



The RETROSPECT

TAMPA CHAPTER — A FIVE STAR CHAPTER OF MOAA NATIONAL

March 2022 VOLUME 28, NUMBER 3



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT: COL CHARLES DALCOURT USA RET

GREETINGS!



Greetings to all and welcome to our March newsletter. As we near the end of Florida's brutal Winter season, I hope that you all are in the very best condition possible to enjoy and embrace the changes that Spring brings. Flowers will bloom, grass will green, and the sun will shine more than not.

Looking internally, MOAA Tampa Chapter will close this first quarter of 2022 very strong. The Chapter is strengthening its presence in the community, positively impacting transitioning servicemembers and their spouses, growing its outreach to homeless and at-risk veteran populations, and continuing to advocate to preserve earned benefits in concert with MOAA's efforts and actions. I remain excited to be a part of a positive, united, and mission focused team.

Thanks, and Farewell

Thanks to all within our chapter that have continued to conduct our chapter's business with tenacity and passion. Jeanne Richard, Sara Marks, Paul McAneny, Norm Bild, and Ken Martin are a few of our volunteers that continue to diligently contribute to our

Chapter's improvement and advancement. Thanks to our newer members (Tom Kuhar, Nick Nicholson, Kiley Stinson, and Angie Nimmo) that have joined and jumped in... bettering our Team. They are beacons within our ranks. Finally, thanks to those that have been heavily engaged in the Chapter before, had to take a respite, and are returning to serve...fill voids in our formation. You are all "salt and light." You are the heartbeat of our Chapter.

We are also thankful for a seminal figure in the Chapter, Commander Geoff Harrington (USN Retired). Unfortunately, Geoff moved away from Tampa last month. Geoff served as the Chapter's Secretary and touched every facet of Tampa Chapter's ongoing evolution. I offer, on behalf of the Chapter's Board of Officers and Directors, our sincere thanks and appreciation for the incredibly inspiring, sacrificial, dedicated, and professional service Geoff has provided our Chapter. We wish you and Susan all the best. Thanks again and may God grant you favor, peace, and protection as you continue to sail!

Volunteers needed...

With two months of 2022 behind us, your MOAA Tampa Chapter has gotten off to a great start. However, we still need your help in filling several positions in the Chapter. Please note that assistants are critical to our succession planning and development of future Officers and Directors. Exposure to different facets of the organization facilitates knowledge and context that enable decision making. Please contact any board member, committee head, or me directly if you are interested in making a difference. Whether you have an hour, a day, a weekend, or a week to volunteer in support of the Chapter's initiatives, it brings value to our work.

Member of the Month

Our Honored Member of the Month for March 2022 is Lieutenant Colonel Bob Sawallesh (USA Retired). Colloquially stated, this Warrior is a "beast." His energy, drive, focus, and mission first attitude are inspiring. The wisdom and insight he brings is humbling. A life-long servant leader, Bob is a longstanding member of the Tampa Chapter and founding member of Operation Helping Hand. His noted work with the James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital is legendary and has benefitted veterans for decades.

We remain very thankful for Bob's leadership and continued contributions to the MOAA Tampa Chapter. Please join us at our luncheon, in-person or virtually, on 10 March and help us honor Bob. Also, please be sure to read his biographical information later in this newsletter.

Wrapping up:

In closing, thanks to those that are actively engaged in the Chapter's efforts; that give of themselves to support the accomplishment our mission. I ask that you continue to support MOAA's advocacy across the various lines of effort being pursued. Thank you for your confidence and encouragement. I pray that God's peace, strength, and joy will embrace you all.

All the best,
Charles Dalcourt

UPCOMING EVENTS

3 March
10:00 AM
Board of Directors Meeting

10 March
Chapter Luncheon
11:30
Columbia Centennial
Museum
([See page 8](#))

17 March – 6:00PM-8:00PM
OpHH Dinner
USF Embassy Suites
([See page 9](#))

25 March
OpHH Bob Silah Memorial
Golf Tournament
MacDill AFB

MOAA Tampa
Scholarship Applications
Due 15 April
([See page 20](#))

Florida Council of Chapters 45th
Annual Convention
June 9-12. ([See page 23](#))

REMINDER:

SUBMISSION DEADLINE
FOR THE APRIL 2022
ISSUE IS
20 MARCH 2022

Please submit articles in a Word
Document and photos in JPEG

NOTICE: if you have a change
of address, please notify our
membership team--Jeanne Richard
at 813 948-7539 or email at
tampamoaa.membership@gmail.com
or Tom South
tsouth1811@gmail.com

LEGISLATIVE LOWDOWN



BY LTC REGINALD WILLIAMS, USA RET

Spring is in the air and we are preparing for MOAA's Advocacy in Action (AiA) campaign 2022. Our priorities and aligned with national's and we need to be armed to support. Let's move out!

MOAA Announces Dates, Topics for Spring Advocacy in Action Campaign¹

MOAA's annual Advocacy in Action (AiA) event is taking shape, and while there's a month until the official launch, there are several ways MOAA members can begin showing their support as the campaign draws closer.

First, the basics:

The 2022 AiA event will be held virtually from April 1-29. Based on Capitol Hill security measures and nationwide health challenges, we will again exercise appropriate measures of caution to bring our messages to legislators via virtual engagements. However, there may be opportunities for you to engage your legislators in person (safely) when they are home during Congress' spring break (April 11-22).

This year's advocacy topics:

- **Support the Major Richard Star Act (concurrent receipt for combat-injured servicemembers)**
- **Reduce TRICARE Mental Health Copayments**
- **Enact a 4.6% Military Pay Raise in the FY 2023 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA)**

Learn more about each topic, and how MOAA chooses the topics, below. But first:

What You Can Do Now

Contact MOAA Tampa Chapter Legislative Chair. Most engagements during the April campaign will originate from MOAA's councils and chapters. The Chapter Legislative staff can assist with making appointments and arrangements with legislative offices. One of the advantages of the virtual environment is the use of online meeting platforms (Zoom, Teams, etc.) which can facilitate engagement from home; please contact your chapter to see how you can add you to our efforts – it could be as easy as sending you a link to a meeting.

Save the Date. Please mark your calendar for April 1 as the kickoff for AiA engagements. We will share another article like this one with more up-to-date information, talking points, and fact sheets on our three topics, as well as links to the latest information and MOAA's web-based letters, along with the phone number for MOAA's Capitol Switchboard if you would rather call your legislators.

Stay Informed. Be sure to subscribe to the weekly *MOAA Newsletter* for the latest AiA news and updates (MOAA members [can click here](#) to update their newsletter preferences). Keep up with all the latest advocacy news at [MOAA's Advo-](#)

continued on next page

[cacy News page.](#)

How MOAA Picks the Topics

People often ask how MOAA come up with the topics each year, and some wonder if their priorities are being considered in that process. I can assure our chapter members MOAA consider all the priorities, which are usually found within groupings of these [priorities on our website](#). The decisions are driven by guidelines established by our board of directors. MOAA want to ensure we are taking care of the currently serving troops and their families – as members of an officer association, we at the local chapter level should be proud MOAA maintains this important perspective.

MOAA also want to address an issue within our health care portfolio, as our members continue to see this as one of their priorities. When conditions permit, MOAA also seek to leverage momentum on important issues – often the case in the second session of a Congress as they wrap up work from the previous year.

This year's topics:

- **The Major Richard Star Act (concurrent receipt for combat-injured servicemembers).** Target legislation is [H.R. 1282](#) with 186 co-sponsors as of Feb. 14 – picking up 35 new co-sponsors this session. The Senate's bill, [S. 344](#), has 55 co-sponsors as of Feb. 14. We will build on this momentum from last year to get these bills to a floor vote, or have the bill's language made part of the FY 2023 NDAA with support from House and Senate leaders. This legislation impacts over 50,000 combat-injured service members who were not able to serve their full 20 years due to those injuries. Passage of this bill will also impact current and future members who may face the same fate of early retirements due to combat injuries.
- **TRICARE Mental Health Copayments.** MOAA supports the Stop Copay Overpay Act, [H.R. 4824](#) – mental health is increasingly important, and the issue is getting attention on the Hill due to pandemic impacts and the effects of social media on children's well-being. This topic acknowledges the national shortfall of access to quality mental health care and addresses TRICARE's financial barrier to care when it is available – a problem MOAA can help fix. This legislation will benefit our currently serving families on TRICARE Select and our working-age retirees and their families.
- **Military Pay Raise at 4.6%.** This will be worked in the FY 2023 NDAA with insights in the president's budget and input from the Armed Services

Committees in both chambers. Some legislators are interested in [adjusting pay tables for the junior enlisted](#). We have yet to see details of any such plans, but in the meantime, we remain focused on the 4.6% raise for all ranks. This topic addresses the currently serving and their families (pay and benefits) and is significantly important to those who are about to retire.

What's Next?

We will follow up with several actions over the coming weeks:

- The MOAA AIA website will be live in mid-March for those who want to get a head start on lobbying for these three important topics. Watch for updates at [MOAA.org/AiA](#).
- As noted above, around the same time our website goes live, a follow-up article at MOAA.org will share links to everything you would need to go it alone with your legislators. However, we ask that you consider reaching out to your local chapter to possibly join their efforts.
- Your April issue of Military Officer (available to Life and Premium members) will include a message from MOAA's president highlighting the AiA efforts, as well as more details on the topics and what we are trying to achieve with your help. **Very important:** The publication also will include tear-out letters for you to fold, seal, stamp, and mail to House and Senate leaders, making them even more aware of our efforts and seeking their support. These letters will highlight the Major Richard Star Act.
- Throughout April, MOAA will provide articles and links to Calls to Action via our new Legislative Action Center, which allows you to send messages to your legislators via our web-based letter service.
- April 11-22 is the congressional working period in the states and districts: Your legislators will be home and hard at work campaigning. This is a golden opportunity to seek an appointment in person or virtually, depending on the comfort level of those involved.

Thank you for reviewing this timeline and putting some of these dates on your calendar. MOAA's reputation for advocacy is largely the result of your grassroots network and effort; certainly, one of the main reasons *The Hill* news outlet has recognized MOAA as a top lobbyist for 15 years in a row. Our members have always been a part of this continued success.

MOAA's NEW Legislative Action Center

Like last month's article I asking that you register in the NEW Legislative Action Center MOAA. The new platform makes it easier for you to identify and track issues, engage your local legislators, and log your engagements which is located at [www.moaa.quorum.us](#). We still need to advocate in those areas needing attention as outlined below.

Task for ALL MOAA Members:

Click on "Legislative Action Center" link on the [www.MOAA.org](#) homepage under the Advocacy Tab; or

Go to <https://moaa.quorum.us>

Either one of the links or web address will direct you to the new advocacy Legislative Action Center site. Once you at the site you will need to sign up which take a very few minutes. Once you are signed up you can send letters to your legislator in a quick 3-step process. You will not receive any SPAM messages from MOAA National if you are concerned about that signing up. This providing an enhanced support and tracking system for MOAA National to update you on issues and track how we are doing as an organization.

Please follow the steps below for signing up.

- Click on "Sign Up"
- Fill out the required data fields
- Click "Submit"

To submit a letter:

- Click on "Submit a letter"
- Confirm the legislators you want to send the letter to (if you do not want to send a letter to a certain legislator then uncheck the box by their name)
- Click "Submit"

Highlights of the New Legislative Action Center

- You can view Active Campaigns
- Log your meetings
- Find out about Bill status
- Find lawmakers
- See MOAA Electronic Newsletter article

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

Source:
1) [www.moaa.org](#), article by Dan Merry, February 16, 2022



Colonel DJ Reyes, USA Ret
Receives Moaa National Distinguished
Service Award For His Work With The
Veterans Treatment Court!

