approved veterans service organizations who are able to assist with the transition into civilian life and navigating benefits available to servicemembers and their families.

DoD Health Care

*** Dental Readiness:** The House bill provides no-cost dental coverage under TRICARE for

members of the reserve component.

*** Improved Access to Care:** The House bill would create a pilot program designed to streamline access to OB-GYN care by providing it without a referral to TRICARE Prime beneficiaries. It would also institute a five-year pilot treating pregnancy as a qualifying life event for the purposes of eligibility to enroll in TRICARE Select.

When MOAA speaks, Congress listens. What can you do to help?

Call MOAA's headquarters offices in DC at [800-344-6622](tel:800-344-6622) for assistance. Ask to be connected to an agent who can give you the names and contact numbers of your elected officials so that you can call and speak with them and urge them to ensure that current bills will move forward through the legislative process without delay. While MOAA continues direct engagement with lawmakers and their staffs, that alone won't be enough to move current bills in the U.S. Congress affecting active-duty military and veterans across the finish line. Your voice - raised as a constituent - can help in making all the difference(s).

MOAA TAMPA CHAPTER MEMBER HIGHLIGHT: LTC DAVID ZALLO, USA (Ret)

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



Retired as of 1 Jun 2025, Dave initially enlisted in the Army upon graduation from Pelham Memorial High School, NY in 1998. After completing training as a 77F (now 92F), Petroleum Supply Specialist, at Fort Lee, VA he was assigned to HHC, 4th Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division at Fort Hood where he fulfilled his initial contract. After ETS'ing (leaving) from active duty, he remained in the Army Reserves, drilling out of Fort Totten (Queens, NY), and participated in the Simultaneous Membership Program as a member of the (formerly) Ram Battalion (BN) while attending City University of New York (CUNY) Lehman in the Bronx, NY.

In 2004, he was commissioned as a Field Artillery (FA) Officer and was assigned to 1st Brigade Combat Team (BCT), 10th Mountain Division in Fort Drum, NY. While serving at Fort Drum, Dave worked as a Fire Direction Officer (FDO) (3-6 FA), Company Fire Support Officer (FSO) (2-22 IN), Military Training Team Member (2-22 IN), and BN FDO (3-6 FA) and deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom twice (Baghdad 05 – 06 and Kirkuk 07 – 08) for a total of 26 months. In Baghdad he led combat patrols and established relationships throughout the area of operations to identify disruptive individuals and humanitarian needs. While in Kirkuk, he lived on an Iraqi air base advising their staff and establishing a reconnaissance platoon which would go on to conduct their own patrols in Northern Iraq.

Upon completion of the FA Captain's Career Course at Fort Sill, OK, he was assigned to 1st BCT, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Carson, CO. While serving at Fort Carson, Dave deployed to the Arghandab River Valley, Afghanistan as the BN FSO for 1-66 AR before working as the BN FDO and taking command of A BTRY, 4-42 FA. In Afghanistan, he planned and executed both lethal and nonlethal operations in coordination with Afghan military, Afghan police, USAID, DoS, and several other NGOs. As a Commander, he was directly responsible for eight, 155mm Paladins, and the day-to-day operations for over 100 Soldiers.

Following command, Dave transferred from Field Artillery to Functional Area 30 (FA30), Information Operations (IO). Upon completion of the IO Qualification Course at Fort Leavenworth, Dave was assigned as the BCT IO officer for 1st Armored BCT stationed at Camp Hovey, Korea. In Korea he coordinated both military to military and civilian-military relations between the US Army and Republic of Korea officials. Additionally, he managed the Cour-

tesy Patrol Program ensuring the safety and wellbeing of servicemembers and locals in the local community. After a year in Korea, he joined Operations Group at the Joint Readiness Training Center where he served as the Brigade Mission Command (BMC) IO Observer Controller Trainer (OC-T) for 25 incredible rotations over nearly three years. As an OC-T, he not only worked with role players and contractors to develop and implement scenario design, but he also mentored fellow officers and their associated staff for the duration of their time at JRTC. Dave was also responsible for conducting after action reviews for the Brigade Combat Team command teams and staff.

From JRTC, Dave reported back to Fort Carson to work as the Deputy (4th Infantry) Division IO officer where he spent approximately six months as the Strategic Effects Officer in Charge for the Division Mission Command Element in Poznan, Poland. In addition to coordinating General Officer travel and VIP visits, he regularly communicated with Embassy's throughout Eastern Europe. Shortly after his return from Poland, he moved to Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion where he served as the BN Executive Officer (XO), Operations Officer (S3), and Commander (CDR) over the course of two years. Though primarily a member of the Command team helping to man, train, and equip a unit of over 800 personnel, Dave also served as the Commander in his absence.

His final assignment was as a member of the Army Cyber Cyberspace Operations – Integrated Planning Element to CENTCOM at MacDill AFB, Tampa, FL, where he served in the Offensive Cyberspace Operations and Plans Branch Chief positions.

Throughout his career, Dave earned two Bronze Star Medals, three Meritorious Service Medals, a Combat Action Badge, and the Parachutist Badge. He also earned a master's degree in leadership and management (Webster University) and a master's degree in finance – Financial Planning (Liberty University).

Dave is married to Dayna Robson Zallo of Houston, Texas. They have one daughter, Bianca Lynn (7 years) and a son, Anthony John (4 years) who both attend faith-based schools in Tampa. While Dave prefers roundtrips, cruises have become the preferred vacation for the family. Most recently, Dave and Dayna visited Alaska.

Voices of our Ancestors: the Navajo Code Talker's Story

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

—Story by [Lance Cpl. William Waterstreet](#)

YUMA, Ariz. - A few Marines fortunate enough to be in the right place at the right time witnessed an amazing piece of history come alive. On July 2, for the first time in more than 60 years, the Marine Corps' Navajo code from World War II was again passed over radio transmission.

The code was transmitted by Bill Toledo who served as a Navajo code talker with 3rd Battalion, 9th Marines and is a native of Laguna, N.M., and was visiting the men and women of Marine Wing Communications Squadron 48 during Exercise Javelin Thrust to commemorate 70 years since the code talker program was founded in 1942.

In spite of triple digit temperatures, gusting winds and clouds of dust at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Bill Toledo and fellow code talker Sidney Bedoni, who served as a Navajo code talker with the 2nd, 4th and 5th Marine Divisions and is a native of White Cone, Ariz., insisted on visiting Marines out in the field to see how modern radio Marines live and work. After reviewing a static display of modern radio communications equipment, Toledo discussed his experiences as a code talker in the Second World War and, during the story, Toledo keyed the handset of a nearby PRC-150, performed a brief radio check, and then reenacted a coded message from the story. Toledo simulated calling for fire on a Japanese-held hill before the awestruck Marines.

“We are in the presence of greatness and true American heroes,” stated Master Sgt. John Roberts, the MWCS-48 communications chief and a native of Cleveland who was assigned as an honorary code talker liaison for the duration of the event.

Toledo and Bedoni came to visit the Marines and to tell the story they lived almost 70 years ago. Their visit began with video interviews conducted by the Marine Corps History Division for the sake of posterity, including a recording of the Marine Corps hymn in Navajo. Following



—Photo By [Sgt. William Waterstreet](#) | Master Sgt. John Roberts, the MWCS-48 communications chief and a native of Cleveland, introduces Bill Toledo, left, who served as a Navajo code talker with 3rd Battalion, 9th Marines and is a native of Laguna, N.M., and Sidney Bedoni, right, who served as a Navajo code talker with the 2nd, 4th and 5th Marine Divisions and is a native of White Cone, Ariz., to the Marines of Marine Wing Communication Squadron at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, July 2. This visit occurred to help spread the history of the World War II Navajo code talkers and raise support for the Navajo Code Talker Museum.

these interviews, the code talkers ate chow with several junior Marines and non-commissioned officers.

Later, active and reserve Marines, Marine Corps League members, and local civilians gathered in the chapel to hear their tale firsthand. The day ended with a banquet in their honor.

The code talkers' storied history began in early 1942, when Philip Johnston, a white Protestant missionary's son, presented the idea of using the Navajo language to create a code the Japanese couldn't break. Johnston recruited 29 young Navajos to become Marines, not informing them about the plan for the code. Once the Navajo Marines had graduated boot camp and combat training, they were instructed to create a code based on their native language.

The code was first tested on Guadalcanal by six Marine code talkers who landed with the 1st Marine Division. Four weeks after the landing, then Maj. Gen. Alexander Vandegrift, the division commander, sent back to the Pentagon, “The enemy doesn't know what they're saying. We don't know what they're saying, but it works.”

