



Register for the Winter Gala Today!



Register today at: [Winter Gala — MOAA \(moatampa.org\)](http://WinterGala—MOAA(moatampa.org)) The cost is only \$125/person. **Must purchase tickets 4 December by 12 NOON!!!**

The event is open to other MOAA chapters and other local veterans — there's limited space!

If you have any questions or require special assistance, please email: tampamoaa.event@gmail.com.



The RETROSPECT

TAMPA CHAPTER — A FIVE STAR CHAPTER OF MOAA NATIONAL



DECEMBER 2021 VOLUME 27, NUMBER 11

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT: COL CHARLES DALCOURT USA RET

GREETINGS!



agement, intellectual strength and malleability, and their desire to advance the Chapter in very positive ways. They have been change agents focused on moving the organization forward. Although diverse in thought and approach, the Officers and Directors always gained yardage, made it to the endzone. The following quotes capture perspectives that propelled us forward:

- *“There is nothing more difficult to take in hand, more perilous to conduct, or more uncertain in its success, than to take the lead in the introduction of a new order of things.”* —Niccolò Machiavelli;
- *“People are very open-minded about new things, as long as they're exactly like the old ones.”* —Charles F. Kettering;
- *“Your life does not get better by chance, it gets better by change.”* —Jim Rohn;
- *“There is nothing wrong with change...if it is in the right direction.”* —Winston Churchill; and
- *“The greatest danger in times of turbulence is not the turbulence—it is to act with yesterday's logic.”* —Peter Drucker.

MOAA Tampa Chapter will continue to grow and remain relevant by changing, not adapting, to meet the needs of our uniformed servicemembers — past, present, and future. I ask our members to continue to advocate and lend their voices to advance MOAA's initiatives and narrative. To contribute your time, in any measure, and talents towards the accomplishment our Chapter's mission.

It is December already and even in Florida, we have experienced the change of seasons. Temperatures are lowering, traffic has increased, and yes, many lawns are capitulating to winter's beckoning to sleep. Hello to all, and thanks for reading our newsletter this month.

Seasons are wonderful reminders of the inevitability of change. As an optimist, they also signal nature's assurance of advancement, maturity, and progress. This year has been a “season” for MOAA Tampa Chapter. A period of progress spawned by change and accompanied by challenges. Yet, at year's end, the advancement and maturity of our Chapter, its policies and processes, shows that we have enjoyed a productive season.

I thank our Board of Directors for their en-

Next year, we will continue to transform our organization as needed to optimize both our capabilities and impact. Thanks to our existing members that have embraced new positions — Paula Stewart, Chris Hart, and Jeanne Richard, as well as new members like Tom Kuhar, Nick Nicholson, and Angie Nimmo that have assumed critical roles across the Chapter. We look forward to an exciting 2022 and thank you in advance for your support and assistance.

Winter Gala

I offer in this missive and before the event is executed, my sincere appreciation, thanks and reverence for the dedication of the Winter Gala Committee. Over the past eight months, there has been an extraordinary investment in time and effort planning MOAA Tampa Chapter's first fundraising effort, our Winter Gala. It has been incredible to watch and participate in the small committee's journey to make this event a reality. Although considered an uphill endeavor, the team, led by Dick Siegman, quickly assessed the task, engaged both stakeholders and influencers, then launched on an arduous trek to accomplish the mission. The can-do attitude of all involved was infectious and garnered great support from the community. Within ninety days, the vision bore no myth; they could taste the inevitability of accomplishing the mission.

If you are a member or friend of MOAA Tampa Chapter and have missed the advertisements, discussions, articles, or phone calls

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- 2 Dec
10:00 AM
Board of Directors Meeting
- Dec NO Chapter Luncheon
Next Luncheon 13 January
Columbia Restaurant Siboney Room
(See page 7)
- 10 December - 6:00PM-10:00PM
Winter Gala REGISTER NOW!!!
(See page 4)
- 7-8 Jan 2022
FCoC Leadership Conference
Rosen Centre Hotel
Orlando, FL
(See page 4)
- 20 Jan 2022 – 6:00PM-8:00PM
OpHH Dinner
USF Embassy Suites
- 15 Feb 2022 - 9:00AM - 4:00PM
“Thriving After Military Retirement”
Transition Seminar.
FIVE LABS 4115 W Spruce St.
Tampa, FL.
(See page 18)

REMINDER:

SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR THE JANUARY 2022 ISSUE IS 20 DECEMBER 2021

Please submit articles in a Word Document and photos in JPEG

NOTICE: if you have a change of address, please notify our membership team—Bill Schneider at 813 977-2572

geowillyl@aol.com or Tom South
813 975-5025 tsouth1811@gmail.com

LEGISLATIVE LOWDOWN



BY LTC REGINALD WILLIAMS, USA RET

I would like to wish everyone a Happy Holiday Season! As we plan and take part in the season festivities, I kindly ask you continue to serve and advocate in whatever capacity you can. You actions will count as our legislators come back from their recess and start fresh with getting to their respective legislative agendas. We want to make sure our voice is heard to ensure our servicemembers, veterans, retirees, family members, and survivors issues are addressed and medical care and benefits are protected. As stated last month, we still have work to accomplish and we need to be postured by filling their respective inboxes, mailboxes, and answering services when they return in January. Let's move out!

The Benefit Under Threat: Saving TRICARE For Life!

October 2021 marked the 20th anniversary of TRICARE For Life (TFL), one of the largest expansions of the military health care benefit and a huge win for MOAA and other military advocates who worked tirelessly to secure a robust health care benefit for Medicare-eligible military retirees.

While the 20th anniversary provides an opportunity to re-

fect on the TFL victory and the advocacy efforts that drove it, we are also reminded of the importance of protecting the benefit for current Medicare-eligible retirees as well as future generations of TFL enrollees, all of whom sacrificed greatly in support of our nation.

TFL has been under threat for years — both for those who currently rely on the benefit and for our newest generation of military retirees, even after years of war have highlighted the risks and sacrifices associated with career military service. Here is a look at how TFL came to be, why it is more important now than ever, and what lies ahead to protect it.

Meeting a Need

The uniform military health care benefit was created by the Dependents Medical Care Act of 1956, which defined access to military treatment facility (MTF) care in statute. It granted space-available access to MTF care for active duty family members, retirees and their families, and survivors. From 1956 to 2001, the only military health care benefit for retirees aged 65 and older was space-available MTF care and prescription drugs from MTF pharmacies, both at zero out-of-pocket cost.

continued on page 2

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT cont.

regarding the Winter Gala, I invite you now to register to attend the event. Much more than a fundraiser for incredibly relevant causes, the evening will be a wonderful time of fellowship and tributes that you don't want to miss. Again, I encourage you to attend our Chapter's Winter Gala – support the work and the impact of our Chapter in the Tampa Bay area and beyond.

Member of the Month

It is always a pleasure to recognize members that give beyond what is asked, sacrifice consistently for the benefit of the Chapter, and humbly work behind the scenes to ensure every endeavor in which the organization embarks on is successful. Our Members of the Month do all the aforementioned and more. This month, I have the pleasure of announcing another stalwart warrior that enables action and at times with great sacrifice. The Chapter's Member of the Month for December 2021 is Lieutenant Colonel Reginald "Reggie" Williams (USA, Retired).

In title, Reggie serves as our Chapter's Director of Legislative Affairs. In practice, he does so much more. At every event, you can tangibly witness Reggie's engagement. Whether establishing the Zoom links for our board meeting and luncheons, managing logistics in support of our transition events, or filling requirements and gaps present due to unfilled positions, Reggie is present and focused...cordial and caring. His commitment is both humbling and inspiring. His service is invaluable.

We are thrilled to honor Reggie this month and thank him for strengthening the backbone of the Chapter. Please take time to read Reggie's biographical information later in this newsletter and share your appreciation of him at either the Winter Gala or the next luncheon.

Wrapping Up:

Thank you for the privilege of serving you. I am consistently amazed at the sacrificial nature of our Team and teammates like the Veterans Treatment Court, Associa-

tion of the United States Army, South Tampa Chamber of Commerce, and FIVE Labs. I ask that you consider getting involved through volunteering for a position or donating time in support of a specific event. Again, register and attend the Winter Gala – you don't want to miss it. May God bless you all and warmly embrace you and your families this holiday season and throughout the New Year.

All the best,
Charles Dalcourt



LEGISLATIVE LOWDOWN cont.

The post-Cold War drawdown led to the downsizing or closure of many installations and military hospitals. Retirees in these areas lost MTF access and, therefore, their only military health care benefit.

Throughout the 1990s, MOAA and other advocacy groups fought for legislation to improve the health care benefit for Medicare-eligible retirees. Some organizations and individuals turned to the courts claiming breach of contract and said DoD and the services had promised career servicemembers free health care for life. This perception was reinforced by decades of readily available free MTF care.

Federal courts have held there is no legal basis for the claim to free health care for life since it is not supported by statute and regulations and does not grant a right to MTF care, or other free medical care, for retirees and their dependents. However, an appellate court acknowledged the validity of retiree claims and urged Congress to fulfill its moral obligation to retirees.

MOAA and the TFL Win

MOAA and other military advocacy groups achieved a long-standing goal when Congress addressed military retiree access to care by establishing TFL in the FY 2001 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).

TFL provides wraparound coverage that pays out-of-pocket costs after Medicare reimbursement for Medicare-covered services. TFL beneficiaries are also eligible for all TRICARE benefits not covered by Medicare, including medical care overseas. The bill also expanded the TRICARE retail and mail order pharmacy programs to Medicare-eligible retirees who had been limited to filling prescriptions at MTF pharmacies.

Media called the TFL win a "stunning turnaround" and reported TFL would increase the lifetime value of the military health care benefit by more than a third. Senior DoD officials called TFL "the Golden Supplement."

"When Congress enacted TFL, legislators and Pentagon officials alike acknowledged the statutory omission of a cash premium for TFL was to recognize career servicemembers had pre-paid steep premiums through a career of service and sacrifice in uniform," said Col. Steve Strobbridge, USAF (Ret), MOAA's former vice president for Government Relations. "The only requirement was to enroll in Medicare Part B, as the vast majority of Medicare-eligible retirees had been doing anyway.

"From the 1990s to 2001," Strobbridge added, "we worked hard to highlight the shameful situation that the military was the only large employer in America that provided its 65-and-

older retirees no employer-paid coverage beyond Medicare. Enactment of TFL and associated pharmacy benefits transformed military retirees' medical coverage to one of the very best."

The TFL benefit has become even more important given the specialization and subspecialization in health care. TFL allows military retirees to access the care they need with no out-of-pocket cost for most services.

Over the past two decades, the limitations of space-available MTF care for retirees have been underscored by medical provider deployments to support overseas operations and, more recently, the response to COVID-19. TFL has ensured all military retirees have affordable access to care even when MTF capacity is constrained.

TFL Under Attack

Since its launch in 2001, TFL has come under budgetary attack in multiple legislative cycles. MOAA has been at the forefront, working with other advocacy groups and The Military Coalition to preserve the benefit for Medicare-eligible uniformed services retirees and their families. MOAA's advocacy efforts, including congressional testimony, statements for the record, and engagement with Armed Services Committee staff and member offices on Capitol Hill, successfully blocked five consecutive administration budget request proposals for a TFL enrollment fee in fiscal years 2013-2017.

The appropriate level of out-of-pocket costs for beneficiaries has been a topic of debate since the military health care benefit was passed into law in 1956. The creation of TFL has had a significant impact on DoD health care spending. Calls for a TFL enrollment fee and other beneficiary cost increases will likely continue in the future given DoD budget constraints.

