

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT: STEVE POULIN ADM USCG RET

GREETINGS!



We had an incredible lunch meeting in August. It was great to have our Freedom High School JROTC cadets back with us to present the Colors, share lunch, and listen to our extraordinary guest speaker, COL Daniel Ellis, USA RET. Daniel, who is the senior mentor program coordinator for the 13th Judicial Circuit Veterans Treatment Court, outlined how effectively he and other mentors serve the unique needs and motivations of veterans going through the court system for nonviolent criminal offenses.

The Veterans Treatment Court is a model of success, dramatically reducing recidivism and giving our veterans a second chance at a new life. Thank you to all those who attended. The many questions Daniel fielded during his presentation attest to the impactful nature of his remarks and the importance of the mentors at the Veterans Treatment Court. We also had our coalition partners from the Netherlands and Poland join us, which is always a privilege.

Looking forward to the September lunch, I hope you will be able to attend. We have another great speaker lined up. COL Dave Soutter, USA, who serves as the current operations division chief at USCENCOM, will join us to talk about current events and provide his perspectives on USCENCOM priorities. Further, as a preview into the fall, October is our business meeting for the Chapter, where we will provide an update from the Board and Officers, as well as vote on issues affecting the membership. In November, our guest speaker will be a local estate attorney who will highlight areas often overlooked in estate planning. We remain committed to getting compelling guest speakers at our lunches to increase our awareness of global and local issues, provide information for personal improvement, and enhance our effectiveness as a Chapter.

We are fortunate to have a Chapter filled with camaraderie and good fellowship. We want to continue to build on this foundation; however,

our primary mission is advocacy for our service members, veterans, and their families. I thank all of you who are supporting MOAA's Advocacy in Action campaign. We are about at the halfway point for the campaign, and the Florida Council of Chapters reports that Florida engagements are leading the Nation. More specifically, Florida MOAA members (chapter and non-chapter) account for almost 48% of all actions! I know that our Tampa Chapter is front and center in this legislative action campaign We are having an impact, and I encourage you to remain engaged and active with your elected officials.

September is often a turning point for us in Florida. Schools start, snowbirds begin returning, the tourist season generally ends, and we know that the cooler weather will soon follow. But September is also a solemn month of remembrance as we reflect on the tragic loss of life from the terrorist attacks on 9/11. This was one of those defining moments in history where we each know exactly where we were and what we were doing when the planes hit the Twin Towers, crashed into the Pentagon, and went down in a field near Shanksville, Pennsylvania. This year marks the 25th anniversary of that tragic day that changed the world as we had known it. The Tampa Chapter will join the Knights of Columbus and other civic organizations this year in a 9/11 remembrance ceremony at Steinbrenner Field. The ceremony begins at 10:00 AM in front of the World Trade Center Memorial at the Field on Friday September 11, 2026. I hope you will join us for the ceremony and show MOAA Tampa Chapter's commitment to honor the innocent lives lost, recognize the heroism of our first responders and those who answered the call in the aftermath of that tragedy, and ensure that new generations understand that we must **"Never Forget."**

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



UPCOMING EVENTS

September 3, 2026
Board of Directors Meeting
Virtual 7 PM – 8 PM

September 10, 2026
Chapter Luncheon
11:30 AM – 12:00 PM Social
12:00 PM – 1:30 PM Lunch
Columbia Restaurant
[See page 9](#)

September 11, 2026
9/11 Event
10:00 AM at Steinbrenner Field
[See flyer page 6](#)

October 8, 2026
Chapter Luncheon
MOAA Tampa Annual Business Meeting
11:30 AM – 12:00 PM Social
12:00 PM – 1:30 PM Lunch
Columbia Restaurant

November 14, 2026
Ladies Semiquintennial Celebration
Joseph's Tea House, Clearwater, FL
[See flyer page 3](#)

Future Events:
MOAA Total Force Conference
National Harbor, MD
February 1-3, 2027
[See page 11](#)

FCoC Leadership Training & Convention
Rosen Center, Orlando, FL
March 11-14, 2027
www.FLMOAA.org

REMINDER:

SUBMISSION DEADLINE
FOR THE OCTOBER 2026
ISSUE IS 20 SEPTEMBER 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

Take Care of America's Veterans Act – During an annual meeting on August 18, 2026, MOAA National joined leaders of veterans service organizations including state directors, federal leaders and community partners that covered the ongoing challenges that shape veterans' benefits, health care, long-term care, memorial affairs, and transition assistance. At this very important and timely meeting, panelists covered legislative priorities and current advocacy campaigns, with the Take Care of America's Veterans Act taking center stage.

Commander René Campos, USN (Ret), MOAA's senior director of Government Relations, took part in a VSO roundtable at the annual conference of the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs (NASDVA), held August 9-12 in Savannah, Georgia, with representatives from Disabled American Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Paralyzed Veterans of America, and AMVETS. With both chambers in recess and adjournment scheduled for Dec. 18, the fall congressional calendar will be demanding. MOAA continues to advocate for action on the omnibus veteran's package and urges Congress to move meaningful bipartisan legislation forward.

A separate congressional roundtable with House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee majority and minority staff members also focused on the bill. The discussion was engaging and candid, particularly regarding its proposed funding mechanism, and participants articulated their respective positions. Despite their differences, the panelists recognized significant work remained after the recess and expressed interest in collaboration and bipartisan progress.

Throughout the conference, state directors emphasized several operational and policy concerns:

- * State veterans homes need substantially greater access to VA construction grants and adequate reimbursement for complex care, staffing challenges, and expensive medications.
- * Veterans continue to encounter inconsistent access to mental health beds, especially when civilian residential care requires travel far from home.
- * Nonprofit veterans' services vary widely in quality and availability.
- * VA compensation and pension exams remain inconsistent.
- * Medical records and other health information do not always transfer smoothly among VA medical centers, civilian providers, and state veterans homes.
- * VA prescription and dental benefits can be disrupted when a veteran enters a state veterans home. Homes may not receive coverage for high-cost medications or dental services previously available through VA direct care.