The code was based on the language of the Navajo people, but not everyone could understand it. Each Navajo Marine still had to go through a school to learn how to speak the code. The code was based on words which were familiar to the Navajo people. For example, the word for potato meant

hand grenade and the word for turtle meant tank.

In order to test the code, the government had Navajo elders try to decipher it. When they couldn't, the government knew they found something special.

To continue reading click: <https://www.dvidshub.net/news/91255/voices-our-ancestors-navajo-code-talkers-story>

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



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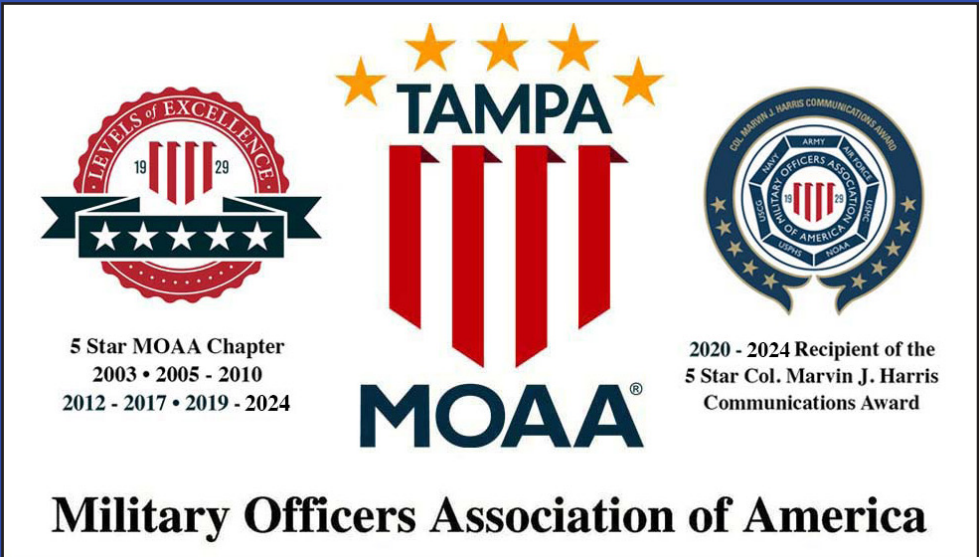
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MOAA MISSION STATEMENT

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



TAMPA CHAPTER MISSION:

To maintain a strong national defense and to ensure our nation keeps its commitments to currently serving, retired, and former members of the uniformed services and their families and survivors.

GENERAL CONTACT INFO:

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Surviving Spouse Corner:
Growing Up TAPS:
Understanding How Our Children Grieve

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

—Author: Andy McNiel

There is a personal nature to how each of us grieves, and that individuality extends to our children and teenagers. They uniquely grieve the death of their person based on (but not limited to) their personality type, individual preferences, how they most feel comfortable being in the world, the nature of the relationship they shared with their person before they died, and where they are in their developmental process. Understanding their grieving style and coping style can be helpful as we, as their parents and guardians, navigate what role we play in their continued healthy growth and development.

Common Grieving Styles

Let’s look at a few grieving styles and what might be common reactions to loss at different developmental ages, keeping in mind that these generalizations will vary from person to person.

Private in Grief: Those Who Grieve More Quietly

It is important to first remember that quiet or private grief is not “absent” grief. Children and teenagers who are more private about their grief are still grieving. They likely have a personality type that is more comfortable expressing their grief when they are alone. This does not mean that they never outwardly share their grief with others or visibly emote, and this may vary widely from one person to another. One of the challenges for individuals with this style of grieving is that others may assume they are not grieving. Because of this, people who are more private with their grief may not have the same level of outside support from others in their family and circle of friends. We can support our children with this style of grieving by setting times to check in with them at appropriate intervals to see how they are doing.

Although they may not contribute to a conversation, grievers who are more quiet or private are still observing, taking in what others are sharing, and processing ideas for coping with the intense thoughts, emotions, and experiences grief is bringing to their lives. As their parents and primary caregivers, our acknowledgment and validation are important to their ability to adapt their loss into their lives as they grow into healthy adults.

Seen in Grief: Those Who Grieve More Visibly

The phrase, “the squeaky wheel gets the grease,” comes to mind when considering this style of grieving. Some children and teenagers grieve in a way that is more outward-facing and visible to others. This can manifest in many ways — some may be more visibly emotional, while others may be more talkative, using their words to share openly about their grief experiences with others.

Those children and teens who are more emotionally open might draw the attention of caring adults in their lives who worry they are struggling and are unsure how to offer help. Those who more openly share their grief might also lead their parents or caregivers to believe they are managing their grief well. In either case, the reality is that they need attention and support from their trusted adults. Whether we simply sit with them and comfort them or actively listen to and affirm them, we are letting them express their emotions and giving them room to grow with their grief.

To continue reading click: <https://www.taps.org/articles/30-3/understanding-how-our-children-grieve>

*This article was originally published in the fall 2024 issue of TAPS Magazine and is reprinted with permission. For additional resources for surviving families, friends, and battle buddies, please visit TAPS.org.

Andy McNiel, M.A., Senior Advisor, TAPS Youth Programs



MEDICAL CORNER



NAVY MEDICINE FAST FACTS

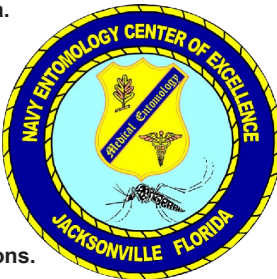
July 2025



NAVY ENTOMOLOGY CENTER OF EXCELLENCE (NECE)

Optimizing force health protection, mitigating mission risks from pests and enhancing warfighter readiness worldwide.

- NECE is an Echelon V command located at Naval Air Station Jacksonville, Florida. It is the DoD’s only testing and evaluation center for forward deployable pest management equipment to all uniformed services.
- The command evaluates and recommends deployable pest management materiel used to protect deployed warfighters from pest-borne diseases in combat environments.
- As the Navy’s manager for DoD pesticide applicator and shipboard pest management programs, NECE certifies deployable military members to provide pest management to support ground and maritime forces in contingency operations.



SERVICE SCOPE

NECE provides a comprehensive array of services essential for protecting deployed personnel and preserving the warfighter from entomological threats. Services include:

- Operational Entomology Expertise
- Testing and Evaluation
- Biosecurity
- Materiel Recommendations
- Public Health Support
- Identification and Surveillance
- Training and Education

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Testing Navy Working Uniforms (NWU) / Marine Corps Combat Utility Uniforms (MCCUU) to ensure they provide protection against biting insects.
- Providing pesticide equipment training to operational units, directly contributing to the Tier 1 readiness certification of Navy expeditional medicine platforms (EXMEDs).
- Evaluating cutting-edge solutions for deployed personnel, including battery-powered insecticide sprayers for disease control in fuel-scarce, austere combat zones, and novel biochemical sprays that eliminate cooking grease on ships, enhancing cockroach control.
- Leading mosquito and bed bug surveillance programs to monitor populations and inform effective control strategies.



NAVY MEDICINE FAST FACTS



NECE HISTORY

-1942-

Navy entomologists were first deployed to the Pacific Theater as part of Navy Epidemiology Units. Between 1942 and 1944, Navy Medicine established 122 epidemiology units worldwide, including the Malariology and Pest Control Unit at Naval Air Station (NAS) Banana River, Florida.

-1947-

The Malariology and Pest Control Unit relocates to NAS Jacksonville, Florida.

-1949-

On July 1, the unit was renamed the Malaria and Mosquito Control Unit No. 1. Navy entomologist Lt. Cmdr. John M. Hirst was assigned as its officer-in-charge.

-1952-

The unit is renamed Preventive Medicine Unit No. 1 (PMU-1).

-1957-

PMU-1 is redesignated the Disease Vector Control Center (DVCC) with an expanded mission covering roughly half the world. A sister unit, DVCC-Alameda, is established in Alameda, California, to support the remaining global regions.

-1971-

The DVCCs are renamed Navy Disease Vector Ecology and Control Centers (DVECCs).

-1995-

DVECC Alameda relocates to Navy Submarine Base Bangor, Washington (now part of Naval Base Kitsap), and is renamed DVECC Bangor.

-2005-

DVECC Bangor is disestablished on September 30.

-2006-

DVECC Jacksonville assumes responsibility for providing worldwide disease vector control and prevention support. The unit is renamed the Navy Entomology Center of Excellence (NECE).



Did you know?