Feb 25, 2022

MOAA Distinguished Service Award

Colonel DJ Reyes,

Congratulations and this is a well deserved recognition for your enduring work with Veterans Treatment Courts and overall support to our veterans and their families. In the months ahead we will coordinate with you for a formal presentation of the award. Again, please accept my personal congratulations and appreciation for all that you continue to do on behalf of all veterans! R, DT

Dana T. Atkins
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NEVER STOP SERVING®

US Naval Academy Alumni Chapter
Honored Back-to-Back

—Submitted by Christopher Heath, CAPT USN RET

The Tampa Bay chapter of the US Naval Academy Alumni Association (USNAAA) has been recognized as a Distinguished Chapter in 2021, achieving the honor for the second straight year. Only 11 of the 102 chapters of the association were so honored in 2021. MOAA chapter member CAPT Chris Heath, USN (ret) and USNA Class of 1972, is the alumni chapter's president.



"Despite coming out of COVID, we had a tremendous year in 2021," said Heath. "Part of our mission is to spread the message of the Naval Academy and develop candidates for admission. In 2021 we postponed our annual candidate spring picnic for two months due to the pandemic, but recognized a real pent-up desire for some recruiting in the area, when many college recruiting activities were withdrawn. We decided to go ahead in May, and had a record 400+ high school students and their families attend the picnic at Al Lopez Park in Tampa. Some drove as much as 5 hours from the Miami area to attend. We even had two "shifts", to spread out the crowd and serve hot hamburgers!" Trained "Blue and Gold" candidate guidance officers shared admissions information.

The chapter also hosted a candidate/parent dinner on the occasion of Naval Academy Founders Day in October and hosts inter-academy sporting events like the Tampa Bay Rays and Lightning games with their USMA and USAFA alumni "cousins."

CONGRATULATIONS
to this "distinguished" organization!

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



2022 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

2022 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 dedi-
cated to maintaining a strong national defense
and ensuring our nation keeps its commitments
to currently serving, retired, and former mem-
bers 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.

5 Star MOAA Chapter
2003 • 2005 - 2010
2012 - 2017 • 2019 - 2021

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

Chairman of the Joint Chief's
Outstanding Public
Service Award

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



CHAPTER MEMBER OF THE MONTH

LIEUTENANT COLONEL BOB SAWALLESH, USA RET



Bob Sawallesh was born in Tacoma, Washington. Following graduation from high school in Virginia he joined the U.S. Marines for three years and participated in Operation Blue Bat in Lebanon in 1958. He is a graduate of Virginia Tech.

Retired as a U.S. Army Lieutenant Colonel with 26 years of active duty, he served in Vietnam in 1967 with the U.S. Army 9th Infantry Division and was awarded the Combat Medical Badge and the Bronze Star. Prior to going to Vietnam, he graduated from the U.S. Army Battalion Surgeon Assistant Course. He also served with the 2nd Infantry Division in South Korea in 1973/1974.

Bob graduated from both the U.S. Army and the Canadian Forces Airborne Schools. He is very proud to wear the Expert Marksmanship Badges for the Rifle and Pistol. He maxed the 45 Caliber Pistol at 30 bull's eyes in a row for 300 points. Later he graduated from the Jungle Warfare School in Panama. An ardent runner, he participated in and completed four U.S. Marine Corps Marathons in Washington, DC. While serving five years in Saudi Arabia, he completed over 200 runs with International Hash House Harriers.

Bob's specialty in the military was Medical Intelligence which included two years in the Defense Intelligence Agency and over three years in the Pentagon as an Armed Forces Medical Intelligence Center Liaison officer. He served on active duty in Saudi Arabia for three years as the Chief Military Medical Service Advisor to the Surgeon General and his Staff at the Saudi Arabian Ministry of Defense.

Following retirement from USCENTCOM, he was a Civilian Military Medical Service Advisor for two years to the Surgeon General of the Saudi Arabia National Guard which included Desert Shield/Desert Storm. One of his duties was inspecting Prisoner of War Camps.

Since retirement from the Army, Bob has been a volunteer at the James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital in Tampa for around 25 years with more than 6,600 hours as a volunteer. In November 2021 he was awarded a 1st Place Blue Ribbon by the James A. Haley Veterans'

Hospital Arts Festival for his painting, "Heroes at a Rays and Yankees Game."

In January 2014 he began the campaign for traffic signals at the main entrance to the James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital. The traffic signals should be installed about mid-2022 and the intersection construction has already started. If you have not signed the petition please go to <https://www.gopetition.com/petitions/remove-the-danger-highway-intersection-at-usf-and-tampa-veterans-hospital-campuses>. There are almost 1,000 signers from around the world.

A proud member of the MOAA Tampa Chapter, he is one of the founding members of Operation Helping Hand (OpHH) formed in 2004. And he is still a volunteer with OpHH. He is particularly proud to have been a member of the 2021 MOAA Tampa Inaugural Winter Gala Planning Committee. His hobbies are physical fitness, photography, and painting.



Bob and Peg have been married for 58 years and they have known each other since grade school. Peg accompanied Bob in Saudi Arabia for three years during Bob's active duty assignment and both Bob and Peg are world travelers. They have a daughter who is a Nurse Practitioner. Their granddaughter, who received a MOAA Tampa Scholarship, is now a Sophomore in College and is preparing to spend her second summer with the Carry the Load Foundation <https://www.carrytheload.org/site/SPageServer/?pagename=home> which was founded by U.S. Navy Seals.

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



It seems the one thing we can count on is change in our world. Certainly, at the top of the world news as I'm writing my notes is the invasion of Ukraine by Russia. Most certainly my prayers are with all affected by this situation and pray for a peaceful end and hopefully sooner than later.

I'm pleased to highlight many articles written or submitted by members of our chapter. Colonel "Chaplain"

Bernie Lieving was particularly moved by last month's article about the "Four Chaplains" who gave their lives in order to save others and shared his experience with a ceremony that honors these men every year at American Legion Post 5. Make sure you take time to read his account of remembering these chaplains. CAPT Steve Swift attended the Army vs Navy Game in New Jersey this past December and shared many of the touching moments of the 20 year anniversary of 9-11 to include many former cadets and midshipmen who lost their lives in 9-11 or were killed during the War on Terror were remembered in a very special way. Lt Col Jeanne Richard and CAPT Chris Heath also submitted articles about a Pasco County veteran and the Tampa Chapter of US Naval Academy Alumni Association. And Congratulations to Colonel DJ Reyes for his Distinguished Service Award from MOAA National for his work with the Veteran's Treatment Court!

There are several other articles that I hope you will find interesting and informative as well including Rosie the Riveter, what to do for "Hug a GI" day, the only woman who was a medal of honor recipient and why the Black Sea is so strategically important, among several other articles.

I always love talking to our members highlighted each month in our newsletter as either Member of the Month or Chapter Spotlight Member. 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 March Member of the Month is LTC Bob Sawallesh, USA (Ret), who is one of the most positive and even keeled men that I know. You'll note that he has contributed many articles to The Retrospect since I've been Editor and has been a tremendous help taking our monthly luncheon photos. His leadership in helping with our Inaugural Winter Gala this past December

was invaluable. Bob, you are such a pleasure to work with, and I just love all the many things that you do. You are so inspiring! Make sure to read his Member of the Month write up.

It's also a pleasure to highlight this month's Chapter Member Spotlight is a new member to our chapter, CAPT Angela Nimmo, Nurse Corps, USN (Ret). Angie stepped right up as a new member and has taken over the role of leading our "Buddy Call" program! She's amazing in that she works full time at the James A. Haley VA and just recently started a doctoral program in nursing! Angie not only are you a delight to work with you so inspiring in all that you do with you positive and "can do" attitude. Take a moment to read about Angie as you read the newsletter.

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. I challenge all of our Chapter Members to send me your stories! I love hearing about your stories and adventures. You never know who you may inspire by sharing your experiences. Page 3 of our newsletter always has our Chapter Secretary's email, so send any articles or questions to Tampa-MOAA.Secretary@gmail.com

We're working on synchronizing our emails and updating our website as well as updating the membership roster for easy contact between our members. And I look forward to letting you know when we've completed the new look of our website, but we have updated many things on our site, so take time to go to www.moaatampa.org when you can.

Finally, I pray for all who are harm's way and pray for all who are recovering from all the effects of the pandemic and uncertainty of the past few years and all the many upsetting things that we see on the news. Don't forget to reach out and to encourage each other. Prayers for comfort and healing.

"Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." —John 14:27 (NKJV)

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).

OUR EDITORIAL POLICY:

MOAA National, the Florida Council of Chapters, and the Tampa Chapter are non-partisan organizations. The views expressed in individually signed articles and the advertisements that appear in this publication/website do not reflect an endorsement by MOAA or this affiliate. Articles in the newsletter/website are the opinions solely of the individual authors and do not necessarily express the policy or opinions of the newsletter's editor or publisher, nor do they reflect an endorsement by the Tampa Chapter or the National organization of the Military Officers Association of America, unless so indicated. The views expressed in individually signed articles do not necessarily reflect Chapter policy.

MOAA National, the Florida Council of Chapters, and the Tampa Chapter are nonpartisan organizations. Our chapter membership is open to all Military officers (Commissioned and warrant), including Active Duty, National Guard, Reserve, former officers, and spouses/surviving spouses of military officers.

Our luncheon meetings are held 1130 hours every second Thursday of each month at the Columbia Siboney Room in Ybor City and available to attend via Zoom.

ON THE WEB:

Tampa Chapter <http://moaatampa.org>

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

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

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

A password protected MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY is posted on the website under the "MEMBERSHIP" category. FL COUNCIL of CHAPTERS: www.moaaf.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 LISTINNG - Click for the latest news and resources from MOAA. www.moaa.org

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



The Tampa Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America, Inc.

P.O. Box 6383
Tampa, FL 33608-0383



5 December 2021

Dear Fellow Member,

It has been another great year for the MOAA Tampa Chapter. We retained our 5-star status, won the Communications Award for our website and newsletter, and have expanded our outreach across the community. Thank you for your continued support.

Well, it is time to renew your Tampa Chapter membership and we are now accepting payments. Despite the increased cost of many services and supplies, the Board of Directors determined that the membership dues for 2022 will remain at \$25.00. This is a great value.

In addition to your Chapter membership, I need to remind you that our Tampa Chapter bylaws require all chapter members to also be members of MOAA national. If you are not already a member of the national level organization, joining is easy. When you go online at <https://www.moaa.org/content/join-moaa/why-join-moaa/>, you will find an application and a description of the various categories of membership. You may join as a Basic member at no charge. However, please note that the benefits provided within the Premium and Life membership categories are stellar and include career and financial resources, MOAA-exclusive publications, spouse protection, and numerous discounts on products and travel.

Your membership and engagement are foundational to our efforts. Even the smallest amount of time dedicated in support of our mission enables our success. Please continue to contribute in any way you can during this upcoming year. Your time, talents, and donations truly make a difference. Also, please stay connected to all that is happening in our Chapter's sphere of influence via our website, Facebook page, and our incredible newsletter, *The Retrospect*.

If you have any questions concerning the enclosed dues renewal form, please contact our membership chair, Bill Schneider, at the phone number or email address on the attached renewal form. On behalf of the Board of Directors and your fellow chapter members, I extend to you and your family our very best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Sincerely,

Charles Dalcourt
Colonel, U.S. Army Retired
President, MOAA Tampa Chapter

Website: www.MOAA Tampa.org

Email: TampaMOAA.Secretary@gmail.com

6th Medical Group, MacDill wants YOU!

WHAT:

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

WHEN:

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

WHY:

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

POINT OF CONTACT:

TSgt Brace
813-827-9785



WANT TO ADVERTISE IN THE RETROSPECT OR KNOW A BUSINESS THAT DOES!!!

