



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT: STEVE POULIN ADM USCG RET

GREETINGS!



Thanks again for your trust and confidence in appointing me as your Chapter President. We are heading into the peak of Spring, which always represents a time of renewal and rejuvenation. As you reflect on the season, I ask that you consider renewing your engagement and activity with the Tampa Chapter. The Board and I have discussed several initiatives to move our Chapter forward in its continued growth and activity. We hope you will be part of these initiatives as we roll them out and build momentum.

The most recent April lunch showed that we are off to a great start. We had a phenomenal speaker, COL Roland Tiso, USA (Ret). He discussed his book, *"In Strange Company: An American Soldier with Multinational Forces in the Middle East and Iraq."* His presentation was insightful, candid, and relevant for today's world events. We have additional speakers lined up for the next several monthly luncheons so please come and be enriched by the discussions.

We also had the opportunity to introduce new membership and welcome some important guests from the Hillsborough Veterans Council and Sun City MOAA chapter at the lunch. As I wrote last month, we need to increase the connective tissue between our Chapter and other local service organizations. These guests came to the lunch because they heard about the Tampa Chapter from our members who are active in other organizations. Spreading the word about the Tampa Chapter through other organizations is a proven way to increase awareness and expand membership.

And while the speaker and guests were engaging, the best part was our recognition of some extraordinary JROTC students from local high schools. It was inspiring to hear about their accomplishments of these impressive young people. One student from Freedom High School even sang the National Anthem a cappella to kick off the lunch! Our future is indeed in good hands.

April also represents an opportunity to support MOAA National's legislative priorities, called Advocacy in Action. I encourage you to educate yourselves on this year's four legislative priorities in support of service members, veterans and families. You can find them on MOAA's website. Our Tampa Chapter website www.moaatampa.org also has a link to the priorities. Advocacy is the foundational mission of MOAA; you have an opportunity to advocate and support the legislative priorities through the Legislative Action Center. I emailed the link to our membership earlier this month. You can also navigate to the Legislative Action Center on MOAA National's website. I also ask that you confirm your email address with us if you did not receive my email.

To close this month's message, I am pleased to announce that the MOAA Tampa Chapter was one of the chapters recognized this year with the MOAA Colonel Marvin J. Harris Communication Award, especially noting our 5-star *The Retrospect* newsletter and website. Well done!

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 7, 2026
Board of Directors Meeting
Virtual 7 PM – 8 PM

May 14, 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/>

REMINDER:

SUBMISSION DEADLINE
FOR THE JUNE 2026
ISSUE IS 20 MAY 2026

Please submit articles in a Word Document and photos in JPEG
Email articles to
coms@moaatampa.org

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



LEGISLATIVE LOWDOWN



BEN RITTER, SGT USMC
(FORMER)/HONORARY MBR

Capt NORM BILD,
USAF RET

Advocacy in Action 2026: When MOAA Speaks, Congress Listens!

For several decades, MOAA has stood as a powerful voice in Washington for those who wear and have worn the uniform, and for their families. From preserving earned benefits to adopting policies to protect and sustain the full force, MOAA exists to serve the uniformed services community in the halls of Congress.

On April 15, MOAA National staff members along with chapter members visited congressional offices in Washington DC as part of our Advocacy in Action. MOAA members brought and discussed the organization's top priorities, visiting nearly 300 congressional offices, interacting with lawmakers and staff members around conference tables, in hallways, and over coffee as they carried forward the mission of preserving service-earned benefits for all who are serving and for those who have served, including their family members and survivors.

As MOAA President and CEO LT GEN Brian T. Kelly, USAF

(Ret), described it, Advocacy in Action is "an energy-adding event" that highlights the power of grassroots advocacy, the strength of our membership, and the vitality of our democracy.

Florida was represented in Washington at this event by three teams and six delegates, but the true strength of our Florida team came from members back home. Led by Team Captain Pierre Louis, Council Legislative Affairs Chair, Florida's effort paired in-person engagement with a robust digital campaign. While our delegation held 21 meetings with congressional offices, members across the state amplified the message by delivering more than 4,500 communications to lawmakers. Together, this synchronized effort sent a clear and unified message: Protect the earned benefits of those who serve and have served, along with their families and survivors. Leveraging a statewide network of more than 30,000 MOAA members, Florida ensured that lawmakers heard a consistent, compelling voice from both Capitol Hill and their home districts.

This year's Advocacy in Action delivered results on two fronts - in person on Capitol Hill and across the country through a coordinated digital campaign. Here's what we accomplished:

- **160 MOAA volunteers** participated in the Capitol Hill event.
- **Over 300 in-person office visits** were conducted in both the House and Senate.
- **More than 50 meetings** were held directly with lawmakers.
- **Nearly 25,000 constituent messages** were sent to lawmakers by MOAA advocates from all 50 states - the most ever during a campaign.

This year, our advocates went to Capitol Hill on behalf of four critical, bipartisan priorities: **The Major Richard Star Act - H.R.2102**, **The Shutdown Fairness Act - H.R 5801**, **The GUARD VA Benefits Act - H.R, 1732**, and **The Military CARE Act - H.R. 6796**. Each of these bills represents a key

effort to fix real problems affecting servicemembers and their families, and each one is within reach with sustained pressure from concerned constituents.

Links to the four bills, now in the US Congress:

The Major Richard Star Act - H.R. 2102: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/house-bill/2102>

The Shutdown Fairness Act - H.R 5801: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/house-bill/5801>

The GUARD VA Benefits Act - H.R. 1732: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/house-bill/1732>

The Military CARE Act - H.R. 6796: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/house-bill/6796>

The last of these four issues, the **Military CARE Act** is especially significant. Lawmakers pay close attention to the voices of constituents from their districts. When our MOAA national and local chapter advocates sat down in congressional offices in DC on April 15, they were reinforcing a message that those lawmakers had already been receiving from constituents from across their districts and states nationwide. This type of combined coordination - digital outreach followed by face-to-face advocacy - is what tells lawmakers that these issues matter to servicemembers, veterans, and families at home.

What's Next: With the release of the president's budget, the National Defense Authorization Act process has begun in earnest, engaging MOAA at every level. As the 119th Congress enters its final stretch, MOAA National will continue to keep members informed and will be ready to act as these priorities move through the legislative calendar.

This summer, MOAA's council and chapter leaders will also be leading a **Summer Advocacy in Action**, bringing grassroots

continued on page 2

LEGISLATIVE LOWDOWN cont.

advocacy directly to communities across the country. Details will be coming soon. Meanwhile, local chapter members nationwide are encouraged to connect with their local congressional representatives - US House and Senate members. Results can be better achieved when we participate and establish a relationship with our members of the US congress. The nearly 25,000 messages that were sent, the almost 300 office visits, the direct conversations with lawmakers - all of them prove that a community that participates in resolving pertinent issues will stand a better chance of becoming positively resolved.