Safeguarding TFL for a New Generation

It would be unconscionable for Congress to increase costs for Medicare-eligible military retirees who currently rely on TFL, and MOAA has successfully made that argument for many years.

Most recent proposals to cut TFL have targeted our newest generation of military retirees — equally unacceptable. Blocking proposed cuts to the TFL benefit is a top priority for MOAA. It's as true today as in 2001 when TFL was enacted that career servicemembers and their families pay far steeper premiums than any civilian for their benefits in retirement, and they pay them upfront through extended service and sacrifice.

The TFL benefit was a key component of the compensation and benefits package that sustained the all-volunteer force through two decades of war. Congress must not reduce the

benefit just as the generation that served a full career amid high tempo and repeated combat deployments reaches retirement. Our servicemembers earned comprehensive health care coverage and MOAA will work to ensure it is there when they need it most.

Senate NDAA Amendment Seeks to Ease Financial Challenges for New Survivors²

Financial concerns can be a terrible burden on top of an already stressful situation for a newly widowed spouse. When they discover the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) may take part or all of a servicemember's last retirement check back, it can be overwhelming.

[TAKE ACTION: Ask Your Lawmaker to Support the Military Retiree Survivor Comfort Act]

The Military Retiree Survivor Comfort Act (H.R. 2214 and S.1669) will allow survivors to gradually repay the amount over the next 12 months and have an opportunity to request for debt forgiveness through DoD.

Sens. Rob Portman (R-Ohio) and Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) recently submitted the Military Survivor Comfort Act as a Senate Amendment (SA 3882) for consideration in the FY 2022 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).

"Too many surviving spouses are financially caught off guard when their servicemember passes," said Lt. Gen. Dana T. Atkins, USAF (Ret), president and CEO of MOAA. "DFAS recoupment of the last paycheck can empty a banking account for a grieving survivor. MOAA strongly supports Senators Portman and Warren's introduction of the Military Survivor Comfort Act that will ease the financial burden with a gradual repayment and option to appeal for debt forgiveness."

In support of our survivor community, The Military Coalition (TMC), a group of organizations including MOAA that represent nearly 5.5 million members of the uniformed services community, sent a letter to Portman and Warren earlier this year in support of the legislation.

Senate NDAA amendments will be considered very soon. Because time is short, call (866) 272-MOAA (6622), MOAA's toll-free line to the U.S. Capitol switchboard, to be connected with your senators' offices and ask them to support SA 3882, the Military Retiree Survivor Comfort Act.

Remember to take action! [Visit MOAA's Take Action Center](#)

Sources:

- 1) www.moaa.org, article by Karen Ruedisueli, November 16, 2021
- 2) www.moaafl.org, article by Mark Belinsky, November 16, 2021

FCOC 2022 Leadership Seminar Invitation

Florida Council of Chapter Leaders,

I would like to formally invite all Chapter Presidents, Vice Presidents, Membership Chairs, Legislative Chairs, Surviving Spouse and Personal Affairs Liaisons, FCOC Board Members and Council Staff to attend the upcoming Leadership Seminar on January 7th and 8th, 2022 at the Rosen Centre Hotel in Orlando.

If your chapter recently had an election or will be having an election of officers in the near future, please ensure that the newly elected or nominated officers are encouraged to attend. Finally, the Leadership Seminar is open to ALL Chapter members who are interested in "Continuing to Serve."

The seminar and training will start at 0800 hours on Friday Jan 7th and the FCOC Board meeting will take place on Saturday Jan 8th at 1330 hours. The draft agenda for the entire event is available at <http://moaafi.org/LeadershipSeminar.aspx>

Room rates are \$149.00 per night and, as usual, when registering through the Council there are no taxes applied. The rate includes complimentary internet, self-parking, and use of

the gym. The room rate is applicable from Jan 4th to Jan 11th 2022 (3 days prior and 3 days after the seminar).

When registering, you will notice there is no charge for the Friday evening dinner as national MOAA has graciously consented to sponsor the event. The keynote speaker at the dinner will be MOAA National's President, Lt Gen Dana Atkins. He will assist in presentation of our FCOC leadership awards.

Please register to attend as early as possible, but not later than Dec 15th as we must provide final numbers to the hotel at that time. As you will note on the registration page, we have attempted to make this as easy as possible. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact either VP Pat Kluever or me (email or phone).

Looking forward to seeing you in January.

Mike Borders, COL, USA (Ret)
President, FCOC
PresFCoC@gmail.com

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



2021 OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT: CHARLES DALCOURT COL USA RET

1ST VP: WILLIAM SCHNEIDER COL USA RET

2ND VP: MATTHEW MULARONI LTC USA RET

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT: CAROL ZIERES COL USA RET

SECRETARY: GEOFF HARRINGTON CDR USNR RET

TREASURER: KENNETH MARTIN LTC USMC RET

SURVING SPOUSES LIASION: RENEE BRUNELLE

2021 DIRECTORS:

EDUCATION, TRAINING & EVENTS:
RICHARD SIEGMAN LTC USAF RET

COMMUNICATIONS: SARA MARKS CAPT NC USN RET

LEGAL AFFAIRS: WILLIAM MITCHELL LTJG (former) USN

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS: REGINALD WILLIAMS LTC USA RET



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, Public Health Service, or MOAA and their surviving spouses.

Tampa Chapter



Military Officers Association of America

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: TampaMOAA.Secretary@gmail.com





Don't Miss Out!



Absolute Last Day to Purchase a Ticket is Saturday 4 December @1200 NOON!!!

REGISTER NOW!

THE TAMPA CHAPTER OF THE
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA



INAUGURAL FUNDRAISER

FRIDAY DECEMBER 10, 2021

6:00PM - 10:00PM

WINTER Gala



MOAA Tampa's exciting *1st Annual Winter Gala* is right around the corner! Members of the chapter are very busy getting everything finalized. If you would like to help us on the *Winter Gala* committee just let us know. Here is a brief update on the highlights of the Winter Gala.

The MOAA Tampa Chapter's *1st Annual Winter Gala* will be held on 10 December 2021, from 6:00pm – 10:00pm at a private country club in Tampa, 1601 S. MacDill Ave., Tampa, Fl 33629.

The evening will include:

- * A cocktail hour on the patio overlooking the beautiful golf course greens
- * Raffle items
- * Silent auction
- * Chapter awards presentations
- * Musical ensemble & pianist
- * Art show & sale from local artists
- * A plated banquet style dinner

Your registration fee includes:

Your choice of entrée from below

- Filet Mignon * Chicken Marsala * Grilled Salmon * Vegetarian (Chef's choice)
- * Your choice of two beverages at the bar (cash bar is also available should you want more)
- * Glass of wine for ceremonial toasts at the beginning of the dinner
- * One photo, taken by a professional photographer on premise, that can be printed on site for you to take home
- * Dress is formal (dark suit/dinner jacket, cocktail dress). Active and retired members are encouraged to wear their mess dress uniforms.

This *Winter Gala* is first and foremost a fundraising event which directly supports MOAA Tampa Chapter's outreach programs. These programs include Operation Helping Hand, Veterans Affairs, Transition Seminars, Chapter Scholarships, and Guard and Reserve Outreach. To that end, we are seeking sponsors and soliciting donations from local businesses to support these endeavors. Additionally, there will be representatives from "Toys for Tots" to collect your voluntary toy or monetary donations as well.

Along with participating in this important fundraising event, you will also enjoy the comradery of your fellow MOAA Tampa Chapter members and their guests. This will undoubtedly be a great evening for all in attendance. Proceeds raised will enable the Chapter to continue and expand on the tremendous services we provide the Tampa Bay community.

We have a maximum capacity at the venue, so don't delay! Register today at:

[Winter Gala — MOAA \(moatampa.org\)](https://moatampa.org) The cost is only \$125.00/person.

If you have any questions or require special assistance, please email tampamoaa.event@gmail.com.



GALA RAFFLE ITEMS

A sampling of some of the terrific items that will be available at this special event!



American Glory Eagle Statue

Donor: MOAA Tampa Member



Venice Painting

Donor: Carol Zieres



Corona Beach Cruiser Bike

Donor: Constellation Brands



Dillard Gift Basket

Donor: Dillards Brandon Mall



Chuck Lager Gift Card

Donor: Chuck Lager America's Tavern



E9 rank insignia custom clock

Donor: Triple Strand Global Solutions



O6 rank insignia custom clock

Donor: Triple Strand Global Solutions



(2) \$25 Glory Days Gift Cards

Donor: I-Heart Radio



Tide Cleaners Gift Card

Donor: Tide Dry Cleaners - Valrico



Christmas Pasta Gift Basket

Donor: MOAA Tampa Chapter



TB Rays Tickets (4), Hat, Autographed Ball

Donor: Tampa Bay Rays



American Glory Eagle Statue

Donor: MOAA Tampa Member



Gift basket

Donor: Retiree Volunteer Organization, 6th Medical Group



International Diamond Center Gift Card

Donor: I-Heart Radio



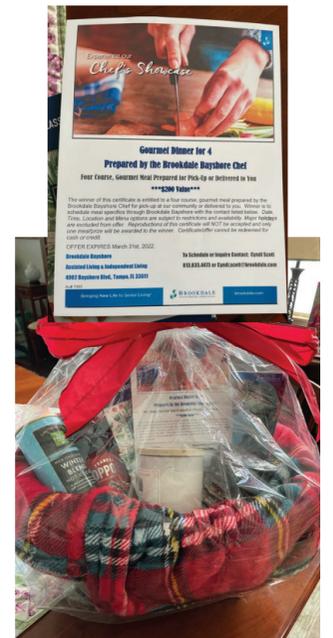
(2) Wing House Gift Card

Donor: I-Heart Radio



Framed, autographed historical photo

Donor: Robert Wilde



Chef Showcase Gourmet Dinner for 4 and a basket that includes wine, cookies, chocolate and candles

Donor: Brookdale



(4) Zoo Tampa General Admission Tickets

Donor: I-Heart Radio



Limo Gift Certificate

Donor: Affari Transportation (Alex)

Collection: Reflections "Tiled: Connected though Separated Acrylic mix media on stretched canvas. Gold Foil and Flaking Set of 2. 12"x24" inches

Donor: Rebekah Lane



November Luncheon Guest Speaker: The Honorable Michael J. Scionti



Judge Michael J. Scionti is a Tampa native and lifelong resident of the State of Florida. He earned his Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice from Florida State University in 1990 and his Doctor of Jurisprudence from South Texas College of Law in 1996. He was admitted to the Florida Bar in 1996 and later admitted to the U.S. Supreme Court, the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit, the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Florida, and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces.

Judge Scionti has served our community and our country with honor and distinction upholding the rule of law in and out of the courtroom, on and off the battlefield, and throughout all branches of government. Elected to the bench in 2014, Judge Scionti serves as a Circuit Court Judge in and for the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit, Florida and is currently assigned to the Circuit Criminal Division, where he presides over both Juvenile Delinquency and Veterans Treatment Courts. As a veteran himself, Judge Scionti brings his own military service and experience to the bench in helping to address the unique challenges facing our veterans, while ensuring the fair and impartial administration of justice.

Prior to his judicial service, Judge Scionti served as a Senior Diplomat and Foreign Policy Advisor with the U.S. State Department overseeing rule of law advancements and counter-terrorism prosecutions in Afghanistan, as well as a Deputy Assistant Secretary with the U.S. Defense Department

overseeing national security and homeland defense policy. Judge Scionti also served as a member of the Florida House of Representative advancing public health and safety policy while serving on Florida's Commission on Capital Cases and as Ranking Member on the House Public Safety and Security Council, Criminal and Civil Justice Committee, and Military and Veterans Affairs Committee. In addition to his executive and legislative service, Judge Scionti also served as an Assistant Attorney General, an Assistant State Attorney and an Assistant Statewide Prosecutor working with federal, state and local law enforcement agencies in successfully prosecuting violent felony offenders, white-collar corruption, and organized crime.

