



The RETROSPECT

TAMPA CHAPTER — A FIVE STAR CHAPTER OF MOAA NATIONAL

October 2025

VOLUME 31, NUMBER 10



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT: LTC PAULA STEWART USA RET

GREETINGS!



Getting Off the Bench

"The world is run by those who show up."
— Unknown

Transitions

Fall is here in Florida! Did you notice? Maybe not with the weather, but the calendar insists we've entered the season of cooler breezes, shorter days, and football Saturdays. Fall often calls to mind the themes of transition, change, and movement—and so it is with our Chapter.

We are establishing a search committee for board member and officer replacements. Sadly, our Chapter President, LTC Paula Stewart (U.S. Army, Retired), must step down due to medical challenges. Paula's courage, candor, and commitment over the past nine months have sustained and encouraged us. We are profoundly thankful for her leadership, her

love for people, and the laughter she brought into every gathering. We remain in prayer for Paula's full recovery.

We also mourn the passing of MAJ John Massey, USAF (Ret). John was a long-time board member whose decorum, dedication, wisdom, and leadership will remain hallmarks of his service to our Chapter. We extend our sincere condolences to his family and friends.

Activities and Events

Hackers Open – Our inaugural golf tournament was a resounding success! With 21 teams, multiple prize winners, and great camaraderie, the event was a true reflection of teamwork and dedication. Special thanks to the volunteers, sponsors, and advisors who shaped and executed this event so effectively. A full rolup will be provided in next month's newsletter.

Our **Transition Event**, originally scheduled for September, was cancelled. The Board will confirm and announce a new date soon.

The **FCOC Leadership Training** remains on the calendar for January 2026, and we strongly encourage those considering officer or committee roles to attend. The training and networking are invaluable.

Finally, a new **membership renewal** form has been sent out by Chapter Vice President Matt Mularoni. It will also be included in this newsletter. Please note that renewals are due by 31 January 2026.

A Call to Action

"You can't win the game from the bench—at some point, you have to get in and play."
— Adapted from Lou Holtz

We are deeply grateful for the faithful members who support event after event, often carrying more than their share. Yet the reality is clear: it is time for others to step up. Many of our current officers and board members are now full-time employees rather than full-time retirees. As such, the load is heavier, and it must be shared.

This is not about overwhelming responsibility—it's about simple, manageable contributions. Tasks such as securing guest speakers, coordinating a single luncheon, or lending a hand with logistics are not burdensome, but they are vital. The Chapter thrives only when more of us rise to the occasion.

I encourage you: don't remain on the sidelines. Bring your energy, ideas, and willingness to serve. Together, we can carry forward the mission of this Chapter with strength, resilience, and renewed purpose.

Thanks for your consideration and all the best,
Charles Dalcourt
Immediate Past President

UPCOMING EVENTS

Oct 2, 2025
Board of Directors Meeting
TBD

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

Jan 29-31, 2026
MOAA Florida Council of Chapters
Leadership Training Seminar &
49th Annual Convention
Rosen Center, Orlando, FL
(<https://filmoaa.org/events/>)
([page 5](#))

Happy 250th
Birthday to
the US Navy



(<https://www.navy.mil/NavY-250/>)

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

REMINDER:

SUBMISSION DEADLINE
FOR THE NOVEMBER 2025
ISSUE IS 20 OCTOBER 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

Key Amendments to the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA):

Proposals to end an unjust pay offset faced by tens of thousands of combat-injured veterans and to improve access to care at military treatment facilities are among the more than 1,500 amendments lawmakers will consider as part of must-pass defense legislation. House lawmakers have submitted more than 900 amendments to their version of the FY 2026 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), while the Senate will need to work through over 600. Not all of these will make it into the final chamber-passed bills – or even receive floor attention – but the sheer volume underscores the magnitude of the task ahead.

Key Amendments of Interest: MOAA is closely monitoring amendments that directly affect our core mission. Several stand out as particularly significant. Two examples:

1) **Supporting Combat-Injured Veterans:** Both chambers

will consider an NDAA amendment including the text of the Major Richard Star Act. This enduring priority for MOAA would provide concurrent receipt of retirement pay and VA disability compensation to combat-injured servicemembers who were forced to medically retire before reaching 20 years of service. Its introduction in both chambers underscores the continued momentum and broad support behind this vital reform – the standalone bipartisan legislation had 300 cosponsors in the House and 76 in the Senate as of Sept. 2.

2) The Major Richard Star Act - Improving TRICARE Access

A House amendment offered by Rep. Steven Horsford (D-Nev.) would direct DoD to establish a digital system for TRICARE beneficiaries receiving care at military treatment facilities. This system would allow patients to electronically file and track complaints related to access to care, with each complaint routed to a patient advocate for action. This has been one of MOAA's top priorities for DoD health care since the beginning of the 119th Congress, and we are pleased to see the House take up this important issue.

These are just two examples of amendments MOAA is watching closely. We also are evaluating a wide range of proposals related to TRICARE reform, issues affecting currently serving servicemembers, support for military families, and provisions impacting veterans.

How You Can Get Involved: As the House and Senate prepare to take up their respective versions of the FY 2026 NDAA, your voice is critical in shaping the final outcome. Lawmakers must hear directly from you about the importance of these amendments and how their inclusion in the NDAA will impact the uniformed services and veteran communities.

Here's how you can take action:

* **Engage Through MOAA's Legislative Action Center:** Send messages to your elected officials urging their support for amendments like the **Major Richard Star Act** and improvements to TRICARE access.

* **Build Awareness:** Share MOAA updates with fellow servicemembers, retirees, and family members to broaden the impact of our collective voice.

* **Stay Informed:** Follow MOAA's coverage on our website: (<https://www.moaa.org/>) and in our newsletter as the NDAA moves through both chambers and into conference.

Together, through informed and active advocacy, MOAA can help ensure the FY 2026 NDAA protects the service-earned pay and benefits of our nation's past, present, and future uniformed servicemembers, their family members, and their survivors.

Here's How State-Level Support Improves Quality of Life for Military Families

While most Americans live within 100 miles of where they grew up, moving to a new state every two to three years is commonplace for military families. These moves bring unique challenges impacting employment, education, community representation, and more. The Defense-State Liaison Office (DSLO) was established in 2004 to address such challenges. DSLO staffers work directly with state policymakers to reduce barriers, improve quality of life, and ensure military families receive the support they need wherever they are stationed.

The DSLO's eight regional liaisons build relationships with

continued on page 2

LEGISLATIVE LOWDOWN cont.

state officials, provide data-driven recommendations, and share best practices to inform policy development. The office has an impressive track record: Since 2012, its efforts have contributed to the passage of more than 1,275 state laws, covering areas such as occupational licensing, consumer protection, childcare, voting access, and education.

