



## GREETINGS!

### From the Vice President's Desk



#### Outgoing Vice President's Message

As we move forward into 2026, I am pleased to share several encouraging developments within our MOAA Tampa Chapter. It is with great pride—and genuine gratitude—that I announce the addition of four dedicated members who have stepped forward to join our leadership team. Their willingness to serve strengthens our chapter and positions us well for the year ahead. As per our chapter bylaws, we will formally vote on these members who have volunteered for these board positions at this month's luncheon.

Chapter members attending the March Luncheon are invited to formally vote for these candidates. Assuming a positive outcome, we will have the Florida Council of Chapters (FCoC) Vice President who is the incoming FCoC President, Tony LaVecchio install these new board members.

**Admiral Steve Poulin**, USCG (Ret), volunteered to serve as our new Chapter President. His distinguished career and steady leadership will be a tremendous asset as we continue to grow and refine our mission. Joining him is **Corvelli McDaniel**, former U.S. Army Intelligence Officer, who accepted the role of Chapter Vice President. Corvelli brings a unique blend of military experience, federal service with the Department of the Treasury, and current executive leadership within his church community. In addition to his chapter role, he will also be installed in May as an Area Vice President with the FCoC—an important connection that will benefit our chapter's visibility and engagement across the state.

We are also fortunate to welcome **LTC Frances Chancey**, USA (Ret) as our Surviving Spouse Liaison. This is a role that has not been actively filled for some time, and her commitment to revitalizing this important area of support is deeply appreciated. Rounding out our new additions, **LTC David Zallo**, USA (Ret) who stepped up to serve as Chapter Secretary, ensuring our administrative processes remain strong and well-organized.

As for myself, I will continue serving as Membership Chair while stepping back from the Vice President position. I am grateful for the opportunity to continue supporting the chapter in this capacity. Alongside our new leaders, our steadfast board members—Lewis VanDyke, Treasurer, and Sara Marks, Director of Communications—continue to provide exceptional service. Their dedication to managing our finances, newsletter, website, and communications ensures our chapter remains informed, connected, and operating smoothly.

I am also pleased to report that our chapter membership remains strong. During the most recent renewal cycle, nearly 80 percent of our members renewed for 2026—a testament to the value our chapter provides and the commitment of our members. I would also like to extend sincere appreciation to those who contributed additional donations during the renewal period. Your generosity directly supports our chapter initiatives and helps sustain the programs and outreach efforts that define our mission.

Thank you to the members who took the time to complete our recent membership survey. As we look ahead, one important conversation remains before us: how we gather as a chapter. Our long-standing tradition has been a monthly luncheon, yet recent survey results show our membership is nearly evenly divided between continuing the luncheon format and shifting to an evening event. With only 25–30 of our 170 members attending luncheons, it is clear that exploring new approaches may help increase participation and strengthen our community. I encourage continued discussion on this topic so we can determine the best path forward—one that supports engagement, accessibility, and the evolving needs of our membership.

Together, with renewed leadership and a strong foundation, 2026 is shaping up to be a promising year for our chapter. I look forward to the journey ahead.

Matt Mularoni,  
Membership Chairman and outgoing chapter Vice President

### UPCOMING EVENTS

March 5, 2026  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Virtual

March 12, 2026  
Chapter Luncheon  
11:30 AM – 12:00 PM Social  
12:00 PM – 1:30 PM Lunch  
Columbia Restaurant  
(see page 8)



March 8  
Daylight Savings Time Begins

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

### REMINDER:

SUBMISSION DEADLINE  
FOR THE APRIL 2026  
ISSUE IS 20 MARCH 2026

Please submit articles in a Word Document and photos in JPEG  
Email articles to  
[coms@moaatampa.org](mailto:coms@moaatampa.org)

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

## LEGISLATIVE LOWDOWN



**BEN RITTER, SGT USMC**  
(FORMER)/HONORARY MBR

**Capt NORM BILD,**  
USAF RET

**A MOAA-Backed Caregiver Bill Takes a Major Step Forward in House** - Bipartisan legislation that would provide much-needed support to veteran caregivers recently took a significant step toward becoming law, advancing out of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee alongside other important MOAA-supported bills. The progress of the Veteran Caregiver Reeducation, Reemployment, and Retirement (3R) Act (**H.R. 2148**) highlights growing bipartisan commitment to strengthening support for caregivers, families, and some of the most severely wounded, injured, and veterans with disabilities in the country.

This "3 R" legislation represents a major step forward for the caregivers who form the backbone of veterans' long-term care. By expanding access to education, easing reemployment barriers, and enhancing retirement planning resources, the bill helps ensure caregivers have the tools they need to maintain stability while supporting those who served. Without targeted reforms like those in the 3R Act, caregivers could be left to rely on public assistance, shifting costs between government

agencies rather than reducing them.

MOAA is grateful to every member and veteran advocate who contacted their lawmakers urging action on this critical measure. Your engagement has made a real difference. Now that the bill has passed out of both the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees, it is more important than ever to keep the pressure on this priority. MOAA members are encouraged to continue urging our elected officials to bring **H.R. 2148** and **S. 879** to the floor in both chambers to ensure that it becomes law before the end of this year. This legislation was a key part of MOAA's testimony before a joint hearing of the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees on February 24. Testimony will cover a range of veterans' priorities, such as protecting veterans from unaccredited "claim sharks" via the Governing Unaccredited Representatives Defrauding (GUARD) VA Benefits Act and ending the "wounded veteran tax" faced by tens of thousands of combat-injured veterans via the Major Richard Star Act.

**The Major Richard Star Act** - This is a must-pass legislation that targets an unfair pay offset faced by combat-injured veterans. MOAA continues its work to secure passage of the Major Richard Star Act during the 119th session of Congress. The bill would end an unjust pay offset faced by tens of thousands of combat-injured veterans who lose a dollar of earned military retirement pay for every dollar of VA disability they receive.

