



The RETROSPECT

TAMPA CHAPTER — A FIVE STAR CHAPTER OF MOAA NATIONAL

November 2025

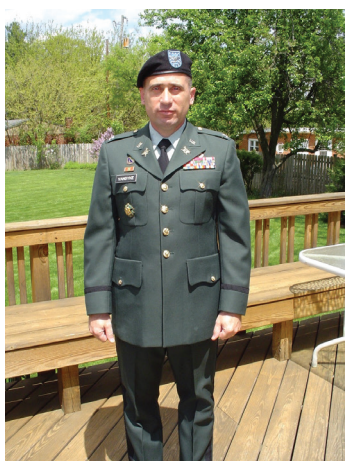
VOLUME 31, NUMBER 11



GREETINGS!

HONORING OUR MOAA TAMPA VETERANS FOR VETERANS DAY

Thank you for your service. These are just some of our many MOAA Tampa Chapter Veterans pictured in uniform. Thank you to all who served and NEVER STOP SERVING!!!



LEGISLATIVE

LOWDOWN



BEN RITTER, SGT USMC
(FORMER)/HONORARY MBR

Capt NORM BILD,
USAF RET

MOAA and Fellow Advocacy Groups Speak Out for our Military Servicemembers During the Federal Shutdown:

MOAA joined more than a dozen military and veterans' organizations on October 14 to send a unified message in the face of the ongoing federal shutdown: The time for temporary fixes is over, and members of all eight uniformed services "deserve stability" to allow for a mission-focused force.

"Those who serve our nation should never have to wonder if they'll be paid for that service," said Major General April Vogel, USAF (Ret), MOAA's Vice President of Government Relations during the October 14 press conference, organized by the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA) in Washington, D.C. "Weeks of uncertainty have taken a toll on our service-members, their families, and the civilians who support them."

While Vogel and other speakers – including representatives of IAVA, the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and Disabled American Veterans – praised recent moves to secure mid-month paychecks for members of the armed services,

they noted that the temporary nature of the move leaves servicemembers' end-of-month pay uncertain.

"It is incumbent on the American people to demand that Congress stop making the military and veterans the pawns in their disagreements and ensure that our troops are paid consistently, and not by a 'wind and a hope' and a stopgap measure." IAVA CEO Kyleanne Hunter said.

Covering All Who Serve:

MOAA and other groups at the conference continue to back bipartisan legislation which would ensure payment for those in the armed services during the current funding lapse. However, the bills as written would not cover members of the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps, nor the NOAA Commissioned Corps. Those officers receive monthly checks, and there has been no information provided by the Department of Health and Human Services or the Commerce Department regarding those payments.

MOAA signed onto a recent letter written by the Commissioned Officers' Association of the U.S. Public Health Service seeking a technical amendment to pay-protection legislation that would cover all in uniform. "Their service is vital, and they should not be left out," April Vogel said.

Ending the Cycle:

As lawmakers and advocates continue discussing legislative fixes and workarounds to provide service-earned pay and resources during a shutdown, the root cause remains lawmakers' inability to pass a budget on time. When Congress pushes these negotiations to the brink – and sometimes push past it – its members "weaken readiness, delay critical modernization and training, and undermine morale," Vogel said.

"Breaking the decades-long cycle of continuing resolutions

and ensuring a fully funded government remains the clearest path forward to providing for those in uniform," Vogel stressed. "Every time Washington fails to act, the people who serve this country pay the price," she said. "They deserve stability, not another short-term patch."

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NEXT STEPS for the Richard Star Act: How MOAA Will Continue Fighting for Combat-Injured Veterans:

The Major Richard Star Act – legislation to eliminate the unfair offset that forces many combat-injured, medically retired veterans to forfeit a portion of their retirement pay when they receive VA disability compensation – is again stalled in Congress, despite broad support and renewed pressure. Here's where things stand, and how advocates and veterans can join MOAA's efforts to keep pushing the legislation forward:

Senate Floor Action:

* The Senate version of the bill (S. 1032) was introduced on October 8 for consideration by unanimous consent on the Senate floor. The effort would've moved the bill forward to the House for a vote, but it was blocked by an objection.

* After the objection, a compromise motion to waive procedural hurdles and allow a single roll call vote (at a 60-vote threshold) on the bill before the end of the year was raised. It was blocked in similar fashion.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Nov 6, 2025
Board of Directors Meeting
Virtual

Nov 13, 2025
Chapter Luncheon
11:30 AM – 12:00 PM Social
12:00 PM – 1:30 PM Lunch
Columbia Restaurant
(see page 8)

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



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

REMINDER:

SUBMISSION DEADLINE
FOR THE DECEMBER 2025
ISSUE IS 20 NOVEMBER 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 *cont.*

* The voiced objections claimed the bill would amount to “double dipping” and would impose unacceptable costs. However, retirement pay and disability compensation are two separate, service-earned benefits, and the cost is modest in the context of the broader federal (and military) budget.

THE SENATE NDAA Process:

The National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) is often used to advance veteran-benefits reforms because it is considered a “must-pass” bill. Advocates hoped the Star Act could hitch a ride as an FY 2026 NDAA amendment, but the process hit multiple roadblocks:

* Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.), Sen. Mike Crapo (R-Idaho), and Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) introduced the text of the legislation as a Senate NDAA amendment, but it was not included among the limited amendments to the bill that was passed by the chamber on October 9.