Note that it is never too late to join the effort. You may find the resources you need at MOAA

National's Legislation Action Center. If you have questions and would like to speak with the MOAA National Member Service Center, call (800) 234-6622 and ask to speak with a Chapter Affairs Specialist. You may also find the resources that you need at MOAA National's website at: www.moaa.org

Sources:

- (1) Florida Council of Chapters: <https://flmoaa.org>
- (2) MOAA: www.moaa.org
- (3) Advocacy In Action: <https://moaa.quorum.us>



JROTC COMPASS PROGRAM AT MY WARRIOR'S PLACE

—By Carol Zieres, COL USA (Ret) —Photo credit: Carol Zieres

The MOAA Tampa Chapter sponsored a JROTC Compass Retreat held at My Warriors Place in Punta Gorda, Florida on 10 -12 April 2026. The program was fully funded using MOAA Foundation Community grant funds. I participated as a Chaperone for the event and would like to share a few notes about the curriculum and my observations throughout the weekend:

- Seventeen Junior ROTC Cadets attended the Retreat (Eleven cadets from Freedom High School and Six cadets from Boca Ciega High School).
- Purpose and Expected Outcomes: This was an interactive program with a blend of workshops, seminars, group projects, and experiential learning activities guided by experienced professionals with backgrounds in leadership training and youth development.
- Cadets learned leadership skills through interactive workshops and real-world scenarios to build confidence and resiliency.
- Training sessions focused on understanding personality types, enhancing verbal and non-verbal communication, active listening, and effective feedback mechanisms.
- Team building included collaborative exercises that build trust and cooperation with their peers and the understanding of diverse perspectives within a team setting.

This program significantly contributed to the holistic development of the JROTC cadets preparing them to excel in their future endeavors. My Warrior's Place has traditionally offered a "Forever Warrior" program to Veterans, but until now, has never been able to offer a similar program to Junior ROTC Cadets. The MOAA grant funding afforded the opportunity to make modifications and tailor the program for those who have never served, specifically youth, ages 13 to 18. This 3-day program was hence renamed, "JROTC Compass program" and the curriculum is designed to make the Junior ROTC cadets better citizens and inspire future leaders whether they go on to serve in the US military or pursue a civilian career.

It was a privilege for me to be involved in the planning and execution of this 3-day retreat as well as observe the Cadets during a variety of confidence-building exercises in a relaxed, picturesque setting on the Peace River. I saw first-hand the bond of friendships that emerged as Cadets sat around the campfire, "chattering," while roasting S'mores in the evening and learning new balance techniques during the group activity, Tai Chi. Graduation was held on Sunday afternoon and parents of the cadets were invited to attend. Cadets received a JROTC Compass coin and pin along with their diploma documenting their proud achievement and then all enjoyed a baked lasagna dinner complete with graduation cake.

A special thank you to Ms. Kelly Kowall, Founder and CEO of My Warriors Place, who worked tirelessly to put this program together, not only developing the curriculum for the program, but also teaching and demonstrating each module as a primary instructor! Kelly is always looking for individuals to volunteer at My Warriors Place and given sufficient funding, is hopeful that the JROTC Compass Retreat can be offered again next year.



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

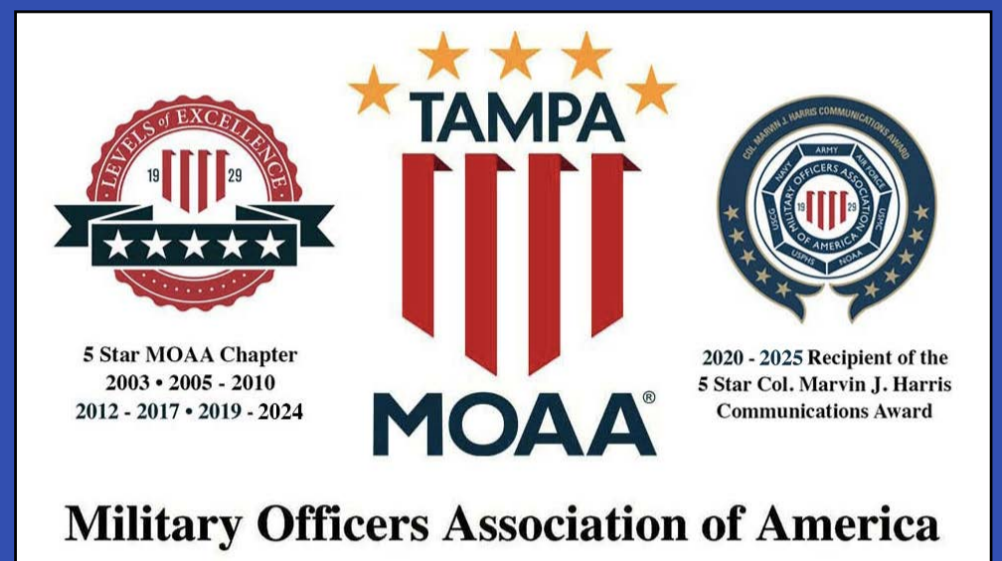
2026 DIRECTORS:

- 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
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 E-Mail: Secretary@moaatampa.org





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MEDICAL CORNER

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

Health Care Incivility

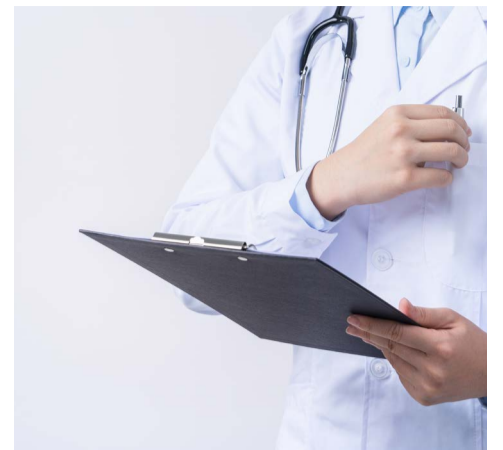
Have you been on the receiving end of rudeness/incivility? Have you ever inflicted rudeness/incivility on a health care practitioner?

Recent studies have shown that an estimated 25% of clinicians have experienced workplace rudeness/incivility, and one-third have witnessed it, according to a meta-analysis published in 2024 in the *Journal of Advanced Nursing*, and a 2017 study found that incivility can affect health care quality.

The anonymity of online access has provided an additional venue to inflict hostile communication.

For further information click on the link:

<https://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/i-hate-you-and-other-things-people-say-their-doctors-2026a10008fg?form=fpf>



Surviving Spouse Corner: Understanding VA Survivors Pension Benefits

—Submitted by Frances Chancey LTC USA (Ret)



Losing a loved one who served in the military is never easy, and navigating benefits afterward can feel overwhelming. One important resource that may be available is the VA Survivors Pension, a tax-free monthly benefit designed to provide financial support to qualifying family members of wartime veterans.