**Why the Star Act Matters** - This unfair pay offset, or "wounded veteran tax," targets a population already facing physical and financial challenges because of their time in uniform. Ending the offset could mean an additional \$1,200 a month, on average, for these wounded warriors. The bill would not create a new benefit. Instead, it would fix an oversight from 2004, when Congress ended the offset for wounded veterans who served at least 20 years in uniform. Under the legislation, veterans would be able to choose between receiving their cur-

rent compensation – DoD retirement pay and Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC) – or receiving their full DoD retirement and earned VA benefits. Of the more than 50,000 veterans eligible under the Major Richard Star Act, it's expected some may keep the tax-free CRSC, reducing the expected cost of the legislation.

Despite strong support in the form of cosponsorship, this bill has not been brought to the floor of either congressional chamber for a vote. One reason may be the price: an estimated \$8 billion over 10 years. MOAA believes the projection is far higher than the bill's actual cost. Many eligible veterans may elect to continue receiving current benefits, for tax purposes and other reasons, but even the full \$8 billion would amount to less than 0.1% of the annual federal defense budget. Competing priorities across Capitol Hill and myths about the Star Act that continue to circulate have plagued efforts to move this bill across the finish line. Numerous partners in the veterans advocacy community will continue to work together to achieve this enduring priority – whether standalone passage or inclusion in a "must-pass" bill. These efforts extend beyond the Hill and into the halls of the Pentagon. Gaining support from Pentagon leadership is essential. MOAA will keep reminding lawmakers that the cost of caring for our combat-injured veterans by passing the Star Act pales in comparison to the cost of breaking faith with those who sacrificed limbs, health, and futures in service to this nation.

**Funding Deal Ends the Partial Shutdown and Restores Operations for Uniformed Services** - Congress approved a funding package that restores operations for agencies that have been affected by a partial government shutdown. The president signed the \$1.2 trillion measure into law on February 3. The shutdown began after the most recent funding extension expired on January 30 without congressional action,

LEGISLATIVE LOWDOWN *cont.*

disrupting operations for parts of the uniformed services community. Agencies already covered by full-year FY 2026 appropriations – including the VA, military construction accounts, and the Department of Commerce (which includes the NOAA Commissioned Corps) – continued operating without interruption.

Others, including the Department of War, the Coast Guard (under the Department of Homeland Security), and the U.S. Public Health Service (under the Department of Health and Human Services), were directly affected by the funding gap. While the measure included funding for the majority of those agencies for the rest of the fiscal year, not all in uniform have escaped budget uncertainty.

**What the Funding Package Does:** Lawmakers separated funding for the Department of Homeland Security from five other appropriations bills. That department will receive a short-term funding extension while negotiations continue over policy disputes. While active duty servicemembers, U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps officers, National Guard and Reserve members, and the civilian workforce supporting the Department of War will see funding restored and operations normalized through the end of the fiscal year under to the agreement, the Coast Guard was scheduled to be funded through February 13.

MOAA will continue to advocate for Congress to complete appropriations on time, avoid funding

lapses, and protect the pay and benefits earned through service. Shutdowns undermine readiness, morale, and trust for those who volunteer to serve. MOAA will continue to monitor developments closely, particularly funding negotiations affecting the Coast Guard, and will keep our members informed of any changes that could affect the uniformed services community.

**Another bill that is moving forward in the House Veterans Affairs Committee – The Fisher House Availability Act – H.R. 3726.** If passed, this bill would allow TRICARE beneficiaries, including active-duty families, to stay in VA Fisher Houses on a space-available basis. This change would expand access to lodging for families traveling for specialty or emergency care, reducing financial strain and ensuring they can remain close to their loved ones during treatment. The Tampa James A. Haley VA Hospital has two Fisher Houses.

**NOTE: When MOAA Speaks, Congress Listens** – You can track MOAA's progress on these fronts and other key legislative priority areas and help our causes by contacting your legislators with assistance with MOAA - **Military Officers Association of America, 201 N Washington Street, Alexandria, VA 22314 - (800) 234-6622** <https://www.moaa.org/>

Sources:

- (1) Legislative Action Center: <https://moaa.quorum.us/>
- (2) Advocacy News: <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/news-listing/>

## INTERNATIONAL NIGHT AT MACDILL AIR FORCE BASE HOSTED BY THE COALITION

—By Sara Marks | Photo credit: Sara Marks

The Coalition of the United States Central Command consists of 34 countries with more than 300 people in the Tampa Bay region including active duty military and their families. The Coalition hosts this annually as a token of their appreciation for the friendship of the Tampa Bay community. Several MOAA Tampa Chapter members were able to attend this festive event on February 5, 2026.



Ruth and Lewis VanDyke



Angie Nimmo and Sara Marks



COL Allan Pedersen



## Pets and Grief: Can Our Animals Help Us Heal After Loss?

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

—Author: Stephanie Frogge

When the **TAPS Helpline** staff has a chance to connect every few days, we share information and updates, and we check in with each other — how are you, how is the week going, how is your family? And we know that *family* most definitely includes Niki's 40-pound bulldog mutt who thinks she's a lap dog, Maggie; my own Luna Cat, who is only sociable when I'm on Zoom or trying to work on my computer; or Kari's snakes, who sometimes worry us when they refuse to eat for several weeks.

Conversation about our own special pets invariably gives rise to touching stories TAPS survivors have shared about their love for their dogs, cats, horses, reptiles, hamsters, pot-bellied pigs, or other critters they've welcomed into their hearts and homes. Given that 66 percent of American households have a pet — dogs being the most common — it's no surprise that so many honorary members of the TAPS Family are of the four-legged variety. An undeniable standout theme is how our pets aid in coping and healing following the death of a loved one.