* Efforts by House Representatives Gus Bilirakis (R-Fla.) and Raul Ruiz (D-Calif.) to introduce the legislation as a House NDAA amendment also were not successful. As in previous years, the Star Act was not found “in order” in the House Rules Committee, preventing its consideration on the House floor.

* Some congressional leaders argue that the bill lacks an offset or a “scoring mechanism” to show how its costs will be absorbed, making it politically risky in tight fiscal and budgetary negotiations.

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how its costs will be absorbed, making it politically risky in tight fiscal and budgetary negotiations.

Source: **Advocacy News** at <https://www.moaa.org>

NOTE: Firearms Remain Prohibited on Federal Property

As of Sept. 25, 2025, it is now legal to open-carry a firearm in the state of Florida. However, in spite of this change in the Florida law, it remains illegal to bring firearms onto federal property. Every person who enters federal property is required to adhere to 38 CFR 1.218(b)(37) which states:

“Possession of firearms, carried either openly or concealed, whether loaded or unloaded (except by Federal or State law enforcement officers on official business) is prohibited on federal property and could result in a \$500 fine.”

Be mindful of this federal regulation. Should you have reason to believe that someone, other than an on-duty police officer, is in violation of this law – whether an employee, patient, or a guest on VA Hospital properties – do not engage. Contact the VA Police immediately. The appropriate numbers for each of our local VA Hospital sites are listed below:

The Tampa James A. Haley VA Hospital’s direct line to the hospital’s Police Department: **(813) 972-7554** Main number: **(813) 972-2000**

The Bay Pines VA Hospital in St. Petersburg’s line to their Police Department:

727-398-6661, ext. 14111 Main number: **(727) 398-6661**

Surviving Spouse Corner:
A Season to Be Grateful

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

By Susan Collins, Surviving Spouse
Advisory Council member

The holidays are filled with special family times that include beautiful memories. These memories can be sweet and make you all warm inside, but they also can cause sad emotions relating to the loss of a loved one.

As Thanksgiving approaches, it can be beneficial to focus effort and energy on what you are grateful for in your “new life” since the loss of a loved one. I am grateful for:

- The enduring and unwavering support of my family, friends, and community — as a military surviving spouse, these are near and far.
- My good health that allows me to support my family and grandchildren as they grieve and help others as well.
- Being able to enjoy every new day. To be able to walk daily and enjoy



—skynesher/Getty Images

ily, friends, and great memories.

Source: <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2024-news-articles/member-spotlight/surviving-spouse-corner-a-season-to-be-grateful/>



meeting people, nature, trails, lakes, the ocean, sunrises, and sunsets.

- Beautiful memories and our legacy that I can pass down to my children and grandchildren.
- The strength and all the beauty life has to offer.
- My resilience to persevere.
- My faith. I look forward to meeting my spouse again.
- All life’s experiences. These experiences, whether they are good or bad, shape us throughout this life. They keep us alive.

As the holiday season approaches, I wish everyone good health and happiness and a wonderful Thanksgiving that is shared with fam-

MEDICAL CORNER

—Submitted by Jeanne Richard, Lt Col USAF (Ret)

UPDATES FROM THE 6TH MEDICAL GROUP MACDILL AFB

Government shutdown could affect the availability of prescription medications soon. The 6th Medical Group was proactive and pre ordered an additional 3 week supply of commonly prescribed meds. That supply is decreasing and if the shutdown continues it is possible that some drugs may not be available.

Dual eligible veterans (VA and 6th Medical Group) have the option of making appointments to be seen at Sabal Park VA Clinic or regular Sabal Park clinic. Internal Medicine appointments are only available for retirees at Sabal Park.

During the government shutdown, the 6th Medical Group cannot post information/updates on Facebook.

PHARMACY INFO:

MacDill 6th Med Group Main Pharmacy:

Processes prescriptions ordered by on-base providers for patients who are assigned to the 6th Medical Group. Refills are not processed at this location. Patients assigned a 6th Med Group provider can activate prescriptions through Q-Anywhere for same day pick up at the main pharmacy. (You must be empaneled to the 6th Medical Group to activate at the main pharmacy. Test “Get in line” to 1-833-224-5302.

Sabal Park Clinic Pharmacy: 9208 King Palm Drive, Tampa, FL33619

Processes prescriptions ordered by Sabal Park providers for patients who are assigned to the Sabal Park Clinic. Refills are not processed at this location. Patients assigned a Sabal Park provider can activate same day pick up at the Sabal Park pharmacy. You must be empaneled to the Sabal Park Clinic to activate at the Sabal Park Pharmacy.

Text “Get inline” to 1-833-224-5302

Urgent Care Pharmacy:

Processes prescriptions for same day pickup from Emergency Room and Urgent Care Centers. Properly issued/signed VA prescriptions can be dropped off into one of the pharmacy

drop boxes located in the parking lot and inside lobby.

Prescriptions from Off-Base Providers:

Provider Instructions: All prescriptions (with the exception of Department of VA prescriptions or emergency room prescriptions) must be sent in electronically to:

DOD MACDILL EPHCY
NCPDP# 5740849
3250 Zemke Ave, MacDill AFB, FL33621
Phone# 813-827-7910

Patient Instructions:

Electronic prescriptions submitted by doctors’ offices **are not** automatically ready for pickup. Prescription must be activated by the patient through **Q-Anywhere** or by filling out an activation request located at the Urgent Care Pharmacy. Once activated, prescriptions will be ready for pick up at the drive thru within 2 duty days (EXCEPTION: Special Order medications will take five (5) duty days).

To activate prescription: text “Get in line” to 813-22-5302.