Judge Scionti also serves as a Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve, Judge Advocate General's Corps. Judge Scionti is currently assigned to U.S. Special Operations Command and has served multiple overseas tours of duty as a military magistrate and rule of law advisor in both Iraq and Afghanistan. As a military magistrate, Judge Scionti presided over military-commissioned war tribunals of suspected enemy prisoners of war and international terrorists.

Among his many military honors, Judge Scionti has been awarded the Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Army Commendation Medal and the Presidential Unit Citation.

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



So hard to believe how quickly this year has flown by! December is here and time to enjoy all the festivities of Christmas, Chanukah, and Kwanzaa as well as many other holiday traditions this time of year! And the Winter Gala is coming so quickly now! **Please note that the Gala is on Friday December 10th, but we have to close the sale of tickets by 12NOON on Sunday Dec 4th to**

give our venue a hard number of guests---SO BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW!!! You can purchase on our E-commerce site that is up and running on our <https://moaatampa.org> website! You'll notice a RED button that says "Winter Gala" that you can click once and access the Event Registration.

Many of our sponsors donated so many wonderful and beautiful items for the Winter Gala's Silent Auction and Raffle. Make sure to see what has been donated as of the printing of this newsletter! I hope you read last month's newsletter highlighting all the artists who will be showing and selling their work. Mistakenly listed as Father Craig Gross, I'd like to note that artist Craig Gross is a Gold Star Father who will be presenting at the Gala. Please make a point to help him honor his son, Army Cpl. Frankie Gross at the Gala. You can donate as you register for the Gala or go to our new DONATE tab on our website and donate directly to Toys for Tots at that location on the MOAA Tampa website. We so appreciate your support for all of our initiatives.

Happy Birthday to the Civil Air Patrol and the National Guard! So many activities to highlight this month, to include the Eyes of Freedom: Lima Company Memorial Exhibit submitted by Jeanne Richard, and a huge thank you to Mack Macksam for sponsoring this touching tribute, Operation Helping Hand's dinner photos, Bernie Lieving's 1st Cavalry Division Reunion article and my deep appreciation to Tom South for sharing a most touching story about his brother, Sergeant Bill South who was on a troop ship the S.S. Leopoldville crossing the English Channel when it was torpedoed by a German U-Boat. There are other articles that I hope you find interesting in this month's issue.

As I prepare for each edition of The Retrospect, I always love talking to our members highlighted each month in our newsletter. Our chapter wouldn't be successful without you. Our Member of the Month, voted by the chapter's board of directors, recognizes "excellence of service" of individuals in the MOAA Tampa Chapter. Our honorary December, Member of the Month, is Reggie Williams. I'm not sure everyone knows all the details that Reggie attends to outside of his Legislative Affairs Updates. I've come to know his dry sense of humor and value his easy approachability on so many things, especially with the many activities that our Chapter is promoting. Reggie, it's so much fun working with you. Know how much everyone in our chapter appreciates all that you do. As we say in Navy Speak, "Bravo Zulu!"

Chapter Members, this is your newsletter so please share your stories, including such topics as military history, individual biographies, the role of military spouses, special events of interest to members, any vignettes of military or veterans service, holiday, commemorative, or celebratory themes, etc. My sincerest thank you to Jeanne Richard, Bernie Lieving, Bob Sawallesh, Tom South, Paul McAneny, and Paula Stewart for writing articles for *The Retrospect* this month, especially for Paul and Paula for providing your updates so quickly at my late request. I challenge all of our Chapter Members to send me your stories!

This time of year can be so joyous, but also can be a difficult time for so many people. As Christmas approaches, I know I've made it a tradition to watch *It's A Wonderful Life* with Jimmy Stewart. In real life he had returned from combat in WWII and the scenes where he was distressed weren't far from his personal struggles. Let us make sure to reach out to all of our shipmates, loved ones, friends and those who may need a simple act of kindness during the holiday and throughout the year.

"Strange, isn't it? Each man's life touches so many other lives. And when he isn't around, he leaves an awful hole, doesn't he?" – Clarence, *It's A Wonderful Life*.

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 Officer's 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).

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.

OUR EDITORIAL 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 Colombia Siboney Room in Ybor City and available to attend via Zoom.

ON THE WEB:

Tampa Chapter <https://moaatampa.org>

Communications directed to specific board members may be made by accessing their contact information listed under "ABOUT MOAA TAMPA CHAPTER" and "LEADERSHIP."

A password protected MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY is posted on the website under the "MEMBERSHIP" category. FL COUNCIL of CHAPTERS: www.moaafl.org

MOAA NATIONAL: www.moaa.org

OPERATION HELPING HAND: www.operationhelpinghandtampa.com

TAKE ACTION: <http://www.moaa.org/Content/Take-Action/Top-Issues/Top-Issues.aspx>

MOAA's News Listing

Click for the latest news and resources from MOAA.

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LUNCHEON ANNOUNCEMENT

NO DECEMBER LUNCHEON due to the Inaugural Winter Gala on Friday 10 December 2021

The JANUARY CHAPTER LUNCHEON is scheduled for Thursday, 13 JANUARY 2022. TIME: 1130 hours
LOCATION: Columbia Restaurant, Siboney Room, 2117 E 7th Ave, Ybor City

Luncheon reminders are sent via email. If you are not receiving the reminders, please call 813-374-3309 or send an email to bab@digital.net to Barbara Brotherton, the new Luncheon Reservations Coordinator, 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 CDR Geoff Harrington USNR Ret at (813) 926-7988 so that he may call or send cards to let them know they are missed.

Alternatively, you may send an e-mail to: TampaMOAA.Secretary@gmail.com

CDR Geoff Harrington USNR, Ret, Sick Call Chairman

Smile.Amazon and The MOAA Foundation

Do you ordinarily order from Amazon.com? Want to do some good while you shop? Use Smile.Amazon.com (not

Amazon.com) and let Amazon contribute to The MOAA Foundation. Why The MOAA Foundation – because it provides assistance to over 100,000 military and veteran families and their survivor each year! All you do is go to smile.amazon.com, enter your Amazon email address or your mobile phone number and your password, select The MOAA Foundation as your charity, and place your order as usual. Not a different password to remember!

Amazon contributes 0.5% of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the MOAA Foundation. The MOAA Foundation (TMF, EIN 46-4219250), a 501c(3) charitable subsidiary of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), offers grants to MOAA, its councils and chapters in support of career development and community outreach programs and services.

If you want to see more about the Foundation, go to the MOAA site, www.MOAA.org (at the home page, go to the bottom and select the Site Map to find the MOAA Foundation).

DECEMBER IMPORTANT DATES

- 1 Civil Air Patrol (USAF Auxillary) Birthday
- 7 National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
- 11 Army vs Navy Game
- 13 U.S. National Guard Birthday
- 14 National Wreaths Across America
- 25 Christmas Day
- 26 Dec – 1 Jan Kwanzaa
- 31 New Year's Eve



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E-Mail: TampaMOAA.Secretary@gmail.com

HOMELESS VETERANS PROJECT

—Submitted by: Paula Stewart, LTC, USA (Ret)

The Tampa MOAA Chapter has embarked on a mission to reach out to homeless veterans by meeting them where they are, among the homeless population. The goal is to provide an ongoing bridge between living in homelessness and unemployment to finding a productive life for themselves and their families. This initiative will join other vital MOAA Tampa actions to diminish the number of homeless veterans and sharply reduce the incidents of serious problems like incarceration and suicide.



Quarterly, a presentation is made to transitioning active duty military members and their families during the "Thriving After Military Service" seminar. Those attending get to examine how they can fit this volunteer service into their work and family schedules by becoming a part of veterans and civic organizations that provide a variety of services in this area as well as becoming members of this very active chapter.

Interested in participating with the Homeless Veterans Project email Paula Stewart at renaissancepewhs@gmail.com.

BUDDY CHECK CALLS TO OUR MOAA TAMPA CHAPTER MEMBERS

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

Our MOAA Tampa Chapter cares about all of our members. During this time of prolonged pandemic, we believe it is important stay connected with each other. Last year we made calls to our Chapter members and so enjoyed talking to each-and-every one of you.



Angie Nimmo, CAPT Nurse Corps USN (Ret) recently joined the MOAA Tampa Chapter and has volunteered to coordinate this wonderful program. Quite a few volunteers are making calls for a holiday "Buddy Check" to our Chapter members to wish you well during this holiday season, encourage you to come to our Inaugural Winter Fundraising Gala on Dec 10th, provide updates on the monthly luncheons and to simply ask how you are doing. So, if you see a phone number you don't recognize, it may be one of our Buddy Check volunteers. If you're unable to answer the phone or we miss you, we'll leave a voice message and send you an email or text message.

If you are interested in participating in our Buddy Check Calls or would like to have someone call you on a semi-annual, quarterly or monthly basis, please e-mail Angie Nimmo at angienimmo64@gmail.com.



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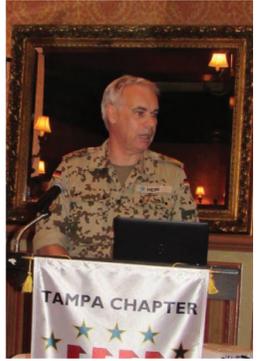
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November Luncheon Photos

Photo credits: Bob Sawallesh, Sara Marks and Bill Mitchell



CHAPTER MEMBER OF THE MONTH

LTC REGINALD G. WILLIAMS, U.S. ARMY, (RETIRED)

Reginald Williams was born, raised, and educated in Tuskegee, Alabama. At an early age, he had the honor and privilege of receiving flight training from "Chief" Charles Alfred Anderson and several of the Tuskegee Airman when he was in high school. Reginald entered the Army Reserves in September 1986 as a Material Storage and Handling Specialist. He finished college as a Distinguished Military Graduate from Tuskegee University in 1991 and received a commission as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Aviation Corps.



In his initial assignment upon completing Aviation Officer Basic Course and Flight School, Reginald was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 501st Aviation Regiment, Camp Humphreys, Korea. He had many operational assignments as was afforded unique professional experiences and opportunities to serve in the 159th Aviation Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, 1st Infantry Division, 82d Airborne Division, and XVIII Airborne Corps.

He has held many command and staff positions from platoon leader to battalion commander as well as several Joint assignments at the Combatant Command, Joint Staff, and Office of the Secretary of Defense levels. His tactical and operational assignments took him to Korea, Fort Bragg, North Carolina, Hunter Army Airfield, Savannah, Georgia, Fort Campbell, Kentucky, Washington D.C. and culminating in Tampa, Florida at U.S. Central Command. Reginald deployed to Haiti,

OPERATION UPHOLD DEMOCRACY, three deployments to Iraq, OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM, and, one to Afghanistan, OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM. His duties encompassed Battalion Operations and Executive Officer, Brigade Logistics and Operations Officer, and Battalion Commander. He has served as an Operations and Strategic Plans Officer. For his final assignment, he served as the Deputy Operations Planner, Afghanistan / Central and South Asia (USCENTCOM CCJ3) and Director of Exercise and Training for the Central and South Asia (USCENTCOM CCJ7). Reginald was a Senior Army Aviator, holding pilot ratings in several military and civilian aircraft and holds a Master's Degree in Administration from Central Michigan University.



threats with tactical responsiveness and anticipatory acquisition in support of combatant commanders' efforts to prepare for, and adapt to, battlefield surprise in the areas of counter-terrorism, counter-insurgency and other related mission areas including counter-improvised threats and Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction.