These concerns align with NASDVA's priorities and many VSO advocacy priorities, which include increased State Home Construction Grant Program funding, improved appointment scheduling, better community care coordination, and continued oversight of electronic health record modernization.

Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs Paul Lawrence framed VA's mission around a simple theme: "Promise only matters when it is fulfilled." The VA is working to keep its promise to

veterans and their families by expanding benefits and care, Lawrence said – modernizing compensation examinations, re-starting electronic health record modernization, and restructuring the Veterans Health Administration. Lawrence also called on NASDVA members and conference participants to help locate veterans who are not connected with the VA. Finding those veterans, assisting individuals who received less-than-honorable discharges, and encouraging veterans to give VA another opportunity after a disappointing first encounter are essential parts of improving access.

Other key points from VA leaders during the conference included an update by VA Inspector General Cheryl Mason who reported that, over the preceding 18 months, her office had uncovered approximately \$2 billion in fraud across VA programs. She said the VA is changing faster than ever and that the Office of Inspector General is adapting by producing oversight reports more rapidly. Community care, medical billing and services, fiduciary programs, education and identity theft were identified as major areas of concern. Chief Veterans Experience Officer Dr. Lynda Davis discussed VA responses to disasters and ongoing efforts to improve information sharing with states. She also highlighted a key transition finding: Veterans are more likely to connect with the VA if they begin a relationship with the department before separation from military service. Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Benefits Margarita Devlin reported that the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) processed more than 2 million claims during the previous year while reducing the disability-claims backlog and maintaining high accuracy rates. The VBA has conducted quality-control sprints to identify trends, strengthen employee training, make dependency and indemnity compensation payments more quickly, and simplify the disability claims form from 15 pages to four.

Participants also heard updates on VHA's reorganization, which

continued on page 2

LEGISLATIVE LOWDOWN *cont.*

is intended to reduce bureaucracy and improve safety and access. Changes include reducing Veterans Integrated Service Networks (VISNs) from 18 to five, establishing health service regional areas, and piloting a 30-day hiring initiative to accelerate recruitment. Conference presentations also covered the National Cemetery Administration, VA’s external provider scheduling system to improve access to community care, and mental health and suicide prevention services.

Keeping the Promise Through Action - The conference reinforced a central message: Serving veterans requires coordinated action across federal agencies, states, VSOs, health care systems and community organizations. MOAA will continue working with NASDVA; federal, state, and community leaders; fellow VSOs; and Congress to advance timely access to VA health care, benefits, and necessary resources to veterans, servicemembers, their families, caregivers, and survivors who earned them through service and sacrifice.

Use MOAA’s Legislative Action Center to urge Congress to support the Take Care of America’s Veterans Act and turn years of advocacy into meaningful results for veterans and their families. The legislation will allow our nation to keep its promise to those who serve and have served.

The National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) – How the Senate NDAA Draft Would Help Military Families Find the Care They Need. Inaccurate provider directories are a long-standing challenge. This bill would improve oversight and accountability. Many military families on the move rely on the TRICARE provider directory to secure care. But too often, that directory points beneficiaries to specialists who don’t take TRICARE, aren’t reachable, or aren’t even practicing. These inaccuracies are more than simple clerical errors – they can delay critical medical care.

The Senate Armed Services Committee’s (SASC) mark of the FY 2027 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) takes an important step toward addressing this long-standing problem with a MOAA-supported provision (Section 705) that would strengthen oversight of TRICARE provider directories and help ensure military families can find the specialty care they need. The provision requires:

- * The Defense Health Agency (DHA) to ensure future TRICARE contracts include requirements to improve provider directory accuracy.
- * The DHA’s Inspector General to conduct recurring random tests of specialty provider directory information and report findings to Congress.
- * The Government Accountability Office (GAO) to conduct a holistic review of TRICARE provider directory accuracy.

* This legislation also requires a mechanism that allows TRICARE beneficiaries to report inaccuracies to the TRICARE managed care support contractor.

Reliable directories allow families to find the medical care they need and are especially important for military families who relocate every few years. Each PCS move means reestablishing health care – military families rely on the TRICARE provider directory as their starting point. When that information is outdated or inaccurate, valuable time can be lost while beneficiaries make repeated phone calls searching for providers. For active duty families balancing deployments, training schedules, and frequent moves, those delays bring unnecessary stress during already challenging transitions. These challenges are magnified for families enrolled in the Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) who often must identify and reestablish care across several medical specialties. For these families, provider directory errors can contribute to avoidable disruptions in critical medical care during military moves.

Section 705 builds on years of oversight that have documented serious shortcomings in TRI-CARE provider directories. A 2020 GAO report highlighted widespread inaccuracies in TRI-CARE’s directory of eating disorder providers, raising concerns about beneficiaries’ ability to access timely, specialized care. More recently, another GAO review found many mental health provider listings had inaccurate or outdated information, making it more difficult for military families to find behavioral health services.

As Congress works to finalize the FY 2027 NDAA, please join MOAA in urging lawmakers to retain Section 705 in the final legislation to help ensure military families have a TRICARE provider directory they can trust.

Sources:

- (1) www.moaa.org
- (2) <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2026-news-articles/advocacy/take-care-of-americas-veterans-act-in-spotlight-during-recent-conference/>
- (3) <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2026-news-articles/advocacy/how-the-senate-ndaa-draft-would-help-military-families-find-the-care-they-need/>
- (4) <https://moaa.quorum.us/>

MEDICAL CORNER

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

Study links higher ALS rate to certain military branches

A study published in Neurology found that male Veterans from the Air Force, Coast Guard and Navy have higher rates of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis compared to those from the Army and Marine Corps. The research, which analyzed medical records of nearly 10 million US Veterans, highlights that younger Veterans, particularly those under 61, are most affected. The study suggests potential environmental and occupational exposures as risk factors, emphasizing the need for further investigation to protect service members.

Male veterans who served in the Air Force, Coast Guard and Navy have higher rates of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis — a fatal nerve disease also known as Lou Gehrig’s disease — compared to those who served in the Army and Marine Corps, according to a new study.

The study examined medical records of nearly 10 million veterans enrolled in health care with the Department of Veterans Affairs.