By focusing on the state level, the DSLO addresses critical needs influencing military readiness, family stability, and retention. Education policy, employment opportunities, and access to health care and childcare are just a few areas where consistent, supportive policies make a significant difference for mobile military families.

2026 State Policy Priorities

Each year, the DSLO highlights specific areas where state action can have the greatest positive effect. For 2026, the group’s priorities reflect the continuing challenges military families face:

- * **Occupational Licensure Interstate Compacts:** Ensuring military spouses, 35% of whom work in licensed professions, can transfer credentials seamlessly across states.
- * **Military Spouse Employment Preference:** Allowing states to create hiring and procurement preferences to help reduce a stubborn 20% unemployment rate among spouses.
- * **Military Clause in Family Leave Laws:** Guaranteeing family leave covers military-specific needs, such as deployments and training.
- * **Solutions for Military Homeschoolers:** Expanding access to extracurriculars and JROTC programs and simplifying homeschool requirements.
- * **State Exemption for Family Child Care (FCC) Homes:** Exempting Pentagon-certified in-home providers from duplicative state licensing to expand availability and access for families.
- * **Support for Special Educational Needs:** Ensuring timely services for military children with special needs following relocations.
- * **Education Policy Implementation and Information Enhancements:** Improving state communication and implementation of policies for military-connected students.

- * **Open Enrollment Flexibility:** Allowing military families to maintain consistent school placement despite frequent moves.
- * **Concurrent Juvenile Jurisdiction:** Ensuring military-connected juveniles have access to state justice systems and rehabilitative services.
- * **State Response to Military Interpersonal Violence:** Expanding access to protection orders and information sharing between civilian and military law enforcement.
- * **Military Community Representation on State Defense Councils:** Ensuring military voices are included on state-level advisory bodies focused on the defense community.

State lawmakers have the opportunity to directly improve the lives of servicemembers and their families by addressing these issues. The DSLO remains a critical resource, providing expertise, data, and advocacy to help states enact solutions that strengthen both military readiness and family well-being.

MOAA’s State Legislative Exchange Forum frequently engages with members of the DSLO team to enhance their efforts by providing testimony, best practices, and advocacy at the local level. Consider contacting your local elected representatives to voice your opinion(s) on how to move MOAA’s grassroots advocacy forward.

Specifically, consider contacting your legislators and urge them to support the Major Richard Star Act, a bill that would allow combat-injured veterans to receive both their full Department of Defense retirement pay and their VA disability compensation, rather than having them offset against each other.

Call the MOAA headquarters offices in DC at [800-344-6622](tel:800-344-6622) to find out who and how you can call.

Sources - Advocacy issues at: <https://www.moaa.org> and <https://moaa.quorum.us/campaign/43784/>

IN MEMORIAM: MAJ JOHN MASSEY, USAF RET

By Sara Marks Photo credits: John Massey, Sara Marks, and Bob Sawallash

It is with deep sorrow to learn about John Massey’s recent passing. MOAA Tampa wishes to extend our sincere condolences to his family during this difficult time.

John started his military career in 1953 upon entering the USAF Aviation Cadet program and entered navigator training. His tours in the Air Force included many flights from Charleston to Madrid, a tour in Tahiti training for recovery of the astronauts on NASA’s Mercury mission and spent much of his time in service with what is now the Air Mobility Command. He had many more adventures in his Air Force career and retired in 1975 when he joined The Retired Officers Association (TROA), now MOAA.

“John faithfully served on the Tampa Chapter board of directors for many years as the board liaison with the MacDill AFB Security check point. At that time, our chapter luncheons were held at the Surf’s Edge Club on base. John maintained a meticulous base access roster and any luncheon guest not in possession of a valid military ID card was vetted and added to the Excel spreadsheet. But even more importantly, John’s presence at every board meeting brought about a sense of calm wisdom and leadership drawn from his vast military experience and as a former Deacon in his church. He was one of my most trusted advisors when I served as Chapter President. I often called upon John when I needed his opinion on matters relating to the chapter and he was always ready with an opening prayer in the absence of the Chaplain at a board meeting at Brunchies or at a Chapter luncheon.

The last time I spoke with John was during one of my chapter “buddy calls.” Although he was unable to attend our chapter luncheons due to health reasons, he was always delighted to chat by phone and hear about the latest developments and happenings in the Tampa Chapter. I knew his late wife, Ann, from previous Operation Helping Hand dinner events. He talked about her often during our conversations, and how very much he missed her, and now he is reunited with her.

I know John lived a full life and was richly blessed. He will be missed by all.”
– Carol Zieres, Past President, MOAA Tampa Chapter

“For my memory, when I first came to the chapter while still at Surf’s Edge, John was one of the first to greet me and helped introduce me to many of you. When I volunteered to take over the base access coordination, John personally drove me down to the MacDill Main Gate. He walked me inside and personally introduced me to the people that were on the other side of the email. His time and attention to those introductions helped make the transition process extremely smooth. I still have the thumb drive he gave me with all the sample documents and how-to on the spreadsheet. What John didn’t know is that I have continued to use those tips and contacts from MOAA luncheons to assist me with base access for many other events on MacDill including a few retirement ceremonies. It was an honor to know John.”
--Matt Mularoni, Vice President, MOAA Tampa Chapter

John’s Chapter Member of the Month write up can be found in the April 2021 edition of *The Retrospect* on the MOAA Tampa website: www.moaatampa.org. His quote in his final comment of his write up was and is inspiring: *“In conclusion, joining the Tampa Chapter of MOAA was one of the greatest decisions in my life. Camaraderie, professionalism, respect and integrity were among attributes I missed more than I realized when I retired from active duty. I want to thank our chapter for these wonderful experiences I have had and still have thanks for our leadership.”*

We will miss you John Massey and on behalf of the MOAA Tampa Chapter we thank you for your service to God, family and country. You were also a great friend to all of us in our chapter.

Obituary link: <https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/tampa-fl/john-massey-12515045>



John Massey and Sara Marks



Charles Dalcourt presenting John his Member of the Month certificate.



John with Shirly & Dick Helveston



Bob Sawallash and John



John at the MOAA Tampa Gala 2022



John and Bill Schneider supporting Operation Helping Hand Golf Tournament.