Currently, Reggie is the Chief Operating Officer at Triple Strand Global Solutions, LLC where he is responsible for designing and implementing business operations, establishing policies that promote company culture and vision, and setting comprehensive goals for performance and growth of the organization. He serves on several Boards and enjoys mentoring youth in the Tampa Bay area. He is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. and on the Gamma Zeta Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Educational Foundation Board. He supports and volunteers with the Big Brother Big Sisters, Boy Scouts of America, mentors kids and adults by providing an equestrian experience with his horses. He continues to serve in and leads different ministries in Cypress Point Community Church.

While serving as MOAA Tampa Chapter Legislative Affairs Director, he continues to advocate for our servicemembers, veterans, retirees, and family members. Reggie lives in Lutz with his wife Stacy and they have five children and two grandchildren.



Coalition Corner

Submitted by: BGEN Henrik Larsen

Dear MOAA Members,

As you are probably all aware we had to postpone the Coalition International Night this year. At MacDill Air Force Base it is still mandatory to wear face mask. We - the Coalition - concluded that it would be far from ideal to

have 4.000 plus people invading one of the hangars to enjoy food, beverages etc. while wearing face masks. I trust we will be able to host an International Night in 2022. I know I somewhat keep repeating myself, but it is a major part of our presence here in Tampa to establish and maintain good relationships with not only our colleagues in CENTCOM and SOCOM but equally important the surrounding community. Over the years a lot of people and organizations have supported the Coalition. The International Night provides a very relevant and important option for us to reach out to all our friends on and off base to convey our thanks for the continuing support and indeed to acknowledge our friendships. The last International Night took place in 2019. Let us keep our fingers crossed that 2022 will be the year we launch this event again.

Among other important events 2021 ended up being the year in which we concluded the military engagement in Afghanistan. The International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) and later the Resolute Support Mission in Afghanistan was initially the main driver for establishing the Coalition with CENTCOM. Following the 9/11 attacks a lot of nations arrived at MacDill AFB to join the Coalition. Some years ago the Coalition counted 63 nations. A key aspect related to any coalition is the ability and necessity to adapt to the current context in which we have to operate. Today the main issue for the Coalition reflects the nation's commitment to be part of the Global War on Terror. The CENTCOM area of responsibility has been increased to include Israel bringing the total of nations to 21. We still have Senior National Representatives from almost all nations in the CENTCOM AOR. The Coalition currently has 45 nations onboard, and we have not made any plans to depart.

Christmas is just around the corner. Many Coalition members will be headed back to our respective nations to spend Christmas with family and friends. Now that it is possible for our families to visit us here in the US again some will stay in the Tampa area to spend the holidays here. Others will travel to other parts of the US to further explore some of all the great opportunities nationwide.

On behalf of the entire coalition community I wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We are all looking forward to engaging with MOAA Tampa and Operation Helping Hand once we are back in the saddle in 2022.



All the best,

BGEN Henrik Larsen
Danish Senior National
Representative to US CENTCOM
Chairman of the Coalition

USCENTCOM hosts 16th Coalition International Night



The U.S. Central Command (USCENTCOM) Coalition hosted their 16th annual Coalition International Night in Hangar 5 at MacDill Air Force Base (AFB), [Dec. 5, 2019.](#)

UPDATE OPERATION HELPING HAND



LTC JIM GRIFFIN
Chairman, OPHH

“As long as we are need-
ed, Operation Helping
Hand will be there...”



Operation Helping Hand held a fundraiser with Bobby A's BBQ with The Westchase Krewe of Freebooters in attendance November 13. Fun and delicious BBQ! It was a great success!



On 18 NOV, OPERATION HELPING HAND held its NOV/DEC dinner. We were able to welcome over 90 supporters to join us in honoring the wounded and injured at the JAMES A HALEY VA HOSPITAL. The dinner event was sponsored by ARMA GLOBAL, one of our long-time supporters. Special thanks to MIKE MELTON, CHRISTINE ROMAN and the entire ARMA GLOBAL CREW that participated in the dinner event.

We were honored to have the new EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR of the JAMES A HALEY VA HOSPITAL, MR. DAVID DUNNING. A 30+ YEAR ARMY VETERAN. Also, in attendance from the JAHVA were DR STEVEN SCOTT, and CDR LARRY MILLER. Presentations were made to OPERATION HELPING HAND by GABRIELLA HIEB, VFW POST 10209 AND AUXILIARY. Also, the MARINES from the VILLAGES, represented by REGGIE NEALY made a presentation to OPERATION HELPING HAND. The AVAST COLOR GUARD presented the colors in a truly spectacular fashion. Special thanks to Rudi and his crew.

The FREEDOM HIGH SCHOOL cadets stole the show with the special presentation of POW/MIA table. They provided the history and tradition behind symbolism represented by the table and all of the items on it. They were truly spectacular. A very special thanks to the leadership and patriotism of these cadets and their leaders. If you missed this, they will perform it again at the MOAA GALA ON 10 DECEMBER. SIGN UP TO ATTEND!

OPERATION HELPING HAND has expanded its mission to provide assistance to veterans of all wars who utilize the JAH SCI for their primary source of rehabilitation. OPERATION

HELPING HAND will continue to assist the MUSIC, ART, AND VIRTUAL REALITY therapy programs. This, of course, includes the POLYTRAUMA FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP. OPERATION HELPING HAND remains as an all-volunteer 501(c)(3) organization, in which 96.5% of all donations received goes for the support of these vital programs.

OPERATION HELPING HAND will need your continued support to allow us to continue our vital program of service to all of these vital projects. This support can be through donations by checks or by using our website (OPERATIONHELPINGHANDTAMPA.COM). STAY SAFE, HEALTHY, AND RESILIENT! SEE YOU ON 20 JANUARY!

**OUR TREMENDOUS GROUP OF VOLUNTEERS
MAKE ALL OF THIS POSSIBLE!**

Operation Helping Hand Nov/Dec 2021 Dinner





Surviving Spouse Corner:

Submitted By Renee Brunelle

Surviving Spouse Corner: Know Your State-Level Military Benefits

By: Dr. Vivianne Wersel

Many MOAA surviving spouses receive survivor benefits from DoD and the VA. Besides these benefits, state-level benefits are available to those who meet the criteria. State benefits are state-driven, unlike federal or VA benefits or entitlements.

Surviving spouses might not be aware of these state-level benefits because there is not a one-stop-shop website for military survivors.

Some states are more “military friendly” than others. The amount of benefits can vary from state to state; some offer as many as 60 and as few as 22 benefits to retired veterans, according to the Center for a New America Security (CNAS). The challenge is determining what benefits are passed on to the survivor after the veteran or servicemember dies. CNAS says military survivors receive less than 50% of what states offers to veterans.

To determine what state benefits are available to survivors, begin by looking at the individual state benefits for veterans using the CNAS benefit finder. Next, locate the state you are targeting and then search for the “Beneficiary” category. It is important to verify eligibility, as many of the webpages might be outdated.

Some state benefits include (but, again, vary from state to state):

- Academic scholarships
- Property tax exemption or reduction of property tax (For example: Military surviving spouses who receive Dependency and Indemnity Compensation from the VA are eligible for up to a \$45,000 deduction in the assessed value of their home for property tax purposes.)
- Survivor Benefit Plan tax exemption for state tax
- Free admission to national parks
- Free fishing and hunting license

Being aware of state-level benefits can also help surviving spouses determine whether



—Photo by Chad Springer/Getty Images

they want to stay or relocate to optimize their benefits. Many independent variables need to be considered, such as cost of living and proximity to family support. Knowing the state-level benefits is a helpful tool in this decision-making process.

Source:

<https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2021-news-articles/surviving-spouse-corner-state-level-military-benefits/>

Tips for Travelers Facing Chaos and Crowds This Season

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

Patience and preparation are essential if you're flying or driving over the holidays

This holiday travel season is shaping up to be the busiest and most chaotic in some time as people return to the roads and skies in nearly full pre-pandemic force within a weakened travel infrastructure that has yet to revive enough to efficiently meet the demand.

Travel volume has rebounded over the past few months, with increased flight and hotel bookings. AAA is forecasting that 53 million Americans will be on the move Thanksgiving weekend, with 4.2 million traveling by air (closing in on the 4.6 million who flew Thanksgiving weekend in 2019, before COVID-19 hit). Meanwhile, the U.S. is welcoming rising numbers of visitors from

other countries, now that it has reopened to international travelers. Misty Belles, managing director of global public relations at Virtuoso, says the travel company's international hotel reservations have increased 30 percent just over the past month.

While not yet reaching 2019 levels, “travel is going to feel busier than normal,” Belles predicts. “The majority of us have not been traveling regularly and haven't faced many crowded situations over the past 18 to 24 months. That will make the upcoming peak travel period seem that much more hectic.”

Adding to the hectic feeling are [staff shortages across the travel industry](#), more flight delays and cancellations, and confusing and changing COVID-19 travel rules.

But by doing some planning and research, applying a few tips and tricks, and bringing a huge helping of patience, you can reduce the holiday travel stress.

CDC Travel Guidance

The Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) advises against travel unless you are fully vaccinated. Those who are unvaccinated who intend to travel within the U.S. should get tested for COVID-19 one to three days before departure and three to five days after returning. They should stay home and self-quarantine for seven days after travel or 10 days if they don't get tested upon returning from their trip.

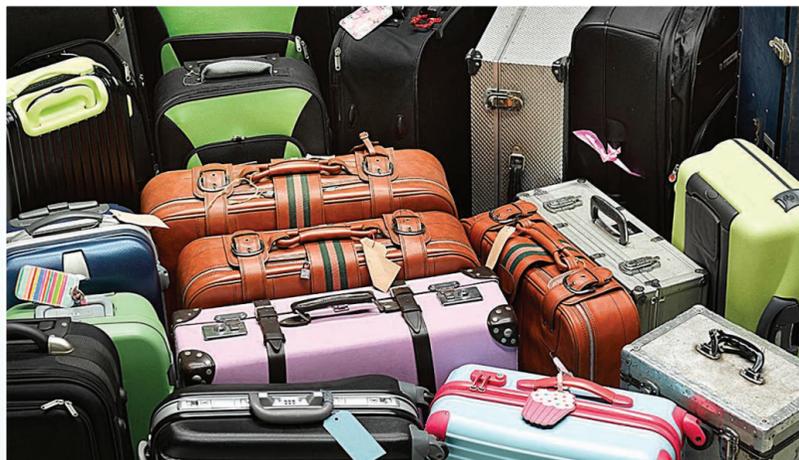
The CDC still requires all travelers to wear face coverings on airplanes, buses and rail systems, as well as in airports and bus and train stations.

Tips for air travel

Avoid the hot spots. If your travel is for vacation, rather than to visit family, and you can be flexible, consider booking a trip to a less popular destination. You'll skip many of the usual holiday-season hassles and probably save money, as well. (Hotel rates in [New York City](#), for instance, can skyrocket during the holidays.)

Make advance reservations for airport parking. Even off-property lots can fill up during the holiday season. You could look into staying at an airport hotel the night before an early flight; these hotels sometimes have great long-term-parking deals that can offset the price of a night's stay.

Check rental-car availability. Due to a shortage of rental cars, prices have skyrocketed — sometimes exceeding the cost of a flight — so it may be in your best interest to book flights to match car availability, if you have the flexibility to do so.



—Peter Dazeley/Getty Images

Research your destination's COVID-19-related rules. For international travel, understand what testing and vaccination requirements are in place at your destination.

