



# The RETROSPECT

TAMPA CHAPTER — A FIVE STAR CHAPTER OF MOAA NATIONAL

APRIL 2026 VOLUME 32, NUMBER 4



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT: STEVE POULIN ADM USCG RET

# GREETINGS!



I want to thank the MOAA Tampa Chapter for their faith and confidence in me to serve as the new Chapter President. I believe strongly in the mission of MOAA and our chapter. The advocacy and community service we provide is critically important for those who have served, are now serving, and seek to serve in the future. Our chapter has an incredible legacy of community service, support to veterans and families, and care for our serving uniformed service members and their families. I am honored to continue to work with you to build on our legacy of success. I also am grateful to those who have provided leadership for the

chapter in the past and to our new Board members who will join me in service to you as we move forward.

As I reflect on my new role as President, I see areas of emphasis that will require our engagement, coordination, and commitment. Our highest priority must be to build our membership base and encourage the more than two thousand MOAA members who reside in the Tampa catchment area to join our chapter. We also must reach out to

those who are not yet MOAA members to bring them into the chapter. We do this by showing how the efforts of the chapter are mutually beneficial - an opportunity for fellowship while promoting the traditions and interests of our uniformed services, veterans, and families. Next, my hope is that we can encourage our members to become more active in support of the chapter and its activities. Thirdly, I see opportunity to coordinate with other local MOAA chapters in Southwest Florida. Sharing lessons learned, coordinating activities, and using a broader membership will multiply the positive impact we have much more than any chapter can do alone. Lastly, we should look to similarly engage other veterans and service organizations in the region to identify new opportunities, avoid duplicating efforts, and give greater visibility to MOAA.

I realize these efforts are ambitious. The roadmap for each will be set by the collective input, ideas, and efforts of each of you. We have an incredible chapter, and I look forward to hearing from you as we lay down the track line ahead.

Thank you again - full speed ahead!

Steve Poulin  
Admiral (Ret)  
U.S. Coast Guard

## UPCOMING EVENTS

April 2, 2026  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Virtual 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM

April 9, 2026  
Chapter Luncheon  
11:30 AM - 12:00 PM Social  
12:00 PM - 1:30 PM Lunch  
Columbia Restaurant  
(see page 8)

**Future Events:**  
MOAA Total Force Conference  
National Harbor, MD  
February 1-3, 2027  
(see page 10)



FCoC Leadership Training  
& Convention  
Rosen Center, Orlando, FL  
March 11-14, 2027

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

## A special thanks to all of our new officers!

Welcoming new officers is more than filling seats — it's about embracing fresh perspectives, new energy, and a shared commitment to moving forward together. We are grateful for the time, talent, and leadership our new officers bring, along with their willingness to serve and make a meaningful impact.

Your dedication to supporting our mission, strengthening our vision, and helping guide our future is truly appreciated. Thank you for stepping forward to serve, for sharing your expertise, and for investing in the success of MOAA Tampa.

We look forward to collaborating, learning from one another, and achieving great things together.

*Signed, all the members of MOAA Tampa*

## LEGISLATIVE LOWDOWN



BEN RITTER, SGT USMC  
(FORMER)/HONORARY MBR

Capt NORM BILD,  
USAF RET

**Fraud and AI at the VA - What You Need to Know:** MOAA works diligently to protect veterans' earned benefits. A new bill will make it harder for bad actors to mislead veterans. The VA recently announced plans to review more than 1 million Disability Benefits Questionnaires (DBQ's) as part of efforts to identify signs of fraud in future claims. Initial reports on the plan raised concerns over whether automated processes, or those relying on artificial intelligence, could reduce veterans' benefits or make them more difficult to obtain.

The DBQ review would "flag claims with potential problems dating back to 2010," according to an initial Stars and Stripes report, with a process designed to "use artificial intelligence to look for signs that medical evidence was exaggerated or invented." But VA officials instead plan to use a "data collection tool" on the DBQs that would help flag false or exaggerated claims in future filings, a spokesman said March 16. A follow-up article noted that the tool would be powered by a program with AI features, but it would not use those features as part of the review, per the VA.

The initial report triggered negative responses from veterans and concerns from veterans groups, some of whom said the process could be used to reduce disability ratings and payments. The VA issued more details in follow-up press statements and communications along with MOAA and fellow veterans' groups, saying no plans called for using the tool in a way that could result in a reduction or denial of benefits. MOAA appreciates the assurances from the VA regarding the preservation of VA-approved disability compensation. MOAA will remain watchful as the new data-collection process unfolds to ensure that all who have earned these benefits will receive them in a timely manner. MOAA also wants to ensure that all legal avenues are available to combat fraud in the VA system, including criminal proceedings for bad actors who siphon benefits from veterans under the guise of "helping" them with a VA claim.

**The Governing Unaccredited Representatives Defrauding (GUARD) VA Benefits Act**, a key part of MOAA's Advocacy in Action campaign, restores such criminal penalties, protecting veterans from paying for services that are available for free from accredited agencies. Unfortunately, fraud takes place in any large system, including VA disability compensation. MOAA National applauds efforts to find out who these bad actors are, including those who use new technology as part of the department's wider AI strategy. But finding these bad actors is only part of the solution. In fact, dozens of companies providing unaccredited services to veterans as part of the VA claims process have already been found. Many of those that have been identified and have received cease-and-desist letters continue advertising their programs. The **GUARD VA Benefits Act** moves from detection to protection, thus allowing enforcement beyond a simple letter, and allowing veterans to keep the benefits they've earned through service.

**The Dole Act - Congress has Flagged the Delays in Implementing Reforms to the Act.** The MOAA-backed bill that

passed more than a year ago emphasizes much-needed support for caregivers and mental health services, among other priorities. During a March 20, 2026, hearing, lawmakers described the many unfinished provisions of the Act that were designed to expand veteran benefits, strengthen services, and improve caregiver support.

**The Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act**, enacted in January 2025, represents more than 90 bipartisan provisions developed during the 118th Congress and was supported by MOAA and more than 40 other veterans organizations. Lawmakers from both parties on the House Veterans' Affairs Committee panel on oversight and investigations noted that the VA has fallen behind on several requirements, especially those aimed at improving caregiver support, expanding mental health services, completing staffing models, and increasing access to home and community-based care.

With key reforms still pending and implementation delays affecting the very populations the law was designed to help, MOAA continues to press for full execution of the Dole Act's requirements while also urging swift passage of the **Veteran Caregiver Reeducation, Reemployment, and Retirement (3R) Act** to close other persistent gaps. **Oversight Raises Concerns About Delayed Reforms** - Many Dole Act provisions remain incomplete, according to subcommittee members, with some already flagged as at risk or behind schedule. VA leaders were pressed to provide clearer timelines, measurable benchmarks, and stronger transparency around progress. A Government Accountability Office witness emphasized that persistent obstacles, including limited access to caregiver mental health services and gaps in program monitoring and outreach, continue to hinder caregivers'

continued on page 2

LEGISLATIVE LOWDOWN *cont.*

ability to benefit fully from the law's intended reforms.