What Is the VA Survivors Pension?

The VA Survivors Pension offers monthly payments to qualified surviving spouses and unmarried dependent children of wartime veterans. This benefit is intended to help those with limited income and resources, and eligibility is based on financial need. Income and net worth limits are set by Congress and may

change periodically.

Who May Be Eligible?

You may be eligible for the VA Survivors Pension if you meet the following criteria:

You are the surviving spouse of a deceased veteran and have not remarried after their death

You are an unmarried dependent child of a deceased wartime veteran

The veteran did not receive a dishonorable discharge

The veteran's service meets at least one of the VA's wartime service requirements

Understanding Service Requirements



To qualify, the veteran must have served during a recognized wartime period and meet at least one of these conditions:

- Served 90 days or more of active duty, with at least one day during a wartime period (for service before September 8, 1980), or
- Served 24 months or the full period for which they were called to active duty, with at least one day during wartime (for service after that date)

Financial Eligibility

Because the Survivors Pension is a needs-based benefit, your income and net worth play a key role in determining eligibility. The VA considers:

Countable income (such as wages, retirement, and Social Security)

Net worth, including assets like savings and investments

Certain medical expenses may reduce your countable income, which can help you qualify or increase your benefit amount.

Why This Benefit Matters

For many families, the VA Survivors Pension provides essential financial stability during a difficult time. It helps ensure that the surviving family members of those who served our country are not left without support.

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

NAVY MEDICINE FAST FACTS

April 2026

NAVY MEDICINE IN ITALY

A Historical Review



THE SURGEON, THE KING, AND THE POPE

- On Aug. 1, 1849, while anchored in the Bay of Naples, the USS Constitution played host to King Ferdinand II of the Two Sicilies and Pope Pius IX.
- Surgeon Charles Guillon, the ship's senior medical officer, served as the escort and translator for the dignitaries.
- Upon seeing the Pontiff take a seat and looking visibly pale, Guillon recognized the symptoms of seasickness, and provided a remedy that offered Pope Pius immediate relief.
- The following day, the Pope's emissary returned to the ship to distribute rosaries to the crew and a personal invitation for Surgeon Guillon to visit St. Peter's Basilica.



HA1c PILEWSKI AND THE SAVANNAH

- During the Allied landings near Salerno, Italy (Operation Avalanche, Sept. 3-17, 1943), the Western Naval Task Force (TF-80) landed over 170,000 troops. This mission came with a heavy cost. The U.S. Navy suffered the loss of 800 Sailors and three destroyers (Bristol, Buck, and Rowan) while the light cruiser USS Savannah (CL 42) was nearly destroyed.
- On Sept. 11, 1943, while Savannah was providing critical shore bombardment it was struck by a German radio-controlled glide bomb. The bomb pierced the ship's armor, igniting fires aboard which filled the ship with dense smoke and toxic gases. Within minutes of the attack the cruiser plunged into darkness as electrical power failed. Amidst the chaos and the looming threat of a magazine explosion, Hospital Apprentice First Class (HA1c) George Pilewski went into action. With disregard for his own safety, Pilewski repeatedly entered the smoke-filled turrets to evacuate Sailors. He continued lifesaving efforts until he was overcome by toxic smoke while administering artificial respiration to a Sailor. Pilewski was posthumously awarded the Navy Cross.

DID YOU KNOW? U.S. Navy medical personnel have served in Italy—and before 1861 on the Italian peninsula states—as far back as 1804 when a naval hospital was established in Syracuse, Kingdom of Sicily. Through the years, naval personnel have operated medical / dental facilities in Afrogola, Capodichino, Gaeta, La Maddalena, Leghorn (Livorno), Pisa, Genoa, Naples, Palermo, Pinetamare, and Sigonella in support of the Mediterranean / European Squadron and later U.S. 5th / 6th Fleets, and Navy Region Europe, Africa, Central (EURAFCENT).

BSO-18 NAVY MEDICAL ACTIVITIES IN ITALY

NMRTC NAPLES

- 1951. Naval dispensary established in Naples.
- 1968. Original Naval Hospital Naples is commissioned.
- 2019. Navy Medicine Readiness & Training Command (NMRTC) Naples is established.

NAMRU-EURAFCENT

- 1946. Naval Medical Research Unit No. 3. (NAMRU-3) opens in Cairo, Egypt
- 2019. NAMRU-3 relocates to Sigonella.
- 2023. NAMRU-3 is redesignated NAMRU-EURAFCENT.

NMRTC SIGONELLA

- 1959. Naval dispensary established at Naval Air Facility (NAF) Sigonella.
- 1993. Naval Hospital Sigonella is commissioned.
- 2019. NMRTC Sigonella is established.

NAMRU-EURAFCENT

- 1946. Naval Medical Research Unit No. 3. (NAMRU-3) opens in Cairo, Egypt
- 2019. NAMRU-3 relocates to Sigonella.
- 2023. NAMRU-3 is redesignated NAMRU-EURAFCENT.



COMMON TERMS AND THEIR ITALIAN ORIGINS

QUARANTINE

Derived from the Italian word "quaranta," meaning "forty." In the 14th century, Venice required ships arriving from plague-stricken ports to anchor in isolation for quaranta giorni (forty days) before landing.

LAZARETTO

Quarantine station for maritime travelers originating on the island of Santa Maria di Nazaret in Venice, where the first such station was established in 1423. Originally "nazarotto" (Nazareth) but later morphed into "lazaretto" because of its association with leper hospitals (lazar houses) and named after St. Lazarus, the patron saint of lepers.

INFLUENZA

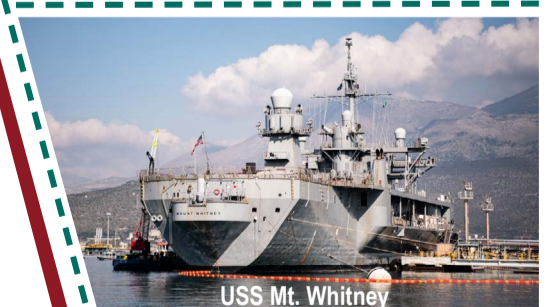
Originally an Italian word meaning "influence"—based on the astrological belief that the stars and planets influenced the spread of diseases like the flu.

MALARIA

From the Medieval Italian phrase, "mala aria" meaning "bad air." Before it was known that mosquitoes were disease vectors, ill health was associated with noxious air and influences (miasmatic theory of disease).

SCENARIO

Theatrical term meaning "scene setting" or "plot outline." Term first associated with "hypothetical situations" (e.g., war) in the 1950s.