Annual Subscription

1 July - 30 June

• Half Page Ad: \$1000

• Quarter Page Ad: \$500

E-Mail: TampaMOAA.Secretary@gmail.com

FEBRUARY LUNCHEON GUEST SPEAKERS



Indira Cozine

Indira Cozine is a Financial Advisor with 1847 Financial. As a former educator of 18 years, she is dedicated to educating transitioning military, young professionals, and teachers about strategies that help them achieve their financial goals!

She was frustrated that Financial Literacy was not a priority in school, so she always incorporated activities each year in her classroom. Understanding that this lack of education translates to a general population who is undereducated about their financial options, she has made it her mission to share as much information as possible with those who are willing to have a conversation.

Indira is a Clemson, UNC, and Drexel graduate, who lives in Tampa, FL, and is married to a retired Marine.



Paul McAneny

Paul McAneny is a 27 year veteran of the United States Air Force where he held multiple leadership positions in logistics, aircraft maintenance, post-graduate instruction, and Combatant Command Headquarters staffs. He served multiple deployments to Southwest Asia Combat Zones as well as in Europe, the Pacific, and throughout the United States. Following military retirement, Paul was a senior manager for over three years with Walmart in the nation's largest supply chain network.

As a Financial Professional with 1847Financial, Paul is dedicated to helping active duty military, veterans, and their families achieve personal, professional, and financial success. He draws on a vast business and social network as well as extensive experience in both the public and private sector to specialize in assisting military members faced with daunting career changes. Paul takes great pride in his ability to provide military transition process advice and industry connections in addition to a range of options for income protection and detailed analysis/comparison of available military retirement benefits. Paul is a Mentor in the 13th Judicial Circuit (Hillsborough County) Veterans Treatment Court, Chairmen of the South Tampa Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Committee and stays active in the Rough Riders 1st U.S. Volunteer Cavalry Regiment, local political organizations, and several other veterans' support groups.

Paul and his wife, Rebecca – an ultra-marathoner and mother of three daughters – currently live in Lithia, Florida. Their eldest daughter, Campbell, is a senior at Florida Gulf Coast University while middle and youngest daughters, Madeleine, and Erin, are a Senior and Freshman, respectively, at the University of Alabama.

CHAPTER MEMBER SPOTLIGHT
CAPT ANGELA NIMMO, NURSE CORPS, US NAVY (RET)

CAPT (ret) Angela Nimmo served for 29 years in the US Navy and retired in September of 2017 as the Commanding Officer at Naval Health Clinic Cherry Point. She is the daughter of a retired Naval Commander who was a P-3 pilot who served in Vietnam and served for 26 years.

She has truly spent her life in the military first as a dependent daughter and then as a commissioned officer. Her duty stations have included Bethesda, MD at the President's hospital twice, Sigonella, Sicily where she met her husband Paul, Newport, RI, Baltimore, MD where she earned her master's degree as a Clinical Nurse Specialist, Quantico Naval Health Clinic, Director Medical Services, Jacksonville Naval Hospital, Director of Nursing, Yokosuka, Japan, Executive Officer, Twentynine Palms Naval Hospital and finally as the CO at Naval Health Clinic Cherry point. She is currently working at the James Haley Veteran's Hospital as the Chief Nurse for Acute Care services.

She is married to her husband Paul of 28 years, and they have two children Madelynn and Alex. She is currently enrolled in a Doctoral Nurse Practice program.



Why should I join/maintain a
National MOAA membership and
renew my annual Chapter membership?



I believe the answer is clear – we need to preserve benefits for our children and grandchildren who are committed to serving this country.

WE NEED TO NEVER STOP SERVING!

MOAA's experts in Washington are there to support legislation that benefits the military community and are equally vigilant when fighting to stop legislation that threatens our livelihood. The greater the membership number, the stronger the voice.

Become active and support our chapter's initiatives. Many hands make light the work. Be assured, you can make a difference.

Article IV, Section 4 of our Chapter by-laws, dated 25 May 2021, state "Regular members are required to hold and maintain membership in National MOAA".

I urge you to renew your annual Chapter dues and if not already a member of National, go to www.moaa.org and JOIN TODAY!

A basic membership is available at no cost but a Premium or Life membership offers more perks. Please don't become "inactive" on our roster 1 April 2022. We need you to make our organization stronger.

[See New Member Application on page 15](#)




Jeanne Richard, Lt Col USAF RET
MOAA Tampa Chapter
Membership Chair

February Luncheon Photos

Photo credits: Sara Marks






MARCH LUNCHEON MEETING

EVENT: Chapter Monthly Luncheon Meeting
DATE: Thursday, 10 March **TIME:** 1130 hours
LOCATION: Columbia Centennial Museum in Ybor City, corner of 21st Street and 7th Ave.
RESERVATIONS: Call 813-676-4676 and follow the prompts OR via email at: bab@digital.net
REMEMBER: a reservation made is a reservation paid.
Reservations must be made by NOON Friday, 4 March. Reservations are limited to 50.
CANCELLATIONS: must be made by NOON Monday, 7 March by calling 813-676-4676.
COST: Event cost is \$30 payable by check or cash, \$32 by credit card (includes service charge).
MASKS: Masks are optional but encouraged.
DRESS CODE: Proper attire for men is jacket, with or without a tie. Ladies are asked to dress for the season.
Military uniforms are always appropriate.
MENU: 1905 Salad, Cuban bread and butter, Cuban Sandwiches, Pollo Salteado, Yellow Rice, Black Beans, Coffee, Iced Tea, Soft Drinks and Chocolate Cake
PARKING: Behind the Museum building, across the street from the Columbia Restaurant and behind the Columbia Restaurant

Or by Zoom:
One Tap Mobile: US: [+16465588656..89708292982#....*206251#](tel:+16465588656..89708292982#....*206251#) or [+13017158592..89708292982#....*206251#](tel:+13017158592..89708292982#....*206251#)
Meeting URL: <https://triple-strand-global-solutions.zoom.us/j/89708292982?pwd=UG1rQ2RGWVlpRnBZRDRXRtFnTVJZdz09&from=addon>
Meeting ID: 897 0829 2982 Passcode: 206251



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).



Welcome
New Members!

Eugene Anderson,
Lt Col USAF Retired

Russell L Gregory III,
COL USAR Retired

Dennis Holloway,
LT USN Retired

Donald Olivier,
CDR USN Retired

Jane L Valentine,
COL USAF Retired

IMPORTANT DATES
IN MARCH 2022

Women’s History Month

1 Mardi Gras Day

2 Ash Wednesday

3 Navy Reserve Birthday

4 National Hug a G.I. Day

5 Seabee Birthday

13 Daylight Savings Time begins

13 National K-9 Veterans Day

15 American Legion Day

17 St. Patrick’s Day

20 First Day of Spring

21 Rosie the Riveter Day

25 Medal of Honor Day

29 National Vietnam War Veterans Day



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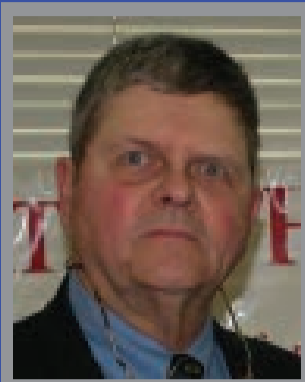
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OR KNOW A BUSINESS THAT DOES?

This 1/8 Page Ad is \$250

E-Mail: TampaMOAA.Secretary@gmail.com

UPDATE OPERATION HELPING HAND



LTC JIM GRIFFIN
Chairman, OPHH

“As long as we are needed, Operation Helping Hand will be there...”



We also were honored to have a very energetic gaggle of runners from the BRANDON RUNNING ASSOCIATION. They pitched right in and assisted with the serving of the dinner. Thanks folks it is a pleasure for us to support your SHAMROCK 5K & 1 MILE FUN RUN on 13 MARCH LOCATED AT O'BRIEN'S IRISH PUB, BRANDON.

Remember, the BOB SILAH MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT ON 25 MARCH AT MAC-DILL AFB. SIGN UP DEADLINE FOR GOLFERS AND SPONSORS IS 18 MARCH!

A very quick turnaround for the TAMPA ROTARY CLUB OF WESTCHASE CLAY SHOOT ON 1 APRIL. Detailed information is on the website.

OPERATION HELPING HAND will continue to provide support and assistance to the MUSIC, ART, and VIRTUAL REALITY THERAPY PROGRAMS. This, of course, includes the POLYTRAUMA FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP.

OPERATION HELPING HAND is and all-volunteer 501 (3) (c) organization, in which 96.5% of all donations received goes to support all of these programs.

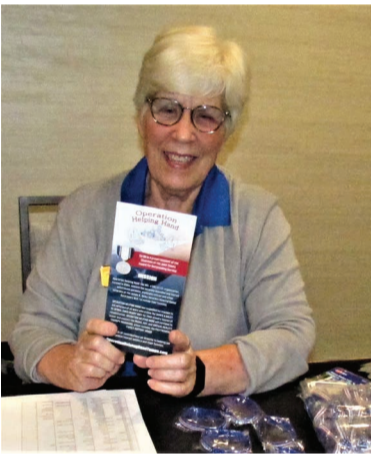
OPERATION HELPING HAND will need your continued support to allow us to continue our assistance to all of these vital programs. This support can be donations by checks or by using our website OPERATIONHELPINGHANDTAMPA.COM.

A special thanks to GREG CLESTRAN and his band of troopers from CELESTAR CORP. for their sponsorship of the dinner and their enthusiastic participation at the dinner. Thanks Greg! Don't wait to make you reservations for the March 17TH Dinner by calling 813 771-6744.

STAY SAFE, HEALTHY, AND RESILIENT!

Operation Helping Hand February Dinner Photos

Photo credit: LTC Bob Sawallesh, USA (Ret)



FOUR CHAPLAINS AND THE USAT DORCHESTER

—By Chaplain (COL) Bernard H. Lieving, Jr. USA (Ret)

The article, “No Greater Glory: The Four Chaplains and the Sinking of the United States Army Transport (USAT) Dorchester in last month’s *The Retrospect* had a significant impact on me. When I talked with Sara Marks, our editor, she asked me to write about it. So, what follows describes my response to the article.

On February 3rd I participated at American Legion Post 5’s annual commemoration of the sinking of USAT Dorchester and the four chaplains giving up their life vests to others to save them. The four chaplains were described as “praying, standing in a circle with arms around each other” as the ship sank. Post 5’s action is part of the American Legion’s nationwide remembrance of Four Chaplains Day with memorial services that pay tribute to the courageous chaplains and the brave young men who lost their lives on that fateful night.

I have been part of Post 5’s ceremony for several years since the Post’s chaplain called the church where I am on staff and explained to the senior pastor what she needed a Methodist pastor to do. He quickly explained that he would suggest that one of his pastoral staff, a retired Army chaplain, should fill the spot. I have been doing it every year since, wearing my uniform as a tribute to the chaplain I represent, George L. Fox, an ordained Methodist pastor who became a chaplain in 1942.



The picture in this article also shows the other three ordained clergy who participated in this year’s ceremony – a Jewish rabbi, in his uniform as a chaplain for the Civil Air Patrol, representing Chaplain Alexander D. Goode; a Catholic priest, representing John R. Washington; and a Reformed pastor, representing Clark V. Poling. To learn more details about each of the four chaplains, refer back to the February “Retrospect.”



Note in the picture that we are each holding a life vest of the type the four chaplains would have been wearing before taking them off and giving them to someone else to, hopefully, save their life. In the ceremony at Post 5 we each wear the vest while reading the story of the chaplain we represent and then we take off the vests and put them on the four boys that Post 5 is sponsoring to the Florida Boys’ State in Gainesville.