Throughout history, the mosquito has been the scourge of humankind, spreading more illness and causing more deaths a year than sharks, snakes, spiders, and humans combined. They have influenced the outcomes of wars and shaped the fates of nations. Of the 3,000+ species of mosquito, three can be credited as the most proficient killers—the Aedes, Anopheles, and Culex genera. These little flies (which weigh an average of 1/15,000 of an ounce) are the vectors of a host of deadly diseases including Chikungunya, dengue fever, Japanese Encephalitis, malaria, West Nile, Yellow Fever, and Zika.

Remembering an airborne legend: Sgt. Maj. McLaney’s career spanned first three decades of Army airborne history

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

—Story by [Staff Sgt. Todd Pouliot](#)

A little more than a year before the U.S. entered World War II, the Army put out a call in 1940, for volunteers to test a relatively new tactic for inserting troops into enemy territory.

Two hundred men from the 29th Infantry Regiment pushed their mortal fears aside and stepped forward to be part of airborne history. From them, 48 were chosen to train and become the first U.S. Army platoon to jump as a unit from an aircraft. They formed the modestly named, “Airborne Test Platoon”.

With the exception of two lieutenants and two sergeants, the test platoon was made up of young privates. Among them was a strapping young man from rural Alabama who would eventually become a decorated World War II paratrooper and a sergeant major in the premiere airborne division — the 82nd Airborne Division.

December 11th would have been Lester C. McLaney’s 100th birthday. According to his widow, Willie McLaney, Lester grew up the son of a sharecropper in Hartford, Alabama; just south of what today is Fort Rucker. She said he joined the Army for adventure and a better life.

“One night he was sitting by lamp-light doing his school work and he looked up through the ceiling and saw the sky,” Willie said. “He said to himself right then — there had to be a better place for him. And that is when he decided that he was going to join the Army.”

McLaney joined the Army in June 1938, and served two years with the 29th Infantry Regiment at Fort Benning, Georgia. In 1940, the regiment was selected by then Maj. William Lee to provide volunteers for the first-of-its-kind airborne training.

The volunteers underwent three days of flight physicals, which skimmed the test platoon down to 48 of the fittest men.

“I was 23 and single, and it promised to be something different, so I volunteered,” McLaney wrote in a 1968 biography. “It was quite strenuous, but we had a lot of fun.”

The training lasted seven weeks at Fort Benning, where, in addition to six weeks of parachute training, the volunteers conducted physical exercise for several hours each day; a regimen that included calisthenics, log raises, swimming and running.

After the training at Fort Benning, the test platoon traveled to Heightstown, near Fort Dix, New Jersey, where they practiced descending and landing in harnesses attached to steel cables from 125-foot towers. After a week of tower-training, the test platoon returned to Fort Benning for parachute packing and live jumps.

After completing six jumps, members of the test platoon were qualified as paratroopers and became the cadre to train the 501st Parachute Battalion, which provided the historic lineage of the storied 501st parachute Regiment. Their training took three months, after which trainees and trainers alike were ready to make their historic combat jumps into the European Theater and the North African Campaign.

Lester was assigned to the 509th Parachute Infantry Regiment. His combat jumps include: Tebassa, North Africa; Oran, North Africa; Avilino, Italy; and Southern France. According to Willie, Lester also jumped into Normandy.

But this was all before he and Willie met. While Lester was participating in campaigns such as Algeria – French Morocco, Tunisia, Naples – Foggia, Anzio, Rome – Armo, Southern France, Rhineland, Ardennes – Alsace; Willie was serving in the Red Cross. She said she remembers serving at Fort Ord, California, watching film of U.S. paratroopers jumping out of aircraft overseas. Little did she know that one of those brave men would soon be her husband.

After the war, Willie returned home to Alabama, where she met Lester, who was then working at his father’s dry cleaning shop.

“I was the new girl in town and he was the town’s Casanova,” Willie said with a smile. “We married two weeks later.”

The role of Army wife was one that Willie said she embraced passionately. Her strength and self-reliance helped her get through rough times when her husband left for training and missions; the details of which he was not allowed to share with her.

“It takes a darn good woman to be an Army wife because you have to put up with so much,” Willie said. “The minute they walk out the door, everything blows.”

At the end of hostilities in Europe, Lester was assigned to the 82nd Abn. Div. when the 509th PIR was disbanded. After returning from war, Lester was discharged as a first sergeant in 1945.

Following a three-year break in service, Lester re-entered the Army in 1948 and returned to the 82nd Abn. Div., where he served for a little more than three years. Remaining at Fort Bragg, he served as a project noncommissioned officer at the Airborne Service Test Division, Army Field Forces Board #1; and supervisor of the Parachute Repair Section, Post Quartermaster.

To continue reading click: <https://www.dvidshub.net/news/217882/remembering-airborne-legend-sgt-maj-mclaneys-career-spanned-first-three-decades-army-airborne-history>



—Photo By [Staff Sgt. Todd Pouliot](#) | Willie McLaney holds a photo of the Airborne Test Platoon, left; and a photo of her husband, Lester McLaney, during World War II. Behind her is a family portrait taken before her husband’s death in 1972. Lester McLaney was a member of the Test Platoon and went on to make four combat jumps during World War II, and participated in several campaigns in Northern Africa and Europe. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Todd L. Pouliot, 40th Public Affairs Detachment)

AUGUST LUNCHEON GUEST SPEAKER KELLY KOWALL

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

Kelly Kowall, President and Founder of My Warrior’s Place

As the mother of an active-duty soldier in Afghanistan, Kelly was aware of the possibility of losing her son, but no doubt that foreknowledge did not make the news that her son, Army SPC Corey Kowall had been killed on September 20, 2009, while out on a combat mission any easier to bear.

Almost immediately, Kelly turned that tragedy into a wide-reaching good by finding a way to help others deal with their losses. In 2012 she officially founded My Warrior’s Place, a 501 (c) (3) non-profit, where our American Heroes and their families can find refuge and have a place to heal from the tragedies they have had to endure.

Kelly has more than 30 years in management, sales and sales training. She is an International Coaching Federation certified, Life & Business Coach and a certified Grief Services Provider by the American Grief Academy. Additionally, Kelly is a The Firewalking Center certified Fire and Glass Walking Instructor.

Kelly is also an accomplished writer and much sought-after speaker. Her book entitled “My Life After... the death of my son - a story of miracles” has received high accolades. Her second book “My Service Dog’s Place” has become a favorite by many. She also has had several stories published in a few Chicken Soup for the Soul books.



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Julie McRee, Director of Instructional Design & Online Learning
817-569-3156
jamcree@fcef.com

TAKE COMMAND® Online Financial Readiness Program Expands College Accreditation Eligibility

FORT WORTH, TEXAS (February 2025) – First Command Educational Foundation (FCEF) announces expanded accreditation of its **TAKE COMMAND®** online financial readiness program by The American College of Financial Services. Now, all learners with a high school diploma (or equivalent) who meet admission requirements can earn college credits at no cost while strengthening their financial security.

Designed for service members (active, guard, reserves, veterans) and their families, TAKE COMMAND educates enrollees to make smart, informed financial decisions and effectively pursue long-term financial security from the time they enter military service until separation or retirement. Most courses take no more than an hour to complete and are accessible 24/7 via computer, smartphone, or tablet. Those successfully completing the program have an opportunity to earn up to three FREE college credit hours in consumer finance education. All TAKE COMMAND courses may be taken FREE of charge.

“Financial readiness is the basis for economic mobility. The American Dream is still alive and well, but only if you know the rules of the game. Programs like TAKE COMMAND provide so much more than just basic financial education, they empower individuals, families, and communities to achieve goals and unlock the lives they want to live,” Timi Joy Jorgensen, PhD, Assistant Vice President, Financial Education & Wellbeing, The American College of Financial Services.

Tom Kuhar, CEO and President of FCEF shares, “Among the many challenges facing service members and their families, the need for foundational financial education is critical. TAKE COMMAND equips learners with the financial knowledge to shield them against uncertainties associated with a military career such as deployments, frequent relocations, changing pay and allowances, and other challenges. This knowledge helps them develop solid financial behaviors to propel them onto a path of financial security amid the rigors of military service.”

For additional information on the news that is the subject of this release (or for course details, demo, or enrollment), contact Julie McRee or visit <https://fcef.com/military-financial-readiness/#take-command>. TAKE COMMAND is a registered service mark.