Drive Thru Pharmacy:

Pick up location for refill requests and electronic prescriptions that have already been activated by the patient. All refills must be called into the automated refill line: 813-440-4892 or 800-272-0201 or utilize the “Rx Refill” tab on the MHS Genesis Patient Portal.

Refills will be available for pickup after 8 a.m. in three duty days at the Drive -Thru Pharmacy.

Patients may order refills before their prescription runs out: 30 day supply = 7 days prior; 90 day supply = 22 days prior.

Patients have 10 calendar days from the pick-up date to pick up prescriptions, or they will be returned to stock.

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



2025 OFFICERS:

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

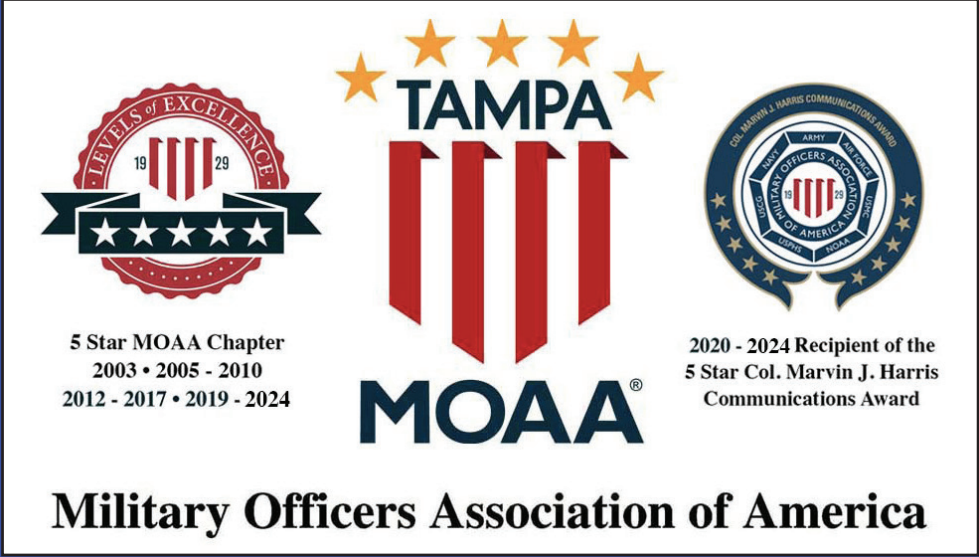
2025 DIRECTORS:

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



TAMPA CHAPTER MISSION:

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

GENERAL CONTACT INFO:

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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Thank You for Your Service!

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MOAA members, as well as MOAA friends and family will receive Mazda of Clearwater Employee Pricing on ANY new Mazda purchase.



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POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY

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



NAVY MEDICINE *FAST FACTS*


September 2025


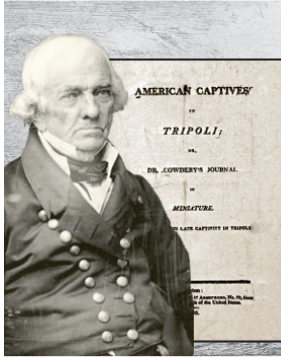
★ POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY ★

Remembering the many sacrifices made to defend our Nation



- Since 1803, **329** members of Navy Medicine have been held as prisoners of war. Of these, **156** Navy medical personnel died in captivity. These include 132 hospital corpsmen, 13 physicians, six hospital corps officers, and five dentists.
- Over **80,000** American service members from past conflicts are still missing, and it's believed that around 38,000 could be recovered.
- Since 1979, the third Friday of every September has been designated as **National POW / MIA Recognition Day** to honor all Americans who were prisoners of war or are still missing in action.





THE FIRST NAVY MEDICAL POWs

- On Oct. 31, 1803, Surgeon Jonathan Ridgely, Surgeon's Mates Nicholas Harwood and Jonathan Cowdery, and Loblolly Boy John Dornyn were captured by Tripolitan pirates after the USS Philadelphia ran aground in Tripoli Harbor.
- During their captivity, Dr. Cowdery not only cared for his fellow prisoners but also demonstrated his medical acumen by successfully treating one of the Bashaw's children.
- In 1806, he published his journal as *American captives in Tripoli*; or *Dr. Cowdery's journal in miniature kept during his late captivity in Tripoli*.

DEFENSE POW/MIA ACCOUNTING AGENCY (DPAA)

- The Defense POW / MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) was created in 2015, combining the Defense POW / Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) and the Joint POW / MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) and selected functions of the U.S. Air Force's Life Sciences Equipment Laboratory (LSEL).
- DPAA's primary mission is to provide the "fullest possible accounting for U.S. military personnel missing from past conflicts" by conducting search and recovery missions globally, including in Asia, the Pacific, and Europe.
- The agency's teams regularly include medical personnel from the Navy, Army, and Air Force.


UNACCOUNTED FOR SERVICE PERSONNEL

~81,000 American service personnel from WWII, Korean War, Vietnam War, the Cold War, and the Gulf Wars / other conflicts who remain missing.


75% Percent of unaccounted for military personnel who are in the Indo-Pacific, including those presumed lost at sea (i.e. ship losses, known aircraft water losses, etc.).

364 Number of service personnel who perished in the Battle of Tarawa and remain unaccounted for—this includes 11 hospital corpsmen.