**Why the Legislation Matters** - The Dole Act includes critical improvements for veterans and caregivers, such as expanding VA's share of home nursing coverage to 100%, offering grants and contract opportunities to mental health providers to help caregivers, and streamlining support programs intended to reduce financial strain and improve homebased care outcomes. Stalled implementation means caregivers continue to face outpocket costs, limited access to mental health support and respite services, and inconsistent awareness of available resources. Senior VA officials told lawmakers that oversight of the Dole Act has been elevated to the Office of the Secretary to enhance coordination. They noted progress in expanding access to community care and homebased services, but acknowledged that funding shortfalls, staffing challenges, and logistical constraints have slowed implementation. As a result, the VA has had to shift resources within existing budgets or make internal adjustments to keep requirements moving forward.

**MOAA's Advocacy Work Continues** - MOAA remains at the forefront of pressing Congress and VA leadership to prioritize caregiver support enhancements and ensure that the Dole Act is fully implemented. MOAA President and CEO Lieutenant General Brian T. Kelly, USAF (Ret), testified on February 24 before a joint session of the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees, urging lawmakers to take meaningful action to strengthen support for caregivers who play a vital role in veterans' long-term care. To advance this work, MOAA is championing the **Caregiver 3R Act**, a top priority this Congress. The bill would help caregivers transition after their caregiving role ends by expanding health coverage, offering bereavement and employment assistance, and improving access to retirement planning resources.

MOAA urges members and supporters to continue engaging with their lawmakers to ensure this important legislation advances to the House and Senate floors and become law.

Sources –

- (1) MOAA Advocacy News: <https://www.moaa.org/>
- (2) Advocacy In Action: <https://moaa.quorum.us>

## MOAA TAMPA CHAPTER INSTALLS NEW BOARD MEMBERS

—By Sara Marks, CAPT NC USN (Ret)  
Photo credits: Maryna Juman, Sara Marks and Ben Ritter

Florida Council of Chapters (FCoC) Vice President, Tony LaVecchia, CAPT USN (Ret) installed MOAA Tampa's new board members, President, Steve Poulin, ADM USCG (Ret), Vice President, Corvelli McDaniels, CPT USA (Former), Secretary, David Zallo, LTC USA (Ret) and Surviving Spouse Liaison, Frances Chancey, LTC USA (Ret) at luncheon held at the Columbia Museum Restaurant in Ybor City on March 12, 2026. Congratulations and welcome to the MOAA Tampa Board of Directors!

Past President, Paula Stewart, LTC USA (Ret) turned over the gavel to the new chapter president and received the Past President's pin from Tony LaVecchia. Paula, thank you for your service to the MOAA Tampa Chapter.



FCoC VP Tony LaVecchia inducting MOAA Tampa Chapter's new board of directors. Pictured (L-R) Frances Chancey, David Zallo, Corvelli McDaniel, Steve Poulin and Tony LaVecchia.



Paula Stewart, Past President, MOAA Tampa Chapter FCoC VP Tony LaVecchia presented Paula Stewart the Past President pin.



FCoC VP Tony LaVecchia provided updates from the FCoC and MOAA National.



FCoC VP Tony LaVecchia



FCoC VP Tony LaVecchia presenting the President's pin to new MOAA Tampa Chapter President, Steve Poulin



Welcome remarks from Steve Poulin, President MOAA Tampa Chapter



Corvelli McDaniel, Vice President, MOAA Tampa Chapter



David Zallo, Secretary, MOAA Tampa Chapter



France Chancey, Surviving Spouse Liaison, MOAA Tampa Chapter

## Cold War: Operation Quack, Quack

A fictional spy story

—By LTC Robert F. Sawallesh, U.S. Army Retired. Photo by Sawallesh

Two ducks carefully eye the "Top Secret" golf ball near Hole #13

Mr. "X" was an intelligence agent assigned to a government intelligence agency (GIA). He was well liked and highly respected by his peers. Tragically, he did have an "additional duty." He was a spy for an enemy country (EC).

Each Monday he attended a Top Secret meeting headed by the Director of the GIA. Before each meeting, security agents would check the room for covert listening and transmitting devices.

When they are done, "Mr. X" would lightly touch his right hearing aid. At the touch of the hearing aid, both hearing aids would immediately start recording everything said at the meeting. His hearing aids were supplied by the EC.

When he got home, Mr. "X" took the very tiny recording chips out of his hearing aids and carefully inserted them in a tiny slit in a white golf ball. A spot of white glue was put over the tiny slit on the golf ball.

Mr. "X" insisted that he be paid \$25,000 by the EC before the "Top Secret" golf ball was dropped at the dead drop. He got the \$25,000.



It was Saturday morning for Mr. "X" to play golf. He dropped the "Top Secret" golf ball in some weeds near Hole #13 to be picked up by the EC golfer.

The EC golfer was right behind "Mr. X" on the golf course and he was anxious to pick up the "Top Secret" golf ball at the dead drop at the Hole #13 area.

As the EC golfer approached Hole #13, he saw some ducks take off for the blue sky and clouds. Two remaining ducks on the ground spotted the "Top Secret" white golf ball and they believed it was an abandoned duck egg. One duck moved the golf ball slowly. The other duck grabbed the "Top Secret" golf ball in its bill and flew over the head of the EC golfer. The EC golfer saw what looked like a golf ball in the duck's bill. He had an uneasy feeling.

While the EC golfer watched the duck fly over his head with the "Top Secret" golf ball, raccoons stole his wallet and snacks which were in his golf cart. The duck who stole the "Top Secret" golf ball was never seen again. End.

This is Nonfiction: See FBI's "Year of the Spy (1985)" at <https://www.fbi.gov/history/famous-cases/year-of-the-spy-1985>.

# 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

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT: CHARLES DALCOURT COL USA RET

### 2026 DIRECTORS:

COMMUNICATIONS: SARA MARKS CAPT NC USN RET

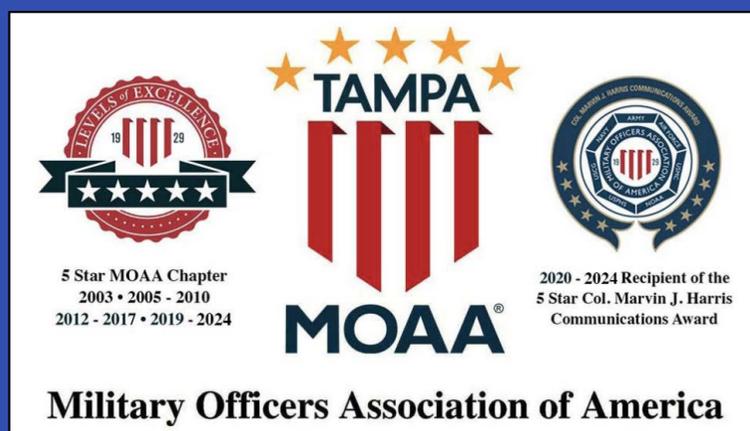
LEGAL AFFAIRS: WILLIAM MITCHELL LTJG (former) USN

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



## 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

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



## NAVY MEDICINE FAST FACTS

Special Edition 3  
2025

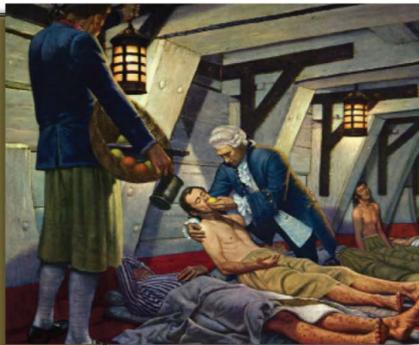
### NAVY MEDICINE IN THE AGE OF SAIL HEALTH & MEDICINE AT SEA

- While combat injuries were a concern in the Age of Sail, **disease was the biggest killer of Sailors and Marines**. More succumbed to disease and illness than to combat.
- Yellow fever, malaria, smallpox, dysentery and influenza all took heavy tolls on ship crews. **Scurvy was also a significant problem** until the regular use of citrus fruits was implemented.
- During the first years of the U.S. Navy, naval surgeons worked to improve the health and readiness of Sailors and Marines.