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Established in 1983, First Command Educational Foundation is a 501(c)(3) public charity that provides exceptional financial readiness programs and, with like-minded partner organizations, scholarships for our nation’s service members (including federal civilian employees and veterans) and their families. FCEF does not endorse or favor any commercial supplier, product or service, or promote the services of a specific financial institution. All information provided is intended for educational purposes and is not to be considered financial advice. All personal information is kept strictly confidential. <https://fcef.com/>

July Luncheon Photos

Photo Credit: Sara Marks and Ben Ritter



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



It's hard to believe that we are almost two thirds of the way through this year! Lots of things have already happened with a new chapter president last April. Paula Stewart thank you for stepping up to the task. We are forging ahead with a new fundraising event, the upcoming golf tournament and Transition After Military Service seminar this coming September. This Fall

our JROTC from Freedom High School will return from their summer break to present colors at our September luncheon. The future is bright!

Last month Marilyn Westropp, President of the Association of the United States Army (AUSA) Suncoast Chapter was our luncheon guest speaker and shared their organization's many successes. This month Kelly Kowall, Gold Star Mother and Founder of My Warrior's Place is our luncheon guest speaker. She is also one of our four recipients of a MOAA Foundation Grant. Read the bios of these two speakers in this newsletter. Our chapter member highlight for this month is LTC David Zallo, USA (Ret). Read his bio and look for his financial article contributions in future newsletters. I think there are quite a few articles that I hope you find informative and interesting including an article from the Tragedy Assistance Program in our Surviving Spouse's Corner about how children grieve and an article about the Navajo Code talkers. I especially want to thank COL Pedersen, the Chair of the Coalition and Senior National Representative from Denmark who submitted his input for the Coalition Corner from his home in Denmark while on vacation from the summer heat here in Tampa Bay. Make sure to read his updates.

This September is our inaugural fundraising golf tournament at the Walt Disney World Golf Course with rooms at special rates at the Shades of Green. Included in this edition of *The Retrospect* is the brochure intended for sponsors of our event and the letter sent to you, our chapter members to help get the word out about this amazing event. We need your support for our MOAA Tampa Chapter's many programs that include the JROTC, our homeless veterans, My Warrior's Place and our transition program for veterans either retiring or simply leaving the military. Information is also on our website with two links to click for

information and to sign up, sponsor or donate. Thank you in advance for helping to support our Five Star MOAA Level of Excellence Chapter.

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 three of our newsletter has our Chapter Secretary's email, so send any articles or questions about volunteering for activities with our chapter to secretary@moaatampa.org or you 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 your editor continues to be an enriching and rewarding learning experience, but one that I don't do alone. In the meantime, I'll continue to share my travel adventures and would love to hear about your travels as well as your community involvement. Please send your stories to my MOAA Tampa email: coms@moaatampa.org.

Know your MOAA Tampa Leadership is working hard to keep our chapter involved in our many endeavors, especially our upcoming golf tournament and Transition After Military Service seminar this September. As your editor, I work hard to present your newsletter each month. Many times, I'm working on the newsletter as I pack for my next trip. As a heads up, the September newsletter will publish a bit later due to my upcoming travel, so I want to thank you for understanding. But keep your articles coming because it's all that each of you do that make this a rich, informative and award winning newsletter. I couldn't do it without you. Finally, make sure to stay cool this August and as always, stay prepared during our hurricane season.

"Change the way you look at things and the things you look at change." – Wayne W. Dyer

Let us never forget. - NEVER STOP SERVING!

Sara Marks, CAPT NC USN (Ret)

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

of Defense and is an affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA).

OUR EDITORIAL POLICY:

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

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

ON THE WEB:

Tampa Chapter <https://moaatampa.org>

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

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

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

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

FL COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS: <https://flmoaa.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.

MARILYN WESTROPP, PRESIDENT OF THE AUSA SUNCOAST CHAPTER JULY LUNCHEON SPEAKER FOR MOAA TAMPA

Thank you to Marilyn Westropp, current President of the Association of the United States Army (AUSA) Suncoast Chapter, for providing a wonderful conversation about what the AUSA does to support the US Army. Her enthusiasm and energy was contagious.

—By Sara Marks, CAPT NC USN (Ret)



Marilyn Westropp boasts a rich history in marketing and business development, currently holding the position of Director of Business Development, North America at Acoustiblok, Inc. This esteemed company, recognized as a NASA "Spinoff," specializes in providing innovative acoustical sound-reduction solutions for both indoor and outdoor noise challenges.

Her educational background includes studies in Business Administration at Kent State University, and she was inducted into the prestigious International Honor Society of Business Administration as a member of Delta Mu Delta at South University.

Marilyn's professional journey traverses diverse industries, including telecommunications, medical representation, motivational speaking, event planning, and media production. She has held pivotal roles such as VP of Site Acquisition and Development, CEO of a Media Production Company, and Business Development Consultant for various organizations.

Active in her community, Marilyn has been honored by the Hispanic Professional Women's Association and remains engaged with the South Tampa Chamber, where she previously served as an ambassador. She is a dedicated member of several professional societies and actively participates in veteran and military-related events and organizations.

Her commitment to service extends beyond her professional endeavors, as Marilyn currently presides as President of the Suncoast Chapter of the Association United States Army, leveraging her extensive network, marketing prowess, and public relations acumen to advance its mission.

In her personal life, Marilyn cherishes time with her two daughters and grandson. When not immersed in her professional or community commitments, she finds solace in yoga, cycling, and the companionship of her beloved dog, often accompanied by a good book.

ABOUT AUSA

The Association of the United States Army is a nonprofit educational and professional development association serving America's Army and supporters of a strong national defense. AUSA provides a voice for the Army, supports the Soldier, and honors those who have served in order to advance the security of the nation.

OUR MISSION

AUSA supports soldiers, their families and Army civilians, provides a voice for the Army, and honors those who have served. As the Army's premier, nonprofit, educational and professional association, we:

- **Educate** those we serve (soldiers and their families, Army civilians, retired soldiers and veterans, and the businesses and industries that support the Army) with programs, products, resources and events...
- **Inform** our members, Congress and the American public about issues affecting America's Army – Regular Army, Army National Guard and Army Reserve, and...
- **Connect** America's Total Army, its industry partners, like-minded associations and other supporters at the national, regional and chapter levels.

OUR VISION

To be recognized by the Army, Congress, our industry partners and communities across the nation as the Army's premier association and the foremost supporter of the Total Army.

WHO CAN JOIN?

AUSA is open to everyone, whether you have a relationship with the US Army, or would simply like to offer your support to our soldiers. All Army ranks and all components are represented in AUSA-- including Regular Army, National Guard, Army Reserve, Government Civilians, Retirees, Wounded Warriors, Veterans, concerned citizens and family members. Indeed, AUSA welcomes anyone who subscribes to the philosophy of a strong national defense with special concern for the Army. Community businesses and defense industry companies are also vital and contributing members of AUSA. [Join Now!](https://www.ausa.org/join)

To read more about AUSA click: <https://www.ausa.org/about-us>





AUGUST LUNCHEON MEETING



EVENT: Chapter Monthly Luncheon Meeting

DATE: Thursday, 14 August **TIME:** Social time 1130 hours, Meeting time 12 noon – 1330 hours

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

RESERVATIONS: Reservations must be made by NOON Friday, 8 August. Call 813-374-3309 OR via email to LunchReservations@moaatampa.org. Reservations are limited to 60. A Reservation Made is a Reservation Paid.

CANCELLATIONS: must be made by NOON Monday, 11 August, by calling 813-374-3309 OR via email to LunchReservations@moaatampa.org.

COST: Event cost is \$35 payable by check or cash, \$36 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.

Guest Speaker: Kelly Kowall, My Warriors Place

MENU: 1905 Salad, Cuban Bread and butter, Ropa Vieja, Pollo Salteado, Yellow Rice, Platanos Maduros, Fresh Green Beans, Coffee, Iced Tea, Soft Drinks and a celebration cake for the Coast Guard

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

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.

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.

Florida Veteran’s Benefit Guide for 2025 Link:

<https://www.flipsnack.com/qcausamagazine/fdva-benefits-guide-2025/full-view.html>

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



Buddy Call Program

Let’s check on our chapter members over the holidays. Volunteers need to assist making calls!

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

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.

IMPORTANT DATES IN AUGUST

- Antiterrorism Awareness Month
- 4 Coast Guard Day
- 7 Purple Heart Day
- 10 US Department of Defense Birthday
- 10 Agent Orange Awareness Day
- 14 Navajo Code Talkers Day
- 16 National Airborne Day
- 29 Marine Corps Reserve Birthday



OCS
CONNECT
A PATH TO SOLUTIONS

OCS Connect was developed to support the families of high school seniors enlisting in the military by providing timely, reliable, and emotionally-grounded resources. We have built a trusted platform that bridges the communication gap between civilian families and the military structure, helping loved ones feel more informed and less alone during the enlistment journey.

