

# Military Spouse News

March 2019

## March MOAA Program

### Director for the USO of Central Florida

Linda Jorge Carbone serves as the Director for the USO of Central Florida since joining the organization in April of 2017. In this role she oversees three USO installations and directs the operations for the USO in all of Central and South Florida. Prior to joining the USO, Linda served with the American Red Cross of Central Florida for almost two decades, first as a volunteer, and then serving as the Regional CEO for almost nine years. Linda left a successful law practice of fifteen years to join the world of nonprofit leadership in 2009.

Linda is a graduate of Clark University and Boston College Law School, and has proudly called Tampa home for more than 25 years. She has received awards for non-profit leadership from the Tampa City Council, has been named a Businesswoman of the Year finalist, and served as an Honorary Base Commander of MacDill Air Force Base. Linda has two teenage boys, Ryan and Matthew, who are her pride and joy.

### How Could I Have Missed This?



In reporting how our MOWC funds were dispersed, I failed to list Southeastern Guide Dogs (to name and raise a puppy). We did this in 2009 for \$3,000 and now it is \$5,000. I have been told a puppy will be available for us soon so keep posted.

### You Are Invited!

As a past member of Military Officers Wives Club, you are invited to join the gang for the Military Officer Association of America (MOAA) lunches held each month.

You will be expected to pay for your lunch (\$16.00) but are not expected to pay MOAA dues.

Shirley will be there to take your picture and continue to report news on our ladies each month in this new publication that will be emailed to you and also on the MOAA web. <http://www.moaatampa.org>



### MOAA Luncheon

14 March 2019 - 11:30 a.m.  
**Bay Palms Golf Complex  
Tournament Room**  
1803 Golf Course Avenue  
Members and Guests Cost: **\$16.00**

#### Menu

Irish Potato Soup, Soda Bread,  
Corned Beef & Cabbage,  
Roasted Potatoes  
Brownie Mint Trifle  
Order Fruit or Chef's Salad  
When you make your reservation

#### Program

Director for the USO

#### Reservations

Call 813-676-4676  
by noon 8 March

## Sunshine Report

A card was sent to **Peg Sawallesh** on Feb. 10<sup>th</sup>. Bob Sawallesh reported, "Peg fell in their home and had brain bleed from the fall but after making great progress she was sent home."

PEG SAWALLESH, 2541 BRIMHOLLOW DRIVE  
VALRICO FL 33594-5744

UPDATE: "Peg is improving each day. She wore me out yesterday (Feb. 13) and today putting the house back together after the new carpet was installed. She spent five days in the neuroscience unit and we have nothing but praise for Brandon Regional Hospital. And of course she will have follow-up medical appointments.

Very best, Bob Sawallesh"

**Mary Elizabeth Bryan** passed away Feb, 20, 2019 in Houston, Texas. She is the widow of the late Colonel Lawrence Bryan and both were longtime residents of Brandon, Florida. Mary is survived by her daughters, Mary Cannon and Jane Tufo; five grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. Mary joined MOWC in 2003 and served as Chaplain 2004-2009.

## This And That

WOW! I emailed to ask if you are reading the monthly blurbs and the replies will follow. I enjoy doing it very much and this is certainly encouragement enough for me to keep doing it. But I think it would be nice to hear from you occasionally with something of interest to the other ladies so think about it and help me out.

I don't know how to thank you but I sent out that question as to whether or not you were reading the blurbs and within an hour, I had heard from 12 of you. I enjoy doing it and it gives me something to do during the month so I plan to continue it.

Some of you mentioned some good ideas so will think on them and see what I can do—with your help—of course!

Hi Shirley, I just love the MOWC blurb. I take copies to the MOWC ladies at Canterbury Health Center and they just pour over the pages. So, we would like the blurb to continue. We appreciate all you have done all these years to keep us informed and hold us all together. Thank you,  
**Theresa McKee**

Shirley...Anything you produce is always so appreciated. I care for any news you share. So yes, I would care to read the *Retrospect* also. Your extra efforts to keep us all in touch mean so much. Blessings and thank you always,  
**Pat Geasa**

Shirley - I do enjoy your blurb you send out. I enjoy reading about what is going on with everyone. However, if it is too much trouble I can understand - it is a lot of work and you have done it for so long - it is appreciated. You kept the group going! I really miss all the activities of south Tampa. I lived "a stone throw" from the base since I moved to Tampa 69 years ago. Our first house was in a newly built neighborhood close to the base. Our neighbor was a tail gunner on one of the aircraft and did not have a phone right away so my phone would ring in the middle of the night at times telling him to report as he was flying a mission that night. I think we were fighting in Korea at

that time - I have lived through so many conflicts I can't keep them straight! **Lou Wyatt**

Shirley ... I am reading it! It's nice to have this continuum for us all. **Anita High**

Yes, great seeing pictures and reading articles.