“Differences among branches were most evident for men younger than 61 and were less evident among men older than 75,” according to the study.

ALS is a degenerative disease that causes paralysis and has no known cure. The average lifespan after diagnosis is two to five years.

The findings were published last week in Neurology, the medical journal of the American Academy of Neurology.

ALS diagnoses were highest among male veterans 61 and younger who had served in the Air Force, Coast Guard and Navy, compared to veteran populations in the Army and Marine Corps, according to the study.

The VA recognizes ALS as a medical condition connected to military service and provides a 100% disability rating for veterans who served longer than 90 days and were diagnosed with ALS.

“Military service is a known risk factor for the development of ALS, but little is known about what factors may contribute to that risk,” said Marc G. Weisskopf, a researcher with Harvard University and one of the study’s authors.



—Researchers reviewed the medical records of more than 9 million men and 780,000 women who received care at VA hospitals and clinics between 2000 and 2024. Approximately 14,400 patients had an ALS diagnosis, according to a new study. (Stars and Stripes)

Prior VA-sponsored studies have shown that U.S. veterans are 1.5 times more likely to get ALS compared with people who never served in the military.

Source and link to the full story : <https://www.stripes.com/veterans/2026-08-05/military-branches-higher-rates-als-22466125.html>

Surviving Spouse Corner:

—Submitted by Frances Chancey LTC USA (Ret)



Scams Targeting Surviving Family Members

Scammers often target surviving family members in the days and weeks following a Veteran’s death, when survivor benefits are being processed and grief can make people more vulnerable to manipulation.

These scammers may falsely claim to represent the VA, another government agency, a funeral home, or even say they are fellow Veterans or military personnel to gain your trust. They often use high-pressure tactics, creating a false sense of urgency to pressure survivors into making quick decisions. Contact may come through social media, email, text messages, or phone calls.

How to Protect Yourself from Survivor Benefits Scams:

Use only official government websites. Legitimate U.S. government websites end in .gov, begin with https://, and display a banner stating, “An official website of the United States government.”

Protect personal information. Never share your Social Security number, banking infor-

mation, VA file number, or the personal information of a deceased loved one with anyone whose identity you cannot verify.

Never sign blank forms. Review every document carefully before signing, and always keep copies for your records.

Know that many VA burial and memorial benefits are free. Eligible Veterans and their families receive many burial and memorial services at no cost. Be cautious of anyone asking you to pay for benefits the VA provides free of charge.

Take your time. Legitimate government agencies will not pressure you to make immediate decisions or demand payment by gift cards, wire transfers, or cryptocurrency.

Verify before you act. If you receive an unexpected call, email, or text about VA benefits, contact the VA directly using official contact information before responding.

For more information about VA burial and memorial benefits, including services available at no cost, visit the VA’s Burial and Memorial Benefits page or watch the VA Deputy Secretary’s “Glad You Asked” video on VA burial entitlements.

Source: <https://news.va.gov/146288/scams-target-surviving-family-members/>



LADIES OF MOAA TAMPA CHAPTER & COALITION SPOUSES:

You are cordially invited to attend a Ladies Afternoon Tea to help MOAA Tampa celebrate America's 250th birthday:



WHEN: Saturday, November 14, 2026 from 2-5 pm

WHERE: Joseph's Tea Room
25028 US-19 Clearwater, FL 33763

COST: \$50.40

DRESS CODE: Semi-formal, patriotic attire encouraged
(i.e., wear something red, white, and blue)

Guests get to choose their own pot of tea from a list of over 80 high quality tea blends. A salad is served followed by a presentation of a three-tier tray filled with assorted croissant and tea sandwiches, scones and tea biscuits served with Devonshire cream and jam and petit desserts. Price includes gratuity.

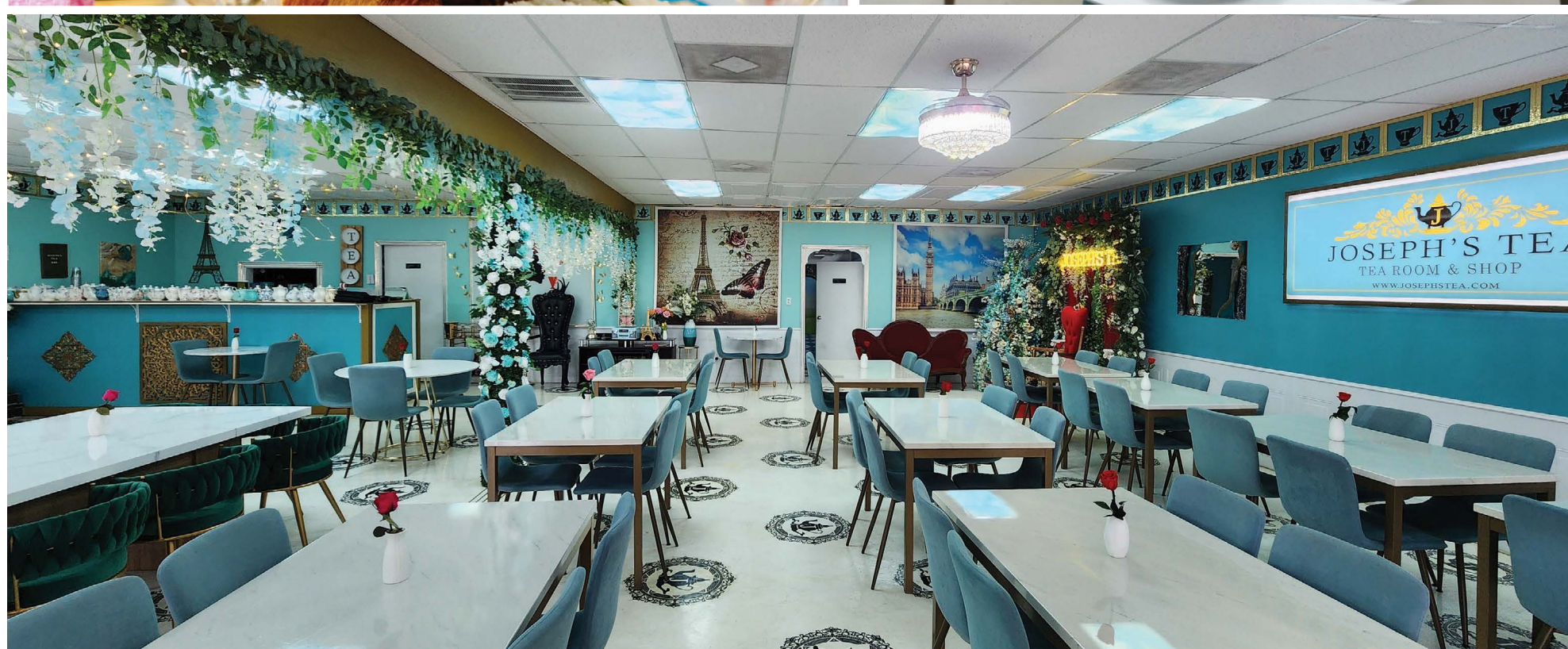
(Experience can be customized for vegan and/or gluten free for an additional cost of \$4.00 per person).