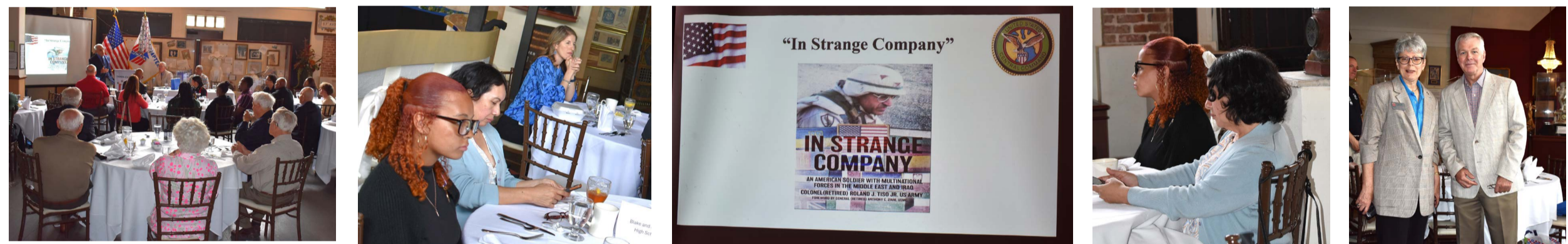


U.S. 6th Fleet Flag Ships Based in Italy

- 1967-1976: USS Little Rock (CLG 4)
- 1976-1980: USS Albany (CA 123)
- 1980-1985: USS Puget Sound (AD 38)
- 1985-1986: USS Coronado (AGF 11)
- 1986-1994: USS Belknap (CG 26)
- 1994-2005: USS La Salle (AGF 3)
- 2005-Present: USS Mount Whitney (LCC 20)

April Luncheon Photos

Photo Credit: Ben Ritter and Carol Zieres



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



April was a very busy month for me. As indicated in my last editor notes, I was on travel much of April and returned last Friday May 1st. I want to thank everyone who was able to submit their articles early so that I had them prepared before leaving on my trip to The Netherlands and Belgium, which helped me this week to finish up the final touches of the newsletter. I also want to thank

each of you who read *The Retrospect* for your patience with the occasional later publication of our monthly newsletter because of my love of travel. Take the time to read my article about touring Flanders Fields while I was in Belgium. I learned so much, and hope that you'll find the photos and my brief commentary interesting and informative. There was so much more that I could have included, but I think I provided most of the highpoints.

I'm also excited that both our newsletter and website received the Five Star Marvin J. Harris Communications Award! Know that all that each of you do for this chapter contribute greatly to the rich content provided in our newsletter and on our website. My congratulations to each of you, especially to our publisher, Emily Yates, our website manager, Michael Higgins, and I'd also like to thank my newsletter proof editors, Barbara Brotherton, Kiley Stinson and Glenn Juman and for the luncheon photos each month, Ben Ritter, Maryna Juman and Carol Zieres help to provide. Finally, thank you to each of you who provide articles on a regular basis for our newsletter!

It is a pleasure to highlight our May luncheon guest speaker, Joseph Gollasch, LTC USA (Ret) in this edition of *The Retrospect* and a big thank you to Barbara Brotherton for sending out his bio along with the luncheon reservation reminder. If you missed his bio in the email, please take time to read it in the newsletter. He's currently the President of the MOAA Council of Virtual Chapters.

There are a couple of articles highlighting our chapter's involvement with the JROTC. Last month we honored four cadets from four different high schools, and Carol Zieres' article about the JROTC involvement with a confidence building course held at My Warrior's Place in Punta Gorda last April. The Surviving Spouse Corner has important information about survivor benefits. Make sure to read an inspira-

tional write up in the Chaplain Corner by Tony Clark and Bob Sawallesh's rocketry article, along with the other features 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.

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.

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. Please send your stories to my MOAA Tampa email: coms@moaatampa.org.

Finally, as a happily retired Navy Nurse, Happy Nurses Week this first week of May and Happy Birthday to the US Navy Nurse Corps! And let us remember all who gave their full measure for our freedoms this month.

"They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old; Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning ~ We will remember them."
—Laurence Binyon, *For the Fallen*

Let us never forget. - NEVER STOP SERVING!

Sara Marks, CAPT NC USN (Ret)

THE RETROSPECT is published monthly by the Tampa Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), P.O. Box 6383, MacDill Air Force Base, FL 33608-0383. The Tampa Chapter is a 501(c)(19) tax exempt

veterans' organization not associated with the Department of Defense and is an affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA).

OUR EDITORIAL POLICY:

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

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

ON THE WEB:

Tampa Chapter <https://moaatampa.org>

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

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

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

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

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

MOAA NATIONAL: www.moaa.org

OPERATION HELPING HAND:

www.operationhelpinghandtampa.com

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

MOAA'S NEWS LISTING - Click for the latest news and resources from MOAA www.moaa.org

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

April Luncheon 50/50 Raffle Winner Art Whiting, CAPT USCG (Ret)



Congratulations Art!!! Pictured with Barbara Brotherton.



NAVY MEDICINE FAST FACTS

Special Edition 13
2025



NAVY NURSE CORPS LEGENDS THE SACRED TWENTY



- On May 13, 1908, President Theodore Roosevelt signed the Naval Appropriations Bill that authorized the establishment of the Nurse Corps as a unique component of the Navy.
- The new Nurse Corps was comprised of 20 experienced nurses—a superintendent (Esther Hasson), two chief nurses (Martha Pringle and Victoria White) and 17 others who together would be remembered as the "Sacred Twenty."



"We learned rapidly the naval standards and the jargon of the Navy; we became adept in diplomacy, which, as you all know, is the art of letting someone else have your way."

Slowly our numbers increased and little by little our influence extended and our own standards of nursing and administration were incorporated in the Navy hospitals."
—Lenah Sutcliffe Higbee on the beginnings of the Navy Nurse Corps

HOW TO BECOME A NAVY NURSE IN 1908

- Prospective Navy nurses were required to travel to the Naval Hospital Washington, D.C., at their own expense and take an oral and written examination assessing their professional knowledge, moral character and physical fitness.
- Requirements included: nursing school graduates; experience in medical and surgical care; and treating patients with communicable diseases.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Average age: 34 years old (youngest =25, oldest =49)

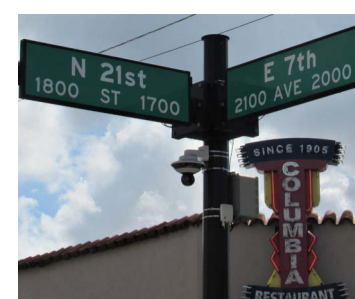
Average length of naval service: 11.15 years

Places of Origin: Maryland (5), Pennsylvania (3), Canada (3), Washington, D.C. (1), Indiana (1), Iowa (1), Michigan (1), New Jersey (1), New Hampshire (1), New York (1), Tennessee (1) and Wisconsin (1).