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



2025 OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT: PAULA STEWART LTC USA RET
VP: MATTHEW MULARONI LTC USA RET
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT:
CHARLES DALCOURT COL USA RET
SECRETARY: KILEY STINSON LT COL USAF RET
TREASURER: LEWIS VANDYKE COL USA RET
SURVIVING SPOUSE LIAISON: VACANT

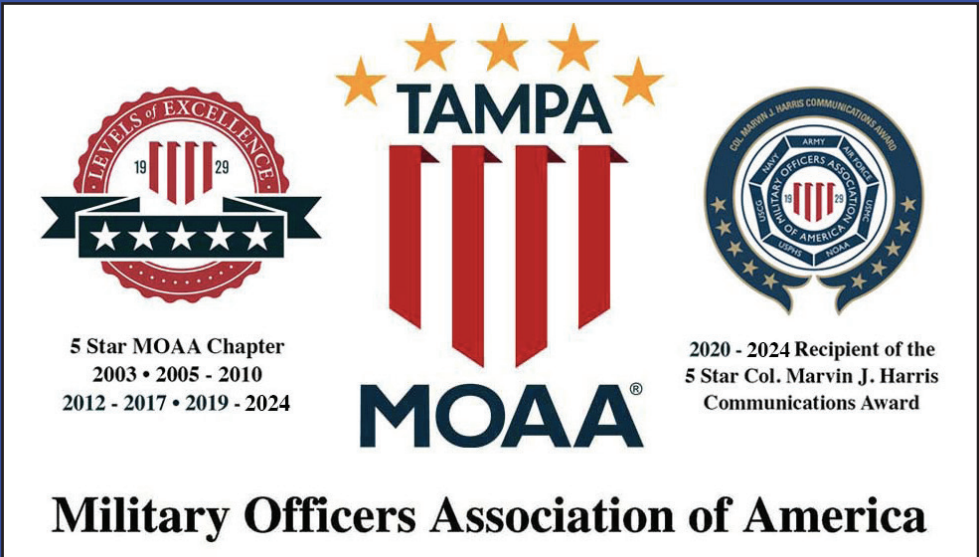
2025 DIRECTORS:

COMMUNICATIONS: SARA MARKS CAPT NC USN RET
LEGAL AFFAIRS: WILLIAM MITCHELL LTJG (former) USN
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS: BEN RITTER, SGT USMC
(former)/HONORARY MEMBER



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:

The Tampa Chapter of the
Military Officers Association of America
Post Office Box 6383
Tampa, FL 33608-0383
E-Mail: Secretary@moaatampa.org





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Surviving Spouse Corner:
Support Is Needed for Surviving Spouses Legislation

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



By: Dr. Vivianne Wersel

In April, MOAA members — including members of MOAA's [Surviving Spouse Advisory Council](#) — gathered in the nation's capital for Advocacy in Action, a day to visit lawmakers and advocate for key issues. This year, MOAA identified five issues for members to discuss. Learn more in [this event wrap-up](#).

Your voice still holds power even if you could not attend Advocacy in Action in person. Members, friends, and family — including non-members — can use MOAA's [Legislative Action Center](#) to support legislation, including bills affecting military survivors and families, from anywhere.

MOAA tracks and advocates for legislation that affects military surviving spouses and dependents. MOAA offers an easy way to reach out to your elected officials about these bills through its [Legislative Action Center](#). Click the links below to take action.

Caring for Survivors Act of 2025 (H.R. 680/S. 611). This bill proposes increasing the monthly Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) payable to surviving spouses through the VA. It also seeks to reduce the required period a veteran must have been rated totally disabled from 10 years to five years for survivors to qualify for benefits.



—MOAA members and staff gather before visiting Capitol Hill offices as part of Advocacy in Action 2025 in Washington, D.C., in April. (Photo by Mike Morones/MOAA)

Love Lives On Act of 2025 (S. 410/H.R. 1004). This bill would eliminate the remarriage penalty for surviving spouses, allowing them to retain DIC, Survivor Benefit Plan, and TRICARE benefits regardless of age if they remarry. It also restores TRICARE if a subsequent marriage ends and preserves access to education and commissary benefits.

Fairness for Servicemembers and Their Families Act of 2025 (S. 385/H.R. 970). This legislation will require the federal government to regularly review and update Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI) coverage limits to ensure they keep pace with inflation and rising market costs. Veterans' Group Life Insurance (VGLI) is also included in this legislation. The bill has already been passed by the House, and we hope the Senate will act swiftly to do the same.

Keep up with the latest from Capitol Hill by bookmarking [MOAA's advocacy news page](#).

Source: <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2025-news-articles/member-spotlight/surviving-spouse-corner-support-is-needed-for-surviving-spouses-legislation/>

MEDICAL CORNER

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



NAVY MEDICINE *FAST FACTS*

Special Edition 22
2025

THE ADVENT OF FORCE HEALTH PROTECTION

THE GREAT INFLUENZA PANDEMIC

- The Great Influeza Pandemic **caused more deaths globally than in World War I**.
- With no effective treatments beyond symptom management, the pandemic raged until 1919, **claiming an estimated 22 to 40 million lives worldwide**, including over 675,000 Americans.
- American troops are believed to have carried the initial, less virulent strain of influenza to Europe. **By the fall of 1918, a mutated, deadlier form, often complicated by pneumonia**, reappeared on the global stage.
- Navy Medicine tried to contain the disease using face masks, partial quarantine, and restricting liberty for personnel. During the peak of the infection in 1918, naval hospitals on both sides of the Atlantic were under immense strain in caring for more than **120,000 admissions with the influenza**.



THE GREAT INFLUENZA ACCOUNTED FOR:

30% of all Navy hospital admissions in 1918	44% of all Navy and Marine Corps deaths in 1918
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BUMED CIRCULAR NO. 1

At the height of the pandemic, the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (BUMED) Division of Sanitation released weekly bulletins to the fleet **warning of the dangers of overcrowding, sharing drinking cups, "promiscuous spitting" and advised personnel to wash hands frequently and "before every meal."** The prevention of the contagion was by far the best available medicine at the time and was the reason for the release of **BUMED Circular No. 1** on Sept. 26, 1918, which included the following recommendations:

- "Reduce stress, get your sleep" and **"do not get hysterical over the epidemic"**
- "Beware of those who are **coughing and sneezing**"
- "Avoid crowds—avoid **crowded street cars, theaters, moving-picture shows** and other places of public assembly"
- "Avoid close, stuffy and **poorly ventilated rooms**"
- "Secure at least **seven hours of sleep**"
- "Do not **travel by railroad** unless absolutely necessary"

Source: Defense Visual Information Distribution Services (DVIDS) https://d34w7g4gy10iej.cloudfront.net/pubs/pdf_73672.pdf

FLORIDA COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS - JANUARY 2026

Join us for an affordable, fun, and memorable event for **all MOAA members**. The event will take place at the Rosen Centre in Orlando with a discounted nightly rate of \$159 with \$12.50/night for parking. Here are some of the events and activities:



Military Officers Association of America Florida Council of Chapters (FCoC)

Leadership Training Seminar & 49th Annual Convention

29-31 January 2026

Rosen Centre Hotel | Orlando, Florida



- **Day One, Thursday 29 January**—is designed as an “Early Arrivers” day. We’ll have an All-Chapter Presidents meeting in the afternoon and an informal icebreaker social, early arrivers’ pizza party in our hospitality suite that evening.
- **Day Two, Friday 30 January**—is both a “Friends and Family Day” or a training day as you prefer. For fun, you can Golf at a nearby course, visit Universal Studios at discounted rates, go shopping, or plan a leisurely arrival. The training option provides focused high-value sessions on personal topics like financial planning and investment strategies for seniors, a VA Benefits update, and Chapter-related topics like Writing Successful Grants, or being a great Chapter Treasurer. Friday evening, we will have an informal dinner, followed by a play-for-charity, Casino Night Fundraiser with profits going to [The MOAA Foundation](#).