Even for domestic journeys, look into your destination's COVID-19 rules; some cities, including [Washington, D.C.](#), and New York City, require face masks in indoor public areas (among other requirements). You'll want to know what to expect as soon as you hit the ground. Individual attractions and businesses may have their own rules, such as requiring proof of COVID-19 vaccination.

Arrive at the airport, and the correct terminal, early. Fliers nervous about travel in the holiday season should allow plenty of time before their flight and do their homework, advises Doug Yakel, public information officer for San Francisco International Airport: “Know which terminal

your flight is operating from; getting dropped off in the wrong location can make for a stressful start to a trip. Arrive at the airport two hours prior to a domestic flight, three hours prior to an international flight.”

Get through TSA security screening as efficiently as possible. Try to streamline your boarding process by signing up for and using the Department of Homeland Security's Trusted Traveler programs, including TSA PreCheck and Global Entry. If you aren't enrolled in one of these programs and need to take off your shoes and jacket, do so before you're standing in front of the conveyor belt, so you don't hold up other passengers.

Remember that, due to the pandemic, you're allowed to bring liquid hand sanitizer in containers of up to 12 ounces in carry-on bags; previously, liquids had to be in containers of no more than 3.4 ounces. You're also still allowed to use a driver's license that expired on or after March 1, 2020, as acceptable ID at checkpoints, for one year after the expiration date.

Splurge on lounge access. Consider paying extra to escape the airport crowds and decompress in an airline lounge (or sign up for a credit card that gives you access to the lounges) before boarding. A day pass is about \$25 to \$40; the LoungeBuddy app allows you to reserve in advance.

Don't hog overhead bin space. Use the space above your seat, if possible — not the first space you see when you enter the plane. And don't shove in your coat and other bulky items along with the allowed [carry-on bag](#). Your one personal item, like a purse or laptop bag, should fit under the seat.

Be nice. Don't cause problems about the rules, and, again, be patient; airlines and the feds are cracking down on unruly passengers' behavior, which has accelerated in recent months. Not to mention that airports and airline workers have plenty of other stressors, including staff shortages. They certainly don't want to contend with rude customers (nor do other passengers).

Source:

https://www.aarp.org/travel/travel-tips/transportation/info-2021/holiday-travel-tips.html?cmp=EMC-DSO-NLC-WBLTR-TRAVEL--BAU-111921-HT2-5947886&ET_CID=5947886&ET_RID=30082845&ncparam=oGBLSg3o5rgw0F28%2f%2bqrJVE35Zebh%2fFz93BY8x%2fU3tQ%3d

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!

Tampa Chapter Join Form

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Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____@_____

Phone (____) _____ - _____ Cell (____) _____ - _____

Date of Birth – Month _____ Day _____

Spouse _____

Emergency Contact: Name _____

Phone _____

MOAA National Member Number _____

Wartime Service – please enter conflict name(s) and dates of service (over):

Conflict(s): _____ Dates _____

Tampa Chapter Annual Dues: \$25.00

(There is no dues requirement for active-duty personnel or a surviving spouse; you MUST be a member of National MOAA)

MOAA National Annual Dues: (Premium Level – \$48.00; Basic Level – No Cost for 1 year)

You can join National MOAA at their website:

https://www.moaa.org/content/join-moaa/why-join-moaa/

MOAA National Lifetime Dues: Lifetime dues are based on the member’s age. The cost ranges from \$0 to \$851 and there is no cost (free) for age 100+.

You can bring the completed form to any event or you can mail it with the \$25.00 check made out to: “MOAA Tampa Chapter”, to: Bill Schneider, 15888 Sanctuary Drive, Tampa, FL 33647: email questions to:

TampaMOAA.Membership@gmail.com

** The chapter has my permission to list my name and rank as a new member in our chapter newsletter.

Yes _____ No _____



Conflict	Dates*
World War II	7 Dec 1941 – 31 Dec 1946 27
Korean War	Jun 1950 – 31 Jan 1955
Vietnam Era	5 Aug 1964 – 7 May 1975
Vietnam (in country)	28 Feb 1961 – 7 May 1975
Gulf War Lebanon, Grenada, Panama	2 Aug 1990 – 6 Apr 1991 1982 -83; 1983; 1989 – 1990
Afghanistan (OEF)	7 Oct 2001 – 28 Dec – 2014
Afghanistan (OES)	1 Jan 2015 – 17 Aug 2017
Islamic War (OIR)	15 Oct 2014 – present

OR No service during any of these periods of time

* dates are generally accurate per Congressional Research Service



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

CHAPLAIN (COL) BERNARD H LIEVING JR USA RET



On November 28th the Jewish community began their eight day celebration of Hanukkah, the Festival of Lights, commemorating the re-dedication of the Jerusalem Temple in 165 B.C.E. following the Jewish victory over the Syrian-Greeks. The Temple had been captured three years prior and had been desecrated by its dedication to Zeus and the sacrifice of swine in it.

Hanukkah is called the Festival of Lights because when the Temple had been recaptured, the plan was to purify the Temple by burning ritual oil in it for eight days. Unfortunately, there was only enough oil for one day. To the great surprise of the victors, that oil lasted eight days. Today, the menorah holds eight candles celebrating the light of eight days of oil. There is also a ninth candle which is used to light the others and its name signifies that "Judaism gives light to the world."

The Christian season of Advent also began this year on November 28th. Advent begins the 4th Sunday prior to Christmas and is

the church's preparation time for once again celebrating the birth of Jesus. The church's symbol of Advent is a wreath containing 4 candles with one being lit on the 1st Sunday. Then it and an additional one are lighted each Sunday until all four are burning on the Sunday prior to Christmas. Each candle is a protest against winter's natural encroaching darkness and the darkness of our lives apart from God. Often a 5th candle, the Christ Candle, is placed in the center of the wreath and is lighted on Christmas Eve representing the light that came into the darkness of the world with the birth of Jesus, God in the flesh.

During these days of commemoration and celebration the burning candles remind us of the words of the prophet Isaiah: "The people walking in darkness have seen a great light. On those living in a pitch-dark land, light has dawned." (CEB Is. 9:2) The light that shines in these Jewish and Christian celebrations invites each of us to become men and women through whose lives that light of God's presence continues to shine.

1st Cavalry Division Reunion

—Submitted by: Chaplain (COL) Bernard H. Lieving Jr USA (Ret)

Two months ago Cindy and I were lucky to get a non-stop flight from Tampa to Austin TX and then drove to Fort Hood to attend the 73rd Annual Reunion of the 1st Cavalry Division Association. I was fortunate to have served with the Division's 2nd of the 5th Cavalry Regiment in Vietnam and then to be assigned as the Division Chaplain in the mid 1980's. I have attended a number of the annual reunions at various locations across the country and was especially pleased to go to this year's at Fort Hood. This year's reunion location and date coincided with the Division celebrating its 100th birthday.

We thoroughly enjoyed the birthday ceremony kicking off with cannons booming and then as units were recognized for past battles dating to the Civil War soldiers marched onto the field wearing the uniforms worn in those battles. A couple units received the battle streamers for their latest combat deployments. Following the "Pass in Review" the Horse Cavalry Detachment raced down the parade field to the sound of the bugler's "Charge!," pistol and rifle fire and the waving of battle sabers. Flying overhead were four helicopters representing today's 1st Cavalry Division.

Following the ceremony everyone could visit the tents and displays set up by each of the regiments (one picture of me with my 5th Cavalry crest). Children got in climb in and out of some of the latest armored vehicles and helicopters of the division. The Horse Cavalry Detachment, one of 7 mounted cavalry units on duty in today's Army, also stood on the parade field and folks got to pet the horses and have their picture taken. I had my picture taken with them because when I was the division chaplain I used to regularly visit the Horse Detachment and ride one of their mounts. Several hundred folks attended The Division association dinner and Cindy and I took advantage of the opportunity to pose in the frame for a picture with me in my Stetson, of course.

The 1st Cavalry Division was officially organized and named at Fort Bliss TX on 13 September 1921 with the specific duty of patrolling the Mexican border. The 5th Cavalry Regiment, established in 1861, is the oldest component of the Division with the 7th, 8th, and 9th founded in 1866 and the 12th in 1901. The Division stayed at Fort Bliss until its horses were turned in for jeeps, trucks, and tanks and it deployed to the Pacific during World War II. There it became the unit to free Manila. Following the war, the Division Commander gave it the "First Team" name which continues today.



The 1st Cavalry Division was an occupation force in Japan and then fought in the Korean conflict and stayed in Korea and Japan until 1965 when it was sent to Fort Benning GA. There it was reorganized, equipped, and trained as the Army's first "Airmobile" Division, its designation for the total of seven years it served in Vietnam.

Following the redeployment of its last unit to leave Vietnam in 1972 to Fort Hood it was reorganized as a Tri-Cap Division: armor, air mobility and air cavalry and in that designation it served in Desert Storm, peace support operations in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom II. In 2005 it was again reorganized as a combined arms division. When it served in Iraq for the last time, it had been there a total of 9 years. The division then served 3 deployments to Afghanistan.

Sara Marks, our editor of The Retrospect asked me to write this article about the reunion and, of course, I had to tell more of the 1st Cavalry Division's "First Team" story. I hope it was not too boring. Thank you, Sara.



National Guard Birthday

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

They're not just weekend warriors.

In a move that would create the first militia on the North American continent, the Massachusetts General Court in Salem issued an order on Dec. 13, 1636, requiring all able-bodied men between 16 and 60 years old to create a standing Army for protection.

With that order, what we now know as America's National Guard was born. The idea was simple: Establish an Army of citizen-soldiers who could be called upon to fight when needed.

In 1636, that meant defending Massachusetts Bay. Today, it means answering the call of both state and nation, deploying overseas and responding to natural disasters in the assistance of friends and neighbors.

The men and women of the Army and Air National Guards train regularly, generally two days a month with a longer training annually.

That training means they are ready at any moment to join our active-duty forces overseas or to put their civilian lives on standby to do their state's bidding at home.

Service for the Guard may not a full-time job, but its demands require a lifestyle of

commitment and sacrifice.

The National Guard today stands as a community cornerstone, just as it did in 1636.

Source: <https://www.military.com/national-guard-birthday>



4 Major Military Events That Happened on Christmas

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

On Christmas Day every year, many Americans relax and enjoy time with their families. For many of our troops, though, it can be a day of sacrifice and hardship.

Over the history of the U.S., several big military actions have taken place on December 25. Here are four noteworthy ones.

1776: Washington's Famous Crossing of the Delaware



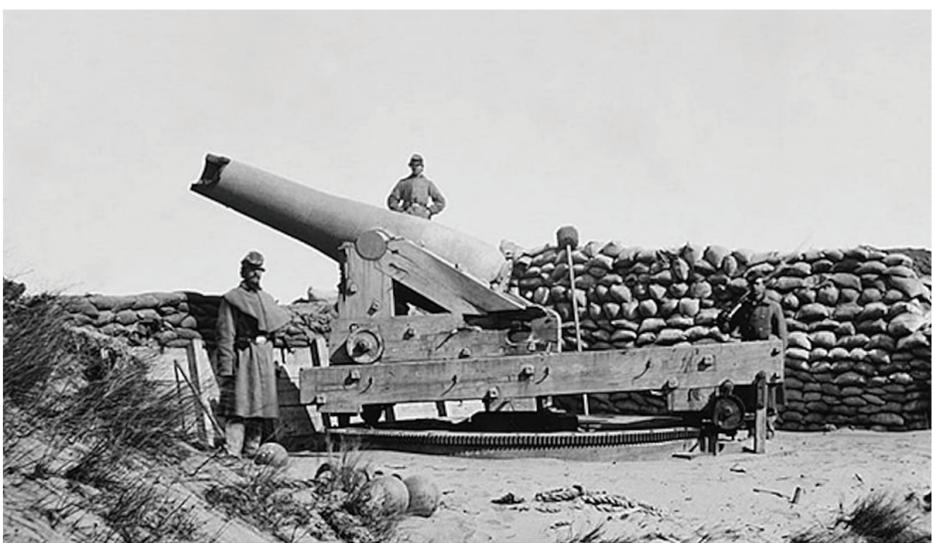
The winter of 1776 didn't start as a good one for Gen. George Washington's Continental Army. They suffered many defeats in the first few months of the American Revolution and had been pushed out of New York and New Jersey into Pennsylvania. For the troops, morale was low.