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



MAY LUNCHEON MEETING



EVENT: Chapter Monthly Luncheon Meeting

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

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

RESERVATIONS: Reservations must be made by NOON Friday, 8 May. Call 321-258-7388 OR via email to LunchReservations@moaatampa.org. Reservations are limited to 60. A Reservation Made is a Reservation Paid.

CANCELLATIONS: Cancellations must be made by NOON Monday, 11 May, by calling 321-258-7388 OR via email to LunchReservations@moaatampa.org.

COST: Event cost is \$35 payable by check or cash, \$36 by credit card (includes service charge).

MASKS: Masks are optional.

DRESS CODE: Proper attire is business casual for all (i.e., for men, slacks/collared shirts). Military uniforms are always appropriate.

MENU: 1905 Salad, Cuban Bread and butter, Ropa Vieja, Pollo Salteado, White Rice, Fresh Green Beans, Coffee, Iced Tea, Soft Drinks and Flan

PARKING: Across the street from the Columbia Restaurant and behind the Columbia Restaurant Luncheon reminders are sent via email. If you are not receiving the reminders, please call 321-258-7388 or send an email to LunchReservations@moaatampa.org to be added to the distribution list.

BULLETIN BOARD

CARING FOR OUR "SHUT-IN" MEMBERS

Our Chapter wants to become aware of members who are hospitalized, homebound, in care facilities or just plain sick and has provided a way for you to inform us. Please contact Lt Col Kiley Stinson, USAF Ret, Sick Call Chairman 813-957-1127 so that he may call or send cards to let them know they are missed.

Alternatively, you may send an e-mail to: Secretary@moaatampa.org

VETERANS TREATMENT COURT

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

Keep Your MOAA Contact Updated

Please email any email address changes to "membership@moaatampa.org" or go to your account at moaa.org and update mailing address, phone number, email address under the "Profile Info" once logged into your account.

Florida Veteran's Benefit Guide for 2025 Link:

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

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



Buddy Call Program

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

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

VOLUNTEER POSITIONS AVAILABLE

You'll hear the Chapter President frequently mention "Never Stop Serving," and you'll see it sprinkled throughout this newsletter. This Chapter depends on that volunteer spirit from you its members to accomplish so many great things.

Everything the Chapter does is accomplished by volunteers, and there are currently several volunteer positions open, including: Surviving Spouse Liaison, Director of Outreach, Assistant Editor for the chapter newsletter *The Retrospect*, Assistant Secretary, Assistant Membership, Historian/Archivist, Public Affairs, Guard and Reserve Liaison, Scholarship Committee, Buddy Calls, Photographer, Fundraising and Advertising, 6th Medical Group Liaison, and VA Hospital Liaison.

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

IMPORTANT DATES IN MAY

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Month of the Military Caregiver | 10 Mother's Day |
| National Military Appreciation Month | 11-17 Armed Forces Week |
| 1 Silver Star Service Banner Day | 13 Navy Nurse Corps Birthday |
| 6-12 National Nurses Week | 13 Children of Fallen Patriots Day |
| 7 National Prayer Day | 15 Peace Officers Memorial Day |
| 8 VE Day | 17 Armed Forces Day |
| 8 Military Spouse Appreciation Day | 25 Memorial Day |



Welcome New Members

Lt Col Robert Carlson, USAF (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

If Our Sons Were to Meet

Author: Martha von Diezelski Maxey
 —Printed with permission by TAPS



Lance Corporal Andrew Joseph Maxey, U.S. Marine Corps



Corporal Craig Moir, U.S. Marine Corps

If our sons were to meet,
 In that place where they have gone
 Would they spend time together and become good friends
 Like their moms left here have done?

A friendship born out of unthinkable loss
 Is a gift we did not choose
 But we know that we have each other
 And with that, we cannot lose.

Are there friends in heaven? I like to think it's true
 And if there are, our sons would surely meet
 With a hearty "OoRah!" and "Semper Fi!"
 For the life they both knew

As gentlemen, they extended a hand
 As they greet,
 And look each other in the eye —
 They know they were meant to meet.

If our sons were to meet,
 How would they spend their time?
 Would they share a beer
 Or play a game of catch
 Or talk about days gone by?

We can almost see them standing there,
 In their dress blues, so handsome and sharp
 To their Mama's eyes they bring a tear
 While pride fills their hearts.

If our sons were to meet,
 What stories would they share?
 Their lives were once worlds apart,
 But now a bond is there.

Where might they meet,
 On the diamond or the court?
 Giving a high-five
 Each time one would score.

When they speak of their moms,
 Surely, they would smile,
 Recalling their love and devotion.
 And somehow they could feel it still.
 As their hearts filled with emotion.
 Perhaps they would chat about their lives
 And all they used to do.
 Though far apart, one thing is was the same
 Their hearts were good and true.

When they decided it was time to move on,
 They'd wave a happy goodbye,
 They would exchange another hearty "OoRah!"
 And another "Semper Fi!"

They are part of us still,
 Though life is different where they now reside,
 But someday when our time has come,
 We will join them on the other side.

But until then, we will stay strong,
 As they would want us to.
 For if our sons were to meet,
 We hope we'd know it, too.



In memory of Cpl Craig Moir and LCpl Andrew Joseph Maxey, U.S. Marine Corps
 Martha von Diezelski Maxey is the surviving mother of LCpl Andrew Joseph Maxey, U.S. Marine Corps
 Photos: Martha von Diezelski Maxey and Diana Moir
 Source: <https://www.taps.org/articles/31-1/if-our-sons-were-to-meet>



Advertise in the monthly MOAA Tampa Chapter Newsletter



The **RETROSPECT**
 TAMPA CHAPTER — A FIVE STAR CHAPTER OF MOAA NATIONAL



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

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

DIGITAL PUBLISHING

Ad Deadline	Inserts
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.

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

Turn Compassion Into Action! Join the Service to the Armed Forces Team!

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



Volunteers Urgently Needed in the Following Areas at MacDill AFB:

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

Additional security clearance may be required in compliance with government regulations

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

To learn more, visit redcross.org or contact:

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



Scan with cell phone camera to apply!