Source: Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (www.dpaa.mil)




NAVY MEDICINE *FAST FACTS*



NAVY MEDICINE POWs BY THE NUMBERS

- 591** The number of Vietnam veterans repatriated as part of Operation Homecoming in 1973. Many of these POWs would be sent to the Naval Hospital San Diego, California, for follow up care.
- 132** The number of hospital corpsmen who died in captivity as POWs.
- 81** The number of psychological evaluations the Navy Medical Neuropsychiatric Research Unit (precursor to today's Naval Health Research Center) conducted in 1969 on former POWs from USS Pueblo (AGER 2).
- 65%** The percentage of Navy medical POWs at the Bilibid Prison who died while in captivity.
- 50** The number of Navy medical personnel who perished while transported to Japan aboard the prison ship ("hell ship") SS Oryoko Maru in 1944.
- 11** The number Medical Service Corps plankowners who were former POWs.




ROBERT E. MITCHELL CENTER FOR REPATRIATED POW STUDIES (REMC)

- REMC is a program under the Naval Aerospace Medical Institute (NAMI), headquartered at Naval Air Station Pensacola that provides follow-up medical evaluations to study the long-term effect of captivity on America's RPOWs.
- REMC also conducts research on the impact of long-term isolation.
- Today, REMC is the only DoD-sanctioned program that continues to conduct annual medical evaluations of RPOWs.

THE SAGA OF THE NORTHCOTTS

- The Northcott brothers—John, Robert and Thomas—served as hospital corpsmen. They enlisted in the Navy in January 1941 and were assigned to USS Vaga (YT-116), a tug used for patrolling the Filipino coastline from the Cavite Navy Yard to the island of Corregidor.
- When the Japanese invaded the Philippines in December 1941, the Northcotts helped scuttle the Vaga off Corregidor and joined a naval unit attached to the 4th Marine Regiment in defense of Corregidor until captured on May 6, 1942. Along with fellow defenders of Corregidor, the Northcotts were transferred to the Bilibid prison.
- On Oct. 21, 1943, John, Robert, and Thomas were among 228 Bilibid prisoners "drafted" for work detail on an old rice farm in Cabanatuan, 90 miles north of Manila. There the brothers remained working in malaria-rife conditions until they were finally broken up. John and Thomas were sent to mainland Japan aboard the "hell ship" Oryoko Maru. Robert remained at Cabanatuan. The brothers would be liberated in 1945.
- John, Robert, and Thomas remained in the Navy after the war and each reached the rank of Chief Hospital Corpsman (HMC).



Source: <https://www.dvidshub.net/> https://d34w7g4gy10iej.cloudfront.net/pubs/pdf_75215.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/>

October Luncheon Photos

Photo Credit: Sara Marks and Maryna Juman



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



It seems that the cooler weather is here. October was a busy month, but now we enter into the season of giving “thanks” for the many blessings we have as Americans. And as we honor all Veterans this month, we also celebrate the 250th birthday of the U.S. Marine Corps! Of course, next month more festive holiday events await us. So many things to be thankful for in the year ahead.

I'd like to take a moment to give “thanks” for our MOAA Tampa Chapter. For me I've had the opportunity to be your newsletter editor over the last five years. I'm thankful for our publisher, Emily Yates. I'm also thankful for our website and email manager, Michael Higgins. They've been a great support for me and our chapter. I'm also thankful for everyone who has taken time to contribute to our newsletter. Without you, I would have nothing to edit.

Thank you to Bob Sawallesh for his article about being aware of online scams. In the Medical Corner Jeanne Richard provided important updates from the 6th Medical Group. COL Allan Pedersen, the Chairman for the Coalition and Senior National Representative from Denmark for provided his memories of his first deployment for this month's Coalition Corner. I'm also thankful for Bernie Lieving for writing a beautiful message in the Chaplain's Corner. These are just a few highlights of the articles in this edition of *The Retrospect*. 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.

It's 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.

On a more serious note, I'm concerned for our chapter. We no longer have a chapter president, and soon we will be losing several other key members of our board of directors. I'm thankful for all the amazing things that our chapter has accomplished but pray that we make our way ahead. Without our members stepping up to

fill key leadership positions, our MOAA Tampa Chapter is facing a very serious decision of our ability to stay viable. Again, if no one steps up to help lead our organization, our chapter is in peril.

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 will miss seeing everyone at this month's luncheon. Once again, I'm exploring the world. This time I'm headed to my 7th continent, Antarctica. See you at the December luncheon.

Let us never forget. - NEVER STOP SERVING!

“Nothing is more honorable than a grateful heart.” – Seneca

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)

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.

JOIN US!

Please join the Veterans Council of Hillsborough County and our state and county officials in our Veterans Day Celebration on November 11th at 10:00 AM at the Veterans Memorial Park located at 3602 N. US 301, Tampa FI 33619.

This will be a very moving and memorable event celebrating all of our military branches and all of our veterans who have served.