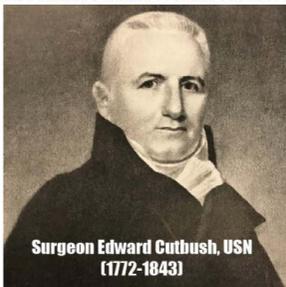


#### THE FIGHT AGAINST SCURVY ON U.S. NAVY SHIPS

- Few diseases have been more synonymous with Sailors than scurvy, once known as the “Black Death of the sea.”
- Years after the British Royal Navy successfully demonstrated the treatment and prevention of this affliction through citrus fruit and / or lemon juice rations, the disease continued to plague the U.S. Navy.
- In 1809, Surgeon William Paul Crillon Barton took on the fight against scurvy while aboard USS United States. He lobbied the Secretary of the Navy to furnish naval ships with what he described as a clarified lemon-lime ration.
- Individual fleet commanders, ship captains and their surgeons were thereafter permitted to adopt antiscorbutic rations aboard ships.



#### THE FIRST VACCINES



- In 1796, British surgeon Edward Jenner developed the first vaccine, using cowpox to immunize against smallpox. **The term vaccine comes from the Latin word for cow (vacca).**
- Surgeon Edward Cutbush of USS United States reported that he “vaccinated” 12 Sailors against smallpox while the ship was off of Charleston, South Carolina in 1799. If this was indeed vaccination, and not variolation, this would be the first incidence of vaccination in the Navy.
- Variolation was commonly used in the Navy prior to vaccination. The practice called for immunizing an individual against smallpox by exposing them to the live virus. **Vaccination involves inoculation by using a weakened or inactivated virus.**
- The U.S. Navy made smallpox vaccinations mandatory for all recruits in 1848. Navy physicians were required to document vaccinations and report the totals quarterly to the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (BUMED).



## NAVY MEDICINE FAST FACTS



#### Did you know?

Surgeon Edward Cutbush's 1808 textbook, *Observations on the Means of Preserving the Health of Soldiers and Sailors*, was a landmark in U.S. military medicine. The publication contained the first proposal for a “Medical Department of the [U.S.] Navy.”

“Let us endeavor to preserve the health of those who bravely enter the field of battle, or expose themselves, on the boisterous ocean in defense of their country”  
~Surgeon Edward Cutbush, USN, 1808

#### CURBING DISEASE THREATS

- Long before the advent of germ theory and mosquito control, naval surgeons in the Age of Sail grappled with mosquito-borne illnesses using the prevailing medical wisdom of the time. Shipboard physicians relied heavily on mercury-based purgatives and emetics, venesection (bloodletting), and blistering / cupping—all drastic measures aimed at expelling the supposed root cause of disease.
- Calomel (mercury chloride) and jalap (a poisonous root) were commonly used to stimulate the intestinal tract and rid intestinal irritation. Potassium acetate was used to increase secretion and flow of urine. Opium and laudanum were used to relieve pain and induce sleep.
- Dehydration would prove a significant problem for patients being treated for the disease. Navy physicians counteracted dehydration with tamarind water, weak chamomile tea and lemonade.
- Cinchona bark (Peruvian bark), containing the alkaloid quinine, offered a crucial, if not fully understood, weapon against malaria. Widely used aboard sailing ships, it served as both a prophylactic against malaria and a treatment for other febrile illnesses, arguably representing the most effective tool in the physician's arsenal against this devastating disease.



#### SOURCES:

- Artwork:**
- All images courtesy of BUMED Archives, Navy Art Gallery, and the National Library of Medicine.
- Publications:**
- Cutbush, E. (1808). *Observations on the Means of Preserving the Health of Soldiers and Sailors*. Philadelphia: Thomas Dobson.
  - Langley, H.L. (1995). *A History of Medicine in the Early U.S. Navy*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins.
  - Pleadwell, F.L. (1923). “Edward Cutbush, M.D.: The Nestor of the Medical Corps of the Navy.” *Annals of Medical History*. New York: Paul. B. Hoeber, Inc., V(5).
  - Sobocinski, A.B. (Dec. 28, 2020). “The Navy's Fight Against Scurvy.” *DVIDS*.

Source: <https://www.dvidshub.net/search/2.0?q=navy+medicine+fast+facts&type=publication+issues>

## Surviving Spouse Corner: Helpful Links

—Submitted by Frances Chancey LTC USA (Ret)



The VA Office of Survivors Assistance offers monthly online educational programs. These sessions are held on the last Wednesday of each month from 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM EDT and are designed to inform survivors about VA benefits, including education, debt management, burial resources, and updates on the PACT Act.

Upcoming 2026 Topics:

- April: Tuesday's Children
- May: National Cemetery Administration
- June: Survivor Assistance/SAMS

Registration is required for these free online sessions. You can register at: [officeofsurvivorasst@va.gov](mailto:officeofsurvivorasst@va.gov)

Other Important Information:

If you're the surviving spouse, child, or parent of a service member who died in the line of duty, or the survivor of a Veteran who died from a service-related injury or illness, you may be able to get a tax-free monetary benefit called VA Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC).

<https://www.va.gov/family-and-caregiver-benefits/survivor-compensation/>



If you're the surviving spouse, child, or parent of a service member or Veteran who died, you may qualify for bereavement counseling through VA Vet Centers.

<https://www.va.gov/burials-memorials/bereavement-counseling/>

The 2026 Survivor Benefits Booklet is also available digitally, covering health, education, and financial resources.

<https://www.benefits.va.gov/BENEFITS/docs/VASurvivorsKit.pdf>

Presented by Office of Survivors Assistance

**SURVIVOR SERIES**

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)

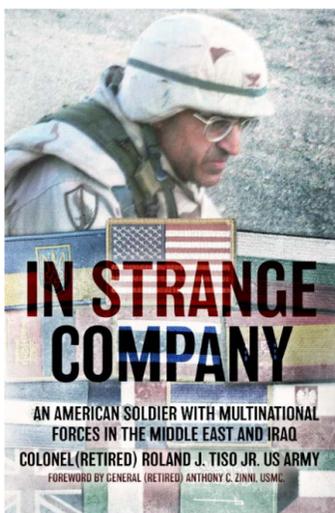
Last Wednesday of every month  
1 pm - 2 pm ET

Visit [www.va.gov/survivors](https://www.va.gov/survivors) for more information, schedule, and topics.