To view upcoming Events & Podcasts: <https://www.ourcommunitysalutes.org/ocs-connect>

6th Medical Group, MacDill wants YOU!

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

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

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

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



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

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

E-Mail: coms@moaatampa.org

2024-2025



Advertise in the monthly MOAA Tampa Chapter Newsletter



The

RETROSPECT

TAMPA CHAPTER — A FIVE STAR CHAPTER OF MOAA NATIONAL




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

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

DIGITAL PUBLISHING			
Ad Deadline	Inserts	Advertising	Cost (Artwork supplied) Cost (Ad creation)
Dec. 20 (2024)	Jan. 1	Half page (12.95" wide x 9.75" tall)	\$1,000.00 +\$75.00
Jan. 20	Feb. 1	Quarter page (6.5" wide x 6.25" tall)	\$500.00 +\$50.00
Feb. 21	Mar. 1	1/8 page (6.5" wide x 3.5" tall)	\$250.00 \$35.00
Mar. 21	April 1	DIGITAL AD FORMAT: Digital ads must be submitted in PDF, JPEG or EPS formats.	
April 20	May 1	NEED HELP? If you do not have a digital ad, we can create one for you. See chart above for pricing based on desired ad size.	
May 20	June 1	DEADLINE: See Digital Publishing table.	
Jun. 20	July 1	ADs are for 12 months. We can discuss pro-rating for shorter periods.	
July 20	Aug. 1		
Aug. 19	Sept. 1		
Sept. 20	Oct. 1		
Oct. 20	Nov. 1		
Nov. 21	Dec.1		

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

Email: Coms@moaatampa.org
www.moaatampa.org







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

Turn Compassion Into Action!

Join the Service to the Armed Forces Team!

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



Volunteers Urgently Needed in the Following Areas at MacDill AFB:


Coping with Deployment Facilitator	MacDill AFB Clinic	MacDill Clinic Professional Volunteer	MacDill AFB Pharmacy
Help provide skills to help military families cope with military life, especially deployments. *Must be mental health professional, holding a current license*	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



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

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Request for Tampa Chapter Member Support


The Tampa Chapter has supported military servicemembers and their families for several years, and our impact continues to grow. While our investments and modest fundraising have funded our initiatives, we now need additional support to expand our outreach programs in Greater Tampa. We ask for your help.

Our principal fundraising event this year is the Hacker's Open, an inaugural golf tournament at Walt Disney World. Thanks to discounts from Disney Golf and sponsorships from organizations such as All American Sleeper Cab, CAE Inc., Dallas 1 Construction and Development, Mazda of Clearwater, and Tito's Handmade Vodka, we hope to raise significant funds.

We are seeking additional sponsors and ask you to reach out to businesses and individuals you know for support of our mission. Donations are tax-deductible and vital for our outreach programs, including scholarships, transition seminars, JROTC programs, Veterans Affairs, National Guard and Reserve outreach, homeless veterans program, and Gold Star family outreach.

We especially ask you as a Tampa Chapter member to sponsor/support an internal initiative. We need sponsors for eight Coalition Officers and four Gold Star Parents to play in the tournament at \$375 per golfer. I hope that we can count on your help to make this happen. Our relationship with the Coalition is strong and our support to Gold Star families, unwavering. Please help us honor them and donate through the link or QR code below:

[MOAA Tampa Chapter Golf Tournament - Cheddar Up \(https://my.cheddarup.com/c/golftournament-41746/items?cart\)](https://my.cheddarup.com/c/golftournament-41746/items?cart)



Steps to donate:

- Select "Enter Amount" on the website.
- Enter the payment amount, and fill in your name, phone number, and email address.
- Specify support for specific aspects of the golf event in the message box when checking out.

Thank you for your support. I look forward to thanking you personally at our monthly lunches or at the tournament. The event brochure is attached for your perusal. Please feel free to contact me with any questions about the event.

Best regards,

Charles J. Dalcourt Jr.
Charles

COL Charles Dalcourt (USA, Retired)
MOAA Life Member - "Never Stop Serving"
Immediate Past President - MOAA Tampa Chapter
Mobile: 254-383-1796
Email: charles.j.dalcourt@gmail.com
Website: www.moaatampa.org

TAMPA CHAPTER GOLF TOURNAMENT

12-13 SEPTEMBER 2025







WELCOME

Dear Participants and Potential Sponsors,

For many years, the Tampa Chapter has been a beacon of support for military servicemembers and their families. Through thoughtful investments and grassroots fundraising, we've been able to provide critical resources, but as we expand our outreach programs in the Greater Tampa area, the need for additional support has never been greater.

This year, we are proud to announce our inaugural golf tournament at Walt Disney World, which will serve as our principal fundraising event for 2025. The funds raised will directly support a variety of vital outreach initiatives that impact both individuals and organizations within our community, including scholarships, transition seminars, JROTC programs, veterans' affairs, National Guard and Reserve outreach, a homeless veterans program, and Gold Star family support.

As we strive to make this event a resounding success, we are seeking sponsors who will contribute to our mission. A donation of \$15,000 will serve as a cornerstone of support, while contributions of \$2,500, \$5,000, or \$10,000 are equally valued in enabling us to sustain and grow these critical programs.

We deeply appreciate your consideration and hope to count on your partnership to make this inaugural event a memorable one. In return for your generosity, we offer a range of sponsorship benefits, which we are excited to share with you.

Thank you for your support. Warm regards,
Charles Dalcourt
Colonel Charles Dalcourt (US Army Retired)
Event Chairman
MOAA Tampa Chapter

DETAILS

EVENT:	MOAA TAMPA CHAPTER GOLF TOURNAMENT	
DATE:	September 12-13, 2025	
GOLF SCHEDULE:	Friday, 12 September 2025 – Shotgun start at 2:30pm (T) Saturday, 13 September 2025 – Shotgun start at 8:00am (T)	
GOLF FEES:	Before 1 July 2025	After 1 July 2025
	★ Single Player – \$375	★ Single Player – \$400
	★ Four-person Team – \$1420	★ Four-person Team – \$1500
LOCATION:	Walt Disney World Disney's Palm Golf Course - Orlando, FL Disney's Magnolia Golf Course - Orlando, Florida	
ACCOMMODATIONS:	Shades of Green Resort (Limited Availability) <i>A Department of Defense property on the Walt Disney World Resort property. This is one of only five Armed Forces Recreation Centers (AFRC) resorts. Reservations available for September 11-13, based on double occupancy (up to two adults and three children in one standard room) and are double queen rooms.</i>	
CONTACT:	Charles Dalcourt charles.j.dalcourt@gmail.com 254-383-1796 (text)	Steve Hubbell krewe69shamrock@yahoo.com 813-785-6074 (text)

Players will play both iconic courses at Walt Disney – the Palm and the Magnolia. Whether you are a scratch player or a 36 handicap, everyone is on an even playing field. Florida's new number one golf tournament is open to all active and retired military, civil servants, and all you patriots that love our troops. Your entry fee includes: two rounds of golf, Palm and Magnolia courses; Friday night's heavy hors d'oeuvres and Saturday's lunch meal are included with your registration; golf cart use; a goodie bag; entry into several CASH contests; and much more!

ABOUT US

The MOAA Tampa Chapter is a Five-Star organization dedicated to supporting MOAA's primary purpose: 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. We are a 501(c)(19) organization. As such, your donations to this organization are tax deductible.





**THE TAMPA CHAPTER
RATED FIVE STARS
2003, 2005-2010
2012-2017, 2019-2023**



**THE TAMPA CHAPTER
RATED FIVE STARS
2022-2023**



SUPPORT

For many years, the Tampa Chapter has impacted the lives of military servicemembers and their families. We have sourced initiatives through organizational investments and modest fundraising efforts. Our need for additional support is directly linked to the expansion of the Chapter’s outreach programs in the Greater Tampa area. The Tampa Chapter currently provides resources impacting both the financial and personnel needs of both individuals and organizations in the community.

This inaugural golf tournament at Walt Disney World serves as our principle fundraising event for 2025. As such, it provides vital support for our numerous outreach programs:

- SCHOLARSHIPS (UNIVERSITY AND VOCATIONAL/TECHNICAL)**
- TRANSITION SEMINARS - JROTC PROGRAMS - VETERANS AFFAIRS**
- NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE OUTREACH**
- HOMELESS VETERANS PROGRAM - GOLD STAR FAMILY OUTREACH**

Beyond event and activity sponsors, we are also seeking donations to cover event expenses related to special support requirements. These include the costs for entertainment, a photographer, and meals for the JROTC Color Guard. Any amount of support is greatly appreciated. We also welcome your donation of items or services for our raffle or auction.