**Susan Jarabak**

Hi Shirley, Yes I read the blurb, etc. Since I don't get to MacDill too often, I enjoy reading about the members, etc. **Doris Kuhn**

Shirley, I love reading the *Chit Chat*. Thank you for all your time and effort. I still work fulltime, so I don't attend many luncheons...**Kate Wilde**

Oh yes Shirley, I enjoy it very much. **Linda Swenson**  
Yes, I do read. **Valerie Andrews**

Hi Shirley, I do read and enjoy it as my schedule doesn't allow me to attend meetings, but I also know it takes a lot of time and effort. If you ever need a little blurb for it let me know. I'm sub teaching at Winthrop Charter School in Riverview and always have funny kid happenings! I go home laughing every time I teach!!! BTW, Bernie Lieving has asked me to play piano for the MOAA memorial service at the convention so I'm sure I will see you there! Hugs, **Ginger Heath**

Hi Shirley, I read the blurb every month. Thank you for all your work and effort; I know it is a labor of love and please know that you are appreciated! I hope all is well!  
**Gigi Davis**

Good morning Shirley! YES, please keep the blurbs coming—it's so nice to hear this and that. I hope your getting yes answers from all. Have a good week. **Nicky Siegman**

Shirley: As long as you send the MOWC Blurb, I'll read it. But the question you should ask yourself is, do I want to spend time on this or would I rather spend time on other, fun things for me. Happy Valentine's Day! **Esther Berg**

Yes, I read the blurb. It is completely up to you Shirley about whether or not you feel you have the time and energy to devote to putting this together. I was actually surprised when I saw the first one last month. I thought you had intended to stop the newsletter in December. Enjoy the luncheon next week. **Kathy Kennett**

Good Morning, so nice hearing from you. Yes, I read everything you send out. Have a good day. **Sylvia Reeves**

Thanks. I enjoy reading it. **Mary Bellis**

I like seeing the digital format to help stay in touch even not there in person. Because my husband died and was not on Active Drill Orders for the Florida National Guard, I was not provided a Casualty Assistance Officer. The tough times I had were bad enough, but with my generous contacts at MacDill I survived.

Therefore, I went to Tallahassee and met with the Florida Department of Military Affairs to see who might be able to help me. I am determined to get funding moving forward so the surviving person could get a 40 hour benefit of someone to help out. **Renée Brunelle**

Yes, I'm reading the blurb! **Priscilla Sarver**





**Shirley and Dick Helveston,  
Sara Marks, Bernie Lieving**



**Debby Amon and Valerie Andrews**



**Teresa McKee, Jeanne Lloyd**

*Photos  
from the  
MOAA  
February  
Luncheon*



**Pat Geasa**



**Anne Pray**



**Dick and Nicky Siegman**



**MOWC sponsored the February Operation Helping Hand dinner so five of us attended and helped serve the meal.**

**Barbara Ewanowski, Theresa McKee, Kathy Kennett, Shirley Helveston and Valerie Andrews**



**Tom South made a plaque for MOWC and Jim Griffin presented it to Kathy Kennett and Shirley Helveston**

## Won't You Join Us?

We were happy to see more MOWC ladies attending the MOAA luncheon in February. It's a cozy setting in the Bay Palms Golf Complex Tournament Room with tables for four in a large room. The luncheons will be held there for a few more months.

The food was delicious and the program enlightening. COL Carol Zieres, MOAA Tampa Chapter President, runs a good meeting and makes everyone feel welcome. The ladies were given a red rose, as a symbol of Valentine's Day, as we departed.

The cost of the luncheons have increased (\$16.) but it does not seem to keep anyone from attending.

I hope you will consider attending the March luncheon and staying connected, if you are able.

Shirley Helveston

## Thank You

The MOWC have received many thank-you letters from the organizations that received our generous contributions. They are very appreciative and grateful for funds that help them to continue their good works.

As of February 14<sup>th</sup>, our credit union accounts have been closed. I will be giving the last \$10 to our faithful waitress once we get back to the club.

A list of those receiving monetary gifts from MOWC were listed in the February issue.

Shirley Helveston, MOWC Treasurer

MY FRIEND CELEBRATED HIS BIRTHDAY THIS YEAR BY BUYING AN ALL-TERRAIN 4 WHEELER. THIS IS A PICTURE OF HIM PLAYING WITH IT IN HIS BACK YARD.

I'M THINKING ABOUT GETTING ME ONE.