Register by October 21, 2026
at the following link:



<https://tampa-chapter-ladies-semiquincentennial-tea.cheddarup.com>

****We plan to have a speaker from the American Red Cross local chapter talk to us about their mission and support to American troops and their families stationed overseas. MOAA Tampa is donating money to the American Red Cross and any additional donations would be graciously accepted.**



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

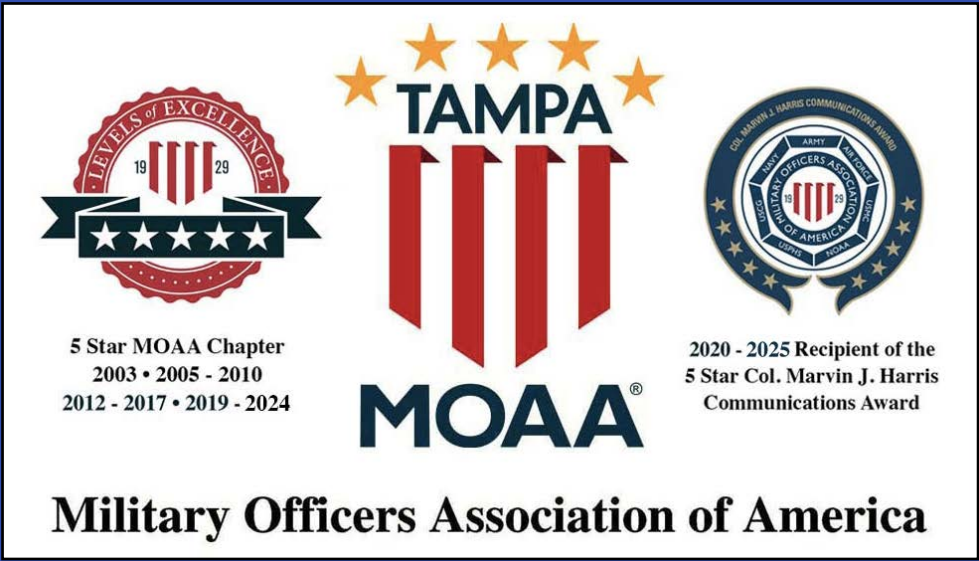
2026 DIRECTORS:

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



TAMPA CHAPTER MISSION:

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

GENERAL CONTACT INFO:

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





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25TH ANNIVERSARY 9/11 REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY

“25 Years of Courage, Sacrifice, and Service”

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2026 | 10:00 A.M.

World Trade Center Memorial

George M. Steinbrenner Field | Tampa, Florida

Twenty-five years after the attacks of September 11, 2001, the Tampa Bay community will gather to **remember the lives lost, honor the courage of our first responders, recognize the service and sacrifice of our military, and reaffirm our enduring commitment to Never Forget.**

The **Knights of Columbus**, in partnership with Tampa-area military and veteran’s organizations, first responder agencies, civic organizations, and ROTC/JROTC programs, invites the community to join us for this special 25th Anniversary observance.

CEREMONY HIGHLIGHTS

- Presentation of the Colors
 - National Anthem
 - Invocation
 - Memorial Observance and Moment of Silence
- Wreath-Laying Ceremony
 - Keynote Remarks
 - Tribute to the Fallen and Those Who Served

EVENT INFORMATION

WHAT:

25th Anniversary 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony

WHEN:

Friday, September 11, 2026 10:00 a.m.

WHERE:

World Trade Center Memorial
George M. Steinbrenner Field
1 Steinbrenner Drive
Tampa, Florida 33614

HOSTED BY:

Knights of Columbus Assembly 0161 and Region 4 Assemblies and Councils, in collaboration with Tampa Bay military and veterans organizations, first responders, civic organizations, and ROTC/JROTC programs.

OUR PURPOSE

To honor the innocent lives lost on September 11, 2001; recognize the extraordinary courage and sacrifice of our first responders; remember those who answered our nation’s call in the years that followed; and inspire future generations with the enduring val-

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC | ALL ARE WELCOME

Please join us as Tampa Bay comes together to remember the fallen, honor those who served and sacrificed, and ensure that a new generation understands why we must **Never Forget.**

NEVER FORGET

September 11, 2001

Photo Credit: Maryna Juman and Timothy Mckee



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



Before leaving for the Canadian Rockies early August, I was able to work on much of the newsletter. Returning from my trip out of Victoria, British Columbia, that is not all that far from Seattle, Washington, one realizes the expanse of both Canada and the United States. The Western parts of Canada are simply vast and stunning. Though I wasn't at the August luncheon, it sure looked like a lot of fun, especially the pictures taken of the purse that was raffled that day. Make sure to take a look at the separate article about the raffle. A huge thank you to Timothy McKee and Maryna Juman for taking wonderful photos for the newsletter and website.

I'm pleased to announce our September luncheon guest speaker COL David Soutter, USA who will present information about USCENTCOM. As the Chief of Current Operations, I'm sure that it will be an interesting talk about USCENTCOM's perspective on the situation in Middle East. Our August luncheon guest speaker provided an excellent presentation about the Veteran's Treatment Court For all who missed COL Daniel Ellis, USA (Ret) at the luncheon mark sure to read a brief recap of his talk and how you can get involved as a mentor.