VA U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

ONLINE EVENT

## MOAA TAMPA APRIL LUNCHEON GUEST SPEAKER COL ROLAND J. TISO, JR, USA (RET)



Colonel Tiso was commissioned a Second Lieutenant of Infantry from the Virginia Military Institute in 1973. His 31 year military career included command of infantry companies in Korea and the United States, the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 508<sup>th</sup> Airborne Infantry in Panama, and United States Task Force Sinai, Multi-National Force & Observers in Egypt. He was the Chief of War Plans Division, U.S. Central Command in 1996-97, and one of the primary planners of the Iraq War Plan. He served as the Executive Officer to the Commander of U.S. Central Command, 1998-2000. A graduate of the U.S. Army War College, the Command & General Staff College, and the Armed Forces Staff College, Colonel Tiso saw combat action in Korea, Panama, Somalia, Iraq, and Afghanistan. He was selected by the Secretary of the Army as a Distinguished Member of the 506<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment in 2022, and inducted into the U.S. Army National ROTC Hall of Fame and the Marquis Who's Who in America in 2024.

He was awarded the Congressional Veteran Commendation in the 16th Congressional District of Florida in 2025. Retired from defense contracting in 2020, he has since authored a memoir of his multinational experiences in the Middle East and the war in Iraq and currently serves as the Senior Strategic Consultant for Mission Critical Communications, a London-based expeditionary IT company. He and his wife Judie reside in Valrico, Florida.

# March Luncheon Photos

Photo Credit: Ben Ritter, Maryna Juman and Sara Marks



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



March was an exciting month for our MOAA Tampa Chapter with the installation of our new chapter President, Steve Poulin; VP, Corvelli McDaniel; Secretary, David Zallo; and Surviving Spouse Liaison, Fran Chancey. Thank you for stepping up for continuing to serve. Your energy and enthusiasm are already contagious and bringing renewed energy to our chapter. I'd also like to thank the Florida

Council of Chapters (FCoC) VP and incoming President, Tony LaVecchia for presiding as the installation officer at our March luncheon. Thank you for your encouragement and updates on MOAA at both the National and FCoC level. Please see the article in this edition highlighting this wonderful event.

It is also a pleasure to highlight our April luncheon guest speaker, Roland Tiso, COL USA (Ret). Please take time to read his bio. I'm also delighted that we have a JROTC Awards ceremony at this month's luncheon. At the time of publishing the newsletter, we're not sure if the Coalition will be able to attend but do read the Coalition Corner with their history at CENTCOM and their history with our chapter.

I'm both honored and grateful to share an article from a fellow Navy Nurse Corps officer with whom I served with about her deployment to Afghanistan that involved a deadly shooting, her survival, and the grief and loss while unknowingly inspiring a German sailor who reached out years later to express his great respect for the treatment of our fallen. I knew and worked with one of the officers who died on that terrible day and will share that story next month. Thank you to Bob Sawallesh for his contribution to the newsletter of a "quacky" story with a link to some real espionage. There are a couple of articles highlighting our chapter members who attended the recent FCoC Leadership Training Seminar and Convention as well attending a Women of Valor luncheon. The Surviving Spouse Corner has links to courses at the VA and make sure to read an inspirational write up in the Chaplain Corner by Bernie Lieving, which are just a few highlights 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. I hope that you'll find all the articles and links interesting and informative.

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? 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. You can contact me as the Director for Communications via email: [coms@moaatampa.org](mailto: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. Speaking of travel, the May newsletter will be published a little bit later due to my upcoming trip. Please send your stories to my MOAA Tampa email: [coms@moaatampa.org](mailto:coms@moaatampa.org).

*"All things are difficult before they are easy."*  
— Thomas Fuller

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/>

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## Soviet School Children Meet a U.S. Ambassador

—Submitted by LTC Robert F. Sawallesh, US Army, Retired

Do you have a den with foreign travel souvenirs and foreign awards?

Let's take a moment and fast back to 1945 with the help of the NSA (National Security Agency). Are you cleared for Top Secret? Just joking! Read on...



Copied and cropped from below NSA Video Hyperlink

"On August 4, 1945, Soviet school children gave a carving of the Great Seal of the United States to U.S. Ambassador Averell Harriman. It hung in the ambassador's Moscow residential office until 1952 when the State Department discovered that it was 'bugged.' The microphone hidden inside was passive and only activated when the Soviets wanted it to be." See <https://www.nsa.gov/History/National-Cryptologic-Museum/Exhibits-Artifacts/Exhibit-View/Article/2718563/cold-war-great-seal/>.

## MOAA TAMPA MARCH LUNCHEON RAFFLE WINNER!

By Sara Marks, CAPT NC USN (Ret) | Photo credit: Maryna Juman



Congratulations to Jeannie Stratis for winning a Columbia Restaurant gift certificate presented to her by MOAA Tampa Chapter President ADM Steve Poulin, USCG (Ret).



# APRIL LUNCHEON MEETING



**EVENT:** Chapter Monthly Luncheon Meeting

**DATE:** Thursday, 9 April **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, 3 April. 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, 6 April, 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, Cuban Sandwiches, Paella de Pollo, Black Beans, Fresh Seasonal Vegetables, Coffee, Iced Tea, Soft Drinks and Strawberry Creme 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 APRIL

- |                                       |                                |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Month of the Military Child           | 12-20 Passover                 |
| Military Saves Month                  | 14 Air Force Reserve Birthday  |
| 1 April Fool's Day                    | 15 Purple Up! Day              |
| 3 Good Friday                         | 22 Earth Day                   |
| 5 Easter                              | 23 Army Reserve Birthday       |
| 5 Gold Star Spouses Day               | 30 National Military Brats Day |
| 9 National Former POW Recognition Day |                                |



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

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

## 6th Medical Group, MacDill wants YOU!

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

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

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

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



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# Healing Happens When Comrades Connect

—By Kim LeBel

Trauma is something we all endure, whether it is war trauma, sickness, death, accidents, surgery, or anything that causes undue stress. Healing happens when I can get that stress outside of my body, say it out loud to people who can relate. This has been huge in my recovery.

On October 7, 2025, Mary Mahony, NNCA Executive Director, forwarded an email to me from a German soldier, who was in Afghanistan when I was shot in March 2009. He reached a point in life when he wanted answers about the effect of what he witnessed. He remembered watching me walk slowly behind Flo and Frankie's bodies, "carrying a blood bag", that was his term for a medical bag. He wanted to find out what happened to me.

The day he remembered, was the Saturday morning when the bodies of LT Flo Choe, MSC, USN and LTJG Frankie Toner, CEC, USN were taken from the German Hospital, Marmal in Mazar-e- Shariff, to the airfield tarmac, almost a mile away, to be flown back home.

The day before Flo and Frankie's bodies were escorted to the tarmac we were running on our day off. Flo and I were in the front, side by side. Frankie was behind me with LT Carlos Lino-montez, MSC, USN about 20 yards behind us when the shots rang out. I was hit first in the arm, then Flo was shot. Flo turned her back to the shooter, while holding her bleeding legs, and was shot again in the back, as she lay on the ground across from me. Frankie charged the shooter and took 5 bullets. Carlos was far enough back that he only had bullets whiz past his head. Flo and Frankie lost their lives that day.