- **Day Three, Saturday 31 January**—will include Area Team Meetings, the Memorial Service to remember those we lost in 2025, our Annual Business Meeting, preparing to be a surviving spouse, MOAA update, and membership and marketing sessions. We will end the day with a more formal pre-dinner reception and military themed “Dining Out” sponsored by MOAA.

Visit for more information: <https://flmoaa.org/>

REMEMBERING 9/11

—By Sara Marks Photo credit: Maryna Juman and Ben Ritter

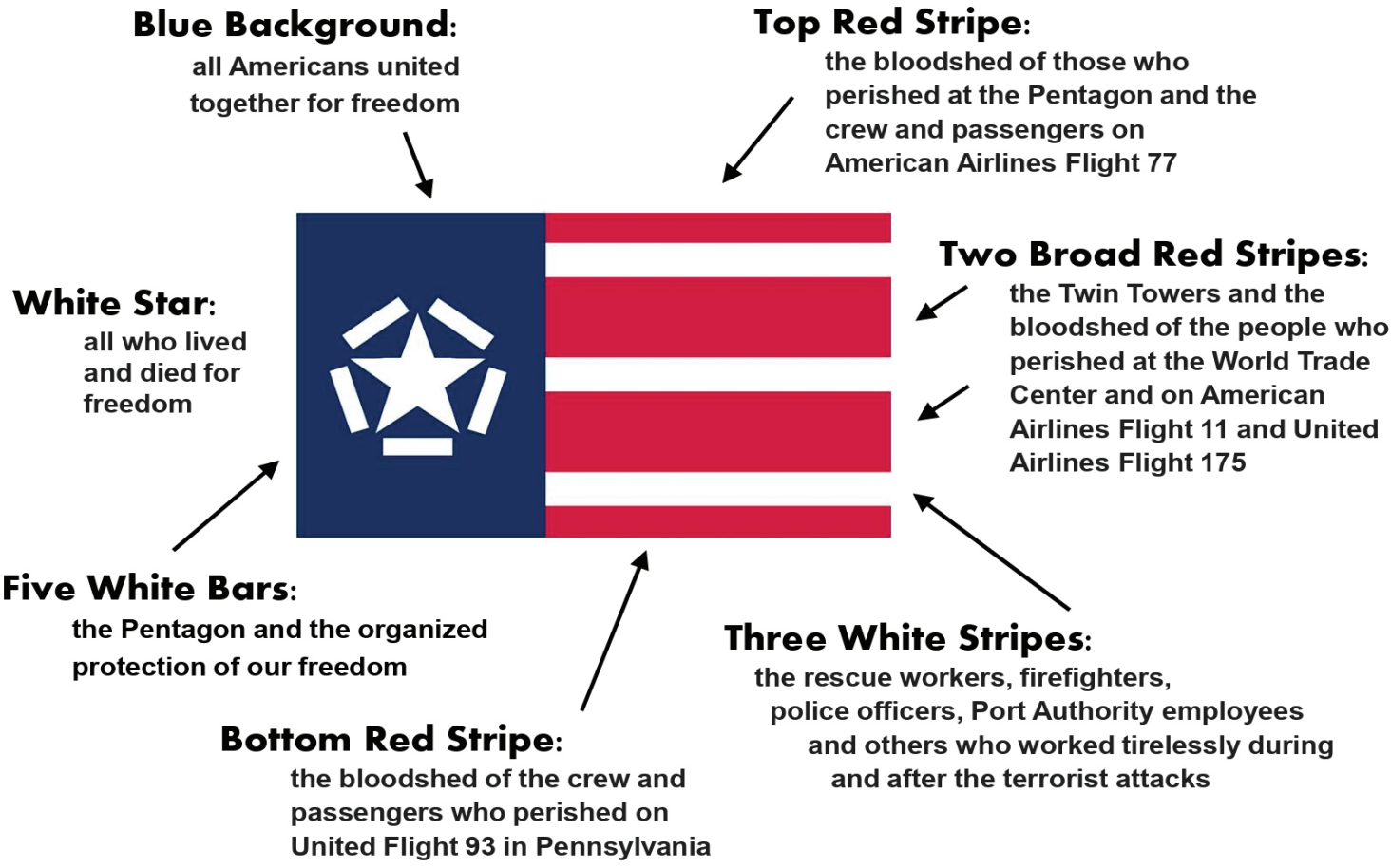


Carol Zieres, Past President of MOAA Tampa started the discussion of where we were when 9/11 happened. She was at the Pentagon but was not harmed, however lost one of her fellow soldiers that day. Sara Marks was at the Naval War College when two ladies walking in the hallway were talking about a plane hitting the Twin Towers. The instructor turned on the TV and everyone witnessed the second plane hitting the Twin Towers. Gail Cooper's sister worked in the Twin Towers and overslept that day, so wasn't on site when 9/11 happened, however it took awhile to learn that divine providence intervened and kept her safe that day.



Pettis Sims explained the meaning of the 9/11 Remembrance Flag.

Meaning of the 9/11 Remembrance Flag



Source: https://stgeorges.nccvt.k12.de.us/ourpages/auto/2024/8/21/54497860/Meaning_of_Delaware_s_9-11_Remembrance_Flag.pdf



RESEARCH STUDY PARTICIPANTS NEEDED

RESEARCH EXAMINING HOW MILITARY CULTURE, BELIEFS ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH AND STIGMA, AND PERSONALITY TRAITS LIKE GRIT AFFECT WILLINGNESS TO SEEK MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT AMONG VETERANS.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?
U.S. military veterans, including student veterans, who are 18 years of age or older.

PROCEDURES:
Complete a brief online survey lasting approximately 10-20 minutes.

WHY PARTICIPATE IN THIS STUDY?
Help inform mental health providers to provide better quality of care for veterans, understand how to best tailor outreach programs for treatment engagement, and contribute to research.