I'm also delighted to include two events for our membership to look forward to in September and November. MOAA Tampa is participating in a 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony at the Steinbrenner Stadium on September 11th. So hard to believe that was 25 years ago. All are invited to attend. Make sure to see the flyer for details. November 14, 2026, COL Carol Zieres, USA (Ret) is coordinating a Ladies Tea to celebrate our nation's 250th Anniversary with proceeds from a planned raffle to go to the American Red Cross. Please see the flyer in this newsletter for more information.

Thank you to Jeanne Richard for your continued contributions to Medical Corner with a link this month on an article about amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) study indicating a higher rate in certain branches of the military. Other articles that I hope you enjoy including one about understanding Ebola and information POW/MIAs. 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 was especially intrigued with an article about six headlines from 100 years ago. 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.

As usual I'm off again on travel this September. I've missed seeing everyone at the luncheons over the summer. I look forward to seeing everyone at the October luncheon and catching up in person with each of you.

"Some people live an entire lifetime and wonder if they have ever made a difference in the world. A veteran doesn't have that problem." – Ronald Reagan

"One of the worst days in America's history saw some of the bravest acts in Americans' history. We'll always honor the heroes of 9/11. And here at this hallowed place, we pledge that we will never forget their sacrifice." – President [George W. Bush](#) at the Pentagon in 2008

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](#)

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.



NAVY MEDICINE FAST FACTS

September 2025

★ POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY ★

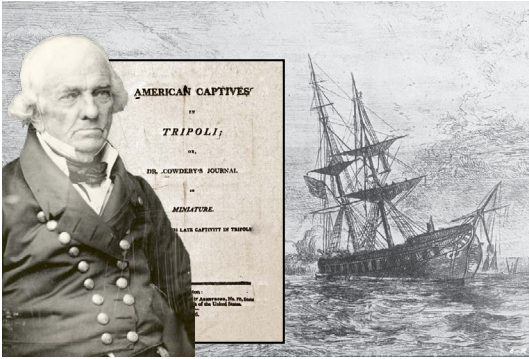
Remembering the many sacrifices made to defend our Nation

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



THE FIRST NAVY MEDICAL POWS

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



DEFENSE POW/MIA ACCOUNTING AGENCY (DPAA)

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



UNACCOUNTED FOR SERVICE PERSONNEL

~81,000

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

75%

364

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

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



NAVY MEDICINE FAST FACTS

NAVY MEDICINE POWS BY THE NUMBERS

591 The number of Vietnam veterans repatriated as part of Operation Homecoming in 1973. Many of these POWs would be sent to the Naval Hospital San Diego, California, for follow up care.

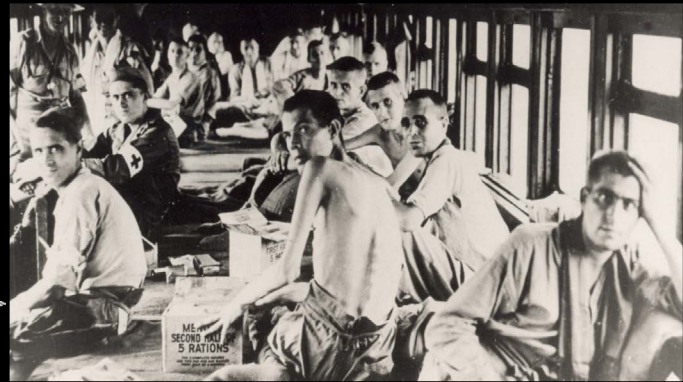
The number of hospital corpsmen who died in captivity as POWs. **132**

81 The number of psychological evaluations the Navy Medical Neuropsychiatric Research Unit (precursor to today's Naval Health Research Center) conducted in 1969 on former POWs from USS Pueblo (AGER 2).

The percentage of Navy medical POWs at the Bilibid Prison who died while in captivity. **65%**

50 The number of Navy medical personnel who perished while transported to Japan aboard the prison ship ("hell ship") SS Oryoko Maru in 1944.

The number Medical Service Corps plankowners who were former POWs. **11**



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

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

THE SAGA OF THE NORTHCOTTS

- The Northcott brothers—John, Robert and Thomas—served as hospital corpsmen. They enlisted in the Navy in January 1941 and were assigned to USS Vaga (YT-116), a tug used for patrolling the Filipino coastline from the Cavite Navy Yard to the island of Corregidor.
- When the Japanese invaded the Philippines in December 1941, the Northcotts helped scuttle the Vaga off Corregidor and joined a naval unit attached to the 4th Marine Regiment in defense of Corregidor until captured on May 6, 1942. Along with fellow defenders of Corregidor, the Northcotts were transferred to the Bilibid prison.



- On Oct. 21, 1943, John, Robert, and Thomas were among 228 Bilibid prisoners "drafted" for work detail on an old rice farm in Cabanatuan, 90 miles north of Manila. There the brothers remained working in malaria-rife conditions until they were finally broken up. John and Thomas were sent to mainland Japan aboard the "hell ship" Oryoko Maru. Robert remained at Cabanatuan. The brothers would be liberated in 1945.
- John, Robert, and Thomas remained in the Navy after the war and each reached the rank of Chief Hospital Corpsman (HMC).



SEPTEMBER LUNCHEON MEETING

EVENT: Chapter Monthly Luncheon Meeting

DATE: Thursday, 10 September **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, 4 September. 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, 7 September, 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).