About 2 hours post shooting, Flo was placed in a German helicopter with Carlos and me for the ride to the hospital. The Germans performed CPR all the way to Marmal, at the request of Dr John Clayton. They would say "sir, she is gone". His reply, "keep it up until we can get her in the operating room (OR)." We landed about 10 minutes later, where we were whisked into the emergency room (ER). Flo was taken directly into the OR; I sat on an ER gurney waiting for my turn in the OR. They told me, "when we are done with Flo, you will go into the OR". Ten minutes later they came back for me. I asked, "What about Flo?" "She didn't make it", was the answer. I went into surgery for my first wash out on my arm, distraught.

At dawn the next morning, my chiefs escorted me outside to the refrigerated Conex box that contained Flo and Frankie's remains. I was drugged, bandaged and carried my blood-filled suction bulb in my hand, while Carlos steadied me on my good side as we walked. The caskets, for lack of a better description of the boxes they were in, were placed on a flatbed truck. I took my place at the rear of that truck, alongside Carlos, for the long walk to the airfield.

In a solemn ceremony honoring the dead, the allied soldiers from Germany and other countries formed lines on both sides of that road, all the way to the tarmac where the plane waited. As Flo and Frankie's bodies moved forward slowly, each soldier on the route lit a candle, or shined a flashlight or cell phone when the bodies reached them. It was breath takingly beautiful, reverent and respectful.

The German soldier who reached out to find me was in that line that day and the experience was so moving for him that he felt compelled to find me 16 years later. I have not met Michael Mueller but hope too someday.

Warriors help each other. There is a kindred spirit among comrades who experience similar acts of violence. When you get to the place where you want to understand your feelings, in

terms of the impact on your life, you reach out or join a group. I can relate.

Now, due to the assistance of the NNCA, we have been writing each week. It is cathartic for both of us to be able to share feelings about that day. My attendance at the Boulder Crest Warrior PATHH (WP) Program helped me to move into Post Traumatic Growth (PTG). I have shared with Michael Mueller the lessons I learned through WP. We write each week via email about life, issues, struggles and the good stuff, too!

I am grateful for this connection, for it has strengthened us both. Michael said, "Our encounter in Mazar became an anchor point in my life – something unforgettable, because it changed my thinking and my actions in an instant. At that time, there was no one to talk to about such things. You had to keep going, fulfill the mission, survive each day. I am grateful we are connected."

## Michael's E-Mail to the NNCA Executive Director:

*From: Michael Müller*  
*Date: Tue, Oct 7, 2025, at 17:01*  
*Subject: Message for Capt. (Ret.) Kim LeBel*  
*To: Executive Director NNCA*

*Dear members of the Navy Nurse Corps Association,*

*My name is Michael Mueller, and I served with the German Armed Forces (Bundeswehr) as part of ISAF in Afghanistan in 2009.*

*At that time, I held the rank of Obermaat (Petty Officer First Class) in the Navy.*

*I would like to ask if you could kindly forward this short message to Capt. (Ret.) Kim LeBel.*

*I was in Mazar-e-Sharif at the time of the Camp Shaheen attack in March 2009. I remember seeing Capt. LeBel during the ceremony that followed.*

*The image of her walking, wounded but determined, has stayed with me all these years. I never knew her name until recently, but I have always remembered her strength and courage in that moment.*

*Please tell her that someone who was there has never forgotten.*

*With sincere respect and gratitude,*

*Obermaat (Res.) Michael Mueller*  
*Former member of the German Armed Forces*

\*Reprinted with permission from the author. Originally published March 2026 Navy Nurse Corps Association NNCA News.



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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.

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**DEADLINE:** See Digital Publishing table.

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## Turn Compassion Into Action!

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

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

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

To learn more, visit [redcross.org](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!

# Articles of Interest Found on the Web

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



1. Coast Guard, Northern Mariana Islands Strengthen Maritime Security Presence in Western Pacific  
<https://www.war.gov/News/News-Stories/Article/Article/4445871/coast-guard-northern-mariana-islands-strengthen-maritime-security-presence-in-w/>
2. Thomas Paine: Influencer of the Patriot Cause  
<https://www.war.gov/News/Feature-Stories/Story/Article/4442420/thomas-paine-influencer-of-the-patriot-cause/>
3. House Armed Services Committee backs sweeping aviation safety reforms  
<https://www.militarytimes.com/news/pentagon-congress/2026/03/26/house-armed-services-committee-backs-sweeping-aviation-safety-reforms/>
4. US Navy launches new Golden Fleet-era USV program, terminates old one  
<https://www.navytimes.com/news/your-navy/2026/03/26/us-navy-launches-new-gold-en-fleet-era-usv-program-terminates-old-one/>
5. The Capacity to Love Requires the Necessity to Mourn  
<https://www.taps.org/stories/2026/the-capacity-to-love-requires-the-necessity-to-mourn/>

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Call [00 1 800 273 8255](tel:0018002738255) or DSN 111  
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# FLORIDA COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS (FCoC) LEADERSHIP TRAINING SEMINAR-CONVENTION JANUARY 29 – FEBRUARY 1, 2026

Three MOAA Tampa Chapter members, Sara Marks, Corvelli McDaniel and Carol Zieres attended the FCoC Leadership Training Seminar (LTS) and Convention this year. The FCoC put on a comprehensive array of topics and speakers to address chapter needs and training. It culminated in a Military Ball with awards to chapters and Lieutenant General Brian Kelly, USAF (Ret), who provided updates on MOAA accomplishments.

Next year's FCoC LTS and Convention will be held later in the year March 11-14, 2027, due to MOAA's Total Force Conference that will be held Feb 1-3, 2027. Mark your calendars for these informative and inspiring events.



L-R: Carol Zieres, COL USA (Ret), Sara Marks, CAPT NC USN (Ret) and Corvelli McDaniel, CPT USA (Former)



Kelly Kowell, Gold Star Mother and Carol Zieres, COL USA (Ret)