Depicted behind us is a piece of art commemorating the USS Tampa, lost by a torpedo from a German submarine in Bristol Channel in 1918 while escorting a convoy to Wales. Prior to being transferred to the Navy, the Tampa had been a U. S. Coast Guard cutter (USCGC Tampa). In 1921 another Coast Guard cutter was named for the USS Tampa lost in 1918. In 1941 that USCGC Tampa was also transferred to the Navy and was one of the ships escorting a convoy, including the USAT Dorchester when the Dorchester was torpedoed by the German U-233 submarine.

I was privileged in 1993, while serving as the Commandant of the U.S.A. Chaplain Center and School at Fort Monmouth, NJ, to respond to an invitation and go to the Brooklyn Navy Yard to be the speaker at a ceremony commemorating the 50th anniversary of the date of the departure of the USAT Dorchester from Brooklyn on what would be its final mission. At that ceremony were three of the survivors of the sinking of the USAT Dorchester. It was indeed an honor to hear their stories.

So, this is my story of why the article Sara Marks placed in the February “Retrospect” had such an impact on me.

HISTORY OF DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME (DST)

—By [Anne Buckle](#)

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



One of the advantages of Daylight Savings is the long summer evenings
©iStockphoto.com/Lacheev

[Daylight Saving Time](#) (DST) is used to save energy and make better use of daylight. It was first used in 1908 in Thunder Bay, Canada.

Daylight Saving Time is the practice of setting the clocks one hour ahead of [standard time](#) to make use of more [sunlight](#) in the spring, summer, and fall evenings.

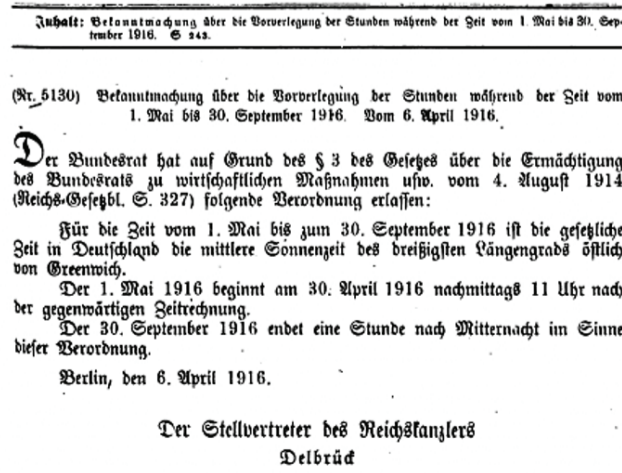
[DST in the US & Canada starts on Sunday, March 13, 2022](#)

[DST starts in Europe on Sunday, March 27, 2022](#)

First Used in Canada in 1908

While Germany and Austria were the first countries to use DST in 1916, it is a little-known fact that a few hundred Canadians beat the German Empire by eight years. On July 1, 1908, the residents of Port Arthur, Ontario—today’s [Thunder Bay](#)—turned their clocks forward by one hour to [start the world’s first DST period](#).

Other locations in Canada soon followed suit. On [April 23, 1914](#), Regina in Saskatchewan implemented DST. The cities of Winnipeg and Brandon in Manitoba did so on [April 24, 1916](#). According to the April 3, 1916, edition of the Manitoba Free Press, Daylight Saving Time in Regina “proved so popular that bylaw now brings it into effect automatically.”



Law text for the world’s first nationwide DST switch (Reichsgesetzblatt, German Empire, 1916).

Germany Popularized DST

However, the idea did not catch on globally until [Germany introduced DST in 1916](#). Clocks in the German Empire, and its ally Austria, were turned ahead by one hour on [April 30, 1916](#)—two years into World War I. The rationale was to minimize the use of artificial lighting to save fuel for the war effort.

Within a few weeks, the [United Kingdom](#), [France](#), and many other countries followed the idea. Most of them reverted to standard time after World War I, and it wasn’t until the next World War that DST

made its return in most of Europe.

[Is winter time the same as standard time?](#)

Who Invented DST?

If you think Daylight Saving Time is a good idea, you can thank New Zealand scientist George Vernon Hudson and British builder William Willett. In 1895, Hudson presented a paper to the Wellington Philosophical Society, proposing a 2-hour shift forward in October and a 2-hour shift back in March. There was interest in the idea, but it was never followed through.

In 1905, independently from Hudson, British builder William Willett suggested setting the clocks ahead 20 minutes on each of the four Sundays in April, and switching them back by the same amount on each of the four Sundays in September, a total of eight time switches per year.

First Daylight Saving Bill

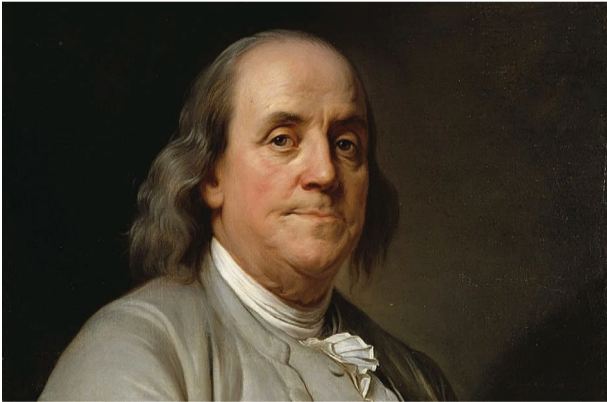
Willett’s Daylight Saving plan caught the attention of Robert Pearce, a British Member of Parliament, and he introduced a bill to the House of Commons in February 1908. The first Daylight Saving Bill was drafted in 1909, presented to Parliament several times, and examined by a select committee. However, many, especially farmers, opposed the idea, so the bill was never made into a law.

Willett died in 1915, the year before the United Kingdom started using DST in May 1916. It is not known if he was aware that his idea had become a reality seven years before his death in a small town in Ontario.

[DST can cause health problems](#)

Benjamin Franklin, the Father of DST?

Many sources also credit Benjamin Franklin for being the first to suggest seasonal time change. However, the idea voiced by the American inventor and politician in 1784 can hardly be described as fundamental for the development of modern DST. After all, it did not even involve turning the clocks. In a letter to the editor of the Journal of Paris, entitled “An Economical Project for Diminishing the Cost of Light,” Franklin simply suggested that Parisians could economize candle usage by getting people out of bed earlier in the morning. What’s more: Franklin meant it as a joke.



Ben Franklin by Joseph-Siffred Duplessis, ca 1785 National Portrait Gallery, via Wikimedia Commons

[Does DST really save energy?](#)

An Ancient Idea

Although modern DST has only been used for about 100 years, ancient civilizations are known to have engaged in comparable practices thousands of years ago. For example, the Roman water clocks used different scales for different months of the year to adjust the daily schedules to the [solar time](#).

Daylight Saving Today

Daylight Saving Time is now used in over [70 countries worldwide](#) and affects over one billion people every year. The beginning and end dates [vary from one country to another](#).

Source: <https://www.timeanddate.com/time/dst/history.html>



ROSIE THE RIVETER

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

Rosie the Riveter was the star of a campaign aimed at recruiting female workers for defense industries during World War II, and she became perhaps the most iconic image of working women. American women entered the workforce in unprecedented numbers during the war, as widespread male enlistment left gaping holes in the industrial labor force. Between 1940 and 1945, the female percentage of the U.S. workforce increased from 27 percent to nearly 37 percent, and by 1945 nearly one out of every four married women worked outside the home.

Rosies in the Workforce

While women during [World War II](#) worked in a variety of positions previously closed to them, the aviation industry saw the greatest increase in female workers.

More than 310,000 women worked in the U.S. aircraft industry in 1943, making up 65 percent of the industry’s total workforce (compared to just 1 percent in the pre-war years). The munitions industry also heavily recruited women workers, as illustrated by the U.S. government’s Rosie the Riveter propaganda campaign.

Based in small part on a real-life munitions worker, but primarily a fictitious character, the strong, bandanna-clad Rosie became one of the most successful recruitment tools in American history, and the most iconic image of working women in the World War II era.

Did you know? Though women who entered the workforce during World War II were crucial to the war effort, their pay continued to lag far behind their male counterparts: Female workers rarely earned more than 50 percent of male wages.

In movies, newspapers, [propaganda posters](#), photographs and articles, the Rosie the Riveter campaign stressed the patriotic need for women to enter the workforce. On May 29, 1943, The Saturday Evening Post published a cover image by the artist Norman Rockwell, portraying Rosie with a flag in the background and a copy of Adolf Hitler’s racist tract “Mein Kampf” under her feet.

Though Rockwell’s image may be a commonly known version of Rosie the Riveter, her prototype was actually created in 1942 by a Pittsburgh artist named J. Howard Miller, and was featured on a poster for Westinghouse Electric Corporation under the headline “We Can Do It!”

Early in 1943, a popular song debuted called “Rosie the Riveter,” written by Redd Evans and John Jacob Loeb, and the name went down in history. Who Was Rosie the Riveter?

The true identity of Rosie the Riveter has been the subject of considerable debate. For years, the inspiration for the woman in the Westinghouse poster was believed to be [Geraldine Hoff Doyle](#) of [Michigan](#), who worked in a Navy machine shop during World War II. Other sources claim that Rosie was actually Rose Will Monroe, who worked as a riveter at the Willow Run Bomber Plant near Detroit. Monroe also was featured in a promotional film for war bonds.



[The Fair-Skinned Black Actress Who Refused to ‘Pass’ in 1930s Hollywood](#)



[‘Black Rosies’: The Forgotten African American Heroines of the WWII Homefront](#)

And Rosalind P. Walter from Long Island, [New York](#), is known to be the Rosie from the popular song by Evans and Loeb. Walter was, in fact, a riveter on Corsair fighter planes.

But the most credible claim on Rosie’s legacy came from [Naomi Parker Fraley](#), who was photographed working in the machine shop at the Naval Air Station in Alameda, [California](#). In the 1942 photo, she is sporting a telltale polka-dotted bandana. Fraley passed away in January 2018.

WACs

In addition to factory work and other home front jobs, some 350,000 women joined the Armed Services, serving at home and abroad. At the urging of First Lady [Eleanor Roosevelt](#) and women’s groups, and impressed by the British use of women in service, General [George C. Marshall](#) supported the idea of introducing a women’s service branch into the Army.

In May 1942, Congress instituted the Women’s Auxiliary Army Corps, later upgraded to the Women’s Army Corps, which had full military status. Its members, known as WACs, worked in more than 200 non-combatant jobs stateside and in every theater of the war. By 1945, there were more than 100,000 WACs and 6,000 female officers. In the Navy, members of Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service (WAVES) held the same status as naval reservists and provided support stateside. The Coast Guard and Marine Corps soon followed suit, though in smaller numbers.

WASPs

One of the lesser-known roles women played in the war effort was provided by the Women’s Airforce Service Pilots, or WASPs. These women, each of whom had already obtained their pilot’s license prior to service, became the first women to fly American military aircraft. They ferried planes from factories to bases, transporting cargo and participating in simulation strafing and target missions, accumulating more than 60 million miles in flight distances and freeing thousands of male U.S. pilots for active duty in World War II.

More than 1,000 WASPs served, and 38 of them lost their lives during the war. Considered civil service employees and without official military status, these fallen WASPs were granted no military honors or benefits, and it wasn’t until 1977 that the WASPs received full military status.

Impact of Rosie the Riveter

The call for women to join the workforce during World War II was meant to be temporary and women were expected to leave their jobs after the war ended and men came home. The women who did stay in the workforce continued to be paid less than their male peers and were usually demoted. But after their selfless efforts during World War II, men could no longer claim superiority over women. Women had enjoyed and even thrived on a taste of financial and personal freedom—and many wanted more. The [impact of World War II on women](#) changed the workplace forever, and women’s roles continued to expand in the postwar era.