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

GUEST SPEAKER: COL David Soutter, USA, Chief of Current Operations USCENTCOM

MENU: 1905 Salad, Cuban Bread and butter, Boliche, Arroz con Pollo, Yuca, Fresh Broccoli Alioli, Black Beans, Coffee, Iced Tea, Soft Drinks and a Celebration Cake for the US Air Force

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 LTC David Zallo, USA (Ret), Sick Call Chairman via email 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. For more information: <https://www.hillsboroughcountymentors.org/>

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: 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 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 SEPTEMBER

11 Patriot Day
18 US Air Force Birthday
19 POW/MIA Recognition Day
27 Gold Star Mothers and Family Day

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>

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

COL Bridget Moorman, USAF (Ret)

Sick Call: Ben Ritter

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



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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Annual Subscription Costs:
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Quarter Page Ad: \$500 • 1/8 Page Ad: \$250

E-Mail: coms@moaatampa.org

Coalition Corner



Coalition representatives working at U.S. Central Command continue to express their sincere appreciation for the warm welcome and camaraderie they experience while participating in MOAA events. The openness, inclusiveness, and genuine hospitality consistently demonstrated by MOAA Tampa members reflect the positive experience that many international representatives enjoy throughout their time in the United States.

This spirit of partnership has been particularly meaningful over recent months as coalition nations have focused on evolving events across the Middle East. For several of our Gulf partner representatives, whose countries face ongoing challenges, the support and understanding shown by the wider community have been especially valued during a demanding period.

As is customary within the coalition community, several Senior National Representatives (SNRs) have recently completed their assignments

and returned to their home nations. We thank them for their outstanding contributions and wish them continued success in their future endeavours. At the same time, we are pleased to welcome a new group of representatives to the coalition team, and I am confident they will soon have the opportunity to enjoy the fellowship and networking offered through MOAA Tampa events.

The operational focus of the past several months has unfortunately limited the ability of some of our representatives to attend recent MOAA Tampa events. Nevertheless, the enthusiasm for continued engagement remains strong, and representatives greatly appreciate the opportunities these gatherings provide to strengthen relationships, exchange experiences, and foster the enduring bonds that underpin our time abroad.

I would like to personally thank MOAA Tampa members for their continued friendship, support, and commitment to strengthening the relationships that make our coalition stronger.

Trent Harris, Group Captain (O6)
Chairman of the Coalition & Australian Senior National



—(l-r) LTC Grzegorz Stanisiz, SNR from Poland and COL Lambert (Leo) Delange, SNR from The Netherlands attended the August 2026 MOAA Tampa luncheon.

Last Month’s Guest Speaker Presentation: Veteran’s Treatment Court (VTC)

—By Sara Marks, CAPT NC USN (Ret) Photo credit: Maryna Juman and Tim Mckee

COL Daniel Ellis, USA (Ret) provided an inspiring presentation about the success of the 13th Judicial Circuit Veteran’s Treatment at MOAA Tampa’s August 2026 luncheon. He is a senior mentor program coordinator. During his talk he was asked many questions about the VTC program.

The mission of the VTC is: “To promote public safety and reduce recidivism through a problem-solving non-adversarial approach that provides a continuum of treatment and rehabilitative services for Veterans struggling with mental health and substance use disorders.”

If interested in becoming a mentor contact our MOAA Tampa VTC representative Norm Bild and click on the link for more information: <https://www.hillsboroughcountymentors.org/>



—Daniel Ellis, COL USA (Ret) receiving a speaker gift from Chapter President Steve Poulin, ADM USCG (Ret)



HAPPY BIRTHDAY U.S. COAST GUARD – 236 years old!!!

—Photo credit: Maryna Juman



Steve Poulin, ADM USCG (Ret) cutting the birthday cake.

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.		

American Red Cross

Central Florida and the U.S. Virgin Islands

Turn Compassion Into Action!

Join the Service to the Armed Forces Team!

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



Volunteers Urgently Needed in the Following Areas at MacDill AFB:

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

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

To learn more, visit redcross.org or contact:

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



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Email: coms@moaatampa.org
www.moaatampa.org

Articles of Interest Found on the Web

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



Jonny Kim's resume already lists Navy SEAL, astronaut, doctor. He's now returning to active duty.
<https://www.navytimes.com/news/your-navy/2026/08/27/jonny-kims-resume-already-lists-navy-seal-astronaut-doctor-hes-now-returning-to-active-duty/>

Trump's new commission will target quality of life for military spouses
<https://www.militarytimes.com/news/pentagon-congress/2026/08/03/trumps-new-commission-will-target-quality-of-life-for-military-spouses/>

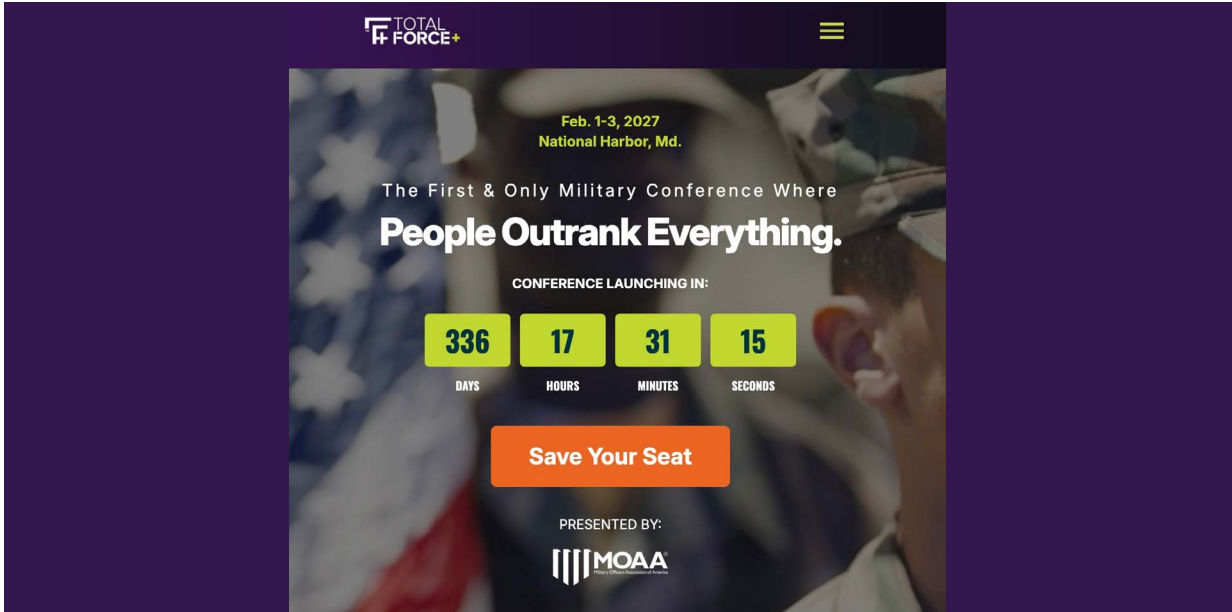
The Capital's Defenders: Two Centuries After Historic Battle, Citizen-Soldiers are Recognized > U.S. Department of War > Defense Department News | U.S. Department of War
<https://www.war.gov/News/News-Stories/Article/Article/4583941/the-capitals-defenders-two-centuries-after-historic-battle-citizen-soldiers-are/>