**CONNECTION AND COMPANIONSHIP**

When Barbara Block lost her husband, LTC Matthew Hennick, to suicide, their dog, Sophie, became a grounding point when everything else was chaotic and terrifying. Barbara shares:

"Sophie actually came to us through a program Matt was involved with at the correctional high school where he taught. Project Pooch helped troubled boys connect with and train dogs. If it hadn't been for Sophie, I'm not sure what I would have done after Matt died. I was in an absolute fog of confusion and grief, and she was what kept me from just getting into a car and driving to who knows where. I had to take care of her, take her for walks, and make sure I had food in the house. Friends would text me in the evening to check on me, but also to make sure I'd taken care of Sophie."



Science has found a number of health benefits connected with pet ownership. Pets — especially dogs — increase the opportunities we have to exercise, get outside, and socialize with other people. Regular walking or playing with pets can decrease blood pressure, cholesterol levels, and triglyceride levels. Pets can help manage loneliness, anxiety, and depression by giving us companionship. Studies show that pets can even decrease symptoms of PTSD.

A few years after Ralph Toland's son, Ralph Toland, III, was killed in a motorcycle wreck while in the Navy, Ralph saw a pit bull terrier featured on a local animal shelter's website. The dog came in as a stray, and the shelter named it Ralph!

"It was meant to be," Ralph recalls, "I'd had 'pitties' before, and I love rescue dogs. Ralphie and I have only been apart one night in the five years I've had him. Early on, Ralphie kept me from just sitting around thinking about my loss. He's someone to come home to and, when I travel, he goes with me — even to TAPS events."

**PHYSICAL HEALTH IMPACTS**

Studies that looked specifically at pet ownership and cardiovascular disease found that animal companions may reduce the risk of heart disease, including heart attack and stroke. A 1992 report published in the *Medical Journal of Australia* found that — even when other health markers were the same, such as smoking, socioeconomic status, and body mass index (BMI) — pet owners had lower risk factors related to cardiovascular disease, including lower blood sugar that pets can not only serve as connections to the person we lost and companions through deep grief, but also as a bridge to our futures after loss.

To continue reading click: <https://www.taps.org/articles/30-2/can-animals-help-us-heal>

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



### 2026 OFFICERS:

\*PRESIDENT: STEVE POULIN ADM USCG RET

\*VP: CORVELLI MCDANIEL CPT (former) USA

\*SECRETARY: DAVID ZALLO LTC USA RET

TREASURER: LEWIS VANDYKE COL USA RET

\*SURVIVING SPOUSE LIAISON: FRANCES CHANCEY LTC USA RET

### 2026 DIRECTORS:

COMMUNICATIONS: SARA MARKS CAPT NC USN RET

LEGAL AFFAIRS: WILLIAM MITCHELL LTJG (former) USN

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS: BEN RITTER, SGT USMC (former)/HONORARY MEMBER

\*Volunteer Leaders have applied for positions and will be voted on at the March 12, 2026 luncheon as per MOAA Tampa Chapter bylaws.



## 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](mailto:Secretary@moaatampa.org)





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# MEDICAL CORNER

## HYPERBARIC OXYGEN THERAPY (HBOT) for VETERANS WITH MILD TO MODERATE TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURIES (TBI)

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

The goal of this blinded, adaptive, randomized, placebo-controlled clinical trial is to investigate the use of hyperbaric oxygen as a therapy to treat mild to moderate traumatic brain injury in Veterans and active-duty service military.

This is a current federal and state funded 5 year pilot program that will treat up to 400 participants and collect / analyze data to determine rehabilitative impacts for treating mild to moderate TBI levels. Participants must be US Military (active, retired, Veteran status) with the appropriate TBI diagnosis. Treatments will consist of 40 dives, 3-5 times a week, over an 8-12 week period.

More details on this program can be found at: <https://hbot.usf.edu/about-the-trial/>



## Surviving Spouse Corner:

### Helpful Links

—Submitted by Frances Chancey LTC USA (Ret)

As your new MOAA Tampa Surviving Spouse Liaison, I'd like to encourage you to become involved with our local chapter or with the MOAA Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter (MSSVC). The Virtual Chapter sends welcome materials to interested individuals, inviting them to join monthly virtual meetings where topics include Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) updates, financial advice, and legislative advocacy.

Prospective members can join by contacting the virtual chapter at [mssvc02@gmail.com](mailto:mssvc02@gmail.com) to receive a membership application, which requires certification that you are a member of National MOAA.

#### Helpful Links:

##### 1. VIRTUAL CHAPTER

<https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2021-news-articles/surviving-spouse-corner-join-moaas-surviving-spouse-virtual-chapter/>

##### 2. SURVIVING SPOUSE RESOURCES

<https://www.moaa.org/content/topic-and-landing-pages/i-am-a-surviving-spouse/>

##### 3. CHECKLIST

[https://www.moaa.org/uploadedfiles/content/publications\\_and\\_media/moaa\\_publications/publication\\_downloads/survivor\\_prep\\_2024-checklist.pdf](https://www.moaa.org/uploadedfiles/content/publications_and_media/moaa_publications/publication_downloads/survivor_prep_2024-checklist.pdf)

##### 4. HELP YOUR SURVIVORS NOW PUB

[https://www.moaa.org/uploadedfiles/content/publications\\_and\\_media/moaa\\_publications/publication\\_downloads/2021\\_help\\_survivors\\_now\\_050721.pdf](https://www.moaa.org/uploadedfiles/content/publications_and_media/moaa_publications/publication_downloads/2021_help_survivors_now_050721.pdf)

##### 5. FIRST STEPS OF MOVING ON

<https://azmoaa.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/Survivors-Checklist.pdf>

##### 6. VA OFFICE OF SURVIVORS ASSISTANCE

<https://www.va.gov/survivors/>

##### 7. PREPARING FOR THE LOSS OF A MILITARY SPOUSE

<https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/moaa-publications/help-your-survivors-detail/>

##### 8. PERSONAL AFFAIRS ACTION GUIDE

<https://greenvalleymoaa.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/pa-guide-2012.pdf>

I sent out emails to all surviving spouses with emails made available on our chapter member directory. If you did not receive an email please contact me. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me by email at [franchancey@gmail.com](mailto:franchancey@gmail.com) or call me at (727) 251-9653.