Washington needed to renew faith in the battle for independence, so he decided to surprise the Hessians — German troops hired by the British — who were stationed in Trenton, New Jersey. He figured that doing so after the enemy's Christmas celebrations would find them groggy and unprepared for a fight, especially as a terrible winter storm was brewing.

So late Christmas night, Washington and his troops hopped in boats and waded across the icy Delaware River to test his theory — and he was right. At dawn on Dec. 26, about 2,400 frozen Continentals pushed into Trenton, and they did indeed surprise the enemy, who surrendered within an hour and a half.

The mission, which became known as the Battle of Trenton, was of huge significance to the Continental Army's cause. Not only did it raise the troops' spirits, but it revived the hope of the colonists, who were beginning to think their battle for independence wasn't feasible.

1864: The First Battle of Fort Fisher



For most of the Civil War, North Carolina's Fort Fisher saw very little combat. But that changed on Christmas 1864, when the Union decided it wanted to capture the last port the Confederates held on the Atlantic Ocean.

It was a debacle for the Union.

First, the Union tried to pack a warship with explosives and blow up the fort's walls — but that didn't work. It just blew up their ship and alerted the Confederates of an imminent attack. So on Christmas Eve, the Union tried again, bombarding the fort with heavy gunfire, most of which fell short or missed its target.

On Christmas morning, Union commanders decided to shell an area north of the fort so troops could land and come ashore. But when they did, more disappointment followed — the fort's heavy artillery was completely unscathed, so that was a no-go, too. It was only then that the Union ordered troops to retreat.

While the first Battle of Fort Fisher was a massive failure for the Union, the second wasn't. In mid-January 1865, Union troops were finally able to capture the fort, effectively cutting the Confederates off from global trade and supplies. The Civil War ended three months later.

1972: Operation Linebacker II in North Vietnam



American troops were in the middle of the biggest bombing mission in military history during the Christmas season of 1972. The air campaign, called Operation Linebacker II, has largely been considered the action that ended U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War.

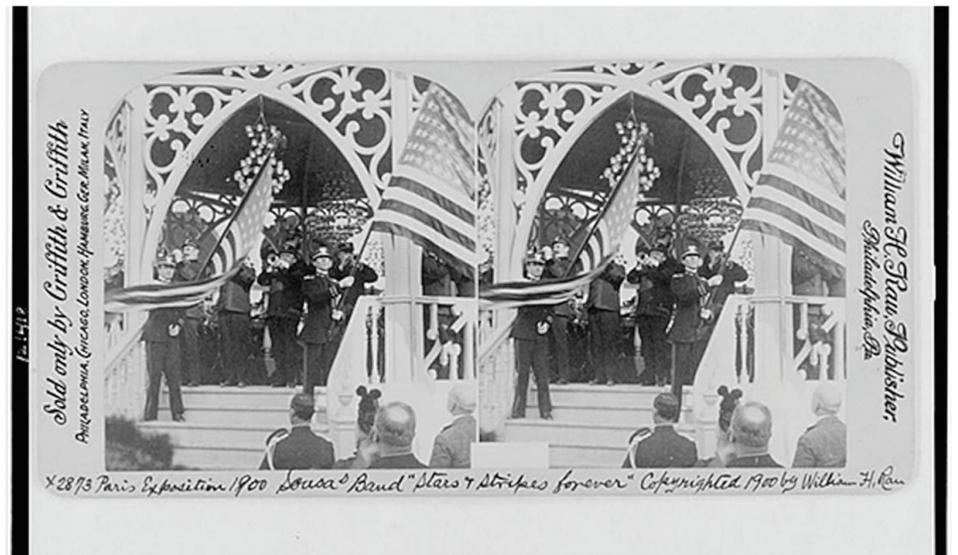
President Richard Nixon ordered the bombings to begin on Dec. 18 after North Vietnamese delegates walked out on peace talks. Nicknamed the "11 Days of Christmas," the operation consisted of 11 successive days of raids by B-52 Stratofortress bombers flown in from Andersen Air Force Base in Guam.

The only day that both sides got a reprieve was Christmas, when troops were given a 36-hour break to celebrate. During that time, Nixon ordered the North Vietnamese to return to the bargaining table. The North Vietnamese refused, so the bombings continued until Dec. 29, when they agreed to resume peace talks.

In 11 days, Linebacker II dropped 15,000 tons of bombs via 729 U.S. Air Force sorties involving about 12,000 airmen. Defense Department records show the raids destroyed or damaged 1,600 structures, 500 rail targets, 10 airfields and 80 percent of North Vietnam's electric-generating capacity. Fifteen U.S. B-52s were also destroyed in the process, killing 35 men and leading to the capture of nearly 40 American prisoners of war.

The resumed peace talks that came from the campaign led to the Paris Peace Accords in January 1973. The U.S. ended its involvement in the war soon after, but the last American troops wouldn't leave the country for another two years.

1896: "Stars and Stripes Forever" is Written



While this wasn't exactly a military action, it's definitely a symbol of America's military might.

John Philip Sousa, who grew up during the Civil War, was a talented musician who became a long-time director of the U.S. Marine Band. Known as the "March King," he was a rock star of his time, eventually starting his own band in 1892.

On Christmas Day 1896, while crossing the Atlantic on his way home from a European vacation, Sousa's lasting legacy came to him. He said the notes for "Stars and Stripes Forever" were born out of homesickness and fond memories of his time as the Marine Band's leader.

The iconic song officially became America's national march in 1987.

So this holiday season, while you're enjoying leave, family, friends and feasts, think of some of your fellow troops, past and present, who had to forgo their holidays for the greater good of the country. While you're at it, you might even want to put on "Stars and Stripes Forever" in their honor.

Source: <https://www.defense.gov/News/Feature-Stories/story/Article/1713087/4-major-military-events-that-happened-on-christmas/>

Civil Air Patrol Birthday

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

December 1st is the United States Civil Air Patrol's birthday. The agency served as the official volunteer civilian auxiliary of the Air Force. Formed during World War Two. The Civil Air Patrol consists of cadets, ages 12 to 20 years old, and senior members who are 18 and older. All members wear uniforms as part of their Civil Air Patrol duties, but the agency is not a branch of military service.

The Civil Air Patrol Birthday will be observed on **Wednesday, December 1, 2021**.

What Is The Civil Air Patrol (CAP)?

CAP is a federally-supported non-profit corporation that has a congressional charter. The all-volunteer agency offers services which include assistance with search and rescue operations, emergencies, disaster relief, and education.

Like members of the [Coast Guard Auxiliary](#), CAP members may find themselves involved in homeland security work in a non-enforcement related way.

CAP is considered one of the major American users of what are called "general aviation" aircraft with a single engine. They are often used to fly cadets in orientation and for use during emergencies as part of Civil Air Patrol assistance. CAP missions include support of [Red Cross](#) disaster relief operations and work in natural disaster areas.

CAP has eight regional commands and 52 wings. There is one in all 50 states plus a wing in Washington, D.C. and one in Puerto Rico. There are approximately 60,000 members of the Civil Air Patrol.

A Brief History of The Civil Air Patrol

In the 1930s, the director of the Office of Civilian Defense, Gill Robb Wilson, had an idea to create an auxiliary that would use America's civilian aircraft as part of homeland defense. It would take some time to realize that idea. It wasn't until 1941 when the official orders were published authorizing Civil Air Patrol for 90 days to see how the experiment would play out.

In the earliest days of CAP, the organization actually took part in tracking, attacking, and sinking German U-boats spotted near American coasts. Civil Air Patrol is said to have attacked nearly 60 German vessels with at least two confirmed sinkings. At the end of World War Two, CAP dropped more than 80 bombs and more than sixty CAP members died while serving.

Civil Air Patrol had proven itself. At the end of the war it was designated as the official Air Force civilian auxiliary, but with the caveat that the agency would never again be allowed to perform combat operations.

Civil Air Patrol operations under the "no combat" charter resulted in many lifesaving operations. The CAP congressional mandate includes the following:

Encourage and aid citizens of the United States in contributing efforts, services, and resources in developing aviation and in maintaining air supremacy; and encourage and develop by example the voluntary contribution of private citizens to the public welfare

- Provide aviation education and training
- To encourage and foster civil aviation in local communities
- Organize private citizens with adequate facilities to assist in meeting local and national emergencies
- To assist the United States Air Force in non-combat missions.

How to Join the Civil Air Patrol

The first thing to know about the Civil Air Patrol is that joining does not mean you have enlisted in the United States Military. Membership is open to adults and school-age

children who meet the age requirements and have parental consent.

The CAP official site informs parents, "CAP is not a military or boarding school, but a youth development program that incorporates aviation and military customs and courtesies."

The steps for school-age children to joining CAP include the following:

- [Find a local CAP Cadet or Composite Squadron](#)
- Contact the squadron to schedule a visit with parents
- Attend at least three weekly meetings
- Fill out the membership Application and submit membership dues.

The steps for adults to join CAP includes all the above except adults are only required to attend one meeting, must submit to a fingerprinting, and have a background check. Membership dues apply for adults as well as for school-age applicants.

What Do New Members Do In CAP?

Children who join CAP will learn about military customs and courtesies, aerospace operations and flight, search-and-rescue, and many related areas. There is a cadet program with Air Force-styled uniforms for all members.

There is a rank structure in the cadet program. Additionally, there are fitness requirements, leadership training, and promotion opportunities. Cadets will find the program similar to other traditional military cadet programs of this type.

CAP is known for its active flying missions. As an adult member you do not need to be a pilot or know how to fly. It's said that only approximately one in five adult CAP members fly or have flying experience.

The CAP official site proclaims, "Really just about any career or background can be useful to and found in the ranks of the CAP adult membership. CAP supports a variety of missions that require adults from all walks of life."

The mission of the Civil Air Patrol includes using the experience and training of the adult members to mentor, train, and educate school-age members in a positive and drug-free environment.

One area the organization is especially keen on is recruiting members who can help specifically with aerospace education.

The CAP official site states, "In addition to educating our own members, CAP's adult leaders provide training and resources to teachers who reach out to students of all ages across the country." New members with this expertise are important to meeting the congressional mandates listed above.

How Is The Civil Air Patrol Birthday Celebrated?

CAP birthday activities are planned by local CAP squadrons. They may include banquets, recruitment drives, open house activities, CAP aircraft static displays, participating in sporting events, and other local programs.

The Civil Air Patrol has a national conference every year, but it is not held in conjunction with the CAP birthday. Most such celebrations are organized by local chapters. You can support the CAP birthday in a number of ways including joining the organization as a volunteer, but there are also other needs.

CAP partners with local community groups, schools, and agencies to increase the awareness of the organization and its mission. The "Friends of CAP" program accepts donations without any membership obligations. They encourage supporters to enroll in a monthly option that includes benefits and discounts for members, subscriptions to Civil Air Patrol publications, and much more.

There is also a need for partners in the local community. If you are a teacher, organizer, local sports coach, or other potential Civil Air Patrol partner for events, your local chapter may need to hear from you.