With Activation of NATO Response Force, U.S. Military Ready to Provide Forces

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

In response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg today announced activation of the alliance’s defense plans, which means also that it can deploy the NATO Defense Force. The U.S. Defense Department now stands ready to provide capabilities to help fill that defense force, if asked to do so, said Pentagon Press Secretary John F. Kirby.

“There’s a historic nature to all this,” Kirby told reporters during a briefing at the Pentagon today. “This is the first time that the alliance has employed these high readiness forces in a deterrence and defense role. So it’s not an insignificant move by the alliance.”

The activation serves as a notice to NATO nations that they may be called upon to provide military support to the NATO mission, Kirby said. This also means the United States may be called upon to provide both personnel and equipment to support the NATO mission — and that’s something the U.S. and the department has been preparing to do for quite some time.

Kirby said what kinds of assistance NATO may request from the United States, or other alliance nations, is unknown at this time, as is what specific U.S. military units may end up being assigned to what roles.

Still, Kirby said, the U.S. has put as many as 12,000 service members on “prepare to deploy orders” so they will be ready if called upon to participate in the NATO Response Force. Some of those U.S. personnel may also be called upon to participate in any unilateral actions the U.S. may undertake.



Airmen load security assistance cargo for Ukraine aboard a C-17 Globemaster III at Travis Air Force Base, Calif., Feb. 14, 2022.



Two Air Force F-35 Lightning II aircraft assigned to the 34th Fighter Squadron fly over the 86th Air Base in Romania, Feb. 24, 2022.

“The department has placed a range of multi-mission units in the United States and Europe on a heightened preparedness to deploy, which increases our readiness to provide for the U.S. contributions to the NRF on a shorter tether than what we could do before,” Kirby said. “We stand ready if called upon by NATO to support the NRF in the defense of the alliance, and will absolutely do that.”

While President Biden has said U.S. troops will not enter Ukraine to participate directly in the fight against Russia, U.S. forces may eventually be called upon to participate in NATO-led missions as part of the NATO Response Force to bolster the defense of alliance partner nations should they ask for assistance.

“We’re going to do everything that we need to do to defend our country, and as the President has said, we’re going to do what we need to do to defend every inch of NATO territory — and we take those obligations seriously,” Kirby said.

At the same time, Kirby said, the U.S. continues to provide security assistance to Ukraine to help that country defend itself against an unlawful invasion by Russia. “We’re continuing to look for ways to support Ukraine to defend themselves,” Kirby said. “We have continued to do that and we’re going to look to do that going forward. And we’re very actively engaged in those efforts, to help them better defend themselves through both lethal and non-lethal assistance.”

Source: <https://www.defense.gov/News/News-Stories/Article/Article/2947452/with-activation-of-nato-response-force-us-military-ready-to-provide-forces/>

NATIONAL HUG A G.I. DAY

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

As the only day on the calendar that is mnemonically a military command, March 4th recognizes National Hug A G.I. Day.

Gather around your servicemen and women to give them a hug. It’s simply a way to show your support. With either a pat on the back or a hearty handshake, be sure to give both past and present G.I.s your appreciation. While G.I.s refer to Army personnel, the day encompasses all those who have served in the military. So, hug those Jarheads, Wingnuts, Squids, and Coasties, too!

Today the term G.I. is fairly commonly known to refer to those serving in the Armed Forces of the United States of America. How that came to be is a little less military protocol and more the American story.

It seems at the turn of the 20th century, G.I. was a notation used in supply records for galvanized iron. It was later used during World War I for German artillery shells made from galvanized iron.

Sometime during the war, soldiers started interpreting the initials as “Government Issue” or “General Issue”. By the time World War II came around it was starting to gain meaning as the generic enlisted man.

Not surprisingly, sarcastic usage among many servicemen was common, feeling



they were just like any other Government Issued supply being mass-produced for Uncle Sam.

About that time G.I. Joe was born. His creator, comic strip artist, and former Army Sergeant David Breger, issued his first G.I. Joe cartoon series in Yank magazine on June 17, 1942.

Source: <https://nationaldaycalendar.com/national-hug-a-g-i-day-march-4/>

Why does the Legion celebrate its birthday on March 15?

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

On that date in 1919, the first American Legion caucus, held by members of the American Expeditionary Force, convened in Paris. Much as the birthday of the United States is celebrated on July 4 - for the date in 1776 when patriots declared the independence of the British colonies and birthed the spirit of America - March 15 is the date when The American Legion came to life.

Throughout the organization’s history, local posts across the country have celebrated with festivities that have included the entire community. For the 20th birthday in 1939, Battle Mountain Post 71 in Hot Springs, S.D., brought out a 40-pound birthday cake - two pounds for every year of The American Legion’s history. For the 38th birthday in 1957, Post 214 in Upper Darby, Pa., hosted an entire week’s worth of events as part of American Legion Birthday Week, so proclaimed by the township’s Board of Commissioners. Parties, dances and a two-act play were held at Post 214’s clubhouse.

Some aspects of Legion celebrations have remained mostly the same over the years: for the 91st birthday in 2010, Post 252 in Greenwood, Ind., held its annual dinner, with speakers and entertainment by the Greater Greenwood Community Band. The post-sponsored Boy Scout Troop 621 presents the colors every year, but had a bigger role in 2010. Commemorating the 100th anniversary of Scouting, Post 252 made that year’s party a joint affair with the troop. The national organization can get involved in commemorations, too: for this year’s 93rd birthday, the new American Legion Amateur Radio Club is operating as **a special event station**, and **a committee** has already been formed to celebrate the Legion’s 100th birthday in 2019.



Coalition Corner

Submitted by: **BGEN Henrik Larsen**

Dear MOAA Members,

I hope you are all doing great and enjoying the increased temperatures.

The situation in the US CENTCOM area of responsibility remains relatively calm. We are still awaiting the formation of a new government in Iraq.

As you are all perfectly aware, focus is currently on the situation in the Ukraine. All though the Ukraine and Russia are both outside the US CENTCOM area (belong to the US European Command) a large number of the nations associated with the international coalition at MacDill AFB are very concerned about the situation there.

As I am writing this input (February 22nd) for the March edition of The Retrospect, the main theme in the news is the world leaders response to Russia's actions in the Ukraine. The situation might very well have escalated further when The Retrospect is released in March.

Obviously there is a lot of speculation about what's next as it relates to the Ukraine. I am not going to add anything to the ongoing debate, but will keep monitoring the development closely. Actually the Ukraine used to be part of the Coalition and until recently had a Senior National Representative with US CENTCOM. I personally had the pleasure of working with two of them before Ukraine stopped posting a liaison element to US CENTCOM. In the early stages of establishing the Coalition following the 9/11 attacks, Russia was also part of the Coalition, but left again. It would have been kind of interesting to have invited the Senior National Representative from those two nations over for a cup of coffee in my office...

I will leave this topic by repeating a statement made by the General Secretary in NATO - "It is never too late to stop preparing for war...."

We have seen a few rotations among Senior National Representatives with the Coalition. I have received many questions about the Coalition possibly coming to an end now that we have ended our engagement in Afghanistan and also manage to defeat the ISIS Caliphate in Iraq and Syria. Even though the focus has shifted somewhat towards the great power competition with an immediate priority on the situation in Ukraine, I do not see an end to the Global War On Terror in the near future. US CENTCOM is currently the only US combatant command to have an international coalition onboard, and I am not seeing any political

decisions going in the direction of changing that. It would be fun to transfer the coalition to US Pacific Command on Hawaii for a while with a focus on China, but upfront I believe we should stick with US CENTCOM here in Tampa, which is our home field!

We are hoping for the current COVID restrictions on MacDill AFB to be lifted relatively soon. The planning for the 2022 Air Show in late March is still ongoing. Hope to see a lot of you out there.

February I also saw the Super Bowl. A lot of coalition officers and crew members were watching the game. Personally I had the pleasure of enjoying the game with colleagues from Sweden, Finland, Czech Republic, the US and Denmark at the Cigar Cathedral in Tampa. Great evening - great game! Looking forward to next season kick off in September.

On behalf of the entire International Coalition I wish you all a happy March.



All the best,

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



Army-Navy Game 2021

—By Steve Swift, CAPT USNR (Ret) and US Naval Academy Blue & Gold Officer

I had not been to an Army-Navy game in person since 1986 (the fall before my graduation from USNA in May 1987). My wife and I always talked about going, but she said it always looked too cold! The 2021 Army-Navy game was held this past year in the Meadowlands (MetLife Stadium) in New Jersey, just across the Hudson River from New York City, due to the 20-year anniversary of the 9-11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center. What could go wrong with the weather in the New York City area on the second weekend in December?

The weather was projected to be pretty warm but raining most of the day, however, it ended up being dry the entire time, and about 65 degrees throughout the game. This was even more special considering it was in the mid-40s both the day before and after. Playing at MetLife Stadium was pretty exciting as the game is normally played in Philadelphia, however, by contract it moves around once every five years or so. Last year's game was played at West Point due to covid, with no spectators, and Army won handily at home. Army was favored to win again this year, and as usual it was a hard-fought game. Army was leading by 13-7 at halftime, however, Navy's defense shut down Army in the second half, and had a big stop at the end to pull out the win by a final score of 17-13. Navy sang second, as the winner sings their alma mater after the non-winner sings theirs first, and the television broadcast always shows it now. The nation watches as they watch future leaders honor each of their institutions and each other. Navy now leads the overall series 62-53-7.



The atmosphere around the game was incredible, with the memories and sacrifices from 9-11 highlighted. The 14 Naval Academy and one West Point alumni that were killed on 9-11 in the World Trade Center, on the planes and at the Pentagon were all highlighted on the big screens at halftime, and the 59 Naval Academy and

105 West Point alumni that have died or were killed in the line of duty since were honored. You can visit all Naval Academy alumni that have died or were killed in the line of duty at the [USNA Virtual Memorial Hall \(usnamemorialhall.org\)](https://usnamemorialhall.org). Lee Greenwood sang "Proud to be an American" at halftime as well, and there was not a dry eye in the house (as far as I could tell through the "rain" around my own eyes). It was especially moving as Commander Brian Bourgeois was honored, along with his family. Brian was a Naval Academy class of 2001 SEAL, four-year letterman on the football team, and commanding officer of SEAL Team-8. He was also a former resident of Fishhawk in the Tampa Bay area from 2017-2019 when stationed at Special Operations Command, while performing volunteer duties as a Naval Academy Blue & Gold Officer, and he died in a training accident a week before this year's Army-Navy game. His wife spoke to the team in the locker room before the game, and his son was on the sidelines as Navy pulled out the big victory.

A trip to the area would not be complete without visiting the 9-11 Memorial and Museum, so we went into the city the next day to complete our honoring of all 341 fireman, which was about 12% of all that were killed that day. The Memorial has lots of meaning so we recommend a live physical tour and the museum is well worth it, so if you get a chance to go to the city, plan on going! We also visited the New World Trade Tower, which was nice as well. Of course, a visit to my classmate and plebe year company-mate's Italian restaurant, Da Marino's, in the Broadway district was a must as well. Awesome dinner with an awesome ambiance. I may have been slightly biased though.

So – if you plan to go to an Army-Navy game, pick one like this – perfect weather, moving, and your team sings second!





MOAA Tampa Dues Renewal Form 2022



Please complete the form below only if there are changes from last year.

Name _____

Rank _____ Service _____ Status _____

Address _____

EMAIL address _____

Phone _____ Cell/Home _____

Spouse _____ Phone _____

Emergency Contact _____ Phone _____

Check here if there are no changes _____

Dues may be mailed to the Membership Chairman or brought to any chapter event.
Mailing address

Jeanne Richard, LtCol USAF (Ret)
1223 Foggy Ridge Parkway Lutz, FL 33559-6758

Consider donating to our chapter scholarship fund.