#### The Survivor Series:

Join us on the last Wednesday of every month from 1pm-2pm ET.

March's Topic: Debt Management Center

We are pleased to announce that Louiseza Sanderson will present at our upcoming session, offering her valuable perspective on the Education Services topic. We invite you to join us for this informative event.

Please click on the link below for more information about our host & this series event. [https://www.va.gov/survivors/Survivor\\_Series.asp](https://www.va.gov/survivors/Survivor_Series.asp)



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

## A fond farewell to COL Pedersen from the MOAA Tampa Chapter

—By Sara Marks, CAPT NC USN (Ret)

COL Pedersen, the MOAA Tampa Chapter will miss seeing you at our luncheons and your quiet, but mischievous sense of humor. We'll also miss your extraordinary leadership, especially notable with the grace and aplomb in how you treated everyone. As the editor for *The Retrospect*, I know that I speak for all of us who read our newsletter, how deeply we appreciated all of your articles that reflected your military expertise, observations and especially enjoyed your articles about Denmark's customs and history.

All the very best in your new command. Fair Winds and Following Seas.



COL Pedersen presented a MOAA Tampa tumbler and MOAA Tampa golf shirt from CAPT Sara Marks, NC USN (Ret) at the February Luncheon.

# February Luncheon Photos

Photo Credit: Ben Ritter and Maryna Juman



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



It is with great joy that I echo our outgoing Vice President Matt Mularoni's welcome of ADM Steve Poulin, USCG (Ret), Corvelli McDaniel, former CPT USA, LTC David Zallo, USA (Ret) and LTC Fran Chancey, USA (Ret) for stepping up for the positions of chapter President, Vice President, Secretary and Surviving Spouse Liaison. As per our chapter bylaws, we will formally vote for them at

this month's luncheon. Assuming a positive vote, the FCoC Vice President Tony LaVecchio will install our new board members. We still need assistants for the Treasurer, Buddy Calls, Newsletter, and Luncheon Reservations. Additional positions include Website Content Editor and Speaker Coordinator to name a few positions.

Thank you to Bob Sawallesh for his contribution to the newsletter about our four legged warriors. I want to also thank COL Pedersen, Coalition Chair and Senior National Representative from Denmark for his final article in Coalition Corner. Thank you for all that you have done working with MOAA Tampa. Welcome to CAPT Trent Harris, Senior National Representative from Australia and incoming Chairman of the Coalition. We look forward to your contributions and insights for the Coalition 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 many articles without permission but have five links to several articles that I hope you'll take the time to "click" the links and read. These links to articles include the history and use of helicopters on ships to transport patients and special operators training in the Arctic while integrating technology.

A continued reminder that the application for MOAA Tampa Scholarship money is available in this edition of *The Retrospect* and on our website. As a MOAA Tampa member in good standing your children or grandchildren can apply. Thank you to Bill Schnieder for leading and supporting this endeavor.

Chapter Members, this is your newsletter and your chapter so please share your talent and the leadership you displayed while on active duty and help MOAA Tampa Chapter continue to lead the way to a promising and adventurous future, especially for our JROTC students who look to us

for our leadership and all we serve with scholarship funding and for supporting each other during and after our active duty service time.

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. Will you be the leaders to help MOAA Tampa? You can contact me as the Director for Communications via email: [coms@moaatampa.org](mailto:coms@moaatampa.org); Lewis VanDyke via email: [treasurer@moaatampa.org](mailto:treasurer@moaatampa.org) and Matt Mularoni via email: [membership@moaatampa.org](mailto:membership@moaatampa.org) to apply or ask questions.

I do want to apologize for this newsletter published a few days later than usual. Sadley my recent travel was to a shipmate's funeral in Jacksonville, Florida. For my non Navy readers, her military honors included a reading of "The Watch". When one is "on the watch" it refers to the job/duty that you are performing. When retiring from the Navy, the poem "The Watch" is traditionally read. Upon her final farewell, the last line rang true, "Today we are here to say 'Shipmate...the watch stands relieved. Relieved by those You have trained, Guided, and Led. Shipmate you stand relieved...we have the watch..." I pray that we are here for all of our battle buddies and shipmates, especially those in harm's way, that we, MOAA Tampa Chapter, are here to help stand the watch each and every day until we are relieved. Until then, with regard to our newsletter and website, I'm standing the watch.

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](mailto:coms@moaatampa.org).

*"My past, O Lord, to your Mercy; my present, to your Love; my future, to your Providence!"*

— Saint Padre Pio

Let us never forget. - NEVER STOP SERVING!

Sara Marks, CAPT NC USN (Ret)

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OUR EDITORIAL POLICY:

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

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

ON THE WEB:

Tampa Chapter <https://moaatampa.org>

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

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

INSTAGRAM: [https://www.instagram.com/moaa\\_tampa](https://www.instagram.com/moaa_tampa)

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

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

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

OPERATION HELPING HAND:

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

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

MOAA'S NEWS LISTING - Click for the latest news and resources from MOAA [www.moaa.org](http://www.moaa.org)

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

## Four-Legged Fighters

—Submitted by Bob Sawallesh, LTC, US Army, Retired

"They may not have actual boots on the ground, but you'll find U.S. military working dogs serving wherever American troops do. They are as lovable as they are loyal, but make no mistake – these are highly skilled warriors, trained by the best to serve alongside them."

Go to: <https://www.war.gov/Multimedia/Experience/Four-Legged-Fighters/>.