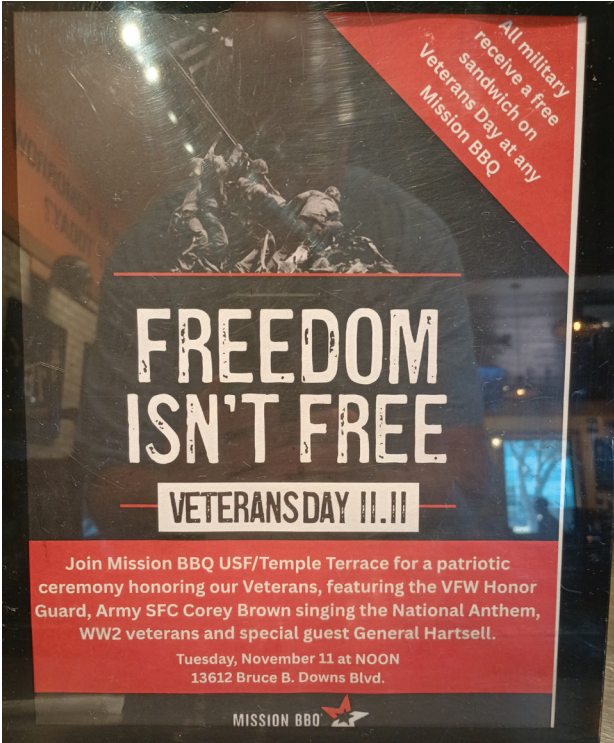
ALSO You're invited to our Veterans Day lunch event Tuesday, Nov 11 for our veterans from both the MILITARY and FIRST RESPONDERS at Mission BBQ (**FREE sandwich for military on Veterans Day**). This is the Mission BBQ near Temple Terrace, at the northwest area of Fletcher Avenue and Bruce B Downs Boulevard, Tampa.

“One Team One Fight”
Paul L. Ray
Col US Army (Ret)
Chairman, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee
HCREC

Please help spread the word to retired veteran MILITARY and FIRST RESPONDERS.

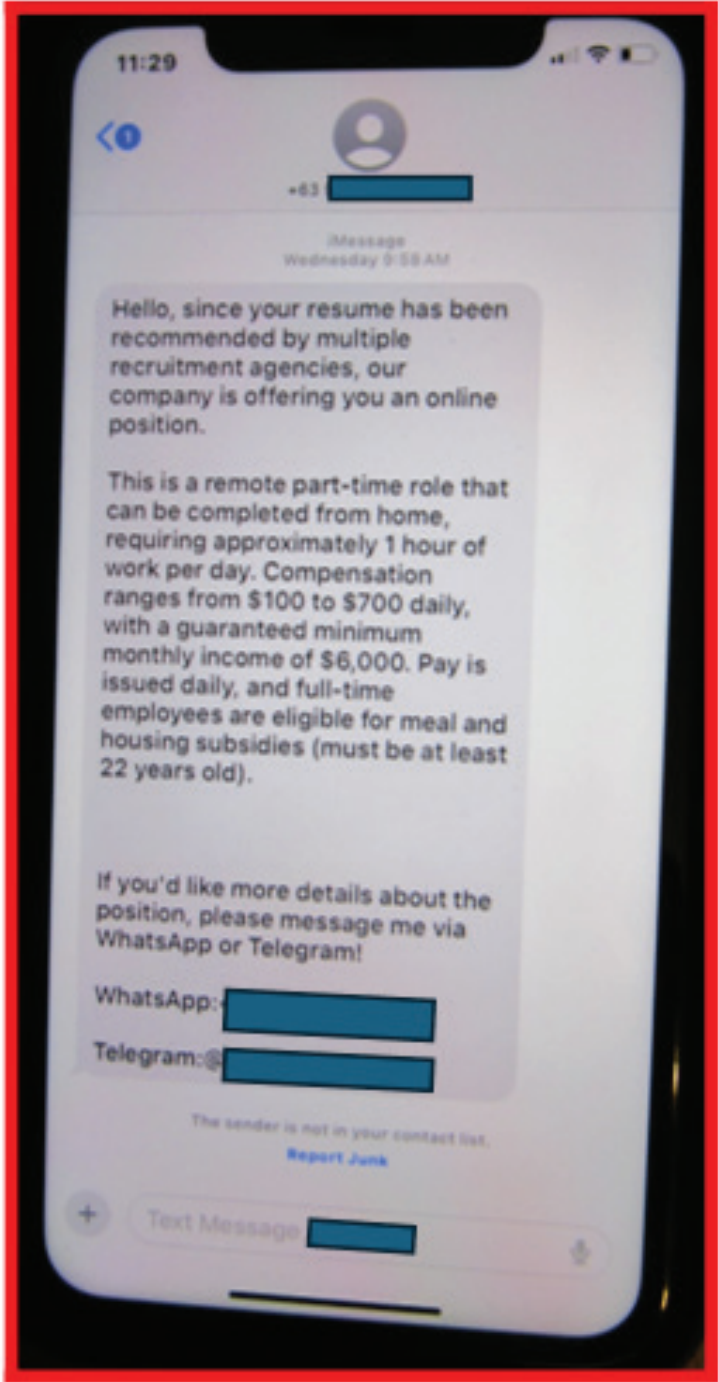


Retired U.S. Marine Corps Major General James S. Hartsell is the Executive Director of the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs (FDVA)



Millionaire or Nightmare?

—By Robert F. Sewallesh, LTC, US Army, Ret.



I recently heard a ping on my iPhone and Wow, I could remotely and part-time, because of my resume, become very well off based on the message. Don't fall for it! See message on the left.

The message country code is 63 so the message most likely came from the Philippines.