Kelly Kowell showcasing My Warrior's Place

<p><b>Saturday 17 January 2026</b>                  10:00-12:00: FCoC Board Meeting - Via Zoom  <b>Thursday 29 January 2026</b>                  11:00-13:30: Lunch - CAFE Gauguin                  14:00-17:00: Florida Chapter President's Officer's Call - Salons 15 &amp; 16                  17:00-18:00: Early Event Check-in - Hospitality Suite                  18:00-20:00: Early Arriver's Pizza Party - Hospitality Suite  <b>Friday 30 January 2026</b>                  06:30-09:30: Breakfast - Cafe Gauguin                  07:30-17:30: Hospitality Suite - Open                  08:30-09:30: Investment Strategies &amp; Settling Estates - Salons 15-16                  09:30-10:45: Preparing to be a Survivor - Salons 17-18                  10:45-11:45: Being A Good Chapter Treasurer - Salons 15-16                  11:45-13:00: Lunch - CAFE Gauguin                  13:00-14:30: Legislative Update - Salons 17-18                  14:30-15:45: Writing Successful MOAA Outreach Grants - Salons 15-16                  15:45-17:00: Chapter Funding &amp; Donation Programs - Salons 17-18                  18:00-19:30: Plated Dinner - Signature 2 (cost included in registration).                  19:30-22:30: Casino Night Charity Event - Executive Ballroom "H"  <b>Saturday 31 January 2026</b>                  06:30-09:30: Breakfast - Cafe Gauguin                  07:30-17:30: Hospitality Suite - Open                  08:00-08:15: Team Meeting Kick Off - Grand "A"                  08:15-09:30: Area Chapter Team Meetings - Salons 15, 16 &amp; Grand "A"                  09:30-10:00: AVP Report Out - Grand "A"                  10:15-11:00: Memorial Service - Grand "A"                  11:00-16:00: Spouse Lunch &amp; Activities - Cafe Gauguin then VIP Suite                  11:45-12:20: Friends &amp; Family Cruise Info - Open Bar - Salons 15-16                  11:00-12:30: Lunch - CAFE Gauguin                  12:30-13:30: Annual Business Meeting - Grand "A"                  13:45-14:15: MOAA Updates - Grand "A"                  14:15-15:45: Recruiting, Retention and Advertising - Grand "A"                  15:45-16:00: FCoC Leaders Wrap Up Comments - Grand "A"                  17:30-18:30: Pre-event area Dinner Reception - Grand "A"                  18:30-22:30: Military Dining Out - Grand "A" (Coat &amp; Tie or Dress Uniform)  <b>Sunday 1 February 2026</b>                  06:30-09:30: Breakfast - Cafe Gauguin                  07:30-10:30: Hospitality Suite - Open for departing attendees                  08:00-10:00: MOAA-FCoC Closeout - Salon 17 (By Invitation Only)                  11:00: All Rooms Clear and checked out</p>
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A comprehensive leadership seminar and offerings for all MOAA Chapters in Florida by the FCoC.

## Soldiers honor POWs with 60-mile 'Long March' reenactment

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

**U.S. Army Garrison Poland**  
 Story by [Bryan Araujo](#)

**Date:** 01.26.2025 **Posted:** 02.05.2025 06:34 **News ID:** 490134

ŻAGAŃ, Poland – On Jan. 27, 1945, ten thousand Allied POWs stepped off from Stalag Luft III in Żagań as the Nazi regime began forcibly evacuating its POW camps in the face of the advancing Soviet onslaught in what would be called the Long March. They would trek 60 miles to the city of Spremberg, Germany, enduring one of the coldest winters on record.

Eighty years later, 147 U.S. Army Soldiers stationed across NATO's eastern flank, alongside service members from Germany, Poland, and the United Kingdom, commemorated the 80th anniversary of the Long March, retracing the same grueling 60-mile route taken by their military forebears.

"This is the first year we had family members here, making it extra special," said Howard De Lester, historian and director of the Long March reenactment.

Along the route, Soldiers paused at the same local schools and historical landmarks the POWs had visited eight decades ago. At each stop, family members from the U.S., U.K., and Australia shared firsthand accounts and insights from diaries written by their ancestors.

De Lester first completed the journey in 2006 alongside three original POWs. Despite being in their early 80s at the time, the veterans walked the entire route once more, staying in the same locations they had occupied during their captivity.

"You have walked exactly the same roads, sometimes on the very same cobblestones," said De Lester. "Wherever you have rested your head at night is where the prisoners of war rested theirs."

### Day 1: The Journey Begins

By 8:30 a.m., the Stalag Luft III POW Museum in Żagań was abuzz with activity. The POW camp-turned-museum was filled to the brim with troops and descendants, ready to embark on the solemn journey. A commemorative service at the museum's war memorial marked the start of the first leg of the march—a 21.5-mile trek through the villages of Ilowa and Gozdnica.

Upon arrival in Ilowa, they visited the school and the church where POWs once rested. They were warmly received by the mayor.

Throughout the first day, local communities braved the cold weather to show their support, sharing bread and salt—a Polish tradition for welcoming guests. The Housewives Association of Gozdnica welcomed the group with hot coffee, tea, and cookies, as well as live music at the Gozdnica Community Center. They sang, danced, and invited the Soldiers to join them on stage.

As the day concluded, marchers arrived at their designated rest stop in Lipna—an old horse stable that has only updated its accompanying animals since the original POWs laid their heads there. In 1945, the POWs slept on hay. In the 80th-anniversary reenactment, marchers had only hard concrete.

"It was rough," said Staff Sgt. Mickael Khiev of the 443rd Civil Affairs Battalion about his night in the barn. "I have huge respect for them. This is a really tough experience, not to be taken for granted."

### Day 2: Pushing Forward – The Border Crossing

Cold, damp air weighed on their shoulders as the marchers trudged forward on the second leg of their journey. A cobblestone-filled 20.7-mile trek from Lipna to Bad Muskau, Germany, was their next challenge. Fatigue, dwindling energy, and sore feet tested the will of the marchers—a defining day for many.



—Photo By [Bethany Huff](#) German service members lead the formation into Spremberg, Germany, Jan. 26, 2025, marking the final steps of the 80th Anniversary of the Long March. The 60-mile trek retraced the route taken by Allied POWs in 1945, bringing together U.S. Soldiers, allied troops, and descendants to honor their legacy. (U.S. Army photo by Bethany Huff)

As the formation crossed the border from Poland into Germany, German law enforcement vehicles joined the procession while local residents gathered at the border to wave and cheer them on.

After pushing through the final miles of the day, the marchers arrived at Fürst Pückler Park in Bad Muskau, exhausted but relieved. They were welcomed with hot bratwurst on fresh bread and cold German beer—a stark contrast to the austere conditions endured by the POWs. Soldiers rested, shared stories with the POW family members, and reflected on the journey so far.

"They cheered us in," said Maj. Travis White, assigned to V Corps. "We had half the town out there clapping, saying 'welcome' and 'thank you.'"

The brats also beat the MREs we've been eating the past two days, he added.

### Day 3: The Final Stretch

Marching cadences pierced the morning calm on the last day. Spirits were high as the Soldiers pressed forward on the final leg—17.8 miles from Bad Muskau to Spremberg.

British and Australian POW family members mentioned what a treat it was to march alongside American troops while they sang their marching cadences.

"I'm proud of myself," said Sgt. Lassana Sanha of the 1060th Transportation Company, just three miles from the finish. "I'm sure everyone is hurting right now, but we keep pushing."

The march ended at Spremberg Bahnhof, the train station where the original POWs were packed into cattle cars and transported to other camps deeper inside Germany. But for these 147 marchers, hugs, handshakes, and more than a few tears marked the conclusion of their journey.

That night, a final banquet was held at Castle Kliczków in Poland, where Soldiers and family members gathered to reflect on the experience they had just completed.

### Mission and Coordination

The Long March 80th Anniversary was executed to promote international cooperation, esprit de corps, and honor the survivors and descendants of the original march.