LIFE IS FLEETING BY. ENJOY IT WHILE YOU CAN



GETTING OLD IS EASY -  
HAVING FUN AT IT IS THE REAL TRICK

## Aphorism: A short, pointed sentence that expresses a wise or clever observation:

1. The nicest thing about the future is that it always starts tomorrow.
2. Money will buy a fine dog but only kindness will make him wag his tail.
3. If you don't have a sense of humor you probably don't have any sense at all.
4. Seat belts are not as confining as wheelchairs.
5. A good time to keep your mouth shut is when you're in deep water.
6. How come it takes so little time for a child who is afraid of the dark to become a teenager who wants to stay out all night?
7. Business conventions are important because they demonstrate how many people a company can operate without.
8. Why is it that at class reunions you feel younger than everyone else looks?
9. Stroke a cat and you will have a permanent job.
10. No one has more driving ambition than the teenage boy who wants to buy a car.
11. There are no new sins; the old ones just get more publicity.
12. There are worse things than getting a call for a wrong number at 4 a.m - for example, it could be the right number.
13. No one ever says "It's only a game" when their team is winning.
14. I've reached the age where 'happy hour' is a nap.
15. Be careful about reading the fine print - there's no way you're going to like it.
16. The trouble with bucket seats is that not everybody has the same size bucket.
17. Do you realize that, in about 40 years, we'll have thousands of old ladies running around with tattoos?
18. Money can't buy happiness but somehow it's more comfortable to cry in a Cadillac than in a Ford.
19. After 70, if you don't wake up aching in every joint, you're probably dead.
20. Always be yourself because the people that matter don't mind and the ones that mind don't matter.
21. Life isn't tied with a bow but it's still a gift.

And REMEMBER...."POLITICIANS AND DIAPERS SHOULD BE CHANGED OFTEN AND FOR THE SAME REASON."

-Copied from the internet

## President's Message for March 2019



COL Zieres

February 14<sup>th</sup> was a postcard-picture-perfect day to hold our chapter luncheon at the Bay Palms Golf Course Club house! With sunny blue skies and balmy breezes, it felt more like the middle of July than February. It isn't very often that our luncheon falls on Valentine's Day. MOAA members were ushered in to the dining room while listening to the sound of classic Americana music of Singer/Song writer Michael Buble' on the sound system and a little more attention was given the dining room décor with hearts and red rose centerpieces. Each of the ladies present was given a single stem rose to take home at the conclusion of the luncheon.

Our guest speaker was BGEN LEE GRAY, USA (Ret) Special Assistant to the Commanding General for Information Warfare Transformation, US Cyber Command. The central theme of her presentation was the announcement of a new pilot release of the Tampa Bay Arts and Education (TBAE) network, Veterans Strong, which features Military Veterans transitioning to civilian life and connects veterans with resources in the community. General Gray interviews select Veteran entrepreneurs on this TV series to showcase their strength and character; thereby highlighting personal attributes that are attractive to prospective employers. The TV Show, Veterans Strong, will be available on Spectrum and Frontier networks. Check your local network listings for show times. I gave a brief summary of the talking points from the Florida Council of Chapters Leadership Forum in Orlando that I attended back in January. I met the new Chairman of the MOAA National Board of Directors, RADM WALT DORAN, who was the Keynote speaker at the Friday night banquet. In addition to Membership and Legislative Advocacy as hot button topics, he also highlighted the importance of the surviving spouse to MOAA's membership. It was surprising to learn that surviving spouses make up 14 percent of MOAA National's membership. This prompted me to check the Tampa Chapter membership roll, and found it even more surprising that our Chapter's membership is comprised of 28 percent surviving spouses! ADM DORAN went on to say surviving spouses are voting members of MOAA and can serve on board positions. A newly created Virtual Chapter for Surviving Spouses was chartered by MOAA in March 2018 to disseminate important information and updates on Survivor's benefits, the Widow's Tax, VA benefits, etc.

This brings me to my next point; the Tampa Chapter is in need of a Surviving Spouse Liaison and I'm looking for that one special person to step up and take the lead on this important advisory outreach to the surviving spouses of the chapter. Another luncheon highlight was special recognition given our Chapter Treasurer, LTC KEN MARTIN, USMC (Ret) who received the MOAA Council of Chapters Leadership Award for outstanding leadership in advancing chapter programs such as the JROTC awards program and organizer for the annual Toys-for-Tots fund drive. Also, we were honored to welcome two new Coalition SNRs, LTC AHMAD KARIMI from Afghanistan and LTC RIYADH ALMUSAWI from Iraq, who briefly introduced themselves and shared some interesting facts about their country.

Some administrative announcements: I am pleased to announce that our chapter website is getting a new "makeover." Stay tuned for new highlights and developments as we strive to make improvements to the current format. Our goal is to provide a more efficient means to notify you of upcoming events and archive past activities, pictures, and newsletters that you will be able to retrieve with few clicks of a mouse. A friendly reminder that the Surf's Edge Club is undergoing renovation during the months of March through May, therefore our March 14<sup>th</sup> luncheon will be held again at the Bay Palms Golf Club house. Lastly, the FCOC Convention is coming up in just four months! Please be sure to register soon at [www.moaaf.org](http://www.moaaf.org)

REMEMBER, "WE'VE GOT YOUR BACK – NEVER STOP SERVING!"