Suggest Googling “**FBI Elder Scams.**”



NOVEMBER LUNCHEON MEETING



EVENT: Chapter Monthly Luncheon Meeting

DATE: Thursday, 13 November **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, 7 November. 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,10 November, 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, Ropa Vieja, Pollo Salteado, Platanos Maduros, Yellow Rice, Fresh Green Beans, Coffee, Iced Tea, Soft Drinks and a celebration cake for the Marines

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 NOVEMBER

- National Veterans & Military Family Month
- Warrior Care Month
- National Family Caregivers Month
- 2 Daylight Savings Time Ends
- 3-7 National Veterans Small Business Week
- 10 Marine Corps Day/Birthday
- 11 Veterans Day
- 11 Armistice Day
- 27 Thanksgiving Day



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
Dec. 20 (2024)	Jan. 1	Half page (12.95" wide x 9.75" tall)	\$1,000.00
Jan. 20	Feb. 1	Quarter page (6.5" wide x 6.25" tall)	\$500.00
Feb. 21	Mar. 1	1/8 page (6.5" wide x 3.5" tall)	\$250.00
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







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the U.S. Virgin Islands

Turn Compassion Into Action!

Join the Service to the Armed Forces Team!

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



Volunteers Urgently Needed in the Following Areas at MacDill AFB:

Coping with Deployment Facilitator

Help provide skills to help military families cope with military life, especially deployments.
Must be mental health professional, holding a current license

MacDill AFB Clinic

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

MacDill Clinic Professional Volunteer

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

MacDill AFB Pharmacy


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

Additional security clearance may be required in compliance with government regulations

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


To learn more, visit redcross.org or contact:

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



Scan with cell phone camera to apply!

251601-16



Active? Retired? We welcome the opportunity to serve you.

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► For more information or to schedule a tour, call (813) 667-9954.


Applicable to all discounts: Residents under a Life Care Agreement are not eligible for the discounts. These discounts do not apply to any room, board or services which are paid for all or in part by any state or federally funded program. Discounts are available to members and their family members, including spouse, adult children, siblings, parents, grandparents, and corresponding in-law or step adult children, siblings, parents, and grandparents through current spouse. Subject to availability. Further restrictions may apply.
*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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brookdale.com



Articles of Interest Found on the Web

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



1. National Guard Exceeds 2025 Recruiting Goals
<https://www.war.gov/News/News-Stories/Article/Article/4313863/national-guard-exceeds-2025-recruiting-goals/>
2. Navy evacuates nearly 900 from Cuba as Hurricane Melissa approaches
<https://www.navytimes.com/news/your-navy/2025/10/27/navy-evacuates-nearly-900-from-cuba-as-hurricane-melissa-approaches/>
3. Seven ‘Nisei’ soldiers of the 442nd posthumously receive commission
<https://www.navytimes.com/veterans/military-history/2025/10/20/seven-nisei-soldiers-of-the-442nd-posthumously-receive-commission/>
4. Women Gain More Benefits From Exercise Than Men
<https://www.newsmax.com/health/health-news/exercise-women-benefit/2025/10/29/id/1232379/>

Support for All Who Serve

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

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



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In Korea

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

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

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

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

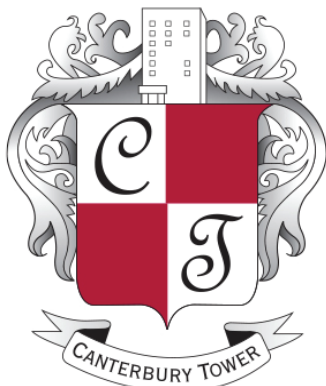
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Coalition Corner



Dear MOAA Tampa Members,

This month my article is inspired by a wish for getting stories from deployments of the past. I'd like to share some information about my first deployment as a soldier back in 1994.

When I was 23 years old and probably mostly wanted to see something else other than the little town I grew up in, I served as a conscript in the Danish Army and volunteered for deployment. It was a six months tour from February to August. This was the fifth rotation after the UN Protection Force was deployed to Croatia after the dissolution of Yugoslavia in 1992.

I deployed as part of an infantry company in the mortar squad, and our task was to support the platoons should they come under fire. The infantry platoons established and manned road checkpoints and observation posts along the agreed ceasefire line. Our mandate was to only open fire in case of selfdefence. Otherwise we were instructed to shout “UN don't shoot” and wave with the UN flag.

Quickly after our arrival a peace agreement was settled. The mortar squad ended up on observation posts and performed guard duty in the main camp. You can see from the pictures what it looked like. Interestingly, the observation tower in the picture was from the former East Germany when they were situated along the Inner German Border watching West Germany. The other picture is from the main gate at our company camp.

We also had a Danish tank squadron deployed to Bosnia during the same period. In response to anti-tank fire from the Bosnian Serbs, they fired back and engaged in the first tank battle of UN history. It was a success, and cooled things down for some months. Later in October the same year, the squadron had another engagement. By chance, they hit an enemy ammunitions depot that blew a hole in the mountainside. That sorted things out for the rest of their deployment.

Interestingly in 1999, I deployed with the same squadron to Bosnia, but as a tank platoon leader with a more robust mandate to enforce the Dayton Peace Agreement. This time we were able to conduct house searches for weapons, inspections of depots and help the population much more. But that is another story.

Luckily, we did not have any serious incidents on our deployment, but other soldiers were not that fortunate. They experienced harassment, direct fire, mortar and artillery shelling, assassinations of civilians and even kidnappings. I praise the Lord that I was so lucky. Too many of the soldiers today still struggle with PTSD from their deployments. One of the driving factors was the uncredibly weak UN mandate and the strict adherence to it. In hindsight we should have showed much more resolve and force in order to get the bandits and warring parties to follow the agreements they signed.

Straight after the redeployment I started at the NCO Academy on my path to become an officer in the Danish Army.

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



Happy 250 Birthday to the U.S. Marine Corps

Since 1775, the United States Marine Corps has embodied the American spirit, fighting to preserve our collective future with every victory. Today, we celebrate the legacy of The Few with a year-long tribute commemorating 250 years of honor, courage, and commitment to our country. Join the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation in supporting the Marine Corps today and for the next 250 years.