Amount enclosed:

Dues \$25.00
Scholarship \$ _____
Total \$ _____

Please make checks payable to: MOAA Tampa Chapter

You may also pay your Tampa chapter dues online at www.MOAA.org.
Deadline for renewing your membership is January 31, 2022

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!



MOAA Tampa Chapter
New Member Application Form



Name _____

Rank _____ Service _____ Status _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

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Phone _____ (home; cell) Date of Birth: Month: _____ Day: _____

Spouse _____ Phone _____

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

World War II _____; Korean War _____; Vietnam Era: _____

Vietnam (in country) _____; Gulf War _____; Lebanon, Grenada, Panama _____

Afghanistan (OEF) _____; Afghanistan (OES) _____; Islamic War (OIR) _____

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

Tampa Chapter Annual Dues: \$ 25.00 (There is no dues requirement for active-duty personnel or a surviving spouse. You MUST, however, be a member of MOAA National.

Please visit <https://www.moaa.org/> join if not already a MOAA NATIONAL member.

You may bring the completed form to any Chapter event, or you can **mail** it with your \$25 check (payable to **MOAA Tampa Chapter**) to:

Jeanne Richard, 1223 Foggy Ridge Parkway, Lutz, FL 33559-6758.

Email questions to: TampaMOAA.Membership@gmail.com

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



Surviving Spouse Corner:

Submitted By Renee Brunelle

Tips For Downsizing & Decluttering

How do I even start? Tips for downsizing and decluttering

Most people would agree that they have experienced a move

that did not go as planned. Missing items, broken items and often a vague timeline for delivery from the moving company can make anyone have a few sleepless nights. Perhaps you have decades of “treasures” in your home that you had planned on sharing with family. Then it is revealed that all are not going to get passed down after all. Where do you start?

You must consider how long you have lived in the residence and how many people have lived there. As you add number of years and people you also increase the amount of weeks it will take to declutter. I use the Marie Kondo ‘The Magic of Tidying Up’ approach to look at a client’s home with my business as a Senior Move Manager. Start where there is the least emotional connection-Clothing & Accessories. Often if you just declutter the clothes

that don’t fit any longer and donate to the local Homeless Veterans it can be a great way to start. Then tackle the Books, Papers, General (including bedroom, bathroom, office and kitchen). End with Mementos that hold the most sentimental triggers.

Luckily there is help to begin this process and provide some professional guidance when needed. The National Association of Senior Move Managers (www.NASMM.org) has a website to find trusted professionals in a specific geographic area. They are experienced in helping someone sort their belongings and decide what is best to take, could possibly sell, donate or is it now trash. They can help with floorplan designs and mover scheduling if the final plan is to move. Depending upon the business they will charge by the hour or by the project.

Senior Move Managers often are a wealth of resources that can save you and your family often time and/or money. They network with movers, senior placement specialists, senior living communities, realtors, estate sale

professionals and many other businesses to be sure they can assist their clients when needed. Family often have good intentions to help with the decluttering and downsizing process. However, their own emotional attachment to items can complicate the downsizing process. To be honest, it takes a certain level of physical and emotional stamina to work for eight hours a day in a home.

My favorite client story was a home that had Extreme Content due to years of the father and son being home alone after mom passed. There were layers of paper, mail, almost anything you can image had piled up over the years. I was decluttering the Master Bedroom and found 5 Silver Atocha coins! You can see others when visiting the Mel Fisher Museum in Key West. The client’s other son has no idea they had ever been purchased. So, I consider my staff at Pathfinders Downsizing Solutions modern day treasure hunters. Wonder what buried treasure you might find in your own home.

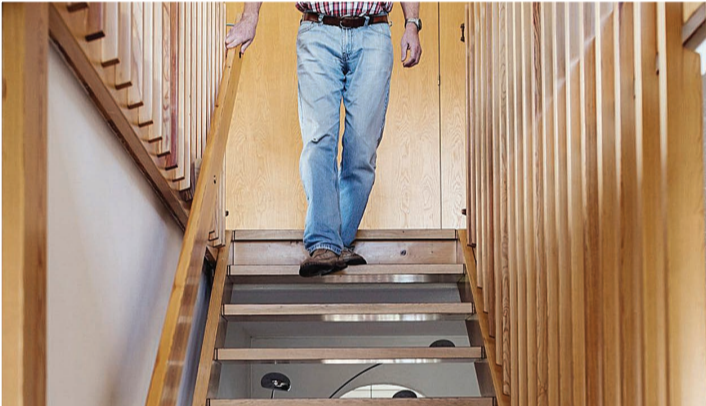
MEDICAL CORNER

5 Moves to Keep You Strong When You Skip the Gym

Everyday actions can work your stomach muscles, glutes and more, even without exercise

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

For a fit body and mind in your 50s, regular exercise is key. Still, there are days when you just can’t face the treadmill. We asked personal trainer Kirk Charles, proprietor of the online training program Fit Beyond 40, for his favorite ways to stay strong and limber when the gym is off the table.



—Getty Images

ILLUSTRATIONS BY TARA JACOBY

1. Pull your stomach in

To increase abdominal power without crunches, suck in your stomach. Stand straight, exhale, pull in your belly, and hold for 20 to 30 seconds (or as long as you can). Do 3 to 5 reps.



2. Clench those glutes

You can build a stronger, less saggy butt by clenching those butt cheeks. This move works the gluteus maximus, gluteus medius and gluteus minimus — a twerking trifecta. Stand, clench as tight as possible, and hold for 30 to 60 seconds. Start with 3 to 5 reps, gradually increasing the number over time. (If you clench your abs simultaneously, you’ll strengthen your lower back; your glutes and abs help pull your pelvis into a powerful position.)



3. Circle your arms

For shoulder power, extend your arms out, each to its respective side, and make 10 small forward circles. Then make 10 small backward circles. You’ll probably feel a slight muscle burn after that amount. Next, try doing 3 to 5 reps forward and backward. This will work your deltoids and rotator cuff muscles. Add in larger circles to increase your range of motion.



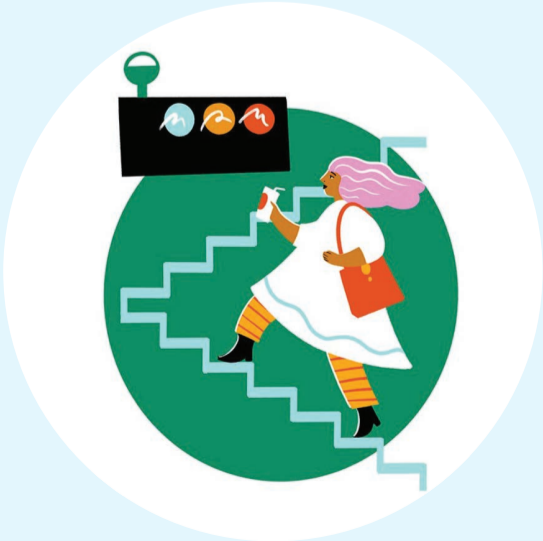
4. Sit up straight

If you slump when you sit, this can lead to postural problems. Focus on sitting upright to strengthen your back and neck.



5. Use the stairs

If you live or work in a building with a staircase, take advantage of it. You may not feel like hiking or jogging, but your quads still need to be worked. Even walking up just a couple of flights of stairs on a regular basis can help you develop power and stamina over the long run.



What makes the Black Sea so strategically important?

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

By [Megan Eckstein](#) and [Tayfun Ozberk](#)

WASHINGTON and MERSIN, Turkey — A Russian amphibious assault is underway in Ukraine, pushing thousands of Russian naval infantry from the Sea of Azov onto land west of port town Mariupol, according to a U.S. defense official.

It's a scenario for which Russia has been laying the groundwork for years. Ukraine has been training to defend against such an event since its naval fleet was decimated in 2014 after Russia took Crimea, the peninsula that separates the Sea of Azov from the larger Black Sea.

But an attack from the sea was something Ukraine was particularly vulnerable to — even if [Russian forces have so far relied primarily on sending land forces across borders](#) to attack Ukrainian cities.

Wading in

There's only one way in and out of the Black Sea. Russia regularly sends its ships and submarines in and out of the sea, surging forces there or sending its Black Sea Fleet into the Mediterranean Sea for local operations. Ukraine, unlike Russia, has no other fleets elsewhere, so there's no backup coming from outside the Black Sea.

Which leads to the question: Who else may come and go from the Black Sea?

Due to Montreux Convention rules regarding the Bosphorus and Dardanelles that connect the Black Sea to the Mediterranean Sea, countries that sit on the Black Sea have unlimited access. Nonresident countries may only send ships in for short stints and are limited by ship size. So although NATO is not intervening militarily on Ukraine's behalf, the Black Sea was always going to be a vulnerable spot for Ukraine.

In other words, if there were ever a body of water well suited for bullying your neighbor, it would be the Black Sea.

Encircling the waterway are Turkey, Bulgaria, Romania, Ukraine, Georgia and Russia — three NATO members, two who want to join the alliance and then the nation currently invading Ukraine.

That political dynamic was always bound to create tension. But since 2014, the Black Sea has become increasingly strategic and contested. Crimea, located in the northern part of the sea, formerly housed the main hub of Ukraine's naval force.

Ukraine's depleted naval force

Russia's annexation of Crimea caused several challenges: first and foremost, about [three-quarters of Ukraine's naval fleet was based there](#) at the Sevastopol Naval Base, and Russia took the ships, their repair yards, helicopters and any sailors willing to fight for Moscow.

Second, it gave Russia control of both sides of the Kerch Strait, which leads from the Black Sea to the Sea of Azov. Ukraine still has legal claims to the Sea of Azov and controls much of the northwestern shores of the sea; but Russia controls land on the east and west sides of the strait, making it easier for the Kremlin to harass, block or take as hostage Ukrainian ships in the area.

And third, it significantly complicated claims to territorial waters within the Black Sea, with the Russian-controlled Crimean Peninsula jutting out into waters that would otherwise be clearly Ukrainian territorial waters under other circumstances.

A selection of naval assets shows Russia's Navy has a significant advantage over Ukraine's Navy. (Source: International Institute for Strategic Studies)

Last summer, when U.S. Navy destroyer Ross was in the Black Sea for Ukraine-hosted naval exercise Sea Breeze 21, the ship hewed to Ukrainian and international waters only. Defense News embarked on the ship for three days to observe the drills. Despite the ship's careful course, Russian naval forces near the Crimean Peninsula radioed to the ship — an unusual move in and of itself — to tell Ross to turn around. It was approaching Russian waters, they claimed, and a Russian naval exercise was taking place.

Ross continued its operations, though with three to four Russian ships tailing it at any given time and Russian jets flying overhead.

Ukraine has done its best to rebuild [its naval power](#) since 2014, though it was left with one frigate as its only "large" warship. It's taken a "mosquito fleet" approach, trying to build up a number of small vessels that can protect the waters close in to the shore. Eventually, the Navy planned to grow in size and skill set, buying larger ships that could patrol the more open waters of the Black Sea.

While the mosquito fleet patrols close-in waters, alongside the Sea Guard that falls under the State Border Guard Service (akin to the U.S. Coast Guard under the Department of Homeland Security), Russia freely deploys amphibious warships, missile frigates and more

throughout the Black Sea.

Ukraine is at both a significant disadvantage and a significant threat right now as it relates to the Black Sea. It lacks the firepower to engage the Russian fleet in any meaningful way. The U.S. Navy and its European partners tried to help Ukraine learn to create maritime domain awareness by netting together sensors; the exercises were still focused on creating a common operating picture shared across at-sea and ashore personnel, not using that picture to pick out and prosecute targets.