Source:

<https://militarybenefits.info/civil-air-patrol-birthday/>



—Photo by Tech. Sgt. John Hillier 188th Wing

Christmas Eve, 1944: U- Boat 486 and A Military Disaster at Sea

—Submitted by LTC Bob Sawallesh, US Army, Retired with CWO Tom South, US Army, Retired

"On Christmas Eve, 1944, the **S.S. Leopoldville** made her final crossing of the **English Channel**. This Belgian passenger liner converted to troopship was carrying 2235 men of the 66th Infantry Division from Southampton to Cherbourg, reinforcements for the Battle of the Bulge. Five and a half miles from shore, the Leopoldville was struck by a torpedo fired by **U-486**, a Type **VIIC** U-boat commanded by Oblt. Gerhard Meyer. Several hundred of the troops were killed in the initial blast. Although the ship sank slowly, a combination of errors, delays, oversights and communication problems eventually resulted in the death of several hundred more infantrymen." See <https://uboat.net/history/leopoldville.htm>, Tonya Allen.

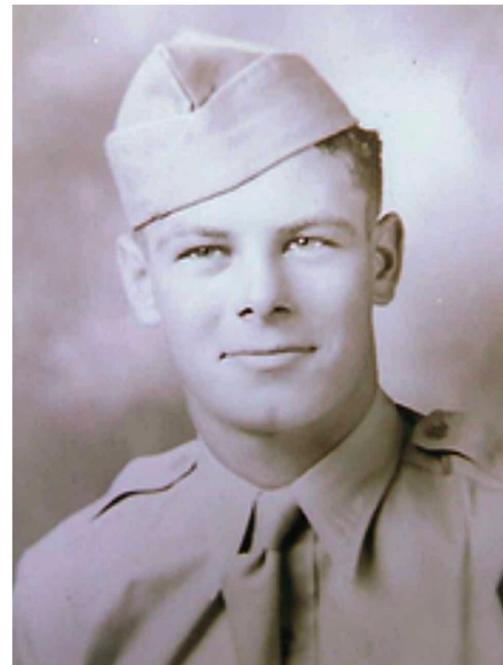
Remembering a Brother, Lost at Sea

Each Veterans Day, Chief Warrant Officer Tom South, US Army Retired, left, honors his late brother by wearing a memorial badge at Unisen Senior Living, formerly University Village. On the right is Tom's late brother, Sergeant Myerl (Bill) South, lost at sea on Christmas Eve, 1944. After the war, survivors of the sinking were told if they talked about the sinking, they would lose their GI benefits.

Key hyperlinks on the sinking of the S.S. Leopoldville are at <http://leopoldville.org/>, <http://www.66thinfantrydivision.org/leopoldville.html>, <http://leopoldville.org/memorial-ft-benning/> and https://www.huffpost.com/entry/nazi-submarine-found-norway-u-486_n_2963525



—Tom South



—Bill South

Eyes of Freedom: LIMA Company Memorial

—Submitted by: Jeanne Richard, LTC, USAF (Ret)

It all started with a dream ...

Then-Columbus resident Anita Miller, artist and creator of The Eyes of Freedom: Lima Company Memorial, has truly birthed something larger than life. Like so many people in Ohio who heard of the Lima Company tragedies in 2005, her heart tore for the families of the fallen. Two months later, she awoke in the middle of the night with a vision of the completed Memorial standing in the Ohio Statehouse Rotunda. Anita would work for the next two and a half years to make it a reality. In May 2008 the Lima Company Memorial was unveiled in the Statehouse Rotunda, just as the vision foretold.

The life-size mural paintings of the 23-fallen of Lima 3/25 now travel the entire country, Honoring ALL Who Answer Our Nation's Call; Then, Now, and Tomorrow. Moving from town to town and city to city, The Eyes of Freedom rallies the public around one common theme. Saluting our great military, and their families who also sacrifice with their commitment.

I had the privilege of attending the opening ceremony 17 November at the Harley Davidson Brandon location. I have experienced many gatherings over the years, and once again this event helped me to remember that military assignments can have a profound effect many years later. Some of the Marines at MARCENT today recalled serving with Lima Company 3/25 in 2005.

Mack Macksam, MAJ USA, Retired, has been working for many months securing the Memorial's visit to Tampa. Thank you, Mack, for this profound experience.



Honoring the Marines LIMA of Company

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

It is with great delight that I was able to attend this wonderful art exhibit honoring the Marines of Lima Company after highlighting it in the MOAA Tampa's November The Retrospect. Mack Macksam, Founder of the Veterans Art Center of Tampa Bay sponsored this amazing and touching exhibit. It was overwhelming taking the time to remember these young men lost so young and meeting Mike Strahle, who served with each one the Marines honored.

One young Marine's letter to his family was displayed and read, "if you are reading this...". You can probably fill in the rest. I was so touched by all who came to remember these men and their love of all of our Veterans and of our Nation. Semper Fi Marines of Lima Company. Thank you for your ultimate sacrifice and may you Rest In Peace.

Photo credit: Sara Marks



—Mack Macksam, Founder of the Veterans Art Center Tampa Bay and member of the MOAA Tampa Chapter



—Eyes of Freedom Exhibit: Lima Company Memorial at the Brandon Harley-Davidson in Tampa, FL.



—Mack Macksam, Founder, Veterans Art Center Tampa Bay (VACTB) 501c3, sponsored The Eyes of Freedom: Lima Company Memorial 16-20 Nov 2021



—Thunder, American Bald Eagle, who lives at Wrede's Wildlife Center, Inc., 4820 Wilderness Trail, Sebring, FL



—Mike Strahle, retired from Lima Co. 3/25 and Sara Marks, MOAA Tampa Chapter

BACKGROUND OF EYES OF FREEDOM MEMORIAL EXHIBIT

This traveling memorial, delivered to you by R+L Carriers, depicts the fallen of Columbus, OH based Lima Company 3/25, one of the most heavily engaged units of Operation Iraqi Freedom. These 23 life-size portraits have become a powerful traveling military tribute Honoring ALL Who Answer Our Nation's Call; Then, Now, and Tomorrow. These Eyes reflect the hundreds of thousands of men and women that have sacrificed defending our Freedoms. Visit www.EyesofFreedom.org

The paintings in this Memorial specifically depict the 23 fallen Marines from Lima 3/25, it has become much more; The Eyes of Freedom honors all who have answered the call to service. Behind each portrait we feel the honor and sacrifice of the thousands of men and women who have served our country, in every branch of the armed forces.

Mike Strahle retired from Lima Co. 3/25 and upon seeing The Eyes of Freedom unveiled

at the Statehouse in 2008 knew he had witnessed something truly special. Three years later he would contact Anita Miller, the artist and creator, requesting to host the memorial at a Veteran's Support fundraiser he co-founded. It was this reunion that sparked the passing of the baton from its creator to the hands of a brother in arms. For Mike this mission is personal. He too was badly injured in the explosion that took six of his squad members; two more fell to enemy fire just days prior.

The Eyes of Freedom Memorial's exclusive transportation provider is R+L Carriers, Inc. based in Wilmington, OH. R+L is a leading less-than-truckload (LTL) freight transportation company, providing guaranteed, day-definite regional and transcontinental service through a network of more than 100 service centers in the United States, Canada, Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico.

Source: <https://www.tampavanetwork.com/event/eyes-of-freedom-memorial-exhibit/>

MEDICAL CORNER

DHA's updated plan to resize Military Health System is similar to pre-pandemic strategy

The Defense Health Agency's current plan is to "right size" the Military Health System by moving about 200,000 TRICARE beneficiaries to private medical networks and close less than 7% of the Defense Department's military treatment facilities.

The strategy comes after DHA was forced to rethink its path forward after the COVID-19 pandemic showed stress in some private health care networks and forced some clinics to close. Despite those variables, DHA for the first time is confirming that the readjusted plan is currently still similar to the pre-pandemic expectations.

"We've finished that report and submitted the draft report up to Congress through the Secretary of Defense," Dr. Brian Lein, DHA's assistant director of healthcare administration told Federal News Network. "Congress asked several follow on questions that we are in the process of answering, and so no decision has been made from that report, either within the Secretary of Defense's office, or within Congress giving us the authority to move in any way. We're constantly relooking and ensuring that any of the assumptions or facts at that time haven't changed."

Congress asked DoD to realign its Military Health System five years ago. The plan, at the most, considered moving as many as 1.9 million people from the Military Health System. It is also related to a DoD plan to cut thousands of medical billets.

DHA is taking into account a new [DHA-funded study](#) that stated patients who move away from military hospitals will get worse inpatient care.

"The results of this study show that ongoing healthcare reforms stemming from an organizational overhaul of the Military Health System in 2016 could result in significant harm to patients," the authors of the study wrote in the report obtained by Federal News Network. "Available evidence suggests that limiting access to MTFs could decrease the quality-of-care for active-duty service members, their families, and military retirees. Repeated assessments of systemic and hospital quality by the U.S. government and American College of Surgeons point toward comparable performance between the Military Health System and some of the country's top health-systems"

Lein said that the study is a compliment to the skill nested in the Military Health System, however, he took some issue with the results in that it only took into account inpatient care.

"I think that if we look at both inpatient and outpatient care, and we look at a much lower percentage [of people moving away from military care], that perhaps some of the findings in the paper may be less valid than what was what was reported," he said. "That being said, we do engage our managed care support contractors on a monthly basis on quality and safety metrics, from the managed care that is being provided out in our network. Over the course of the last year, we have instituted multiple formal meetings, not just with the two large managed care support contractors, but the U.S. Family Health Plan and some of our other managed care teams. We asked them to be part of a quality consortium across the military health care system where we've all agreed to various metrics that we're going to look at and improve on as a military healthcare system."

The study looked at moving 10%, 20% and 50% of the TRICARE population to private care.

Lein said the areas where DHA is considering downsizing are places where there are robust medical communities outside of the military system.

Congress [sold](#) the right-sizing plan as the most sweeping overhaul of the system in a generation that would better readiness, health and cost.

DoD has had concerns about the plan in the past, however.

A DoD [report](#) sent to Congress in February 2020 laid out some issues that the downsizing might create, including making some bases less desirable, forcing troops to take off work to escort family members to health services off base and possible issues in finding standardized care for women.

DoD outlined mitigation strategies in the report, like providing alternative transport strategies for family members.

Source:

<https://federalnewsnetwork.com/defense-main/2021/11/exclusive-dhas-updated-plan-to-resize-military-health-system-is-similar-to-pre-pandemic-strategy/>

Pearl Harbor survivor and WWII veteran wants cards for his 100th birthday

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

By: [Sarah Sicard](#) Thursday, Oct 21

Pearl Harbor survivor and World War II veteran Jack Holder is turning 100 years old on Dec. 13.

To celebrate becoming a centenarian, the Arizona resident wants birthday cards from all around the world, according to [Fox10 News](#) in Phoenix.

For his 99th birthday, his neighbors threw a [surprise birthday parade](#).

The veteran, born in 1921, served in the Navy and flew over 100 missions during World War II, including in the Battle of Midway, Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands, English Channel and Bay of Biscay. For his actions in combat, Holder received 36 medals and commendations.

Though there isn't an exact count of remaining Pearl Harbor survivors, one, Stuart Hedley, told the [San Diego Tribune](#) he estimates



— On Monday, Dec. 5, 2016, 30 Pearl Harbor Survivors with the "Greatest Generation" vets meet and greet with visitors at the Pearl Harbor Visitor Center in Honolulu, including Jack Holder (left) and Ed Stone. (Dennis Oda/Honolulu Star-Advertiser via AP)

fewer than 100 are still alive today. The official death toll of the Dec. 7 1941 attack was 2,403, as reported by the [Pearl Harbor Visitors Bureau](#).