## Honoring WWII Military Nurses at the National Level: A Call to Action

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

The Coalition for the WWII Nurses Congressional Gold Medal is proud to actively support the national, non-partisan Coalition for the WWII Nurses Congressional Gold Medal, an effort to award the Congressional Gold Medal—the highest civilian honor bestowed by Congress—to the nurses who served during World War II.



By 1945, approximately 73,000 nurses were serving the nation in uniform—about 59,000 in the Army Nurse Corps and 14,000 in the Navy Nurse Corps—drawn from communities across the United States. These nurses served in every theater of war—Europe, the Pacific, North Africa, and at sea—often in austere, dangerous, and combat-adjacent environments. Many worked near front lines, aboard hospital ships, and in evacuation hospitals under bombardment. Their leadership, adaptability, and clinical innovation dramatically improved survival rates, advanced trauma and evacuation medicine, and permanently elevated the nursing profession.



Despite their extraordinary collective contribution, WWII military nurses have never received national recognition commensurate with their service. That omission is now being addressed. For more information about nurses who served in WWII click on the following link: <https://www.bataanlegacy.org/index.html>

**Legislative Status: Immediate Action Needed**

- Senate Bill S.2195
- House Bill H.R. 4901

Passage requires broad national support, including cosponsorship from Members of Congress in every state. Constituent advocacy is essential. This is not partisan activity. This is Bi-Partisan, Bi-cameral legislation and something we can all be proud to support. Please help us by doing your part, and sharing widely to create a groundswell of action across the U.S.

**Take Action Today**

Sample letter templates for the Senate bill S.2195 and House bill H.R. 4901 are located on the following link: <https://www.wiinursescgm.org/support-the-cgm.html>

Find your Senators: <https://www.senate.gov/senators/senators-contact.htm>

Find your U.S. Representative: <https://www.house.gov/representatives>

Learn more: <https://www.wiinursescgm.org>



# MARCH LUNCHEON MEETING



**EVENT:** Chapter Monthly Luncheon Meeting

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

**LOCATION:** Columbia Centennial Museum, 2029 E 7<sup>th</sup> Ave, Ybor City

**RESERVATIONS:** Reservations must be made by NOON Friday, 6 March. Call 321-258-7388 OR via email to [LunchReservations@moaatampa.org](mailto:LunchReservations@moaatampa.org). Reservations are limited to 60. A Reservation Made is a Reservation Paid.

**CANCELLATIONS:** Cancellations must be made by NOON Monday, 9 March, by calling 321-258-7388 OR via email to [LunchReservations@moaatampa.org](mailto: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, Roast Pork, Ropa Vieja, Fresh Green Beans, Yuca, Coffee, Iced Tea, Soft Drinks and Chocolate Mousse Cake

**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](mailto: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](mailto:Secretary@moaatampa.org)

### VETERANS TREATMENT COURT

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

### Keep Your MOAA Contact Updated

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

### 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, 6<sup>th</sup> Medical Group Liaison, and VA Hospital Liaison.

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

### IMPORTANT DATES IN MARCH

- Women's History Month
- 1 Seabee Birthday
- 3 Navy Reserve Birthday
- 4 Hug a GI Day
- 8 Daylight Savings Time Begins
- 13 K-9 Veterans Day
- 15 American Legion Birthday
- 17 St. Patrick's Day
- 21 Rosie The Riveter Day
- 25 Medal of Honor Day



### Welcome New Members

**LCDR Ricardo Foster, USN (Ret)**



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](mailto:coms@moaatampa.org)



NAVY MEDICINE **FAST FACTS** Special Edition 40 2025

**+ VANGUARD OF MEDICAL INNOVATION +**  
**HOSPITAL SHIP HELO-DECKS**



**✦ The Korean War (1950-1953) saw the innovation of using helicopters for rapid evacuation of combat casualties directly from the battlefield to definitive care. This severely reduced the time between wounding and surgical treatment, dramatically improving survival rates.**

**✦ The Navy hospital ship USS Consolation (AH-15) was the first to be fitted with a helicopter landing platform (helo-deck) on its afterdeck in 1951, permanently linking air evacuation and frontline medical facilities.**

**✦ The first direct battlefield-to-ship casualty evacuation occurred on December 18, 1951, aboard Consolation. This procedure quickly became routine, earning the ship the nickname "Galloping Ghost of the Korean Coast" for its role in rapid casualty transportation.**

Fast Facts Add the following source links: <https://www.dvidshub.net> and: [https://d34w7g4gy10iej.cloudfront.net/pubs/pdf\\_76208.pdf](https://d34w7g4gy10iej.cloudfront.net/pubs/pdf_76208.pdf)

# FREE CHOW FOR VIETNAM VETS

National Vietnam War Veterans Day, March 29

Thanks For Your Service. Vietnam Veterans. When your country called, you answered. You are Our Heroes every day! Please enjoy a **FREE Sandwich** with our gratitude.

Know a Vietnam Veteran or a Vietnam Era Veteran? Bring them in for a FRCC sandwich



**Advertise in the monthly MOAA Tampa Chapter Newsletter**



**The RETROSPECT**

TAMPA CHAPTER — A FIVE STAR CHAPTER OF MOAA NATIONAL



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

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

**DIGITAL PUBLISHING Ad Deadline Inserts**

Dec. 20	Jan. 1
Jan. 20	Feb. 1
Feb. 21	Mar. 1
Mar. 21	April 1
April 20	May 1
May 20	June 1
Jun. 20	July 1
July 20	Aug. 1
Aug. 19	Sept. 1
Sept. 20	Oct. 1
Oct. 20	Nov. 1
Nov. 21	Dec. 1

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

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

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

**DEADLINE:** See Digital Publishing table.

Purchase Ads for a calendar year to be published January - December. We can discuss pro-rating if you miss the deadline for a 12 month package.

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

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



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

**Turn Compassion Into Action!**

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

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



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

**Coping with Deployment Facilitator**

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](http://redcross.org) or contact:

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



Scan with cell phone camera to apply!