Although Russian President Vladimir Putin hasn't made his final intentions known, Ukraine's coastal areas seem to have a target on their back. He has already pushed forces from Crimea into the Ukrainian town Kherson. From there, it's not far across the coast to a naval base in Ochakiv and then onto port city and naval base Odesa. Putin has also pushed forces from the Sea of Azov toward Mariupol — and from there, it would be just a short push northward to connect to Russian forces and Russian-backed fighters in Donetsk and Luhansk.

Pursuing all these lines of effort would connect Russian-held areas in such a way that Putin's forces could easily resupply themselves from the sea, whereas Ukraine would be cut off from maritime commerce and military opportunities. It would also give him nearly half the Black Sea coastline and allow him to claim significantly more area as territorial waters.

The rules of the sea

Part of Putin's advantage in the Black Sea is that his ships can come and go as they please, when few other navies have the right or ability to do so.

Ukraine's ambassador to Turkey asked that the NATO member close the pair of straits to Russian ships to prevent Moscow from bolstering its Black Sea Fleet. Under the Montreux Convention, Turkey manages the movement of commercial and military ships in and out of the Bosphorus and Dardanelles.

Turkey said it cannot stop Russian ships accessing the Black Sea due to a clause in the rules that allows vessels to return to their home base, according to Reuters. The country has carefully implemented the Montreux Convention of 1936, which is a critical component of Black Sea security and stability, for more than seven decades. While the convention governs the transit regime across the straits, the most important aspect is defining the principals of military ships transiting the straits and deploying to the Black Sea.

The convention adds to Russia's advantage there because it prohibits non-Black Sea states' aircraft carriers and submarines from passing through. Only submarines from bordering, or riparian, states are permitted to pass through the straits, either to rejoin their base in the Black Sea for the first time after construction or purchase, or to be repaired in dockyards outside the Black Sea. However, though Russia has bent these rules in the past to deploy its Black Sea Fleet submarines to Mediterranean waters off Syria and elsewhere.

The Montreux Convention also limits its non-riparian states' naval power in the Black Sea in terms of deployment duration and armada tonnage. Non-riparian states may have a maximum aggregate tonnage of 45,000 tons in the Black Sea. In this regard, one non-riparian state may have a maximum aggregate tonnage of warships in the Black Sea of 30,000 tons. Furthermore, warships from non-riparian countries are not permitted to stay in the Black Sea for more than 21 days.

While the convention generally promotes freedom of navigation through the straits, Turkey retains the right to close the straits to warships from belligerent countries in the event of war or the threat of war. In wartime, Turkey is required by Article 19 of the treaty to close the straits to belligerent warships: "In time of war [v]essels of war belonging to belligerent Powers shall not, however, pass through the Straits except in cases arising out of the application of Article 25."

Turkey arguably has the authority to close the straits under the principles outlined in the convention. However, there are some political issues. Turkey holds the convention in high regard and has carefully implemented regime rules because it regards the convention as an important component of the security and stability of the Black Sea.

As a result, if Turkey agreed to Ukraine's request, Russia could make requests of its own, or even accuse Turkey of breaching its neutrality and retaliate.

According to Reuters, Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu argues the country can't stop Russian warships from coming back to their home base — meaning it could stop Russia from sending ships into the Mediterranean, which is a non-issue right now, but it couldn't stop Russia from flowing more ships to the Black Sea in the name of sending them back to their home port.

Russia could also further bolster its Black Sea Fleet by sending its Caspian Flotilla through the Don-Volga waterway. That force consists of two frigates and seven corvettes, the majority of which are armed with Kalibr missiles.

Because closing the straits is likely to have little impact on Russian capabilities in the Black Sea but would put Turkey at risk of retaliation, or at least lose the [appearance of neutrality](#), it's unlikely Turkey will take action under the rules of the Montreux Convention.

Source: <https://www.defensenews.com/naval/2022/02/25/what-makes-the-black-sea-so-strategically-important/>

MilitaryTimes | DefenseNews

NAVY	RUSSIA	UKRAINE
Submarines	49	0
Principal Surface Combatants	32	1
Patrol and Coastal Combatants	129	12
Mine Warfare/Countermeasures Ships	42	1
Amphibious Platforms	49	2
Logistics and Support Vessels	278	8
Aircraft	219	4
Helicopters	127	More than 9
Armored Fighting Vehicles	More than 1,990	More than 69

* Have access to armored fighting vehicles, anti-tank/anti-infrastructure platforms, artillery, and air defense systems. (Source: International Institute for Strategic Studies)



A Russian Navy patrol vessel sails through the Bosphorus on the way to the Black Sea past the Turkish city of Istanbul on Feb. 16, 2022. (Ozan Kose/AFP via Getty Images)



The Ukrainian ship Hryhoriy Kuropatnykov sails away from Odesa, Ukraine, in the Black Sea on the first day of the Sea Breeze 21 exercise's at-sea phase. The ship operated in a task group with warships from the U.S., U.K., Romania and Bulgaria. (Megan Eckstein/Staff)

MilitaryTimes | DefenseNews

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A selection of naval assets shows Russia's Navy has a significant advantage over Ukraine's Navy. (Source: International Institute for Strategic Studies)

Oldest U.S. World War II Veteran, Lawrence Brooks, Passes at the Age of 112

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

When it comes to living a life well lived, Lawrence Brooks truly stands out among the rest. Though he sadly passed away on January 5, 2022, there is solace in knowing that he got the most out of his 112 years of life on this earth.

Who was Lawrence Brooks? To those who didn't know him personally, he was a hero who served our country during the tense and turbulent years of World War II. For a while, he was not only the oldest U.S. WWII veteran, but also the oldest man living in the country. It was a prestigious honor he held. However, to those who had the distinct privilege of getting to know Mr. Brooks, he was a legend in his own right. A down to earth man who was always willing to impart wisdom, and never shied away from being a friend to all.

Born on September 12, 1909, in Norwood, Louisiana, Mr. Brooks was one of 15 children in his family. He was still an infant when his parents moved their family to the Mississippi Delta, which would end up remaining his home throughout his adolescence. There were no schools anywhere close to where they lived, so all of his schooling came from his parents teaching him what they knew. As he grew older, he eventually left home and began working at a sawmill. He worked there up until 1940, when he was drafted into the Army. Thus began his much heralded military service.

Mr. Brooks was assigned to the 91 st Engineer General Service Regiment, which was an Army unit stationed in Australia. It was a noncombat service unit that was comprised of mostly African American soldiers who handled duties such as supplies, maintenance



and transportation—an unfortunately common theme in the segregated forces that existed during the beginning of the war. However, being the positive spirited individual that he was, Mr. Brooks always spoke fondly of his years of service and showed a sense of appreciation for his experiences throughout.

"I don't have no hard feelings toward nobody. I just want everything to be lovely, to come out right. I want people to have fun and enjoy themselves, be happy and not sad," Mr. Brooks stated to the National WWII Museum in 2014.

In August of 1945, Mr. Brooks was honorably discharged as a private first class from the Army and moved to New Orleans, Louisiana. There, he would meet his wife, Leona, and go on to have five children, five stepchildren, and dozens of grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He worked as a forklift driver until he retired in his 60s. After that, his days would be spent sitting on the front porch of his home, greeting all those who passed by. Mr. Brooks was known as a local celebrity in the community, so neighbors would often walk by just to wave and bring him snacks. Beyond though, his two prides included watching every New Orleans Saints football game and attending every Sunday service at his church, St. Luke's Episcopal- he never missed a single event of either of the two.

When asked what his secret to a long life was: "Serving God and being nice to people."

Source: The Pasco Collector

Meet Dr. Mary Walker: The only female Medal of Honor recipient

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

—By Katie Lange, DoD News, Defense Media Activity

Out of the nearly 3,500 Medal of Honor recipients, only one was a woman -- just one -- and her medal was actually rescinded just before she died.

In honor of Women's History Month, we're looking back on the life of that exceptional woman: Dr. Mary Walker, who helped change the face of medicine during the Civil War.

Walker was born in Oswego, New York, to abolitionist parents who encouraged her to pursue an education. She really embraced that idea and in 1855 graduated as a medical doctor from Syracuse Medical College.



Walker went into private practice for a few years, but then the Civil War broke out in 1861. She wanted to join the Army as a surgeon but wasn't allowed because she was a woman. Because of her credentials, she didn't want to be a nurse, either, so she chose to volunteer for the Union Army.

Helping However She Could

Walker worked for free at the temporary hospital set up at the U.S. Patent Office in Washington, D.C. She also organized the Women's Relief Organization to help the families of the wounded who came to visit them at local hospitals.

In 1862, Walker moved on to Virginia, this time treating the wounded at field hospitals throughout the state. In 1863, her medical credentials were finally accepted, so she moved to Tennessee, where she was appointed as a War Department surgeon. Her position was paid, and it was the equivalent of a lieutenant or captain.

Walker was captured in April 1864 by the South and held as a prisoner of war for about four months. She and other Union doctors were eventually exchanged in a prisoner-of-war swap for Confederate medical officers. According to the National Library of Medicine, sources say Walker had been captured intentionally so



she could spy for the North, but there is little evidence to support that claim.

Not long after being released by the Confederates, Walker returned to her craft as an assigned medical director at a hospital for women prisoners in Kentucky.

Supporting Feminism

Aside from her wartime efforts, Walker was also an outspoken advocate for women's rights.

As the war raged on, feminists also struggled to further their cause, which included being able to wear clothing that enabled better mobility. Walker chose to wear what was known as the "Bloomer costume" as a modified uniform all throughout the war. It was a dress-and-trouser combination that had gone out of favor long before the war began, but she didn't care -- she wore it anyway.

Walker eventually switched to wearing men's clothes and was even arrested for impersonating a man several times. In her defense, she argued that she was given special permission by the government to dress that way.

Medal of Honor Controversy

In November 1865, having left government service for good, Walker was awarded the Medal of Honor by President Andrew Johnson, even though she was a civilian who had never been a commissioned officer in military service.

That civilian status is why Walker's medal was rescinded in 1917, two years before she died -- along with 910 others. Walker refused to return the medal, though, and continued to wear it until she died two years later.

Sixty years after that, in 1977, President Jimmy Carter restored the honor in her name, thanks to efforts made by her family.

So thank you, Dr. Mary Walker, for representing all women in this long list of honorable Medal of Honor recipients!

Source: https://www.army.mil/article/183800/meet_dr_mary_walker_the_only_female_medal_of_honor_recipient



First Medal of Honor action

[History.com Editors](#)

The earliest military action to be awarded a Medal of Honor is performed by Colonel Bernard J.D. Irwin, an assistant army surgeon serving in the first major U.S.-Apache conflict. Near Apache Pass, in southeastern Arizona, Irwin, an Irish-born doctor, volunteered to go to the rescue of Second Lieutenant George N. Bascom, who was trapped with 60 men of the U.S. Seventh Infantry by the Chiricahua Apaches.

Irwin and 14 men, initially without horses, began the 100-mile trek to Bascom's forces riding on mules. After fighting and capturing Apaches along the way and recovering stolen horses and cattle, they reached Bascom's forces on February 14 and proved instrumental in breaking the siege.

The first U.S.-Apache conflict had begun several days before, when [Cochise](#), the Chiricahua Apache chief, kidnapped three white men to exchange for his brother and two nephews held by the U.S. Army on false charges of stealing cattle and kidnapping a child. When the exchange was refused, Cochise killed the white men, and the army responded by killing his relatives, setting off the first of the Apache wars.

Although Irwin's bravery in this conflict was the earliest Medal of Honor action, the award itself was not created until 1862, and it was not until January 21, 1894, that Irwin received the nation's highest military honor.