Scan this QR Code or visit this link:
https://fit.col.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_7X4K90rsTq4Zhe6



QUESTIONS?
Contact Maddie Maroney, M.S. at mmaroney2022@my.fit.edu

**Florida Institute of Technology (FIT) student Maddie Maroney's research study has been reviewed, approved, and is supported by FIT faculty and the board of researchers. Veterans who would like to participate follow the directions on the flyer.



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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/>

September Luncheon Photos

Photo Credit: Sara Marks, Maryna Juman and Ben Ritter



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



As we move into October it seems that we're all ready for Fall and a change in the weather to a more moderate temperature. This month we celebrate the 250th birthday of the U.S. Navy! As President George Washington wrote to Marquis de Lafayette on November 15, 1781: *"It follows then as certain as that night succeeds the day, that without a decisive naval force we can do nothing definitive, and with it, everything honorable and glorious."* Happy Birthday U.S. Navy! Before we know it all the holidays are before us starting with Halloween, then Thanksgiving and of course the Christmas season. Seems that time is moving by so quickly, but many things to look forward to for the remainder of 2025. I know that I have more adventures planned ahead that include travel, family and friends.

It was another busy month this past September but also very exciting with the completion of MOAA Tampa's inaugural fundraising Golf Tournament held at Walt Disney World. This edition of *The Retrospect* has a brief summary but stay tuned for the November edition to give you a more complete story of this most successful event. At our September luncheon, as always, we had a wonderful meal, and we took the time to reflect about where we were on 9/11. It's hard to believe that there is a whole generation that may or may not appreciate the implications of that terrible day twenty-four years ago. Finally, we all honored the 78th birthday of the U.S. Air Force.

It's also time to renew your membership no later than January 31, 2026. There is a renewal form in this newsletter, or you can click on the link that takes you to an online payment site.

We're also looking for members to assist with various projects and for leadership positions. Sadly, our chapter President Paula Stewart had to step down for medical reasons. Please keep her in your prayers. We also keep John Massey, one of our long time chapter members in our prayers upon his passing this past month. I remember him as a gentle friend and loyal member of our chapter. Take a moment to read his "In Memoriam".

There are many articles and links to articles that I hope you'll find interesting. One article that I thought was interesting is the history of the U.S. Navy using carrier pigeons during WWI and WWII. Imagine having a rating indicating

that you were a pigeonier! In the Medical Corner, there are some fast facts about the 1918 flu pandemic. Thank you to COL Allan Pedersen, the Chairman for the Coalition and Senior National Representative from Denmark for his continued informative contributions to the Coalition Corner. One of the links is about the U.S. Navy and its involvement with space exploration. Due to copyright issues I'm not able to publish entire articles without permission but have found links to several articles that I hope you'll take the time to "click" the links and read.

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, and that we need each and every one of you to help our chapter continue its vibrant programs. As your editor, I work hard to present your newsletter each month. 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. I look forward to this month's luncheon and seeing everyone again.

Let us never forget. - NEVER STOP SERVING!

"Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak; courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen." - Winston Churchill, former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom

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.

MOAA TAMPA CHAPTER RECEIVED A BEAUTIFUL PLAQUE FROM THE JORDANIAN ARMED FORCES AT THE SEPTEMBER LUNCHEON

—By Sara Marks Photo credit: Sara Marks

COL Tayel Alqtieshat, Senior National Representative from Jordan presented a plaque from the Jordanian Armed Forces. Capt Norm Bild, USAF (Ret) briefly spoke about the importance of the relationship between the United States and Jordan. On behalf of the MOAA Tampa Chapter, COL Carol Zieres, USA (Ret) accepted the Jordanian Armed Forces plaque from COL Alqtieshat.



COALITION OFFICERS PRESENTED LETTERS OF APPRECIATION AT THE SEPTEMBER LUNCHEON

—By Sara Marks Photo credit: Sara Marks

The MOAA Tampa Chapter is fortunate to have a long time relationship with the Coalition forces from CENTCOM. Each month COL Allan Pedersen, the Chairman of the Coalition and Senior National Representative (SNR) from Denmark brings two other members of the Coalition with him to our luncheons. Our chapter has found it very enriching to learn from each and have built friendships through the years. This month the SNRs from Great Britain and Jordan attended. MajGen James Coote, SNR from Great Britain and COL Tayel Alqtieshat, SNR from Jordan each received a Letter of Appreciation from COL Carol Zieres, USA (Ret) on behalf of the MOAA Tampa Chapter.



MajGen James Coote, SNR from Great Britain



COL Tayel Alqtieshat, SNR from Jordan





OCTOBER LUNCHEON MEETING



EVENT: Chapter Monthly Luncheon Meeting

DATE: Thursday, 9 October **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, 3 October. Call 321-258-7388 OR via email to LunchReservations@moaatampa.org. Reservations are limited to 60. A Reservation Made is a Reservation Paid.

CANCELLATIONS: Cancellations must be made by NOON Monday, 6 October, by calling 321-258-7388 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.

MENU: 1905 Salad, Cuban Bread and butter, Paella de Pollo, Roast Pork, Black Beans, White Rice, Seasonal Fresh Vegetables, Coffee, Iced Tea, Soft Drinks and a celebration cake for the Navy

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 321-258-7388 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 OCTOBER

Breast Cancer Awareness Month
1-2 Yom Kippur
12 Ms. Veteran America Pagent
13 Columbus Day
13 U.S. Navy Birthday
26 Day of the Deployed
27 Navy Day
31 Halloween



Welcome New Members

**LCDR Eric Palmer
of NOAA**



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



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2024-2025



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The

RETROSPECT

TAMPA CHAPTER — A FIVE STAR CHAPTER OF MOAA NATIONAL



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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		Advertising	Cost (Artwork supplied)	Cost (Ad creation)
Ad Deadline	Inserts			
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!

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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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Articles of Interest Found on the Web

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



1. The Navy’s Role in Space Exploration

Before NASA was established, the Navy was involved in research in space exploration. Alan Shephard, the first American in space and Neil Armstrong, the first man to walk on the moon were both Naval officers. Browse this article and learn more about the timeline of the Navy’s role in space exploration. Click on the link and explore the article and the additional resources provided.
<https://www.history.navy.mil/browse-by-topic/exploration-and-innovation/navy-and-space-exploration.html>

2. Veterans volunteer longer, vote more often than civilian peers: report

Interesting article with some stats comparing veteran volunteerism to our civilian counterparts. Once could also conclude that our military training uniquely trains us to measure up to any task we’re challenged to complete. Click on the link and see what you think about impact of volunteering.
<https://www.militarytimes.com/news/pentagon-congress/2025/09/11/veterans-volunteer-longer-vote-more-often-than-civilian-peers-report/>

3. The Italian WWII Frogmen Who Inspired the U.S. Navy SEALs

Interesting history of the U.S. Navy SEALs and what was learned from Italian commando tactics in both WWI and WWII. The Italians’ proved effective techniques of naval supremacy that the Allied Forces took notice. Take a moment to click on the link to learn more.
<https://www.military.com/daily-news/opinions/italian-wwii-frogmen-who-inspired-us-navy-seals.html>

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

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In Korea

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

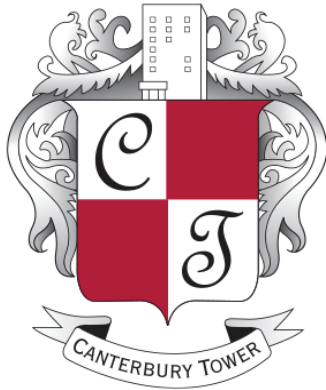
Call [00 1 800 273 8255](tel:0018002738255) or DSN 111
In the Philippines

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.