251601-16



## Articles of Interest Found on the Web

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



1. Medal of Honor Monday: Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Jack Williams  
<https://www.war.gov/News/Feature-Stories/Story/Article/4414077/medal-of-honor-monday-navy-petty-officer-3rd-class-jack-williams/>
2. The US Coast Guard's newest weapon in border security: Jet Skis  
<https://www.militarytimes.com/news/your-military/2026/01/27/the-us-coast-guards-newest-weapon-in-border-security-jet-skis/>
3. How MREs inspired today's meal-delivery industry  
<https://www.militarytimes.com/off-duty/military-culture/2026/02/26/how-mres-inspired-todays-meal-delivery-industry/>
4. An enduring symbol: why troops keep naming things after reptiles  
<https://www.militarytimes.com/off-duty/military-culture/2025/10/21/an-enduring-symbol-why-troops-keep-naming-things-after-reptiles/>
5. 7 Proven Health Benefits of Dark Chocolate  
<https://www.healthline.com/nutrition/7-health-benefits-dark-chocolate>

## FLASHBACK PHOTO



BG Larson, Senior National Representative from Denmark and Chairman of the Coalition newly inducted as an Honorary member of the MOAA Tampa Chapter at the Inaugural Gala held in December 2021.

**T**here's a lot of retirement options out there, but once you visit Canterbury Tower, Bayshore Boulevard's only CCRC, the choice is clear. Something's always happening at Canterbury with socials, outings, excursions and new friends and old just down the hall. Close to all that South Tampa has to offer – medical facilities, restaurants, downtown and MacDill Air Force Base – this is the place you WANT to call home. Since 1976, Canterbury Tower has built a reputation for stability, comfort and grace. Offering independent living, assisted living and a Health Center with short-and long-term care options, we have a place for you.

*Canterbury Tower*  
3501 Bayshore Boulevard • Tampa  
[www.canterburytower.org](http://www.canterburytower.org)  
813.837.1083



*Good Friends*



*Good Times*



## Support for All Who Serve

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

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



The Military Crisis Line is Here for You

Free & Confidential

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

Always Available

Accessible 24/7/365.

Trained Counselors

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

### Calling from Overseas?

In Europe

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

In Korea

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

In Afghanistan

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

In the Philippines

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

## PLACE YOUR AD HERE

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

This 1/8 Page Ad is \$250

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



Standing with you at every stage.

93569

1-800-247-2192 • [www.moainsurance.com](http://www.moainsurance.com)

## Coalition Corner



Dear MOAA members,

This will be my last contribution to The Retrospect. I will be back home in Denmark when you read this. I only had one year as the Chairman of the Coalition, but what a year! With the world events, in particular in the Middle East, the time passed by so quickly. It seems like yesterday when I submitted my first article to The Retrospect without knowing much about what was expected of me. Luckily, Sara guided me with little hints as to the preferred content, and I hope that she directed me well enough over the months. At least the hints stopped coming, so I must

have hit it right after some bracketing - not that I am an artillery officer.

As I look back on the two years my wife and I spent in Tampa, we have been totally overwhelmed by the hospitality, openness and support from the civilian society and organizations like MOAA. As the Chairman I met a lot of people, and I must say that you are really magnificent. I enjoyed every luncheon and activity where I had the chance to meet with your members. It pleases me to know that you have managed to reorganize, and I welcome your new President Steve Poulin, Admiral, USCG (Ret).

For the Coalition, it means a lot to feel that warmth and hospitality from all of you and the society of Tampa. As a small token of respect and appreciation to all the support and help throughout the year, the Coalition hosted our annual International Night in early February where we invited a lot of our friends and keen supporters to this special event on MacDill Air Force Base. The event has been going on for many years. I tried to find out when it actually started. Even though I asked members of the CENTCOM support staff who have been participating for 17 years, the exact origin and date is not clear to me.

However, if you imagine one of the hangars on the base being set up with booths from each and every country serving national specialties of food and drinks, you kind of get the general idea. This year we had 30 coalition countries participating with a lot of special displays. We had the famous Viking ship from the Scandinavian countries that you can see in the pictures as well as a DeLorean car (remember the Back to The Future movie), a Ferrari, a Lamborghini, a Volvo EV and quite the opposite, American muscle cars. Other booths included an Australian Outback Bar, a New Zealand Hobbit theme, Spanish paella, a German beer festival, Canadian moose milk and Middle Eastern specialties (they were

really great by the way). A total of 3000 guests were processed onto the base along with about 500 international representatives and vendors. This was indeed the best event since the Covid pandemic ended.

This event was a huge "thank you" to the community of Tampa and luckily the MOAA Tampa Chapter. We hope that the ones participating had a great time, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you as well. I hope that you will engage just as forcefully with my successor, Colonel Trent Harris, when he really gets into the Chairmanship. Please help him get settled in just as you helped me.

With that I will be signing out. Please take care of each other just as I have seen you do throughout the year. Please continue engaging with the youth from the High Schools. They are the future leaders, and we should take every opportunity to make them strong and independent individuals and citizens.

I wish you all the best in the years to come, and trust me, I will be following The Retrospect and your Chapter online.

Regards,

Allan Pedersen

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



## Special Forces Sharpen Skills, Integrate Technology in Arctic Training

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

### 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne)

Story by [Sgt. David Cordova](#)

**Date:** 02.24.2026 | **Posted:** 02.26.2026 16:52 | **News ID:** 559025

FORT WAINWRIGHT, Ak. — Across the freezing subarctic region, Green Berets immersed themselves in some of the most physically and mentally taxing cold weather training for the Joint Pacific Multinational Training Center (JPMRC) 26-02 rotation across multiple training areas in central and southern Alaska.

Green Berets and enablers assigned to 3rd Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) pushed their bodies to the limit and used their unique set of skills to enhance the effectiveness of 11th Airborne Division in a simulated large-scale combat operation from Feb. 11-20, 2026.