If you are unable to attend the tournament, we humbly ask you consider an online donation to Tampa Chapter. See the link in the payment section.

MOAA Tampa Chapter is dedicated to supporting our military community and we promise to “Never Stop Serving!” Thank you for your consideration and moreover, for giving to help those that have vowed to pay the ultimate price for freedom. If there are any questions pertaining to this request, please contact our event chairman, **Colonel Charles Dalcourt (USA Retired)**, at (254)383-1796 or e-mail: charles.j.dalcourt@gmail.com or our Event Coordinator **Steve Hubbell** at 813-785-6074, email: krewe69shamrock@yahoo.com. Thanks again!

TOURNAMENT SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



We hope that we can count on your help to make this inaugural event an incredible one. We are seeking Tournament Sponsors that will donate \$15,000 in support of our mission. We are trusting that others will give \$2500, \$5000, \$10,000 or more to enable our sustained outreach efforts. In appreciation of your anticipated donation, we offer our Sponsors the following:

PRESENTING TOURNAMENT SPONSORS (\$15,000)

- ★ three (3) x foursomes (12 players)
- ★ four (4) complimentary tickets to our Annual Gala, March 2026 at a prestigious Country Club in Tampa (\$600 value)
- ★ 12 x Polo Shirts – MOAA Tampa Chapter Ambassador
- ★ the option of naming two (2) 2026 scholarships (i.e., company name or to honor an individual) as mutually agreed
- ★ a one-year, full-page advertisement in our monthly newsletter (\$2000 value)
- ★ exposure across all Tampa Chapter and event media forums – website, social media, and flyers
- ★ prominent tent/booth placement at the event
- ★ acknowledgement and noticeable recognition at event registration, evening social, and luncheon

PROS (\$10,000)

- ★ two (2) x foursomes (8 players)
- ★ four (4) tickets to our Annual Gala, March 2026 at a prestigious Country Club in Tampa (\$600 value)
- ★ 8 x Polo Shirts – MOAA Tampa Chapter Ambassador
- ★ the option of naming a 2026 scholarship (i.e., company name or to honor an individual) as mutually agreed
- ★ a one-year, full-page advertisement in our monthly newsletter (\$2000 value)
- ★ exposure across all Tampa Chapter and event media forums – website, social media, and flyers
- ★ banner placement at the event
- ★ acknowledgement and noticeable recognition at event registration, evening social, and luncheon alongside other Pro Sponsors





TOURNAMENT SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



ACES (\$5,000)

- ★ one (1) x foursome (4 players)
- ★ two (2) tickets to our Annual Gala, March 2026 at a prestigious Country Club in Tampa (\$300 value)
- ★ 4 x Polo Shirts – MOAA Tampa Chapter Ambassador
- ★ a one-year, half-page advertisement in our monthly newsletter (\$1000 value)
- ★ exposure across all Tampa Chapter and event media forums – website, social media, and flyers
- ★ acknowledgement and recognition at event registration, evening social, and luncheon alongside other Ace Sponsors

EAGLES (\$2,500)

- ★ one (1) x foursome (4 players)
- ★ 4 x Polo Shirts – MOAA Tampa Chapter Ambassador
- ★ a one-year, quarter-page advertisement in our monthly newsletter (\$500 value)
- ★ exposure across all Tampa Chapter and event media forums – website, social media, and flyers
- ★ acknowledgement and recognition at event registration, evening social, and luncheon alongside other Eagle Sponsors

GOBBLERS (\$1,000)

- ★ a one-year, one-eighth of a page advertisement in our monthly newsletter (\$250 value)
- ★ exposure across all Tampa Chapter and event media forums – website, social media, and flyers
- ★ recognition at event registration, evening social, and luncheon alongside other Gobbler Sponsors

DRIVERS (\$500)

- ★ placement of your name or company logo on the Tampa Chapter’s website alongside other Driver Sponsors.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



EVENING SOCIAL SPONSOR (\$5000)

- ★ one (1) x foursome (4 players)
- ★ two (2) tickets to our Annual Gala, March 2026 at a prestigious Country Club in Tampa (\$600 value)
- ★ 4 x Polo Shirts – MOAA Tampa Chapter Ambassador
- ★ acknowledgement and recognition at event registration, evening social, and luncheon

LUNCHEON SPONSOR (\$3000)

- ★ one (1) x foursome (4 players)
- ★ 4 x Polo Shirts – MOAA Tampa Chapter Ambassador
- ★ acknowledgement and recognition at event registration, evening social, and luncheon

4 X CLOSEST TO THE PIN SPONSORS (\$3000 EACH)

- ★ one (1) x foursome (4 players)
- ★ 4 x Polo Shirts – MOAA Tampa Chapter Ambassador
- ★ acknowledgement and recognition at event registration, evening social, and luncheon

GIFT/SWAG BAG SPONSOR (\$3000)

- ★ one (1) x foursome (4 players)
- ★ 4 x Polo Shirts – MOAA Tampa Chapter Ambassador
- ★ acknowledgement and recognition at event registration, evening social, and luncheon

2 X PUTTING CONTEST SPONSORS (\$2500 EACH)

- ★ one (1) x foursome (4 players)
- ★ 4 x Polo Shirts – MOAA Tampa Chapter Ambassador
- ★ acknowledgement and recognition at event registration, evening social, and luncheon

SIGNAGE SPONSOR (\$2500 EACH)

- ★ one (1) x foursome (4 players)
- ★ 4 x Polo Shirts – MOAA Tampa Chapter Ambassador
- ★ acknowledgement and recognition at event registration, evening social, and luncheon

LONGEST DRIVE SPONSOR (\$2500 EACH)

- ★ one (1) x foursome (4 players)
- ★ 4 x Polo Shirts – MOAA Tampa Chapter Ambassador
- ★ acknowledgement and recognition at event registration, evening social, and luncheon



PAYMENT METHODS AND DIRECTIONS

We've made it easier than ever to handle your event registration, sponsorship commitments, and donations! To make a secure and seamless payment, simply use the link or QR code below. This will take you directly to the payment page where you can complete your registration or make contributions to support the event.

Click here to access the payment page:
<https://my.cheddarup.com/c/golftournament-41746/items?cart>



We also accept payment by check or money order. If paying by check or money order, please mail your payment to:

MOAA Tampa Chapter
ATTN: Golf Tournament
8106 Condor Street, # 6383
Tampa, FL 33621

Whether you're registering as a participant, confirming your sponsorship, or making a donation, the process is quick and simple.

- ★ Once at the website, select the "Enter Amount" button
- ★ A new page will open where you will enter the amount you are paying, then fill in your name, phone number, and email address
- ★ If registering a team, please be sure to provide the following information for all four players:
 - ★ Full Name
 - ★ Email Address
 - ★ Phone Number
 - ★ HandicapAll details are required to complete the registration process.
- ★ If you are registering and paying as an individual, please enter "1" in the message field and include your handicap.

If you desire your donation to support a specific aspect of the golf event and activities, our outreach programs, or JROTC meals, please state so in the message box when checking out.

We appreciate your support and look forward to a successful tournament!

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

We've secured the perfect place to stay for the tournament—Shades of Green Resort, located just steps away from Disney's Palm and Magnolia golf courses.

This Department of Defense property, one of only five Armed Forces Recreation Centers (AFRC), offers a limited number of rooms available from September 11–13, 2025. Rooms are double queen and accommodate up to two adults and three children.

BOOKING YOUR ROOM:
Group Name: MOAA Tampa Golf Events
Group Code: 2025MOAA
Group Arrival Date: 09/11/25
Group Departure Date: 09/14/25 Reservations must be made by: Monday, July 14th, 2025

To book your stay, follow these simple steps:

- ★ Visit www.shadesofgreen.org.
- ★ Click the "Book Now" icon.
- ★ Enter your Arrival and Departure dates (within the event dates).
- ★ Select the number of Adults and Children.
- ★ Click "Advance Search."
- ★ Enter Group Code and apply. (**Group Code: 2025MOAA**)
- ★ Confirm available rooms for the event.
- ★ Complete guest information and click "Confirm Reservation."

A credit card is required to hold your reservation. Cancellations must be made at least 14 days in advance to avoid a one-night deposit forfeiture.