If you'd like to send Holder a card, the deadline is Nov. 30, and the address is as follows:

Jack Holder
C/O Darlene Tryon
PO Box 11094
Chandler, Arizona 85248

Source:

<https://www.militarytimes.com/off-duty/military-culture/2021/10/21/pearl-harbor-survivor-and-wwii-veteran-wants-cards-for-his-100th-birthday/>



Toys for Tots helps bring the joy of Christmas to less fortunate children. Our Chapter will collect unwrapped toys, cash and checks at our Gala on December 10 to present to the Marine's Toys for Tots program.

Please bring your donation to the Gala. If you are writing a check, please make it payable to Toys for Tots.

If you are unable to attend the Gala or want to donate before the Gala, there are still easy ways to donate. You can send your Toys for Tots check to MOAA, Attn Treasurer, PO Box 6383, MacDill AFB, FL 33608. You can donate electronically on the Chapter's website either through the donations icon or the Gala icon using your credit card. Thanks for making a child's Christmas a little happier.



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SECOND TRANSITION SEMINAR GREAT SUCCESS!

— Submitted by: PJ McAneny, COL USAF (Ret)



Retired Members of the MOAA Tampa Chapter



On Tuesday, November 2nd, the Tampa MOAA Chapter hosted its second ever quarterly event for transitioning military members and their families. The popular event is titled “Thriving After Military Service” and, rather than the typical transition events which are focused on, job skills, resume writing, networking, etc., the MOAA event addressed leading fulfilling lives following your military service. The theme of the morning portion of this unique seminar was “a focus on the family” with speakers from TRICARE and the Veterans Administration as well as local Financial Advisors and Attorneys.

The afternoon was dedicated to “a focus on the community” with repre-

sentatives and volunteers from organizations such as MOAA’s own Tampa Chapter, Association of the US Army-Sun Coast Chapter, Hillsborough County Veterans Treatment Court, 1st US Volunteer Cavalry Regiment – Rough Riders, Tampa Sports Authority, Military Whiskey Distillers, and the South Tampa Chamber of Commerce. Attendees included a variety of ranks (officer and enlisted) from all four services. One enthusiastic attendee stated, “Extremely valuable! I’m in the middle of my transition now and this was the only venue I’ve seen that covered these topics.”

We are pleased to announce that we have secured a full time partner with Tampa’s own FIVE Labs/USbioskills Lab and Conference Center. The FIVE Labs CEO is from a military family and also a member of the local South Tampa Chamber of Commerce who wanted to participate in an event supporting our local military and veteran community. FIVE Labs will be our permanent home for this event saving us significant money by providing their superb venue free of charge every quarter.

A residual benefit of conducting the “Thriving After Military Service” seminar was that it served as a productive marketing and recruiting event for our local chapter. The MOAA-Tampa Transition Seminar will be held quarterly with the next event tentatively scheduled for **Tuesday, February 15th**.

If you have questions please contact Paul McAneny via email at pmcaneny@1847financial.com

Remembering to Forget: A Japanese Pilot’s Memory of World War II

Takeshi Maeda, a Japanese Imperial Naval pilot, guided his bomber to Pearl Harbor and released a torpedo that helped sink the USS *West Virginia*. Years later, he became a leading figure in reconciliation efforts between Japan and the United States.

“War is between countries. It has nothing to do with us as individuals. We have no quarrel. So, when the war ends, of course you should make up.”

-Takeshi Maeda

According to historian Michael Lucken, “the fragmented nature of Japan’s memories” in regard to World War II can be attributed to the fact that individuals experienced the war in different ways. In his book, *The Japanese and the War: Expectation, Perception, and the Shaping of Memory*, Lucken argues that there are distinct categories individual Japanese memory of the war can be divided into. These include expressions of frustration and rejection toward Japan’s military leaders after the war ended, an acceptance of responsibility for actions and atrocities committed during the war, as well as those who expressed regret and claimed they had been mistaken to allow themselves to be carried away by contemporary events. The oral history of Takeshi Maeda, a Japanese Imperial Navy pilot, demonstrates that the boundaries of these categories are often fluid, as his own memory of the war reflects aspects of each grouping. Moreover, Maeda’s oral history shows that the means of remembering and forgetting are dual processes that are inextricably linked.

Takeshi Maeda was born in 1921 in Fukui Prefecture, located west of Tokyo in the Chūbu region of Honshū. During preparatory school, Maeda had hopes of following in his father’s footsteps and becoming an architect. In 1938, he applied to the Tokyo School of the Arts and was quickly accepted, but when he went to pick up his diploma to formalize his enrollment, the military officers connected to his school refused



—A small boat rescues a seaman from the US Navy battleship USS *West Virginia* (BB-48) burning at Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941, Library of Congress.

to give him the document. At the time, Japan was already at war with China and, according to Maeda’s testimony, a lieutenant commander lambasted, “What the hell are you thinking of at a time like this? You’re what, gonna [sic] go to art school while we’re at war?” Since the Fukui Prefecture was a region where several top military-linked academics were located, the lieutenant commander “buttonholed” Maeda into revoking his previous acceptance and attending a military academy instead.

In his oral history, Maeda remembered thinking, “If I was going to go to a military school one way or another, then I should train to become a pilot.” After taking the appropriate entrance exams and physical tests, Maeda began flight school on September 1, 1938. After his first semester, Maeda was one of 200 air cadets selected out of 7,000 to actually train as a pilot. Due to wartime circumstances, the Imperial Navy continually urged military academies to produce graduates

as quickly as possible. Consequently, while Maeda was enrolled in the Navy’s flight program, the Japanese military introduced a new accelerated curriculum for pilots, which shortened Maeda’s preflight training from three years to a year and a half. Like many air cadets, Maeda felt frustrated with the new fast-track since it omitted important “background courses,” such as advanced math and physics. Nevertheless, Maeda graduated with high marks and his first assignment was aboard the aircraft carrier, *Kaga*, which provided the first wave of bombers during the attack on Pearl Harbor.

To read the full story: <https://www.nationalww2museum.org/war/articles/japanese-memory-of-world-war-ii>

FINANCIAL CORNER

Your 2022 Tax Brackets vs. 2021 Tax Brackets

The income ranges, adjusted annually for inflation, determine which tax rates apply to you

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

You may be making plans for filing your 2021 income taxes, but in a few short weeks you'll be living in tax year 2022, and tax year 2022 will differ substantially from 2021. Your tax brackets will be slightly higher, for example, as will your standard deduction.

There is still time to reduce your 2021 tax bill, but for many deductions, the door slams shut on Dec. 31. If it looks like you'll get a big bill on your 2021 taxes, knowing the tax brackets for 2022 can help you make adjustments in the New Year so you don't get stung again.



—Getty images

How the brackets work

In the American tax system, income tax rates are graduated, so you pay different rates on different amounts of taxable income, called tax brackets. There are seven tax brackets in all. The more you make, the more you pay. For example, a single taxpayer will pay 10 percent on taxable income up to \$9,950 earned in 2021. The top tax rate for individuals is 37 percent for taxable income above \$523,600 for tax year 2021.

The Internal Revenue Service increases those brackets from year to year to account for inflation and reduce “bracket creep,” when taxpayers get pushed into higher tax brackets, not because they earned more money but because of rising inflation. In tax year 2020, for example, a single person with taxable income up to \$9,875 paid 10 percent, while in 2021, that income bracket rose to \$9,950. Similarly, brackets for income earned in 2022 have been adjusted upward as well.

Tax brackets for income earned in 2022

- 37% for incomes over \$539,900 (\$647,850 for married couples filing jointly)
- 35% for incomes over \$215,950 (\$431,900 for married couples filing jointly)
- 32% for incomes over \$170,050 (\$340,100 for married couples filing jointly)
- 24% for incomes over \$89,075 (\$178,150 for married couples filing jointly)
- 22% for incomes over \$41,775 (\$83,550 for married couples filing jointly)
- 12% for incomes over \$10,275 (\$20,550 for married couples filing jointly)
- 10% for incomes of \$10,275 or less (\$20,550 for married couples filing jointly)

Married filing separately pay at same rate as unmarried. Source: Internal Revenue Service

Tax brackets for income earned in 2021

- 37% for incomes over \$523,600 (\$628,300 for married couples filing jointly)
- 35% for incomes over \$209,425 (\$418,850 for married couples filing jointly)
- 32% for incomes over \$164,925 (\$329,850 for married couples filing jointly)
- 24% for incomes over \$86,375 (\$172,750 for married couples filing jointly)
- 22% for incomes over \$40,525 (\$81,050 for married couples filing jointly)
- 12% for incomes over \$9,950 (\$19,900 for married couples filing jointly)
- 10% for incomes up to \$9,950 (\$19,900 for married couples filing jointly)

Married filing separately pay at same rate as unmarried. Source: Internal Revenue Service

Importantly, your highest tax bracket doesn't reflect how much you pay in federal income taxes. If you're a single filer in the 22 percent tax bracket for 2022, you won't pay 22 percent on all your taxable income. You will pay 10 percent on taxable income up to \$10,275, 12 percent on the amount from \$10,275, to \$41,775 and 22 percent above that (up to \$89,075).

You should also note that the standard deduction will rise to \$12,950 for single filers for the 2022 tax year, from \$12,550 the previous year. The standard deduction for couples filing jointly will rise to \$25,900 in 2022, from \$25,100 in the 2021 tax year. Single filers age 65 and older who are not a surviving spouse can increase the

standard deduction by \$1,750. Each joint filer 65 and over can increase the standard deduction by \$1,400 apiece, for a total of \$2,800 if both joint filers are 65-plus. You need to have more tax deductions than the standard deduction to make itemizing your tax return worthwhile.

The IRS uses the chained consumer price index (CPI) to measure inflation, as mandated by 2017 tax reform. Like the more well-known consumer price index, the chained CPI measures price changes in about 80,000 items. The chained CPI takes into account the fact that when prices of some items rise, consumers often substitute other items. If the price of beef rises, for example, people switch to chicken.

If you're not an economist, the main difference between the two measures is that, over time, the chained CPI rises at a slower pace than the traditional CPI. (Which, to be precise, is the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers or CPI-U.) From September 2011 through September 2021, the CPI rose by 20.9 percent and the chained CPI by only 17.9 percent, a difference of 3 percentage points.

If you get slammed with a big tax bill for 2021, you should talk with a tax adviser about how to reduce that in 2022. It's probably easier to have extra taken out of each paycheck than face a big tax bill next year. A good first step is to look at how much tax you get taken from your paycheck. The Internal Revenue Service has a [free withholding estimator](#) that can tell you how much you should have taken out of each paycheck.

John Waggoner covers all things financial for AARP, from budgeting and taxes to retirement planning and Social Security. Previously he was a reporter for Kiplinger's Personal Finance and USA Today and has written books on investing and the 2008 financial crisis. Waggoner's USA Today investing column ran in dozens of newspapers for 25 years.

More on Preparing Your Tax Return

- [How to convert a 401\(k\) into a Roth IRA](#)
- [What is the social security tax rate?](#)
- [Try this online IRS tool to help calculate withholdings](#)

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Source: https://www.aarp.org/money/taxes/info-2020/income-tax-brackets.html?cmp=EMC-DSO-NLC-WBL-TR-SAPLA-BAU-111921-F1-5947886&ET_CID=5947886&ET_RID=30082845&encparam=oGBLSg3o5rgw0F28%2f%2bqrJVE35Zebh%2fFz93BY8x%2fU3tQ%3d

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

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

Events Calendar: We have a new “Events” page where you will find an updated calendar, displaying our upcoming MOAA events, as well as events happening with Operation Helping Hand. 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/



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