## AMAZING 2 LETTER ENGLISH WORD

A reminder that one word in the English language that can be a noun, verb, adjective, adverb and preposition.

UP

This two-letter word in English has more meanings than any other two-letter word, and that word is 'UP.' It is listed in the dictionary as an [adv.], [prep.], [adj.], [n] or [v].

- ◆ It's easy to understand UP, meaning toward the sky or at the top of the list, but when we awaken in the morning, why do we wake UP? At a meeting, why does a topic come UP? Why do we speak UP, and why are the officers UP for election and why is it UP to the secretary to write UP a report? We call UP our friends, brighten UP a room, polish UP the silver, warm UP the leftovers and clean UP the kitchen. We lock UP the house and fix UP the old car.
- ◆ At other times, this little word has real special meaning. People stir UP trouble, line UP for tickets, work UP an appetite, and think UP excuses.
- ◆ To be dressed is one thing but to be dressed UP is special.
- ◆ And this UP is confusing: A drain must be opened UP because it is stopped UP.
- ◆ We open UP a store in the morning but we close it UP at night. We seem to be pretty mixed UP about UP!
- ◆ To be knowledgeable about the proper uses of UP, look UP the word UP in the dictionary. In a desk-sized dictionary, it takes UP almost 1/4 of the page and can add UP to about thirty definitions.
- ◆ If you are UP to it, you might try building UP a list of the many ways UP is used. It will take UP a lot of your time, but if you don't give UP, you may wind UP with a hundred or more.
- ◆ When it threatens to rain, we say it is clouding UP. When the sun comes out, we say it is clearing UP. When it rains, the earth soaks it UP. When it does not rain for awhile, things dry UP. One could go on and on, but I'll wrap it UP, for now...my time is UP!
- ◆ Oh...one more thing: What is the first thing you do in the morning and the last thing you do at night?
- ◆ U P!
- ◆ Did that one crack you UP?



## LEXOPHILIA

"Lexophile" describes those that have a love for words, such as "you can tune a piano, but you can't tuna fish",

- To write with a broken pencil is pointless.
- An annual competition is held by the New York Times to see who can create the best original lexophile.
- This year's winning submission is posted at the end.
- I changed my iPod's name to Titanic. It's syncing now.
- England has no kidney bank, but it does have a
- Liverpool .
- Haunted French pancakes give me the crepes.
- This girl today said she recognized me from the Vegetarians Club, but I'd swear I've never met herbivore.
- I know a guy who's addicted to drinking brake fluid, but he says he can stop any time.
- A thief who stole a calendar got twelve months.
- When the smog lifts in Los Angeles U.C.L.A.
- I got some batteries that were given out free of charge.
- A dentist and a manicurist married. They fought tooth and nail.
- A will is a dead giveaway.
- With her marriage, she got a new name and a dress.
- Police were summoned to a daycare center where a three-year-old was resisting a rest.
- Did you hear about the fellow whose entire left side was cut off? He's all right now.
- A bicycle can't stand alone; it's just two tired.
- The guy who fell onto an upholstery machine last week is now fully recovered.
- He had a photographic memory but it was never fully developed.
- When she saw her first strands of gray hair she thought she'd dye.
- Acupuncture is a jab well done. That's the point of it.
- I didn't like my beard at first. Then it grew on me.
- Did you hear about the crossed-eyed teacher who lost her job because she couldn't control her pupils?
- When you get a bladder infection, urine trouble.
- When chemists die, they barium.
- I stayed up all night to see where the sun went, and then it dawned on me.
- No matter how much you push the envelope, it'll still be stationery.
- I'm reading a book about anti-gravity. I just can't put it down.
- Those who get too big for their pants will be totally exposed in the end.



Sunday, March 10  
2:00 a.m.

### Known March Birthdays



- 1 Kolleen Steadman
- 3 Jeanne Lloyd
- 12 Millie Dalcourt
- 17 Trudy South
- 18 Lorraine Gontarski
- 22 Teresa Larm
- 25 Peggy Schilb
- 28 Bonnie Kerr



### Are You Interested?

Kathy Kennett would like to hear from those that would be interested in meeting sometime at Empress Tea Room in Carrollwood. They are open for lunch Thursday—Sunday so tell her your preference of day(s).

Text or call 813-494-0124  
Or Email [rpennett@earthlink.net](mailto:rpennett@earthlink.net)

*Life isn't tied  
with a bow  
but it's still a  
gift.*

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### Future Opportunities

March 14: MOAA luncheon

April 11: MOAA luncheon

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