Several small teams of operators leveraged reconnaissance and disruption of adversary technology to ultimately give the Joint Force Commander a decisive advantage in fires and maneuver across the battlespace.

"We've got our place [in large-scale combat operations] and it is using tactical actions with our specialized signals intelligence and electronic warfare analysts to achieve strategic results," said Maj. Scott Ratzer, the 3rd Battalion Alpha company commander. "This gives us a chance to identify important [enemy] targets on the Division's high-priority target list and disrupt [enemy] command and control, sustainment and logistics."

Prior to entering the JPMRC training area, multiple Special Forces Operational Detachment-Alphas (SFOD-A) and support personnel conducted 14 days of focused cold weather training in Alaska to refine fundamental survival skills required to operate in Arctic conditions.

The teams rehearsed small-unit movement over snow-covered and restrictive terrain, cold weather sustainment to include meal preparation, communications in extreme temperatures, and long-duration dismounted operations. The training reinforced the technical discipline required to maintain combat power when equipment, batteries, and even basic tasks become more complex in sub-zero environments.

"Having two weeks of solid cold-weather training prior to going into the box helped us and other teams really prepare for the subfreezing temperatures that we were going to face in the box," said a Special Forces Team Sergeant, the senior NCO on an ODA. "When guys are exposed to this environment [like Alaska], they stop doing the simple things - changing socks, drinking water, and eating. These mistakes can begin to snowball if not taken seriously."

Building on that foundation, the ODAs integrated emerging technologies to extend their reach well beyond line-of-sight contact. The 3rd Battalion's premiere military free fall (MFF) team practiced a high-altitude high opening jump to field test cold-weather equipment, communications gear, and layered clothing configurations in a true Arctic environment prior to entering the training area.

By executing the infiltration under realistic conditions, the ODA identified equipment limitations, refined load plans, and confirmed that critical systems would function upon landing.

"If we can prove we're able to execute an MFF jump in Arctic conditions, that's just one more option the commander has in his back pocket," said a Special Forces Detachment Commander. "Weather and terrain up here can limit how you move forces, so testing our gear and our procedures in this environment gives higher headquarters the flexibility to insert a team where and when it makes sense."

This training underscores the Army's focus on building agile, lethal formations capable of



—Photo By [Staff Sgt. David Cordova](#) | A Green Beret with 3rd Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) drives a tactical snowmobile toward a reconnaissance site at Donnelly Training Area near Fort Greely, Alaska, Feb. 19, 2026. The Green Beret and his team operated snowmobiles through heavy vegetation towards the recon location in order to survey an enemy air defense command and control node, which is a command post that combines data from radars, satellites and sensors. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. David Cordova)

projecting combat power in any climate and against any adversary. Adaptability is a key component in building lethality and first-person view (FPV) drones assist 10th SFG(A) signals intelligence Soldiers in collecting critical information to hand off to 11th Airborne Division for rocket and missile support.

"FPV drones give us a fast, low-signature way to confirm what we're seeing on the ground and tighten up our target picture," said a signals intelligence Soldier. "Instead of relying solely on reports or larger platforms, we can push a drone forward, get eyes on the objective in real time, and provide accurate information to the commander. That speed and precision makes a big difference when it comes to reconnaissance and confirming prior intel."

As the rotation wrapped up, Green Berets from 3rd Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) returned from Alaska having honed their cold-weather skills and tested their equipment in extreme conditions. From survival basics to using FPV drones for real-time reconnaissance, they showed the Army's focus on adaptability, precision, and readiness. The training ensures commanders have the tools and information needed to gain an edge on any battlefield.

The Joint Pacific Multinational Readiness Center (JPMRC) is the U.S. Army's premier Combat Training Center (CTC) in the Indo-Pacific region. Established as a "home-station" and exportable capability, it allows units to train in their own regional environments—such as jungles, archipelagos, and extreme cold—rather than traveling to conventional training centers in the continental United States.

Source: <https://www.dvidshub.net/news/559025/special-forces-sharpen-skills-integrate-technology-arctic-training>



# MOAA Tampa Scholarship Announcement



To: MOAA Tampa Chapter members:

The Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce that the MOAA Tampa Chapter will award college scholarships of up to \$2,000.00 each to high school seniors who are planning to attend college during the academic year 2026-2027. Applicants must be a dependent or grandchild of a MOAA Chapter member who has been in good standing for at least one year prior to the date of application. The selection committee reserves the right to limit scholarship awards to one per sponsor.

The application form and further requirements can be found at the chapter website: [www.moaatampa.org](http://www.moaatampa.org).

Completed applications and documentation must be submitted no later than midnight April 15, 2026 to:

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

Scholarship winners will be announced on May 1, 2026.

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

Sincerely,  
MOAA Tampa Chapter Scholarship Committee.

---

## Eligibility Requirements

1. Be a dependent or grandchild of a MOAA Tampa Chapter member who has been in good standing for a minimum of one year prior to the date of application.
2. Have a GPA of 3.0 or higher.
3. Complete the scholarship application
4. Attend the May 14, 2026 Luncheon and Awards Ceremony. Attendance is required by the recipient or immediate family member in order to receive the award.

## Required attachments

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

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

Submit application and attached documents not later than midnight April 15, 2026 to:

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

[wajs33647@gmail.com](mailto:wajs33647@gmail.com)



# MOAA Tampa Scholarship Application



Date of application \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor name \_\_\_\_\_

Date sponsor joined chapter \_\_\_\_\_

Student name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Graduating school \_\_\_\_\_

College accepted \_\_\_\_\_

Academic awards \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Completed application and supporting documents must be submitted no later than April 15, 2026.

### 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!**



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](mailto: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



COL Tony Clark  
US Army Chaplain Corps, Retired

The season of Lent, just begun by many Christian traditions on Ash Wednesday (February 18, 2026), highlights our ongoing need for self-examination and inward reflection on our lives.