Troops participating in the march represented duty stations across NATO's Eastern Flank, including Lielvarde Air Base, Latvia; multiple locations across Poland; and Mihail Kogălniceanu Air Base, Romania. A total of 147 marchers came from various units, including:

- 443rd Civil Affairs Battalion, Army Reserve, Rhode Island
- Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Cavazos
- 1060th Transportation Company, Massachusetts National Guard
- 724th Transportation Company, Army Reserve, Illinois
- Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 7-17 Cavalry Regiment, Fort Cavazos
- 223rd Military Police Company, 51st Military Police Battalion, South Carolina National Guard
- 300th Military Police Company, 51st Military Police Battalion, South Carolina National Guard
- Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 51st Military Police Battalion, South Carolina National Guard
- V Corps, Fort Knox (Forward in Poland)
- 304th Civil Affairs Battalion, Army Reserve, Pennsylvania
- 110th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, Georgia National Guard
- 962nd Ordnance Company, Army Reserve, New York
- 725th Transportation Company, Illinois National Guard
- One Department of the Army civilian and a contractor assigned to USAG Poland

Never Forget

Source: <https://www.dvidshub.net/news/490134/soldiers-honor-pows-with-60-mile-long-march-reenactment>

# Coalition Corner

## HISTORY OF THE U.S. CENTRAL COMMAND COALITION AND THE MOAA TAMPA CHAPTER

—By Sara Marks and Bob Sawallesh

The U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) Coalition at MacDill Air Force Base (AFB) in Tampa, Florida, is one of the largest military coalitions in U.S. history.

Following the 9/11 terrorist attacks in 2001, the coalition began to form with a common purpose – to fight terrorism. “Beginning on Sept. 12, having worked our way to a plan, which we executed or started to execute on Oct. 7, by the time we reached the end of September, we had a coalition here in Tampa of senior national representatives of some 15 or so nations,” said Army Gen. Tommy Franks, CENTCOM Commander in 2001.

Since the coalition formed it now has over 45 nations working together for a common cause of fighting terrorism. See the following link for more information about the history of the coalition forces at CENTCOM: <https://www.centcom.mil/AREA-OF-RESPONSIBILITY/CENTCOM-COALITION/>

MOAA Tampa Chapter has had the privilege of hosting the Coalition representatives for over 18 years at our monthly luncheons. They have certainly enriched our chapter, the Tampa Bay community and have been a big part of working with CENTCOM and Socom since 9/11.

Due to current world events, Colonel Trent Harris, Senior National Representative from Australia and Chairman of the Coalition has been unable to attend our luncheons, but we hope that he and other Senior National Representatives (SNRs) will be able to soon.

Each month at the Tampa MOAA luncheon representatives from the USCENTCOM International Coalition attend the luncheons. Below are representatives from eleven different nations.



Pictured in the white shirts former MOAA Tampa Chapter Presidents from L-R: Bob Silah, CAPT USN (Ret) and Bill Farrow, CW3 USA (Ret) with the 11 Coalition Senior National Representatives in 2008. Photo provided by Bob Sawallesh from a 2008 edition of *The Retrospect*.

## MOAA TAMPA MEMBERS AT THE WOMEN OF VALOR BRUNCH

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

Several members of the MOAA Tampa Chapter, Fran Chancey, Sara Marks and Ruth VanDyke, attended the Women of Valor brunch at The Tampa Club in downtown Tampa honoring women veterans hosted by the Post 9/11 Veterans Organization on March 25, 2026. Ruth VanDyke was one of the featured speakers and as the Tampa Bay and central Florida Military Women's Memorial ambassador along with 3 other Florida ambassadors. Ruth was pleased to introduce the President of the Military Women's Memorial, CW5 Phyllis Wilson, USA (Ret) who emphasized that everyone needs to tell their story to add to the data base using this link: <https://womensmemorial.org/make-herstory/>.

Thank you to the Post 911 Veterans Organization and their sponsors for honoring women veterans.



MOAA Tampa Chapter Members: LTC Fran Chancey, USA (Ret), CAPT Sara Marks, NC USN (Ret) and LTC Ruth VanDyke, USA (Ret)



CW5 Phyllis Wilson, USA (Ret) and President of the Military Women's Memorial and CAPT Sara Marks, NC USN (Ret).



LTC Ruth VanDyke, USA (Ret) and Army Women's Hall of Fame inductee presented about her Army career.



CW5 Phyllis Wilson, USA (Ret) emphasized that all women who have served need to tell their stories.



Pictured (L-R): Robert Paredes, Post 911 Veterans Organization, Barbara Tripp, Tampa Fire Chief and US Navy veteran, Ruth VanDyke, US Army veteran, Jenae Calloway, US Navy Veteran, Jason Valez, Post 911 Veterans Organization, Bruce Ramos, President, Post 911 Veterans Organization and US Army veteran, Lauren Jones, Volunteer Chair, Post 911 Veterans Organization, Christine Glover, Director of Internal Audit for the City of Tampa and South Carolina National Guard veteran and Michael Snyder, Post 911 Veterans Organization.



# POSITIVE ATTRIBUTES WE CAN MODEL FOR OUR CHILDREN

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

**Author: Andy McNeil, M.A., Senior Advisor, TAPS Youth Programs**

It has been said that children are keen observers but poor interpreters — meaning, they have a hard time distinguishing between behaviors they should mimic and those they should avoid. All adults in a child's life are models for how to behave, and children who have adults modeling positive attributes in their own lives are more likely to adopt these behaviors themselves as they grow into adulthood. Let's explore four positive attributes we can model that promote healthy growth and development in our children.



## FACING ADVERSITY WITH RESOLVE

Life will have adversity. No one knows this better than those of us who have experienced the painful reality of loss and grief. Children grieving the death of a family member or friend learn very early in life that there are different degrees of adversity, some more intense and life-altering than others. This is why it is important that we model how to face these challenges in life with a sense of resolve. This does not mean that we are perfect or hide our grief from our children. Facing adversity with resolve simply means that we keep going with determination even though our pathway is challenging to traverse. We can show our children that feelings are OK and expressing those feelings can be healthy. We can demonstrate how struggle and grief are to be expected when we experience loss, while at the same time modeling healthy approaches to facing hard times.

## ADAPTING TO CHANGE WITH HOPE

In the same way we model facing adversity with resolve, we can model how we adapt to all the changes loss brings to our lives with some amount of hope. Hope is not just a feeling or a fleeting thought. Hope is a mindset and lifestyle that we can build and nurture. For example, facing adversity with resolve, as mentioned above, can produce a sense of hope in our lives. Another component of hope is the ability to trust yourself and the ability to trust



others. We often focus attention on our failures and the failures of others, overlooking our strengths and the positive actions of others in our lives. Directing our attention to the good around and within us reminds us that we are capable and that others can be reliable.

Creating predictability and rituals; leaning into our ability to make choices for ourselves that friends and family validate; and believing that good things can happen in our lives, even amid the pain of loss, are all components of hope.



## SUCCEEDING WITH GRACE AND FAILING WITH DIGNITY

Winning and losing are parts of life we experience very early. Playing games, participating in sports, or competing in or outside of school are often a child's first experiences of success and failure. Succeeding with grace means learning how to be humble, yet confident in our success. Failing with dignity is recognizing that our self-worth is not fully dependent on perfection and that we have room for personal growth. This balance can be hard to strike, particularly for children who have already suffered a major loss. We can model for our children what it looks like to face life's many challenges with a positive attitude. We can remind our children that we cannot always control our circumstances, but we can control our attitude in the midst of those circumstances.