To read more: <https://www.marines.mil/Marines250/>

HISTORY OF NAVY HOSPITAL SHIPS

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

NAVY MEDICINE FAST FACTS

Special Edition 9
2025

FLOATING FORTRESSES OF HEALTH

THE FIRST NAVY HOSPITAL SHIPS

- For over two millennia, naval forces have recognized the **critical need for dedicated medical ships**. Evidence shows the Athenian fleet employed the Therapeia as early as 400 B.C., demonstrating an early understanding of onboard medical care.
- Floating sanctuaries ("immunes") accompanied the galleys that transported Caesar's legions across the Roman empire. These vessels were kept out of combat laying the groundwork for the future concept of hospital ships and their dedicated care of the sick and injured.
- U.S. Navy hospital ships have played **integral roles in treating and saving lives**, both in peacetime and war, from almost as long as there has been a Navy Medicine.

FIRST NAVY HOSPITAL SHIP

During the First Barbary War, the Navy used the former ketch **USS Intrepid** for treating and transporting casualties. This was the first documented instance of a **U.S. Navy vessel used as a hospital ship**.

Did you know?

In 1863, prior to its designation as a hospital ship, **USS Home** was used as a **"rest ship,"** a sanctuary where Sailors, returning from the bombardment of Charleston, could find respite and replenish their strength.

PRE-GENEVA CONVENTION NAVY HOSPITAL SHIPS

USS BEN MORGAN, North Atlantic Blockading Squadron

- Active: 1861-1865
- Type: schooner (sailing)

USS RED ROVER, Mississippi Squadron

- Active: 1862-1865
- Type: side-wheel river-steamer

USS HOME, South Atlantic Blockading Squadron

- Active: 1864-1865 (as hospital ship)
- Type: screw steamer

USS NEW HAMPSHIRE, South Atlantic Blockading Squadron

- Active: 1864-1865 (as hospital ship)
- Type: ship-of-the-line

USS JAMESTOWN, Pacific Squadron

- Active: 1866-1867 (as hospital ship)
- Type: sloop-of-war (sailing)

USS IDAHO, Asiatic Squadron

- Active: 1867-1873 (as hospital ship)
- Type: steam sloop

USS PAWNEE, North Atlantic Squadron

- Active: 1870-1875 (as hospital ship)
- Type: steam sloop-of-war

NAVY MEDICINE FAST FACTS

CIVIL WAR ICON

- USS Red Rover** was commissioned on **Dec. 26, 1862**.
- The former Confederate side-wheeler-turned Union Navy ship provided vital **medical services for the Mississippi Squadron**, based out of Mound City, Illinois.
- Between December 1862 and November 1865, the medical personnel aboard Red Rover treated and cared for more than **2,450** casualties, including **300** Confederate soldiers making it one of the busiest naval hospitals in the war.

HOSPITAL SHIPS AND INTERNATIONAL LAW

Between 1864 and 1907, the **Geneva Conventions** and related **Hague Conventions** established key principles for the protection of hospital ships in naval warfare. These included:

- Hospital ships were to be respected and could **not be attacked or captured**. This protection was conditional on ships being used solely for assisting the wounded, sick, and shipwrecked.
- To ensure recognition, military hospital ships were to be **painted white** with a horizontal band of green and fly the **white flag with a red cross** alongside their national flag.
- These ships were obligated to provide **relief and assistance** to the wounded, sick, and shipwrecked of all belligerents.

THE SAGA OF HOSPITAL SHIP IDAHO

- Though originally conceived as a warship when constructed, the Navy employed **USS Idaho** as a combination hospital-supply ship and fitted it with a **50-bed hospital**.
- On May 18, 1868, Idaho was designated a hospital ship for the newly formed **Asiatic Squadron**.
- On Sept. 21, 1869, Idaho was at sea when caught in a **typhoon**. Despite being demasted and battered by violent waves and torrential rains, Idaho remained afloat and remarkably no one aboard was killed or lost. Idaho sailed back into Yokohama never to leave the port under the U.S. flag.
- From 1869 until 1872, Idaho functioned as a Navy **station hospital in Japan** until the U.S. Naval Hospital Yokohama was constructed.

Did you know?

In the Spanish-American War (1898), **USS Solace** became the first hospital ship to fly the Geneva Red Cross flag.

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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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** _____

CHAPLAIN’S CORNER

—By Bernard Lieving, COL (Chaplain) USA Ret

The articles I have written for the November *The Retrospect* over the past several years have all focused on the national Thanksgiving holiday. I wrote about our history of Thanksgiving by giving examples of presidential proclamations about the observance of the day. I wrote about my early years of Thanksgiving as a day of family gathering at an uncle’s home for the butchering of six to eight 300 pound hogs and the family being thankful for many reasons. One year, I wrote about my military experience as a chaplain commemorating the day in Vietnam with the five scattered companies of my 1st Cavalry Division Squadron as my commander allowed his helicopter to be my transportation mode to get to all our troops.

This year President Trump will issue a proclamation affirming November 27 as Thanksgiving Day. President Washinton issued the first proclamation and until President Lincoln named it as a national holiday in 1863, some other presidents did not affirm it. Since it was named a national holiday, all presidents since have issued a Thanksgiving Proclamation.