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Coalition Corner



Dear MOAA Tampa Members,

First of all, a big thank you for allowing a coalition team to participate in the Golf Tournament. The team enjoyed it tremendously and as you can see from the picture, they were quite happy. The team plays at least once a week, normally on Thursdays, and normally joined by a few other golfers as well. The team consisted of Senior National Representatives from the Netherlands (Leo), Italy (Roberto), South Korea (Hyoungdo) and Finland (Sami).

Since the last newsletter we have and a few change overs of the Senior National Representatives from Spain, Marokko and Qatar, but we are still 34 countries represented. Three more as double-hatted both US SOCOM and US CENTCOM, and finally three more on a distant relationship from Norfolk, Virginia.

A few of my colleagues participated in the Tampa City Memorial of First Lieutenant Baldomero López, USMC on his 75th death anniversary at the landing at Incheon, Korea. It was a great honor for the Korean SNR Colonel Hyoungdo Kwan to take part in the memorial along side representatives from some of the other countries that either participated in the war or are present in Korea right now.

Finally, a few words about our spouses as they are an important part of our stationing here in Tampa. Generally we encourage all spouses and families to participate as much as possible in the different events that we are invited. This is important because meeting other cultures and people broadens everyone's perspective and understanding of each other. During our stationing in Brussels, Belgium and now in Tampa, I must say that no matter the



nationality, we all have a lot in common. We all worry about our children, our parents, we talk about schools, groceries, shopping in general. Basically just people's stuff. We care about our security, we want to be prosperous and free to make our own living as we choose.

This cultural exchange happens at monthly Coffee Mornings for the spouses as you can see in the picture. Normally it is hosted by one or multiple countries, offering both a short brief on their countries but also coffee and a small sample of specialties from the country or countries. Later in November the CENTCOM spouses will host a Thanksgiving version to let all the spouses see a bit of American culture as well.

Regards,

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

BRIEF UPDATE OF HACKERS OPEN GOLF TOURNAMENT HELD 12-13 SEPTEMBER

—By Sara Marks Photo credit: Sara Marks and Ruth VanDyke

The inaugural fundraising MOAA Tampa Chapter Golf Tournament held at the Walt Disney World Palm and Magnolia courses was a wonderful success. Thank you to all the donors and sponsors, the small cadre of helpers, and to all those who participated in this fun golf event. We're still collating all the outcomes to present in the November newsletter, so stand by.



Reggie Williams, Steve Hubbell, and Charles Dalcourt



Warming up before the start of the tournament



Lisette Hubbell, Steve Hubbell, Lewis VanDyke, Sara Marks, Kiley Stinson, and Carol Zieres



The mouse trap



Raffle tickets ready for sale at the Golf Tournament

Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz

Tenth Chief of Naval Operations - December 15, 1945–December 15, 1947

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

After brilliantly leading American forces to victory in World War II, Fleet Admiral Nimitz, the Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet and Pacific Ocean Areas, hauled down his flag at Pearl Harbor and relieved Fleet Admiral King as Chief of Naval Operations. Accorded a hero's welcome at home, the quiet, self-effacing officer described himself as merely "a representative of the brave men who fought" under his command.

When Admiral Nimitz took over as Chief of Naval Operations, rapid demobilization was the order of the day. He was faced with the perplexing problem of maintaining an effective fleet to carry out extensive operational commitments throughout the world. In the Pacific, naval vessels engaged in "Operation Magic Carpet" brought home more than two million American servicemembers over a period of six months. Japanese, Chinese, Korean, and other troops were lifted to their homelands, as the Navy conducted operations in the disarmament and the transfer of control and occupation of territories previously held by the enemies.

The task of reducing the most powerful Navy in history to a fraction of its wartime peak entailed drastic cutbacks in ships, personnel, and the shore establishment; surplus property disposal; and cancellations of construction contracts. Fleet Admiral Nimitz provided the administration necessary to achieve this huge rollback in an orderly fashion without destroying the Navy's effectiveness. Programs were initiated for the establishment and maintenance of active and reserve fleets with the potential strength and readiness required to support national policy.

Fleet Admiral Nimitz faced a new set of challenges to American naval power. With the de-



struction of the German and Japanese navies and the advent of the atomic bomb, the continuance of a major U.S. Navy was questioned. Nimitz was persuasive in his efforts to retain balanced naval forces.

In response to the campaign to merge the military services within a single executive department and under a single Chief of Staff, his leadership played a key role in achieving a reasonable compromise, one in which naval aviation and the Marine Corps remained under the Department of the Navy.

The Navy effectively met the new challenges of the Cold War. The deployment of naval forces to crisis points in the Mediterranean and elsewhere was a major influence in stemming Communist advances.

In the midst of overriding demobilization pressures and extensive operational commitments overseas, Fleet Admiral Nimitz remained acutely aware that the efficiency of the postwar Navy hinged on the continued development and use of technological innovations generated by the war. To prepare to meet future threats, the Navy stressed research and development. Emphasis was placed on antisubmarine warfare and, in January 1946, a Coordinator of Undersea Warfare was established in the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations with responsibilities for both submarines and antisubmarine warfare. The Chief of Naval Operations also directed attention to the potential of guided missiles as seagoing weapon systems and to nuclear energy for ship propulsion. Prophetically, he reported, "the Navy of the future will be capable of launching missiles from surface vessels and submarines, and of delivering atomic bombs from carrier-based planes."

To continue reading click: <https://www.history.navy.mil/browse-by-topic/people/chiefs-of-naval-operations/fleet-admiral-chester-w-nimitz.html>

How We Help and Why You Should Join!

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

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

NEVER STOP SERVING!



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

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



MOAA Tampa Chapter Dues Renewal Form

Deadline for renewing your membership is January 31, 2026

Name _____

Rank_____ Service_____ Status_____ (AD, Retired, Former)

Check here if there are no changes_____

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

Address _____

Email Address _____

Phone _____ Cell _____

Spouse_____ Phone_____

Visit <http://www.moaatampa.org/> to make these changes online and to see all that MOAA has to offer.