## ACCEPTING RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOUR CHOICES

People who accept responsibility for their choices are often more self-reliant, better able to adapt to changing circumstances, and more in control of their response to life's difficulties. Our children look to us and the other adults in their lives to learn how to accept responsibility for their personal choices. When we, as adults, admit when we behaved or reacted inappropriately; point out how personal choices impact a particular situation; or accept responsibility for our own actions and reactions, we're modeling accepting responsibility for our choices.

Though we are not fully in control of our children's behavior, we do have a responsibility to be their "teachers" through modeling positive, healthy behaviors. Consider what attributes you would like to encourage in your children's lives — taking from this list and those not mentioned that may be priorities for you and your family — and begin implementing these in your own life.

Photos: TAPS Archives

Source: <https://www.taps.org/stories/2025/positive-attributes-we-can-model-for-our-children/>

# Planning International Travel? What to Know Before You Go

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

**By: Lila Quintiliani**

Four in 10 Americans say they travel internationally once every five years, and 25% of high-income Americans do so yearly, according to [a recent survey](#). Here are some things to keep in mind if your travel plans include an international destination.

## Travel Documents

Some international destinations require visas. The United Kingdom, for example, instituted a requirement last January that all American citizens traveling to or transiting through the country obtain an [Electronic Travel Authorization](#) prior to travel. The European Union is set to implement the [European Travel Information and Authorization System \(ETIAS\)](#) in the last quarter of 2026. You can find visa requirements for other countries on the State Department's [Learn About Your Destination](#) page.

You'll also want to make sure your passport has sufficient validity. Many countries require three months' validity past travel dates, while some require six months.



—Photo kieferpix/Getty Images

## Travel Insurance

When it comes to medical care, all TRICARE beneficiaries are covered while traveling overseas, although you should always get all routine care and fill prescriptions before you leave. If you do seek medical care, you may have to pay up front and then file with the appropriate TRICARE Overseas contractor to be reimbursed (minus your cost share or deductible).

TRICARE is a health care program, not travel insurance. There are a number of valid reasons why you might want to purchase either a standalone travel insurance plan or an annual plan (if you have several trips planned).

What if you get sick and need to extend your stay? You might run up a large hotel bill and have to pay to change your return flight. What if the airline loses your bags and you have to purchase a new wardrobe? Or what if your plane is delayed by weather and you have non-refundable reservations for hotels and excursions that you miss? Travel insurance benefits like trip delay, lost/damaged baggage, and trip interruption can mitigate these losses.

Or what if you are on a cruise ship or hiking in a remote area and need to be evacuated due to a serious illness or injury? TRICARE covers air evacuation to the "nearest, safest location that can provide the required care," but that location may not be your hometown, or even within the U.S.

Trip insurance with medical evacuation and repatriation benefits can help you get back to your point of origin or home and may even pay for a medical escort to accompany you. If you're alone and hospitalized, these type of benefits might pay for a loved one to come and visit your bedside.

If you think that there is a chance you might need to cancel a trip completely, you'll want to opt for trip cancellation coverage.

Always read the fine print on the plan documents to make sure of the type and amount of coverage you are receiving. Pay attention to exclusions, which typically include things like pre-existing conditions, extreme adventure activities, and acts of war.

Some credit cards carry travel insurance protections if you use that card to pay for your trip. You'll want to check your card's guide to benefits to see if you have coverage.

## Vaccination Requirements

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) maintains a [Travelers' Health webpage](#) featuring travel health notices and vaccination requirements.

It's also a good idea to check travel requirements on an official website of the country you are planning on visiting, as regulations change frequently.

## A Good First STEP

The [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](#) is a free State Department service allowing you to enroll your overseas trip with the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate. This lets you receive information from the embassy about safety conditions in your destination country. You'll also help the embassy (and your family and friends) be able to contact you in an emergency.

Consular officers at embassies and consulates can assist U.S. citizens who encounter serious legal, medical, or financial difficulties overseas.

Source: <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2025-news-articles/finance/planning-international-travel-what-to-know-before-you-go/>



# 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.

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## 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!**



**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](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

By Bernard Lieving, COL (Chaplain) USA, Ret



One of the things I enjoy about being back on a church staff part-time is the fact that my office windows face the church's children's playground. Each afternoon when I am in the office the children attending the church's pre-school like to come and get my attention by knocking on my office windows, waving at me, laughing, and then running back to the playground equipment on which they climb, slide, and enjoy.

One day last week there were about a dozen children who were having a great time knocking on my windows. When I turned around to them and made funny faces, they would take off running and laughing.

Watching them I suddenly remembered a story in the Gospel of Matthew, the first book in the Christian New Testament. The story Matthew tells is that one time Jesus' twelve disciples came to him and asked this question, "Who is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" Matthew says that in response, Jesus called a child and put the child amid the disciples and said, "...Unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."

In response to reading those words in several translations and the commentaries related to the passage, I thought about and researched what it would mean for me to "become

like a child." Here are several phrases describing a child's personality traits. According to Jesus' words to his disciples these should be descriptors for our lives:

- |                                  |                           |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Children are humble.             | Children are forgiving.   |
| Children are loving.             | Children are cheerful.    |
| Children are trusting.           | Children have empathy.    |
| Children are open to learning.   | Children are believing.   |
| Children give without condition. | Children are imaginative. |

There are, of course, other characteristics of children. However, the above list is sufficient for me to set it against the life I live as an older adult and ask the question, do these characteristics describe the life I live with those with whom I am in relationship with: family, friends, church members, and Tampa Chapter MOAA members?

I invite you to look at the life you live using these personality traits of children as the foundation for your evaluation.

Research shows that adults often live out their childhood personality traits as adults even if they are not interested in entering the kingdom of heaven. If being part of God's kingdom of heaven does interest you, these descriptive phrases of children give you a road map.

## Commissaries Will Begin Charging for Bags in April

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

By: Kevin Lilley  
MARCH 23, 2026

Commissary shoppers will begin paying for single-use bags April 6 at most locations, a change that reportedly will save the Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA) [\\$17 million a year](#).

Shoppers will pay 5 cents per plastic bag and 10 cents per paper bag whether they are shopping in person or using pickup or delivery services. Those with pickup orders can avoid the surcharge by bringing their own bags, an option that will be available at the end of the [CLICK2GO ordering process](#).

Reusable bags will be available for purchase at all locations. The change won't affect shoppers in California, Guam, Hawaii, or Washington state, where single-use bags are not available.

The new fee also will not affect the commissary bagger process, where self-employed baggers working for tips provide bagging services.

The charge will allow DeCA "to continue to offer its eligible patrons significant savings while strengthening its fiscal stewardship and reducing operating expenses," the agency said in a [press release announcing the change](#).

Other recent commissary policy changes include an [extension through 2026](#) of a pilot program allowing Department of War civilian employees to shop at 19 commissary locations, and an expansion of commissary delivery availability to [70 stores nationwide](#).

Source: <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2026-news-articles/benefits/commissaries-will-begin-charging-for-bags-in-april/>



—Photo by Airman Sara Jenkins/Air Force

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Check out our NEW Instagram account!  
[https://www.instagram.com/moaa\\_tampa/](https://www.instagram.com/moaa_tampa/)



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

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

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

**Military Officers Association of America**

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