Articles of Interest Found on the Web

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



Defense Department proposes splitting military health system budget
<https://www.navytimes.com/pay-benefits/military-benefits/health-care/2026/05/05/defense-department-proposes-splitting-military-health-system-budget/>

How a band of Marines staved off the British and helped save the Declaration of Independence
<https://www.navytimes.com/veterans/military-history/2026/04/28/how-a-band-of-marines-staved-off-the-british-and-helped-save-the-declaration-of-independence/>

As US eyes smaller military footprint in Europe, new unit trains for drone warfare
<https://www.armytimes.com/news/your-military/2026/05/05/as-us-eyes-smaller-military-footprint-in-europe-new-unit-trains-for-drone-warfare/>

How MREs inspired today's meal-delivery industry
<https://www.armytimes.com/off-duty/military-culture/2026/02/26/how-mres-inspired-todays-meal-delivery-industry/>

Harvard Medical School: AI Beat Doctors for Emergency Room Diagnosis
<https://www.newsmax.com/health/health-news/ai-artificial-intelligence-diagnosis/2026/05/05/id/1255241/>

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

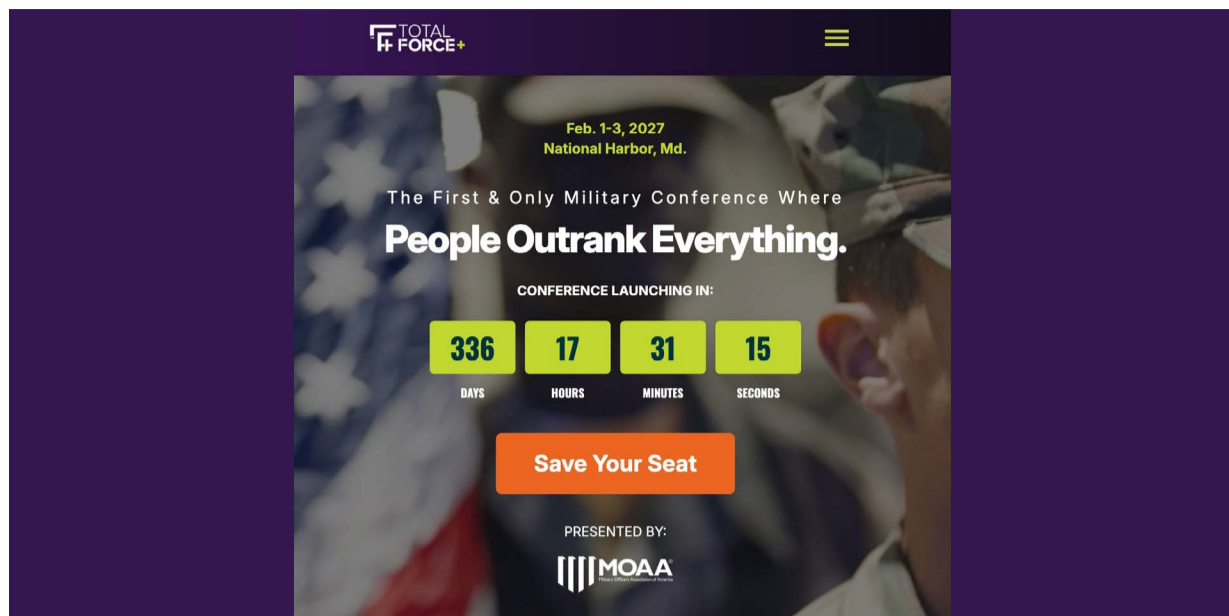
Call [00 1 800 273 8255](tel:0018002738255) or DSN 111

In the Philippines

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

MOAA PRESENTS NEXT TOTAL FORCE CONFERENCE FEB 1-3, 2027

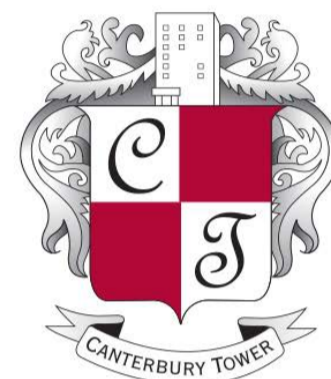
Click on the link to learn more: <https://totalforceplus.moaa.org/>



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A TOUR OF FLANDERS FIELDS:

Commonwealth & German Cemeteries, Trenches and the town of Ieper, Belgium

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

WWI is known as the Forgotten War or known in the day as “The War to End All Wars.” Many of the impacts of this war led to the events that would unfold and lead to WWII. I had the opportunity while in Belgium to tour Flanders Fields that included a Commonwealth Cemetery Tyne Cot Cemetery & Memorial and a German cemetery. Belgium and to the Sommes in Northern France there are over 500 cemeteries with soldiers from the Commonwealth, which includes Great Britain, Ireland, India, Australia, New Zealand and Canada; France, Belgium, Germany and the United States. There are only four German cemeteries in Belgium. One can imagine the angst of the farmers trying to reclaim their land, but still the dead must be buried. The German cemetery that I visited had over 25,000 soldiers buried in that one area. The headstones in the Tyne Cot Cemetery & Memorial still have many “known only but to God.” However, they are still finding the remains of those who died in battle and with various modern techniques are able to identify many of them. It’s been over 100 years, but I can only imagine that those who may know of their family who served during that terrible war, it must provide some solace to know what happened to them.

Town of Ieper, Belgium, which the French spelling of Ypres may be more familiar, was totally destroyed during WWI. It was completely rebuilt in its original Medieval style. A beautiful gate, much like the Arch de Triumph in Paris is called the Menin Gate and honors the Commonwealth soldiers who died in that area. The Last Post is held every evening at 8:00 PM to honor all those who died.

I was able to tour an area with the remains of the trenches that the soldiers on both sides fought from, and “no man’s land” was in between. The lines of who gained yards of territory moved constantly during this long and terrible war. The United States did not enter until 1917 and had terrible losses in those years, too.

Finally, John D. McCrae wrote a poem “In Flanders Fields” May 3, 1915. An American nurse, Ella Jane Osborn wrote a response “The Answer” in 1918. Both are beautifully written, but I’ll quote her poem in response to “In Flanders Fields” found in The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American history https://www.gilderlehrman.org/history-resources/spotlight-primary-source/world-war-i-poems-flanders-fields-and-answer-1918?gad_source=1&gad_campaignid=10648156210&gclid=CjwKCAjwqubPBhBOEiwA-zgZX2pHb9eL8efr852M7XZyyFNWBt-pTG5IAjEjEp6xXmRURv8a6bSbrdCxoC00cQAVd_BwE :

*“Sleep peacefully, for all is well.
Your flaming torch aloft we bear,
With burning heart an oath we swear
To keep the faith to fight it through.
To crush the foe, or sleep with you
In Flanders Field.”*

I pray that we don’t forget the lessons of war, especially this upcoming Memorial Day that we will have an outbreak of peace throughout the world.



Painting depicts Ieper, Belgium destroyed after WWI.