USSF Honor Guard debuts new ceremonial uniform at Freedom 250 Grand Prix > United States Space Force > Article Display
<https://www.spaceforce.mil/News/Article-Display/Article/4580864/ussf-honor-guard-debuts-new-ceremonial-uniform-at-freedom-250-grand-prix/>

6 Major Events That Happened 100 Years Ago - History Facts
<https://historyfacts.com/uncategorized/article/6-major-events-that-happened-100-years-ago/>

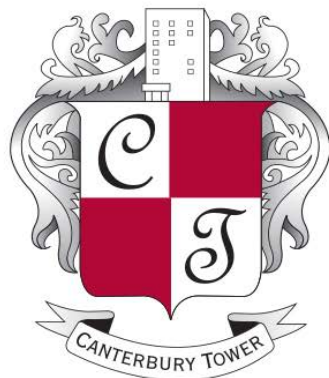
MOAA PRESENTS NEXT TOTAL FORCE CONFERENCE FEB 1-3, 2027

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



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



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In Korea

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

In Afghanistan

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

In the Philippines

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

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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** _____

SEPTEMBER LUNCHEON GUEST SPEAKER: Colonel David C. Soutter, US Army – Chief of Current Operations US CENTCOM

Colonel (COL) David Soutter is a career Military Intelligence officer with more than 25 years of distinguished service in the United States Army and Army Reserves. He currently serves as the Chief of the Current Operations Division (J33) at United States Central Command (CENTCOM), MacDill Air Force Base, Tampa, Florida, where he leads and synchronizes real-time operational activities critical to CENTCOM's mission.

Raised in Maine and residing in Boston, Massachusetts, COL Soutter has devoted his professional life to national security, operations and public service. He began his Army career in 2002, completing Basic Combat Training at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, before attending Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, Georgia. He commissioned as a Second Lieutenant on 17 October 2002.

COL Soutter spent nearly nine years on Active Duty, advancing through the Military Intelligence Officer Basic and Captains Career Courses at Fort Huachuca, Arizona, and serving with the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment (OPFOR) at the National Training Center, Fort Irwin, California. He went on to command the Combat Training Company and concluded his Active Duty service as an analyst at the Counter Explosives Hazard Center at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri.

In 2010, COL Soutter transitioned to the Army Reserves to attend Suffolk University Law School in Boston, earning his Juris Doctor and passing the Massachusetts Bar in 2013. He began his legal career as a clerk at the Rhode Island Supreme Court and later joined Ropes & Gray LLP, Boston's oldest and largest law firm. In the Army Reserves, COL Soutter supported the National Ground Intelligence Center in Charlottesville, Virginia as part of the 2200th Military Intelligence Group, a strategic intelligence unit. He also developed extensive Joint Combatant Command experience serving as an Executive Officer, Team Chief, and Battle Watch Captain in the Joint Operations Center at U.S. European Command in Stuttgart, Germany.

Since returning to active duty in March 2025, COL Soutter has held successive leadership

roles within CENTCOM's J33 directorate, including Chief of Operations (CHOPS) in the CENTCOM JOC.. He served as Deputy J33 at the start of Operation Epic Fury and assumed duties as the Chief of Current Operations in May 2026. In this role, his leadership directly supports CENTCOM's operational decision-making, crisis response, and theater-wide mission execution.

COL Soutter is a graduate of the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in International Affairs from George Washington University, a Master of Arts in National Security Studies from American Military University, and a Juris Doctor from Suffolk University Law School.

Throughout his career, COL Soutter has received numerous awards recognizing his excellence, dedication, and contributions to Army intelligence operations. His decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal (with Oak Leaf Cluster), Joint Service Achievement Medal, Army Achievement Medal (with three Oak Leaf Clusters), Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal (with two Oak Leaf Clusters), National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, and multiple training and proficiency ribbons. He also holds the Parachutist Badge and the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge (Gold).

When not on military leave, COL Soutter serves as the Director of Public Policy & Regulatory Affairs for the New England Connectivity & Telecommunications Association (NECTA) in Boston, where he leads initiatives to expand access to reliable, high-speed broadband and close the digital divide across New England. In Spring 2027, COL Soutter plans to depart CENTCOM and return to civilian life in Boston. He will matriculate at the Harvard Kennedy School to complete the MidCareer Master of Public Administration program while continuing to serve in the Army Reserves.

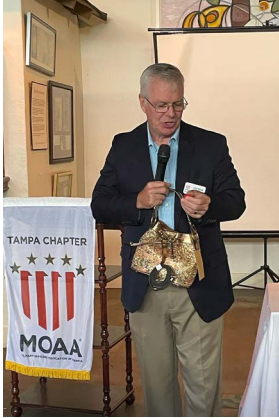
MOAA TAMPA AUGUST 2026 LUNCHEON RAFFLE

—By Sara Marks, CAPT NC USN (Ret)
Photo credit: Maryna Juman and Tim Mckee

A beautiful purse donated to MOAA Tampa from Dillards in Brandon was raffled at the August 2026 luncheon. Hard not to smile seeing all the men handling the purse. Congratulations to winner Norm Bild who graciously gave the purse to Jeanne Richard.



Who would like to buy a raffle ticket for this beautiful purse? Luncheon guest speaker Daniel Ellis pulls the ticket for the raffle drawing.



MOAA Tampa Chapter President Steve Poulin, ADM USCG (Ret) reads the winner raffle ticket number. Raffle winner Norm Bild admires his new purse.