For phone bookings, call (888) 593-2242 Monday-Friday



ADDITIONAL INFO

TOURNAMENT CONTESTS

- ★ Longest-Drive Competition
- ★ Putting Competition
- ★ Beat the Pro
- ★ Closest-To-The-Pin Contest
- ★ Hole-In-One

GIVEAWAYS, GRAND PRIZES, AND TOURNAMENT GIFTS

Unfortunately, we do not give out trophies. However, we will offer CASH prizes, 50/50 splits, and you'll receive a goodie bag as part of your registration. You'll also be very pleased with both the raffle and silent auction items.

MEALS

On the course, drinks and snacks are available for purchase. Friday night's heavy hors d'oeuvres and Saturday's lunch meal are included with your registration.



★ ★ ★ ★ ★
TAMPA



MOAA

CONTACT

Event Chairman
Colonel Charles Dalcourt (USA Retired)
charles.j.dalcourt@gmail.com
(254)383-1796

Event Coordinator
Steve Hubbell
krewe69shamrock@yahoo.com
(813)785-6074

www.moaatampa.org

Articles of Interest Found on the Web

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



Our first American Pope's father served on a US Navy LST in WWII on D-Day. Read about Louis M Prevost in the following link:
<https://www.navytimes.com/veterans/military-history/2025/07/15/pope-leo-xiv-is-the-son-of-a-d-day-veteran/>

The purpose of our US Navy is to keep the sea lanes open. For quite some time there have been challenges from China with Taiwan and territories belonging to the Philippines. Read about. Read more about the challenges and use of fast boats in the following link:
<https://www.navytimes.com/news/your-military/2025/07/16/us-to-build-fast-boat-base-near-south-china-sea/>

It's always a good story when we hear of one of our men and women in uniform who put themselves in harms way to help others, especially when they are off duty. Read about a brave Army Sargent who helped save a life in the following link:
<https://www.armytimes.com/news/your-army/2025/07/10/sergeants-quick-action-results-in-receiving-soldiers-medal/>

This is an interesting article about US farmland purchased near our military bases by foreign nations. Read more about how this trend is a concern to our food supply and national defense in the following link:
<https://www.defense.gov/News/News-Stories/Article/Article/4236978/new-usda-program-ties-food-security-to-national-defense/>

Our US Coast Guard stays busy and this article is about how the Coast Guard monitors charter boat operations. Take a moment to read about the action taken by our Coast Guard happened in the Tampa Bay area recently in the following link:
<https://www.news.uscg.mil/Press-Releases/Article/4244992/coast-guard-stops-illegal-charter-operation-near-madeira-beach/>

Support for All Who Serve

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

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



The Military Crisis Line is Here for You

Free & Confidential

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

Always Available
Accessible 24/7/365.

Trained Counselors

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

Calling from Overseas?

In Europe

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

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

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

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

There's a lot of retirement options, but once you visit Canterbury Tower, Bayshore Boulevard's only CCRC, the choice is clear. You've planned wisely for this day and when it comes time to find the place you WANT to call home ... look no further than Canterbury. We're close to all that South Tampa has to offer – medical facilities, restaurants, downtown and MacDill Air Force Base. Since 1976, Canterbury Tower has built a reputation for stability, comfort and grace. Offering independent living, assisted living and a Health Center with short-and long-term care options, we have a place for you.

Choices...



Canterbury Tower

3501 Bayshore Boulevard • Tampa
813.837.1083

www.canterburytower.org

This One Is Easy!



It's over-whelming isn't it? Faced with a complicated move, downsizing or parent's estate and the biggest question is - where to start? We get it and have been there. With over 40 years experience in the senior living, estate sales and the design industry, Pathfinders can coordinate a tailored move for you.

The gift of home is our commitment to you - Pathfinders

Senior Move Management services

PATH
downsizing solutions

FINDERS
855 687-7284



PLACE YOUR AD HERE

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

This 1/8 Page Ad is \$250

E-Mail: Secretary@moaatampa.org



Standing with you
at every stage.

93569

1-800-247-2192 • www.moaainsurance.com

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



Name _____

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

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

EMAIL address _____

Phone (HOME or CELL) _____ Date of Birth: Month: _____ Day: _____

Spouse / Emergency Contact: Name _____

Phone _____

MOAA National Member Number _____

If not a MOAA National member, can we set up a Basic membership for you at no cost? **YES** or **NO**

I give my permission: signature: _____

Wartime Service: Please circle applicable information and provide dates of service:

World War II _____ Korean War _____ Vietnam Era: _____ Vietnam (in country) _____

Gulf War (Desert Shield/Storm) _____ Lebanon, Grenada, Panama _____

Iraq/Syria (OIF/New Dawn/OIR) _____ Afghanistan (OEF/ORS/OFS) _____

OR check No service during any of these periods of time _____

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

You may bring the completed form to any Chapter event, or you can mail it with your check (payable to **MOAA Tampa Chapter**) to: **Matt Mularoni, C/O MOAA Tampa, PO Box 6383, Tampa, FL 33608-0383.**

Email questions to: membership@moaatampa.org

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

TAMPA CHAPTER HACKERS OPEN GOLF TOURNAMENT

12-13 SEPTEMBER 2025





Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) Tampa Chapter invites you to the "Hackers Open" two-day golf scramble tournament located at Walt Disney World. Huge cash prizes for lousy golfers. Golfers of all abilities are competitive. Three divisions: Ringers - Duffers - Hackers.





Play both iconic Walt Disney courses - the Palm & Magnolia! Open to all active/retired military, civil servants, and patriots. Your entry fee includes two rounds of golf, cart use, a goodie bag, Friday night's heavy hors d'oeuvres and Saturday's lunch meal, CASH contests & more. All skill levels welcome! Accommodations available at the Shades of Green Resort which is located just steps away from Disney's Palm and Magnolia golf courses. See reverse side for booking details.

Golf Schedule:

Friday,
12 September 2025
Shotgun start at 2:30pm (T)

Saturday, 13
September 2025
Shotgun start at 8:00am (T)

Golf Fees:

Before 1 July 2025
Single Player - \$375
Four-person Team - \$1420

After 1 July 2025
Single Player - \$400
Four-person Team - \$1500

For general inquiries, registration or sponsorship information contact:
Charles Dalcourt at charles.j.dalcourt@gmail.com or text 254-383-1796 or
Steve Hubbell at krewe69shamrock@yahoo.com or text 813-785-6074

The MOAA Tampa Chapter is a Five-Star organization dedicated to supporting MOAA's primary purpose: 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. We are a 501(c)(19) organization. As such, your donations to this organization are tax deductible.

www.moaatampa.org



SCAN QR CODE FOR REGISTRATION AND PAYMENTS

SUPPORT

This inaugural golf tournament at Walt Disney World serves as our principle fundraising event for 2025. As such, it provides vital support for our numerous outreach programs:

SCHOLARSHIPS
(UNIVERSITY AND VOCATIONAL/TECHNICAL)
TRANSITION SEMINARS
JROTC PROGRAMS
VETERANS AFFAIRS
NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE OUTREACH
HOMELESS VETERANS PROGRAM
GOLD STAR FAMILY OUTREACH

Beyond event and activity sponsors, we are also seeking donations to cover event expenses related to special support requirements. These include the costs for entertainment, a photographer, and meals for the JROTC Color Guard. Any amount of support is greatly appreciated. We also welcome your donation of items or services for our raffle or auction.

If you are unable to attend the tournament, we humbly ask you consider an online donation to Tampa Chapter. See the link in the payment section.

We are seeking Tournament Sponsors that will donate \$15,000 in support of our mission. We are trusting that others will give \$2500, \$5000, \$10,000 or more to enable our sustained outreach efforts. In appreciation of your anticipated donation, we offer our sponsors a comprehensive selection of deliverables that will align with your marketing objectives.

PAYMENT METHODS

We've made it easier than ever to handle your event registration, sponsorship commitments, and donations! To make a secure and seamless payment, simply use the link or QR code below. This will take you directly to the payment page where you can complete your registration or make contributions to support the event.

Click here to access the payment page:
<https://my.cheddarup.com/c/golftournament-41746/items?cart>



We also accept payment by check or money order. If paying by check or money order, please mail your payment to:

MOAA Tampa Chapter
ATTN: Golf Tournament
8106 Condor Street, # 6383
Tampa, FL 33621

Whether you're registering as a participant, confirming your sponsorship, or making a donation, the process is quick and simple.

PAYMENT DIRECTIONS

- ★ Once at the website, select the "Enter Amount" button
- ★ A new page will open where you will enter the amount you are paying, then fill in your name, phone number, and email address
- ★ If registering a team, please be sure to provide the following information for all four players:
 - ★ Full Name
 - ★ Email Address
 - ★ Phone Number
 - ★ HandicapAll details are required to complete the registration process.
- ★ If you are registering and paying as an individual, please enter "I" in the message field and include your handicap.