Members of a Post Ceremony of a repatriated soldier



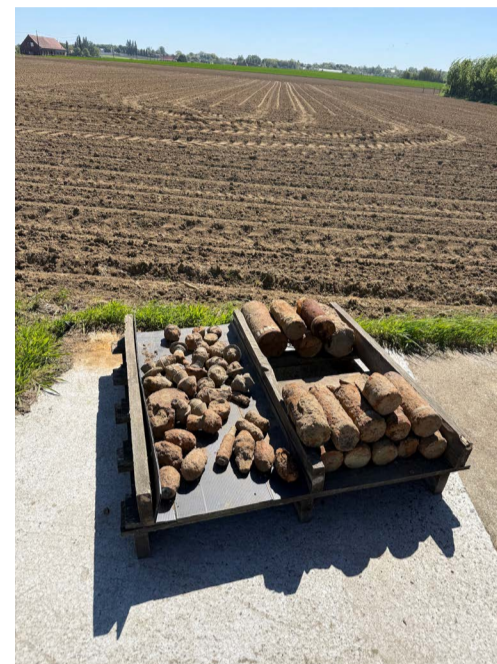
Headstones of soldiers who may or may not be buried in those graves in the Tyne Cot Cemetery & Memorial.



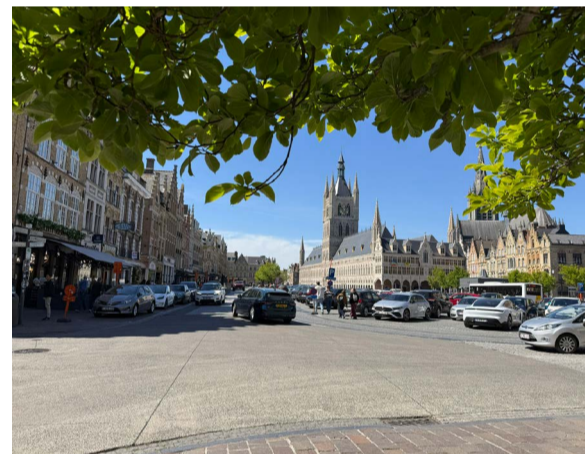
A headstone of a Victoria Cross recipient



Tyne Cot Cemetery & Memorial



This freshly plowed field from a few days earlier still has unexploded ordnance from WWI.



The town of Ieper, Belgium. The clock tower was completely destroyed and the rebuild was completed in 2015. The entire Medieval town was reproduced after WWI.



The Menin Gate honors more than 54,000 Commonwealth soldiers who died in WWI.



Over 168 soldiers are buried in the Tyne Cot Cemetery & Memorial. Many of the soldiers were eventually relocated and buried here including two German soldiers who died on these particular fields.



Flanders is very flat, but the hill in the distance is where Northern France starts.



This is a German cemetery from WWI in Flanders Fields. Note the darker colored markers.



THE LAST POST ASSOCIATION
is an independent association of local people from Ieper, which since 1928 has organised the daily Last Post ceremony under the Menin Gate memorial at 8 p.m. each evening. The Last Post is played in honour of the 250,000 soldiers of the British Commonwealth and all other Allied nations who died in the Ypres Salient during the First World War (1914-1918).

THE CEREMONY
The buglers take up their position under the furthest (eastern) arch of the memorial at exactly 8 p.m.

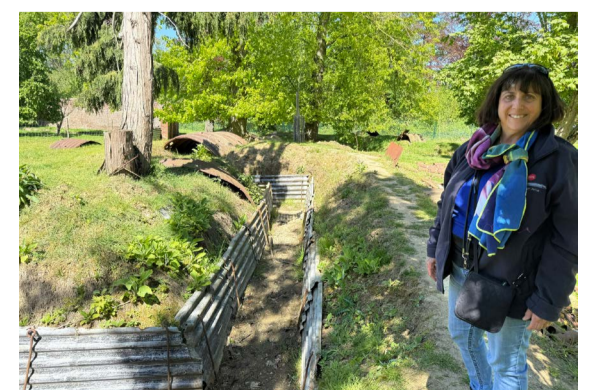
- Order of ceremony:
- Call to Attention
 - Last Post (final salute to the fallen)
 - Exhortation (from “For the fallen” by L. Binyon)
 - A minute’s silence
 - Wreath laying
 - Reveille (symbolic return to life)

CONDUCT AT THE GATE
To allow this remembrance ceremony to take place in a fitting atmosphere, we kindly ask all those present to comply with the following:

- please stand only in those areas of the pavement indicated on the map (see below left);
- please remain silent throughout the entire ceremony;
- please do not applaud either during or after the ceremony.

MEMBERSHIP
Anyone who wishes to support the ceremony can do so by becoming a member of the Last Post Association. For more information: www.lastpost.be

APP
The free Last Post App, available from the App Store and Google Play, provides visitors with much more information about the ceremony, the Menin Gate and the soldiers who are commemorated on it.



Standing by a former series of trenches used during WWI though in the war there would have been sandbags. Unexploded ordnance is still found in these areas.

MAY 2026 MOAA TAMPA LUNCHEON GUEST SPEAKER:

LTC JOSEPH P. GOLLASCH, USA(RET)

President of the MOAA Council of Virtual Chapters



Gollasch enlisted in the Army Reserve, in 1982, as a private and served as a medic for seven years while attending nursing school in Buffalo, NY. Following graduation, he was commissioned in the Army Nurse Corps and went on active-duty status. He served for 22 years on active duty and retired in 2010. While serving he had five deployments including GTMO, Hungary, Macedonia, and two tours in Iraq. He held numerous positions of leadership in garrison and field units.

In 2010 Gollasch joined the MOAA El Paso, TX Chapter where he served as Secretary and Membership Chair. In 2015, COL(R) Jeri Graham and Joe co-founded the very first MOAA Virtual Chapter, MOAA Army Nurse Advocates Virtual Chapter. He now serves and President of the MOAA Uniformed Service Nurse Advocates Virtual Chapter and President of the MOAA Council of Virtual Chapters. MOAA now has eight (8) virtual chapters with close to 1400 members in all 50 States.

JROTC STUDENTS RECEIVE MOAA AWARDS AT MOAA TAMPA LUNCHEON APRIL 2026

—By: Sara Marks — Photo credits: Ben Ritter and Carol Zieres

In April 2026 the MOAA Tampa Chapter hosted four JROTC students at our monthly luncheon. Our chapter president, Steve Poulin, ADM USCG (Ret) was pleased to present the MOAA Medals to each of these well deserving cadets. Ken Martin, LTC USMC (Ret) coordinated this endeavor and welcomed all the family, friends and school staff in honoring these cadets from four high schools in the local area. Many of our members also went to the high schools representing our MOAA Tampa Chapter to present the MOAA awards to the JROTC cadets. Read about each of these accomplished young students who are our future.

Blake High School

Recipient: Cadet 1Lt William Mace

Cadet Mace is completing his 3rd year in AFJROTC. He is currently doing an excellent job serving as the Unit Executive/Admin Officer. Cadet Mace developed a comprehensive checklist and Onboarding for new cadets which has been a great tool to ensure new students get up to speed quickly. He is a key member of the Blake High School Physical Training Team and competed in all events/activities this school year. In short, Cadet Mace has been one of our Top Leaders who takes on the toughest tasks in their Unit. Congratulations to Cadet Mace!