There are 3 ways to pay your dues:

- 1. Online at <https://my.cheddarup.com/c/tampa-chapter/>
- 2. Paying in person at the monthly member luncheons (2nd Thursday of every month)
- 3. Mailing this dues renewal form

Please consider donating to our chapter scholarship fund and other charities - JROTC leadership camp Thriving After Military Service Program, Tampa Veterans Treatment Court.

Amount enclosed:

2026 Dues	\$ 30.00
Additional Contribution	\$_____ (Scholarships / JROTC Leadership Camp / VTC / TAPS)
Total Enclosed	\$ _____

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

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

Email questions to: membership@moaatampa.org

Access our Chapter website and monthly newsletter for Updates and more Information

<http://www.moaatampa.org/>

How We Help and Why You Should Join!

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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 _____

THE NAVY’S USE OF CARRIER PIGEONS

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



—Homing pigeons played an essential role in Allied communication during World War I. This photograph features “Peerless Pilot,” one of the most celebrated naval messengers. Beginning at only 15 months of age, Peerless delivered nearly 200 messages during the last year of the war (NH 153-A).

Carrier pigeons played a role in naval communications from the late 1880s through [World War II](#).

The Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, was the first command in the Navy to breed and train carrier pigeons. A Naval Academy French professor, Henri Marion, built an experimental pigeon loft in an academy boathouse in 1891. He received the pigeons from the Army’s Signal Corps, which had built an experimental pigeon loft in Key West, Florida, in 1888, but closed their program three years later. While with the Army, the birds had proven their ability to fly over water, routinely carrying messages from Havana, Cuba, back to their loft in Key West.

Convinced that pigeons could improve naval communications at sea, Marion began training the birds on the Naval Academy school ship, [USS Constellation](#). Academy pigeons were conditioned to fly from the ship back to their home loft at Annapolis. They were released from shorter distances at first, then the distance was gradually increased until they were to flying up to 150 miles.

In 1893, the pigeons on *Constellation* proved their worth in an emergency. A seaman was killed in an accident when *Constellation* was 12 miles out from Annapolis. Two birds carried duplicate messages requesting that the academy’s screw tug [Standish](#) be sent to pick up the body. The message was sent at 0930 on 7 June 1893. Less than three hours later, the *Standish* was alongside the *Constellation*.

In 1896, the Navy officially established the U.S. Naval Pigeon Messenger Service. The Secretary of the Navy directed that pigeon lofts be built at Boston Navy Yard, Portsmouth Navy Yard, Naval Station Newport, Brooklyn Navy Yard, Key West, and Mare Island Navy Yard.

When the United States declared war on Spain in April 1898, the Navy’s messenger service birds carried official messages from ship to shore—mostly from ships operating off the East Coast on their way to the Caribbean. The pigeons flew to stationary pigeon lofts along the Atlantic seaboard, carrying messages from the fleet in a small aluminum capsule attached to their leg.

In 1899, the Navy shifted its focus to radio communications. By 1902, all new Navy ships were outfitted with wireless telegraph equipment. With this new technology available, the Navy disestablished the Naval Pigeon Messenger Service and auctioned off all its pigeons.



—Releasing the carrier pigeons from seaplane, U.S. Naval Air Station, Anacostia, Washington, DC, 12 February 1919 (NH 121290).

World War I: Pigeons Return to Service

The U.S. Navy began using homing pigeons again during [World War I](#). Most of the pigeons used on these missions came from military or private lofts in Belgium and France.

U.S. Navy aviators carried the birds aboard seaplanes while conducting antisubmarine missions along the French coast. Pigeons provided aviators with a backup mode of communication in the event of radio failure or forced landing. The pilot would place a message in the capsule affixed to the pigeon’s leg then release it. The pigeon would carry the message to its home loft at one of the U.S. Navy air stations in France. Once at the pigeon loft, the pigeon would go through a little slot that rang a bell and the pigeon master would retrieve the note.

One notable incident occurred on 22 November 1917, when U.S. Navy Ensign Kenneth R. Smith and his crew departed [U.S. Naval Air Station at Le Croisic, France](#), in foggy weather and crashed. The pigeons on board were released to deliver an emergency message back to base. A search team subsequently rescued Smith and the crew.

During World War I, the Navy developed a “pigeon trainer” enlisted rate. Pigeoneers, as they were often called, fell under the quartermaster rating. They were identified as Quartermaster (Pigeon), QM (P). Sailors went to a specialist’s school for six to 12 months then received orders to naval air stations with pigeon lofts.

In 1918, the Navy published a manual for pigeon trainers entitled [Instructions on Reception, Care and Training of Homing Pigeons in Newly Installed Lofts at U.S. Navy Air Bases](#). The manual contained detailed information on how the birds should be fed, housed, and trained. It included such things as when to bathe them (every other day and never on extremely cold days); how to build rapport with a bird how to properly hold a bird; how often to clean their perches and nest boxes; and what they should be fed (50 percent Canada peas, 25 percent Argentine corn, 15 percent Kaffir corn or milo maize, and 10 percent whole rice).

Pigeoneers were also required to conduct a daily and monthly inventory of the birds, which included recording the number of breeding pigeons in the loft, the number of trained and untrained birds in the loft, the number of birds “out for immediate duty,” and the number of sick birds in the hospital.

Naval Air Station Anacostia, which ran the largest pigeon school in the country, maintained a loft with 300 birds. They were well cared for, with bright and airy lofts that had running water, electricity, and a hospital ready to provide medical care if they fell ill. Armed guards patrolled their grounds at night.

World War II

During World War II, the pigeon trainer rating was moved to a new rating designation known as Specialist (X) (PI). The specialist rating was created in late 1941 to allow for new enlisted ratings that were needed during wartime, but didn’t fall in the established rating structure.

In 1943, the rating opened up to Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service (WAVES). They trained at the pigeon school at Naval Air Station Lakehurst, New Jersey. Requirements for women were the same as men—they should have experience working with birds or other animals and know how to drive a car in order to pick up pigeons that got lost during training sessions.

Naval Air Station Lakehurst was also the prime operating base of [airships and dirigibles](#). During World War II, pigeons were routinely taken on airships and dirigibles conducting state-side antisubmarine patrols. They were used when radio silence was in force, or during radio failure. Every airship carried six crated pigeons. Typically, pigeons carried messages in black plastic capsules attached to one of their legs, but when an emergency message was sent, a red capsule was used.

The Specialist X pigeon trainer rating was phased out after World War II when the Navy returned to a peacetime rating structure. On 1 January 1948, pigeon trainers were transferred to the emergency service rating category. They were kept in the ranks until January 1961, at which point all exclusive emergency service ratings were disestablished.