If you desire your donation to support a specific aspect of the golf event and activities, our outreach programs, or JROTC meals, please state so in the message box when checking out.

We appreciate your support and look forward to a successful tournament!

RESERVATIONS

We've secured the perfect place to stay for the tournament—**Shades of Green Resort**, located just steps away from Disney's Palm and Magnolia golf courses.

This Department of Defense property, one of only five Armed Forces Recreation Centers (AFRC), offers a limited number of rooms available from September 11-13, 2025. Rooms are double queen and accommodate up to two adults and three children.

BOOKING YOUR ROOM:
Group Name: MOAA Tampa Golf Events
Group Code: 2025MOAA
Group Arrival Date: 09/11/25
Group Departure Date: 09/14/25 **Reservations must be made by: Monday, July 14th, 2025**

To book your stay, follow these simple steps:

- ★ Visit www.shadesofgreen.org.
- ★ Click the "Book Now" icon.
- ★ Enter your Arrival and Departure dates (within the event dates).
- ★ Select the number of Adults and Children.
- ★ Click "Advance Search."
- ★ Enter Group Code and apply. (**Group Code: 2025MOAA**)
- ★ Confirm available rooms for the event.
- ★ Complete guest information and click "Confirm Reservation."

A credit card is required to hold your reservation. Cancellations must be made at least 14 days in advance to avoid a one-night deposit forfeiture.

For phone bookings, call (888) 593-2242 Monday-Friday

www.moaatampa.org



Coalition Corner

Dear MOAA Tampa members,



I am writing this input from our summer-house in Denmark, where I am enjoying the Danish summer with my family. The Danish summer has been quite favorable but not with temperatures as in Tampa though. The average afternoon temperature is around 77 F and no winds or thunderstorms as we can see is the case in Florida.

Since the last newsletter not much has changed in the Middle East. There are still tensions in the region, but so far things seem to have calmed down between Israel and Iran primarily.

CENTCOM is preparing for the change of command planned for August 8th where General Kurilla will hand over the command to Admiral Cooper. The coalition will naturally participate in the event and show our continued support to CENTCOM senior leadership.

On the social side some Senior National Representatives (SNRs) took part in the celebrations of Independence Day. Personally, I enjoyed the evening with my wife at the American Victory Ship & Museum in Tampa. Despite some early light rain, we got to see the magnificent fireworks in the harbor. This was a nice experience and congratulations to you all on this celebration. We look forward to the 250th celebrating next year.

Ten days later we also celebrated the French National Day. The Bastille Day marks the storming of the Bastille in Paris on July 14, 1789. As usual there was a grand military parade in Paris, reported as the oldest and largest military parade in Europe. The French SNR invited the coalition to a social gathering where the participating coalition partners celebrated this important day for the French people.

I wish you all the best and look forward to seeing you again in August.

Regards,

Allan Pedersen
Colonel, Senior National Representative for Denmark and Chairman of the Coalition



USCENTCOM Mission, Vision, and Priorities

<https://www.centcom.mil/>

Mission: United States Central Command (USCENTCOM) directs and enables military operations and activities, with allies and partners; to increase regional security and stability, in support of enduring U.S. interests.



Thriving After Military Service Transitioning Event

Hosted at the FIVE Labs Conference Center
4115 W Spruce St., Tampa
Thursday, 18 September, 2025
6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

FREE & OPEN TO ALL RANKS
Complimentary hot hors d'oeuvres and drinks!

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!"

TO REGISTER, EMAIL PAULA STEWART: president@moaatampa.org
**Space is limited and personal masking is optional for this event.



CHAPLAIN’S CORNER

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

Points of Light: Continental Army Chaplains and Civil Relations

—John Brinsfield, PhD, DMin

Abstract

U.S. Army chaplains have been engaged with civil and religious authorities from the beginning. Chaplains who served in the American Revolution came from local churches or from college faculties. Whether they arrived with militia units or as individual volunteers, they came with the support of their home communities. Although they did not use the exact term at that time, many leaders, clergy and laity alike, understood the center of gravity of the Army to be the spirit and determination of the men and women to endure until victory was achieved. Chaplain presence and encouragement reinforced that strength. This article explores why chaplains were included in the organization of the U.S. Army from its formation during the American Revolution, and why they were seen as indispensable “points of light” for the Continental armies through eight years of warfare.

The establishment and survival of the armed forces have depended directly on the support of civil authorities since the beginning of the American Republic. The appointment of military leaders, the training, supply, and sustainment of units in the field, and the health and welfare of military personnel have been matters of national security. Civilian support and control of the military have been pillars of our American democratic form of government through 120 U.S. Congresses and for over 250 years.

U.S. Army chaplains have been engaged with civil and religious authorities from the beginning. Chaplains who served in the American Revolution came from local churches or from college faculties. Whether they arrived with militia units or as individual volunteers, they

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Published with permission from the Graduate School
U.S. Army Institute for Religious Leadership, 10098 Cherbourg Street, Fort Jackson, SC 29207

came with the support of their home communities. Although they did not use the exact term at that time, many leaders, clergy and laity alike, understood the center of gravity of the Army to be the spirit and determination of the men and women to endure until victory was achieved. Chaplain presence and encouragement reinforced that strength.

I explore why chaplains were included in the organization of the U.S. Army from its formation during the American Revolution, and why they were seen as indispensable “points of light” for the Continental armies through eight years of warfare.[1] Some two hundred eighteen pastors, including one Roman Catholic priest, volunteered to serve in line units to uphold the morale, the courage, and even the fighting spirit of the Army. One clergyman also served in the Continental Congress and signed the Declaration of Independence. Without the support of the government, the endorsement of diverse faith groups, and the sacrifices of the civilian population, the Army and the Chaplaincy would have ceased to exist.

Animating the Soldierly

The leading advocate and proponent for the inclusion of chaplains in the Continental Army was General George Washington. In fact, over fifty references to chaplains appear in George Washington’s letters. Chief among them was the appointment, pay, and value of military chaplains “to animate the Soldierly and Impress them with a Knowledge of the important rights as we are contending for...holding forth the Necessity of courage and bravery and at the same time of Obedience and Subordination to those in Command.”[2]

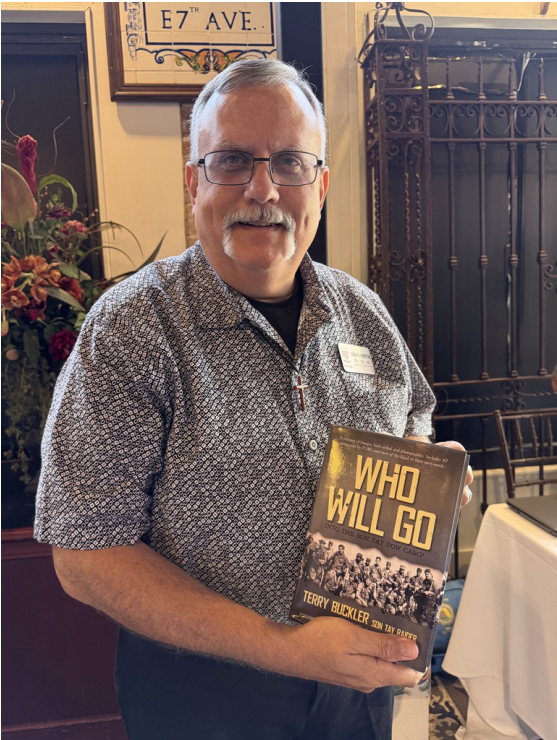
To continue reading click: <https://mcr.scholasticahq.com/article/126682-points-of-light-continental-army-chaplains-and-civil-relations>

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE JULY LUNCHEON RAFFLE WINNERS!

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



CDR Weston, Senior National Representative from New Zealand helped to select the winning tickets.



COL Dana Hampton, USA (Ret) won a signed copy of a book about the Son Tay Raiders donated by Capt Norm Bild, USAF (Ret).



RADM Bill Merlin, USCG (Ret) won a gift certificate.

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

WWW.MOAAATAMPA.ORG and Facebook: [MOAA Tampa Chapter](https://www.facebook.com/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. Click on our [Events Page](#) to check it out!

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

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

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

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

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



THE TAMPA CHAPTER RATED FIVE STARS 2003, 2005-2010, 2012-2017, 2019-2024

5 Star MOAA Chapter
2003 • 2005 - 2010
2012 - 2017 • 2019 - 2024

TAMPA
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2020 - 2024 Recipient of the
5 Star Col. Marvin J. Harris
Communications Award

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“NEVER STOP SERVING”