Norm Bild presents the beautiful purse to Jeanne Richard. Lewis VanDyke displays the purse while Barbara Brotherton holds the bowl of raffle tickets for the drawing.

Understanding Ebola and the Tools Used to Fight It: NMHM Hosts Dr. Mike Bray

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

National Museum of Health and Medicine
Story by [Kenya Baylor](#)

Date: 01.23.2026 **Posted:** 01.23.2026 13:14 **News ID:** 556652

The National Museum of Health and Medicine welcomed visitors on Jan. 11 for a public lecture on Ebola virus disease by Dr. Mike Bray, a former U.S. Army medical researcher and long-time expert in infectious diseases. His talk marked 50 years since the first known Ebola outbreak. He explained how the virus spreads, why outbreaks can grow quickly, and how scientists and medical teams work to control them.

Bray began by explaining what viruses are and why learning about them helps people stay healthy. He said that learning about Ebola also teaches people how infections move from one person to another. "It's important to understand how things spread, how to avoid infections, how to recognize infections," he said. "It's not about Ebola itself—it's about the basics. Knowing the difference between Ebola, which isn't airborne, and something like SARS or the flu that is, helps stop the spread."

Throughout the lecture, Bray explained that Ebola is a severe disease, but it does not spread easily. People usually catch it through direct contact with the body fluids of someone who is already sick. Because of that, quick action can stop outbreaks before they grow. "Finding outbreaks and responding quickly is extremely important in terms of saving lives," he said.

Using maps, photos and timelines, Bray showed visitors how the large West African outbreak from 2013 to 2016 began and why it grew so fast. Delays in finding early cases played a role. Crowded cities and limited medical resources made the 2013 outbreak worse. He compared it to the smaller 2025 outbreak in the Demo-



Photo By Andrea Schierkolk Dr. Mike Bray discusses the Ebola virus disease, the history of outbreaks, and the progress made in the past 10 years in developing approved vaccines and treatments during a Jan. 11, 2026, lecture at the National Museum of Health and Medicine in Silver Spring, Maryland. (National Museum of Health and Medicine Photo by Andrea Schierkolk)

cratic Republic of the Congo where trained teams, quick lab testing, and ready vaccine stockpiles helped limit the spread.

Bray also talked about the long history of military medicine in studying severe viruses. He shared stories from his own career at the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases at Fort Detrick. "Military laboratories led the way in studying severe infectious diseases," he said. "Since the time of Walter Reed and the early days of the U.S., military medicine has led the way in the battle against infectious disease."

The lecture also allowed the museum to highlight its Vickers Aircraft Transport Isolator, a self-contained biocontainment unit that was designed to transport patients with highly infectious diseases, such as Ebola, and to provide in-flight care. This large isolator helps medical workers move a patient safely during an outbreak. Visitors saw how the unit protects health care teams and prevents further spread. Seeing the unit helped connect the scientific concepts from Bray's talk with real-world innovations used during outbreak response.

Bray said he hopes people walk away with a better understanding of a disease that is often misunderstood. He encourages people to stay informed and learn the facts to help protect their communities.

To learn more about future museum events or plan a visit, go to [\[medicalmuseum.health.mil\]\(https://medicalmuseum.health.mil/index.cfm/visit/events/index\)](#).

Source: <https://www.dvidshub.net/news/556652/understanding-ebola-and-tools-used-fight-nmhm-hosts-dr-mike-bray>

CHAPLAIN’S CORNER

CHAPLAIN (COL) BERNARD H LIEVING JR USA RET



Bernard “Bernie” Lieving, COL (Chaplain) USA RET
Yesterday Cindy and I completed a 13-day, 2,719-mile road trip. We first drove on a two-day trip from Tampa to Mason County, West Virginia, where I grew up and graduated from high school. My younger sister and her husband live there. Their two sons’ families are there, and we enjoyed time with them. My older sister’s children and grandchildren live there as well. That sister left us four years ago and when we visited with her children, we spent lots of time telling her stories.

From there we drove to Kutztown, PA where I was privileged to officiate the wedding ceremony of my grandson and his bride. They were married on the Christmas tree farm where my youngest daughter lives with her husband who grew up there and recently retired from his school music teacher position to now manage the tree farm.

Our two-day drive back to Tampa brought us South on I-81, I-77, I-26, I-95, Florida State Route 200, US Route 301, I-75 and finally I-275. Whew! Lots of hours behind the wheel, lots of iPhone information of rest stops, service stations, motels, and Starbucks. And we traveled with the assurance that as we lifted our eyes to the hills and mountains through which we passed, the Lord was “our help.”

On each of the four days we traveled, we began our time in the vehicle with the reading of Psalm 121. This is what it says:

- 1I lift up my eyes to the hills from where will my help come?
- 2My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.
- 3He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.
- 4He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.
- 5The LORD is your keeper; the LORD is your shade at your right hand.
- 6The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.
- 7The LORD will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.
- 8The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and for evermore.

This Psalm is one of fifteen of the Songs of Ascent (Psalms120-134) that ancient Israelites traditionally sang while making the uphill journey, or “ascent,” to Jerusalem for the three main annual pilgrim festivals (Passover, Pentecost, and Tabernacles).

And it is not just a Psalm for traveling. It is an assurance that God will be our “helper” and our “keeper” throughout the journey of our daily lives, enabling us to be patient in adversity, grateful in the midst of blessings, and to trust in God to provide all that is daily necessary for body and soul. If you do not have a daily practice of reading a biblical passage, I recommend you begin by reading Psalm 121 and then give yourself a few minutes to consider how believing its words will give you a sense of God’s presence with you.

FLASHBACK: SEPTEMBER 2022 MOAA LUNCHEON



HAVE YOU VISITED OUR WEBSITE AND ‘LIKED’ OUR FACEBOOK PAGE?

WWW.MOAAATAMPA.ORG and Facebook: [MOAA Tampa Chapter](https://www.facebook.com/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/

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

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

TAMPA
MOAA

2020 - 2025 Recipient of the
5 Star Col. Marvin J. Harris
Communications Award

Military Officers Association of America

“NEVER STOP SERVING”