Thousands of years prior to our first national Thanksgiving Proclamation, the biblical record became full of calls for thanksgiving to God. The Psalms of the Bible are full of words of praise and thanksgiving to help us express what we feel this time of year. I particularly appreciate Eugene Peterson’s translations of the Psalms; so here are some of his translations that call us to offer thanks to God, not only in this Thanksgiving month, but always:

“On your feet now—applaud God...sing yourself into his presence...enter with the pass-

word: “Thank you” ...make yourselves at home, talking praise. Thank him.” (Psalm 100)

“What a beautiful thing, God, to give thanks, to sing an anthem to you, the High God! To announce your love each daybreak, sing your faithful presence all through the night...You made me so happy, God. I saw your work, and I shouted for joy.” (Psalm 92)

“Oh, thank God—he’s so good! His love never runs out. All of you set free by God, tell the world...thank God for his marvelous love...lift high your praises...shout Hallelujah...it’s time you appreciated God’s deep love...tell the world what he’s done—sing it out!” (Psalm 107)

Peterson also did a great job in translating words of the Apostle Paul calling for thanksgiving:

“Be cheerful no matter what; pray all the time; thank God no matter what happens.” (1 Thessalonians 5:18); “...cultivate thankfulness...And sing, sing your hearts out to God! Let every detail in your lives—words, actions, whatever—be done...thanking God the Father every step of the way.” (Colossians 3:16-17)

In this time of our national Thanksgiving, it is certainly appropriate that we give thanks for our nation, even with the divisiveness, the rancor, and other dividing adjectives that would describe us, we are still “...one nation, under God.” We thank God for life, love, health, strength, wisdom, creation, and community, such as we appreciate in our Military Officers Association of America.

History Feature: A Happy Birthday to Chesty

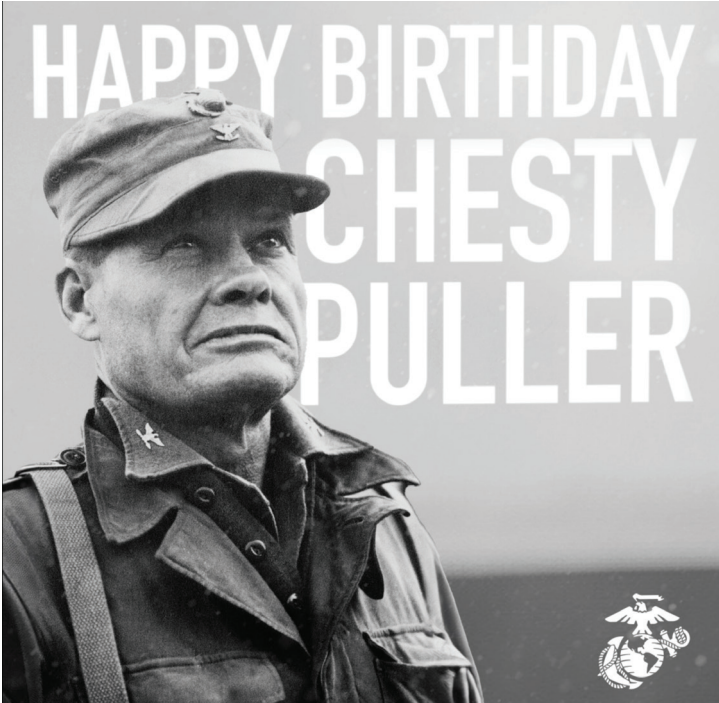
—Submitted by Sara Marks, CAPT NC USN (Ret)

III MEF Information Group
Story by [2nd Lt. Joshua Wolek](#)

Date: 07.07.2025
Posted: 07.09.2025 00:06
News ID: 542267

CAMP HANSEN, Okinawa - On June 26, 1898, a Marine Corps legend was born. Born just before the turn of the 19th century as Lewis Burwell Puller, the man would come to be known by warfighters the world over as Lieutenant General Lewis “Chesty” Puller.

From his desire in 1918 to fight in World War 1 by enlisting in the United States Marine Corps in, to leading Marines in fierce action in Guadalcanal as a lieutenant colonel in 1942, to rallying his embattled troops at the Battle of Chosin Reservoir, Chesty’s leadership serves as a paragon of fortitude and determination for the Marines that have followed. For these and other feats, Lt. Gen. Puller remains the most decorated Marine in history.



In 126 years, the inspiration has not lessened. But what lessons from Chesty are still guiding us today? One need not be a general to understand that the island-hopping campaigns of World War 2 fundamentally solidified the Marine Corps’ function as an amphibious fighting force. Strategies such as Lt. Gen. Puller’s will continue to inform

today’s actions, including the prioritization of deterrence and strengthened alliances in the Indo-Pacific by the U.S. Department of Defense.

Chesty Puller is quoted as having said that “the difference between success and failure in this life of ours is mostly hard work, so you must constantly work to try to improve yourself.” This continues to define the nature of discipline and rigorous combat training for Marines in the 21st century. These principles of realistic combat training with the sole aim of defeating our nation’s enemies in battle are reflected in the Commandant Planning Guidance issued by the 39th Commandant of the Marine Corps, General Eric Smith.

In this way, the ethos embodied by Marine Corps legends such as Chesty Puller has paved the way for the leaders and force design that guides us to this day. New legends spring from the shoulders of giants, and there is no more fertile ground for breeding greatness than in the title Marine. While Chesty left some very big boots to fill, it is impossible not to equate the mission of the individual Marine with the guarantee of lethality and excellence.

Source: <https://www.dvidshub.net/news/542267/history-feature-happy-birthday-chesty>

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