During Lent, or any other time of the year, I find five questions helpful to get my bearings on where I have been, where I am, and where I am going in my life. The questions are starting points and can lead to better questions and helpful insights.

**Who am I?** This moves beyond what I do and looks at core identity. I remind myself that as a human being, I am created in the Image of God and that image denotes value, worth, and dignity. And I am also reminded that all people – regardless of their political opinion, lifestyle, or background – are created in that same image.

**What guides me along this journey called life?** This question is about the core values that guide me in life. Many years ago, I found it helpful to clarify those five (like points of a

guiding star) core values (adaptability, empathy, generosity, teamwork, and service) and regularly check in with myself and others on how I am living out those five core values.

**When will you make an end of this?** This question is a paraphrase of a line from *The Agony and the Ecstasy* where Pope Julius II (played by Rex Harrison) asks Michelangelo (played by Charlton Heston) about artist's protracted and apparently never-ending work on the ceiling of Sistine Chapel. The question is just a reminder that unlike Michelangelo's work on the Sistine Chapel (completed in 1512), our work of reflection and growth is ongoing. And like his work on the ceiling, our work of reflection and growth requires attention to detail and perseverance.

**Where am I going?** This question can be about short-term or long-term goals (physical fitness, finances, job performance) or grander life goals related to our ultimate legacy or epitaph. To paraphrase the Cheshire Cat, if you don't know where you're going, then any road will get you there.

**Why do I exist?** This question is the umbrella for all the others and is the "deepest" question of all. And yes, it can take a few minutes to sort. I'm grateful to Kevin McCarthy and his book, *The On-Purpose Person*, because he outlines the significance of purpose (our Why) and offers a helpful process to discern your unique (like fingerprints) purpose in this life. If you would like to learn more about living On-Purpose, then contact me ([chclark1995@gmail.com](mailto:chclark1995@gmail.com)) and I'll gladly provide you with a copy of Kevin's book.

## Portsmouth Naval Shipyard Undocks USS North Dakota (SSN 784)

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

### Portsmouth Naval Shipyard

Story by [Hanna Lanoie](#)

Date: 02.26.2026 | Posted: 02.25.2026 11:12  
News ID: 558852

PORTSMOUTH NAVAL SHIPYARD, Maine – Virginia-class attack submarine USS North Dakota (SSN 784) was safely undocked Feb. 26, marking a significant milestone in its maintenance and modernization availability. North Dakota has undergone repairs, structural inspections, and replacements of mechanical and electrical systems. This extensive work enhances the submarine's capabilities, modernizes critical systems and equips Sailors — the engine that powers the fleet — with the most advanced undersea platform possible ready to meet operational demands.

"The execution of submarine maintenance with excellence is fundamental to ensuring our fleet stands as the world's premier warfighting force – ready, capable, and unmatched," said Capt. Jesse Nice, shipyard commander. "North Dakota's successful undocking represents the coordinated effort across the shipyard to return a combat-ready asset back to the fleet. We can only achieve this level of success by maintaining a committed focus on personnel safety and supporting innovation and authority driven by the experts closest to the work."

The undocking milestone reflects the expertise and commitment of the project team, workforce and Sailors who have worked tirelessly to advance North Dakota through its availability. As a part of the total force, their collaboration, disciplined execution, and dedication sustain the shipyard's mission and directly support fleet readiness.

"This [undocking] sets the tone for our final mission here at PNSY — get back in the fight and support the fleet," said Cmdr. Trey Kennard, North Dakota commanding officer. "The incredible dedication and coordination between the crew and project team set us on a solid foundation to meet that mission with excellence at every turn."

As the leader in attack submarine maintenance, repair, and modernization, Portsmouth Naval Shipyard stands at the forefront of America's commitment to peace through strength, delivering combat-ready submarines that are lethal, resilient, and prepared to win. PNSY strengthens the maritime industrial base and invests in its highly skilled workforce through a focus on innovation, accountability, and fostering a culture of warfighting excellence.

Source: <https://www.dvidshub.net/news/558852/portsmouth-naval-shipyard-undocks-uss-north-dakota-ssn-784>



—Photo By [Branden Bourque](#) | KITTERY, Maine (Feb. 26, 2026) — The Virginia-class attack submarine USS North Dakota (SSN 784), is safely undocked at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard (PNSY) marking a significant milestone in its maintenance and modernization availability, Feb. 26, 2026. North Dakota has undergone repairs, structural inspections, and replacements of mechanical and electrical systems. As America's leader in attack submarine maintenance, repair, and modernization, PNSY delivers the decisive edge required to master an era of evolving threats. It stands at the forefront of America's commitment to peace through strength, delivering combat-ready submarines that are lethal, resilient, and prepared to win. (U.S. Navy photo by Branden Bourque)

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

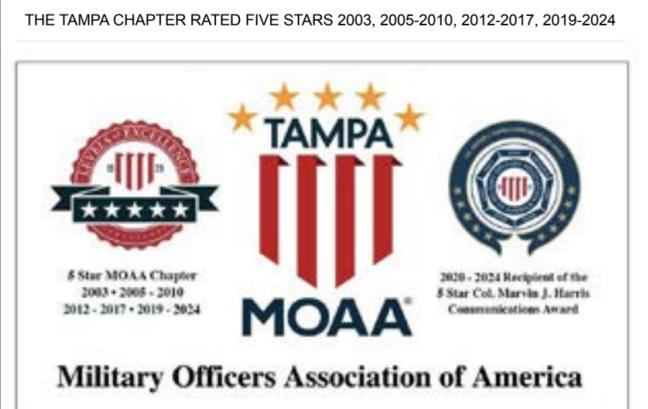
**Photo Gallery of Events:** This is our photo gallery, where you will see all of the photos during our luncheons, special meetings, conventions and more! If you've had your picture taken at our events, you can likely find it by scrolling through our [Photo Gallery](#)!

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

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

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