—Wendy Arevalo, NHHC Communication and Outreach Division

Source: <https://www.history.navy.mil/browse-by-topic/exploration-and-innovation/navy-pigeons.html>



—Specialist (X) (PI) 2nd Class Marcelle Whiteman holds one of the 200 carrier pigeons based at NAS Santa Ana, California, circa June 1945. The birds were used to transmit communications from the air to the station when radio silence is in force. One of the occupations covered by the Specialist (X) rating was pigeon trainer (80-G-K-5489).

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE SEPTEMBER LUNCHEON RAFFLE WINNER!

—Photo credit: Sara Marks



Congratulations to David Zallo for winning the beautiful watercolor of Neuschwanstein Castle painted by Carol Zieres in 1988.

CHAPLAIN’S CORNER

Military Chaplaincy Review

Stavlund, Nicholas. “*The D-Day Chaplain Who Died Twice*.” Military Chaplaincy Review, September 16, 2025.

In early June 2025, I went with fewer than a hundred fellow paratroopers from the 82nd Airborne Division to Normandy, France to commemorate the 81st anniversary of Operation Overlord and the D-Day invasion. Dozens of ceremonies take place across the region each June commemorating various battles and heroic actions of American soldiers. Two of those ceremonies honor the life and death of Chaplain Ignatius Maternowski. To those in the Normandy region of France he is known simply as the “D-Day Chaplain.”

A native of Holyoke, Massachusetts and a graduate of St. Francis High School in Athol Springs, New York, he was a paratrooper, chaplain, and Franciscan priest assigned to the 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment in World War II. Eighty-one years ago, he jumped into the darkness without a weapon and assembled with small groups of fellow paratroopers near a hamlet of homes and buildings called Gueutteville in the town of Picauville. On the drop zone, he ministered to the wounded and dying in a nearby crashed glider.^[1]

Gueutteville occupies a single, narrow road no more than a quarter mile long, with stone homes and storehouses lining either side. This humble street became a battlefield where American paratroopers made their stand against German forces. Before sunrise, it became the place where Chaplain Maternowski would lose his life.

Locals in France often describe what they heard about the “D-Day Chaplain” from their parents and grandparents. With American casualties mounting in those early hours of the operation, Chaplain Maternowski decided to walk the narrow street that bisected Gueutteville to find the German aid station and doctor. He sought to create a single aid station to treat the wounded and dying from both sides. One aid station for all wounded personnel, regardless of their uniform. Somehow, he safely navigated the narrow road and found the German aid station. Even more strangely, the German doctor agreed to Chaplain Maternowski’s plan. Yet on his walk back down the narrow street, with his helmet dangling from his waist band, a German sniper shot and killed Chaplain Maternowski. The plan to unite German and American aid stations—to save lives—would never come to fruition. His body would lay in the street for three days before Americans could recover him. He was 32 years old and in his fifth year of priesthood.^[2]

I wonder about many aspects of this story. Did Chaplain Maternowski discuss this plan with whoever served as the ground force commander? Was his plan to create a unified aid station naïve? What would I have done? Where would I have placed my energy and focus? But mostly I wonder: What kind of person conceives such a plan, knowing the danger and risk involved?

To better understand his death, we must first understand his identity as a Franciscan priest. He would have known well the writings of St. Francis of Assisi, the namesake of his Holy Order. Francis was no stranger to death and sorrow. He fought in battle and was captured in 1202. As a prisoner of war for nearly a year, he fell seriously ill and endured profound physical suffering, a period that resulted in radical spiritual transformation.

Suffering does not always produce a spiritually transformative, death-in-life experience. Yet Francis, upon his release, abandoned the bourgeois lifestyle granted by his family and chose to serve God and others. Rather than retreat to comfort, he embraced poverty.

Though he never wrote directly about this death-in-life transformation, themes of humility, suffering, penance, and love for all of creation permeate his works. One pithy line from

his “Canticle of the Creatures” offers insight into Chaplain Maternowski’s bravery eighty-one years ago, even as it illumines St. Francis’ own death-in-life experience: “Blessed are those who are found in Your most holy will, for the second death will do them no harm.”^[3]

The second death, among the Church Fathers and in theological literature, refers to the moment when God renders final judgment to those outside of God’s will. For those found in God’s holy will, according to St. Francis, the second death of final judgment will do them no harm. Viewed more broadly, however, the second death can come to mean physical death. If one is found in God’s most holy will, in other words, then physical death itself will do them no harm.

To speak of a second death presupposes a first death. In response to God’s call, St. Francis renounced worldly attachments and embraced selfless humility before God as a kind of death-in-life. He renounced his good reputation, severed family ties, and relinquished his inheritance. He endured beatings, ridicule, and the condescending eyes of society, submitting and surrendering to God’s call of ministry. This is the first death.

The first death has God as both its source and its aim. This death-in-life is a type of surrender, a gift from God that transforms and sends a person back into the broken world as a minister.

Chaplain Maternowski was a priest ordained in the Order of St. Francis. Consequently, one can trace the death-in-life hinted at in St. Francis’ writings and find it embodied in Chaplain Maternowski’s final acts of ministry. When Chaplain Maternowski jumped into the fields of Normandy eighty-one years ago, he jumped as a man who had already died once. His first death was a surrender and submission to God. His physical death hours later on the narrow street in Gueutteville was not, in fact, the first time he died.

Chaplain Maternowski’s death-in-life, his first death, appears to have transformed him in such profound ways that he would be the type of chaplain who would come up with a plan, in the middle of battle, to unite German and American aid stations. As a result, physical death had no hold over him. He was free to live and to die for others and for God. He was a priest in the Order of St. Francis who knew what it meant to sing: “Blessed are those who are found in Your most holy will, for the second death will do them no harm.” I pray that I may live out my own ordination vows with similar faithfulness, especially in the crucible of war amidst the constant threat of physical death.

1. Our Lady of the Angels Province, “In Memoriam: Fr. Ignatius Maternowski,” *Our Lady of the Angels Province*, September 26, 2019, <https://www.olaprovince.org/2019/09/26/in-memoriam-fr-ignatius-maternowski/>.

2. Steve Weidenkopf, “Fr. Ignatius Maternowski: D-Day Chaplain,” *Catholic Answers Magazine*, June 4, 2019, <https://www.catholic.com/magazine/online-edition/father-ignatius-maternowski-d-day-chaplain>.

3. Francis of Assisi, “The Canticle of the Creatures,” in *Francis of Assisi: Early Documents, Vol. I: The Saint*, eds. Regis J. Armstrong, J.A. Wayne Hellmann, and William J. Short (New York: New City, 1999), 113.

Source: <https://mcr.scholasticahq.com/article/143275-the-d-day-chaplain-who-died-twice>

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