Cadet 1LT William Mace, Blake High School receiving his medal from MOAA Tampa Chapter President, Steve Poulin, ADM USCG (Ret).

Freedom High School

Recipient: Cadet Leilah Tate

Cadet Leilah Tate became part of the Freedom JROTC three years ago during her eighth grade year while still in middle school. Cadet Tate was eager to participate in every opportunity available and due to that fact, she now has more than 364 community service hours.

Last summer she was one of the few cadets that spent the month of June helping on the beautification of the school and the move of classrooms for some leachers. During the summer she also attended a leadership course and this summer she is planning to work for the police department. Cadet Tate maintains a GPA of 3.2, once she graduates high school she wants to get a ROTC scholarship and get a commission in the Marine Corps. Cadet Tate is in four of Freedom's drill teams, and she is the commanding officer of the basic drill team; She also is part of the school chorus and sings the national anthem during our events. She competes in multiple track and field events.



Cadet Leilah Tate with Mother, Lateshia, from Freedom HS with MOAA Tampa Chapter President, Steve Poulin, ADM USCG (Ret).



Cadet Leilah Tate, Freedom HS

Sickles High School

Recipient: Cadet Naromi Richard

Cadet Richard serves as the Personnel Commander where she is responsible for ensuring the accuracy of the DD Form 3203, PT Authorization Form, and other mandatory government forms required by congressional and HQ mandates. She is also responsible for the input of ribbons, ranks, and other awards into the JROTC Personnel system ensuring the accuracy of a cadet's transcripts. Cadet Richard was awarded with the position of the Kitty Hawk National Honor So-

ciety Deputy Commander position, a valuable member of Tampa's #1 Color Guard Team which is **heading to Nationals in May**, and a participant on the Armed Squad Drill Team. Outside of JROTC, she is a member of National Honor Society, and during her weekends she assists with her sister's caregiver program. Congratulations to Cadet Richard!



Cadet Naromi Richard from Sickles HS receiving her medal from MOAA Tampa Chapter President Steve Poulin, ADM USCG (Ret).



Krista Luloff, Principal Sickles HS and two Sickles HS staff.

Strawberry Crest High School

Recipient: Cadet Sergeant First Class Maria Alvarado-Villeda

Cadet Alvarado carries a 3.0 GPA. She was recently named Cadet of the Month in February 2026. Cadet Alvarado is the Color Guard Commander. She has been both a Squad and Platoon Caller at various drill meets up to District. She is a 2025 graduate of both the National Flight Academy (NAS Pensacola) and JROTC Cadet Leadership Challenge (JLCC). Congratulations to Cadet Alvarado!



Cadet SFC Maria Alvarado-Villeda from Strawberry Crest HS receiving her medal from MOAA Tampa Chapter President, Steve Poulin, ADM USCG (Ret).

MOAA Tampa Chapter Presents MOAA Medal to JROTC Cadet at Jefferson High School April 2026



Matthew Cogdell, COL USAF (Ret) presents a MOAA medal to Cadet Kaedon Herbert, Jefferson High School.

How We Help and Why You Should Join!

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

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

NEVER STOP SERVING!



The Tampa Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America, Inc.
 P.O. Box 6383
 Tampa, FL 33608-0383



Name _____

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

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

EMAIL address _____

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

Spouse / Emergency Contact: Name _____

Phone _____

MOAA National Member Number _____

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

I give my permission: signature: _____

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Email questions to: membership@moaatampa.org

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

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

By Bernard Lieving, COL (Chaplain) USA, Ret



How do you observe Memorial Day?

My observance has morphed and changed over many years. As an Army Chaplain and pastor, I led or participated in community-wide Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and Armed Forces Day ceremonies for over three decades.

Quite honestly, those years of service—combined with the weight of numerous military funerals and casualty notifications—took an emotional toll. Upon retiring, I gave myself

permission to step back from the large ceremonies and transition into a “quieter,” more personal experience.

This quieter observance evolves year by year. Since moving to St. Petersburg in 2020, I've often visited the Pinellas County War Veterans Memorial Park. I use the walking trails and the Memorial Center as a space to pray, reflect, and mourn. This year, my observance will likely involve a day hike somewhere in Central Florida to find that same solitude.

Memorial Day is a time to honor and remember those who died in service to our nation. For me, that time of honor and remembrance has a specific name: Army Specialist Jeffrey

Mattison Wershow, killed in action in Iraq on July 6, 2003. Jeffrey was a Soldier in my unit. We connected through his Jewish faith; I was the one to notify his parents of his death and participate in his funeral. His loss is personal, and I sort through those memories every year.

I've learned that observing Memorial Day is not a “one size fits all” proposition. Whether it is a community-wide event or a solitary hike, both styles work because they contain the necessary ingredients: reflection, honor, and remembrance.

In whatever ways you choose to observe the day, may it be a meaningful time of honor and remembrance for those who gave “the last full measure of devotion.”

Anthony P. “Tony” Clark

Colonel, US Army Chaplain Corps, Retired

Vice President, St. Pete Area Chapter of MOAA

Chaplain, FL Council of MOAA Chapters

Volunteer, FL ESGR

*This article is also published in the St. Petersburg MOAA Chapter newsletter.

Sawallesh Moon Photo-4/4/2026
by LTC Robert F. Sawallesh, USA, Retired

U.S.A. Rocketry 1935 vs 2026

←National Air & Space Museum - Smithsonian
“This is probably the liquid-fuel rocket Robert H. Goddard tried to launch on September 23, 1935, at Roswell, New Mexico, in an attempt to demonstrate its capabilities to supporters Charles Lindbergh and Harry Guggenheim.” See

Sawallesh Photo 4/1/2026
Artemis II heads for fly by of the Moon

Source: https://airandspace.si.edu/collection-objects/rocket-liquid-fuel-rh-goddard-1935-series/nasm_A19360022000

U.S.A Rocketry 1935 vs 2026

—Submitted by LTC Robert F. Sawallesh, USA, Ret

Goddard 1935 A-Series Rocket

This is probably the liquid-fuel rocket Robert H. Goddard tried to launch on September 23, 1935, at Roswell, New Mexico, in an attempt to demonstrate its capabilities to supporters Charles Lindbergh and Harry Guggenheim. The Guggenheim Foundation for the Promotion of Aeronautics funded Goddard's experiments in New Mexico.

A technical problem prevented the flight. But because earlier A-series rocket launches had succeeded, Lindbergh and Guggenheim felt Goddard was on the right track. Lindbergh thus persuaded Goddard to donate a complete A-series rocket to the Smithsonian, which he did in November 1935. This rocket became the first liquid-fuel rocket in the Smithsonian collections.



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THE TAMPA CHAPTER RATED FIVE STARS 2003, 2005-2010, 2012-2017, 2019-2025

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