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

—By Geoff Ziezulewicz

Weezy the MWD (Military Working Dog) was born in 2009. As he nestled with the rest of the litter, did his assuredly overtaxed mother have an inkling that her son, a very good boy, was destined for greatness?

Did she know that her Weezy would go on to serve a grateful nation, subjecting himself to all types of danger, a dedication eclipsed only by the unrelenting love he had for his handlers?

It's likely no one will ever know how Weezy felt about his mother. Military working dogs are notoriously bad at opening up about their feelings.

Either way, her little pooch soon embarked on a 10-year military journey that culminated in a retirement ceremony at Naval Air Station Sigonella, Italy, on Dec. 17.

At the tender age of two, Weezy began explosives training at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, in 2011.

The Navy has yet to comment on rumors that Weezy's dogtailer initially promised him a skate office billet in San Diego before he got orders to Fort Bragg to join the Marine Corps. Still, dogs make do, and Weezy reported to Twentynine Palms, California, later that year in advance of an Afghanistan deployment.

Downrange, Weezy protected his battle buddies, helping them avoid improvised explosive devices, "supporting and defending countless service members," according to [a Navy release](#) on Weezy's retirement.

Photos from his retirement ceremony indicate that Weezy was chillin' pretty hard as sailors sang his praise.



Weezy the military working dog was feted during a retirement ceremony Dec. 17 at Naval Air Station, Sigonella, Italy. (Navy)



Weezy the military working dog receives the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal from Lt. Nathan Ouellette, left, security officer for Naval Air Station Sigonella, Italy, during his retirement ceremony on Dec. 17, 2021. Master-at-Arms 2nd Class Jacob Grizzard is also shown here attempting to get Weezy to pose for the pic. (Navy)



Weezy looks ready to out-process. (Navy)

Weezy, who rendered no salute as the sailors who loved him presented him with a Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, appears to be largely over the pomp and circumstance, secure in his DD214 blankie and the fact that the Chief's Mess could no longer jam him up.

The Navy has not clarified whether Weezy's shadowbox was edible, containing Snausages, Pupperonis, or both.

"Few will ever know the bond that is felt between a (military working dog) and their handler," Chief Master-at-Arms Jordyn Japec said during Weezy's ceremony. "It is saying ok, lets go sweep this roadway for explosives before we go tackle an objective. It is searching a building, and having the confidence in each other's ability to let everyone back in."

There's also a connection the rest of the world doesn't see.

"It is the genuine joy that handler and the dog feel from just each other's company," Japex continued. "It is the only familiar face during long down-range deployment and after a long day at work, and

After Afghanistan, Weezy returned to Fort Bragg in 2012 and served there for several years.

After an inter-service transfer brought him back to the Navy ranks, the good boy sustained “severe injuries” during a search exercise at Naval Station Souda Bay, Greece, in early 2020, fracturing his tibia and fibula in the process.

“It took Weezy 19 months, including three surgeries and rehabilitation, to finally get back to fit-for-duty status,” the Navy said.

With active-duty life behind him, Weezy is heading for retirement with a former handler in North Carolina.

He looks forward to recording veteran videos of himself from the driver's seat of his car for TikTok, opining on the state of society and how the other side of the political divide has it all wrong.

Source: <https://www.navytimes.com/news/your-navy/2021/12/29/weezy-a-military-working-dog-and-very-good-boy-retires/>



Weezy at work in better days before a career-ending training accident, injury and rehab. (Navy)



We love you, Weezy. (Navy)

Are you excited for National K9 Veterans Day this March 13, or are we barking up the wrong tree? Our little furry friends are already awesome as it is. But dogs who have been trained to serve our country are even more heroic. Plus, they look so cute and serious in their little uniforms. K9 dogs have been around ever since 1942, when an organization called Dogs for Defense was founded to train dogs to be sentries for supply depots. The program was approved by the U.S. Army in March 1942, the U.S. Army K9 Corps was founded on March 13, 1942, and the rest is history (literally). Get ready to celebrate America's patriotic puppers!



HOW TO OBSERVE NATIONAL K9 VETERANS DAY

1. Adopt a retired K9 dog

K9 dogs are loved and appreciated, but unfortunately, there are some that are left without homes after their service ends. If you're ready for a new pooch, adopt one of these dogs instead of buying one from a breeder! One organization that helps you find these dogs is [linked here](#).


2. Give your own pooch a treat

While we'd love to give every retired K9 dog some TLC this holiday, sometimes you can't locate one for the purposes of treat-giving. If that's the case, show your own furry friend how much you love him! He'll appreciate it, and you'll be honoring the spirit of the holiday. It's a win-win!

3. Teach your dog a new trick

Old dogs can't learn new tricks — but your dog can! Celebrate the incredible training of a K9 dog by training your own dog a bit. You'll have an excuse to spend time with your dog, and you'll feel great when you finally get him to perform the trick. Try starting out with getting your dog to roll over or shake your hand.

To continue reading, click link: <https://nationaltoday.com/national-k9-veterans-day/>



Care for those who *served*

If you served in the Army or are a member of the Fleet Reserve Association through the Navy, Marines, Coast Guard or National Guard, you and qualifying family members may be eligible for exclusive senior living discounts that can help you and your family get the care you deserve.

<p>SENIOR LIVING:</p> <p>7.5%</p> <p>OFF</p> <p>discount on senior living*</p>	<p>PRIVATE DUTY:</p> <p>10%</p> <p>OFF</p> <p>discount on private duty home care**</p>	<p>RESPITE STAY:</p> <p>Respite stay discounts vary by community***</p>
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Discounts are available to you and your family members, including spouses, parents, step-parents, siblings, in-laws, adult children, adult step-children, grandparents and step-grandparents.

► **For more information or to schedule your visit, call (866) 749-7445 today.**

* Discount is only applicable to new residents of a Brookdale independent living, assisted living or memory care community admitting under an executed residency agreement. Discount applies only to the monthly fee/basic service rate, excluding care costs and other fees and is calculated based on initial monthly fee/basic service rate.

** Discount is only applicable to a new client of personal assistance services by a Brookdale agency under an executed service agreement.

*** Discount is only applicable to new residents of a Brookdale assisted living or memory care community admitting under an executed respite agreement. Discount applies to the daily rate. Residents under a Life Care Agreement are not eligible for the discounts. These discounts do not apply to any room, board or services which are paid for all or in part by any state or federally funded program. Subject to availability. Further restrictions may apply.

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MOAA Tampa Scholarship Application

To: MOAA Tampa Chapter members

The Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce that the MOAA Tampa Chapter will award college scholarships of up to \$2,000.00 each to high school seniors who are planning to attend college during the academic year 2022-2023. Applicants must be a dependent or grandchild of a MOAA Chapter member who has been in good standing for at least one year prior to the date of application.

The application form and further requirements can be found at the chapter website: www.moaatampa.org.

Completed applications and documentation must be submitted by April 15, 2022 to:

Colonel (Ret) William A. Schneider,
15888 Sanctuary Drive
Tampa, FL 33647

Scholarship winners will be announced on May 1, 2022.

If you have any questions, please contact Colonel Schneider at (813) 977-2572 or via email at geowillyl@aol.com.

Sincerely,

Eligibility Requirements

1. Be a dependent or grandchild of a MOAA Tampa Chapter member who has been in good standing for a minimum of one year prior to the date of application.
2. Have a GPA of 3.0 or higher.
3. Complete the scholarship application
4. Attend the May 12, 2022 Luncheon and Awards Ceremony. Attendance is required by the recipient or immediate family member in order to receive the award.

Required attachments

1. Submission of proof of the Military affiliation of the sponsor. (Military ID or DD form 214)
2. Submission of transcript reflecting 3.0 or higher GPA.
3. Submission of two Letters of Reference from persons other than relatives. (teachers, work supervisors, clergy, etc.)
4. An acceptance letter from an accredited college, community college or university with student ID number included)
5. A letter written by the student, in which he or she explains his or her goals and academic experience and extracurricular and community volunteer experience)
6. A completed Scholarship Application Form
7. A color photo of the student.

The selection committee reserves the right to limit scholarship awards to one per sponsor.

Submit application and attached documents not later than midnight April 15, 2022 to:

Colonel (Ret) William A. Schneider, USA
15888 Sanctuary Drive, Tampa, FL 33647
(813) 977-2572

geowillyl@aol.com

MOAA Tampa Scholarship Application

Date of application _____

Sponsor name _____

Date sponsor joined chapter _____

Student name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Graduating school _____

College accepted _____

Academic awards _____

School activities _____

Community activities _____

Completed application and supporting documents must be submitted no later that April 15, 2022.

Tyrone Square Mazda

Thanks you for your service



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CHAPLAIN’S CORNER

CHAPLAIN (COL) BERNARD H LIEVING JR USA RET



For over a thousand years the Irish have celebrated March 17th as St. Patrick’s Day in commemoration of a life that ended on March 17, 461 CE. The date and site of the first such celebration in America is unclear. Some say it was in 1601 in St Augustine, a Spanish settlement with an Irish vicar. Other stories point to New York and 1762 when Irish soldiers of the British Army marched to honor the Catholic feast day of St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland.

Regardless of its origin in America, this year on March 17th cities across our country will host parades and dye their rivers green. Catholic churches will celebrate Mass on the Feast Day of St. Patrick. Folks, many of whom are not Irish, will wear green and drink green beer or milkshakes, and eat corn beef and cabbage.

Patrick, born during the Roman rule of Britain; was captured by raiding Irish soldiers and taken to Ireland where he was enslaved as a shepherd for six years. In response to a dream he escaped and returned home. After years in religious study he was ordained as a priest and then had another dream that he was to return to Ireland as a Christian missionary and to minister to Catholics

already there. He did so and the rest of the story is rich with Irish and Catholic tradition. It is said he used the shamrock, the three leaves of a clover, to teach the concept of the Holy Trinity – God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

My favorite of the St. Patrick history and tradition is the prayer attributed to him called The St. Patrick Breastplate, traditionally said to have been written before he worked to convert the Irish King Leoghaire and his subjects from paganism to Christianity. Of course, the “Breastplate” prayer was for divine protection as he set out on that task.

The prayer is much too long for my article. However, this portion of it may be our prayer for these days in which we live: “God’s strength to pilot me, God’s might to uphold me, God’s wisdom to guide me, God’s eye to look before me, God’s ear to hear me, God’s word to speak for me, God’s hand to guard me, God’s shield to protect me, God’s host to save me from snares of devils, from temptation of vices, from everyone who shall wish me ill, afar and near. Amen.

SAVE THE DATE

June 9-12
2022



FUN in the SUN

45th ANNUAL CONVENTION

Hosted by the Florida Council of Chapters







MOAA Florida Conference Registration is now open!

The MOAA Florida Council of Chapters (FCOC) Annual Convention is set for June 9th - 12th at the West Palm Beach Marriott. MOAA Members from around Florida will have representatives at the Convention and all MOAA Chapter Members and Guests are invited. The fun will include a Mystery Dinner Theater Dinner and a Casino Night Fundraiser for the MOAA Foundation, along with optional trips, outings, and adventures! Join us for a great time with old friends or to meet new friends!

For more information and to register, go to the Florida Council Website at: [MOAAFL.org](https://www.moaafl.org).



Click the link for more information on the convention and be sure to watch the video!

<https://www.moaafl.org/Convention.aspx?ConvYear=2022>

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

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/




THE TAMPA CHAPTER RATED FIVE STARS 2003, 2005-2010, 2012-2017, 2019-2020




Tampa Chapter



5 Star MOAA Chapter
2003 • 2005 - 2010
2012 - 2017 • 2019 - 2021



2020 Recipient of the
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Outstanding Public
Service Award

“NEVER STOP SERVING”