

Register for the Winter Gala Today!

Register today at: [Winter Gala — MOAA \(moatampa.org\)](https://moatampa.org) The cost is only \$125/person.
See Q&A with the Winter Gala Chair on [page 14](#)
The event is open to other MOAA chapters and other local veterans — there's limited space!
If you have any questions or require special assistance, please email: tampamoaa.event@gmail.com.



The RETROSPECT

TAMPA CHAPTER — A FIVE STAR CHAPTER OF MOAA NATIONAL

NOVEMBER 2021 VOLUME 27, NUMBER 11



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT: COL CHARLES DALCOURT USA RET

GREETINGS!



Encouraging and enlightening, MOAA's 2021 Annual Meeting of the Membership in Washington, DC was well attended and a worthwhile investment for our Chapter. Hello to all and a special welcome to our members and friends of the Chapter. I recently returned from travel and while away had the privilege to attend the aforementioned MOAA event. Our state was represented by several Chapter leaders and both Mike Borders and Pat Kluever proudly stood for the FCOC. I will share a few comments and thoughts for your awareness and consideration.

MOAA, at the national level, is growing, remains strong, and is the formidable agent for both change and accountability amongst members of the Military Coalition. More specifically, MOAA is the only veteran and military organization recognized by The Hill newspa-

per as one of the top lobbying associations in the country. Speakers at the conference repeatedly shared their appreciation for engaged members that are focused on MOAA's mission and actively support, advocate, and lend their voices to advance MOAA's initiatives and narrative. Surrounded by positive and determined leaders, I was inspired by the unfailing focus on legislative advocacy and community engagement.

During breakout sessions, national and state level leaders sought and shared advice on topics of interest ranging from ROTC recruitment and social media engagement to 501(c)3 subsidiary challenges and characteristics of effective chapters. The focus on membership reigned supreme and special emphasis on younger demographics, advanced technologies, and MOAA brand promotion within our communities resonated all weekend.

I look forward to sharing more at our November luncheon. I also encourage you to attend our Chapter's Winter Gala where several leaders from the FCOC and MOAA's National Board of Directors have been invited to attend.

Member of the Month

Bringing the focus home, I have the pleasure of announcing our Member of the Month for November 2021, Commander Geoff Harrington (USN, Retired). Geoff serves as our Chapter's Secretary and is engaged in every facet of the organization's efforts. His

talent, tolerance, tenacity, and tenor are all gifts to our Chapter and truly help to keep us afloat. A dedicated servant in every regard, Geoff's capacity enables our success on a daily basis. Whether capturing board meeting minutes, setting up for luncheons, or working with nearly every committee in the Chapter, Geoff is the epitome of selflessness, the personification of care, and the manifestation of post-service volunteerism. We are delighted to honor Geoff this month and thank him for the numerous days he has taken the field for MOAA this year.

Please join us at our next luncheon, in-person or virtually, on 11 November as we honor Geoff. His biographical information is included later in this newsletter for your edification and enjoyment.

In Closing:

As I close, I share my appreciation for you as members and comrades in this quest to continue serving our nation. We need you, your talents, and a little of your time to make our mission a success. Let's closeout 2021 with a very successful Winter Gala — our inaugural fundraising event. We have been blessed with a \$10,000 event sponsor and other generous donors and are seeking additional contributions to enable our community outreach goals. Please be safe and discriminating as you move about but enjoy the wonderful transition of seasons. May God bless you all!

All the best,
Charles Dalcourt

UPCOMING EVENTS

2 Nov
9:00AM - 4:00PM
"Thriving After Military Retirement"
Transition Seminar.
FIVE LABS 4115 W Spruce St.
Tampa, FL. ([See page 10](#))

4 Nov
10:00 AM
Board of Directors Meeting

18 Nov
6:00 PM
OpHH Dinner
(Reservations Required)
Embassy Suites, USF
([see page 9](#))

11 Nov
11:30 AM Chapter Luncheon
Columbia Restaurant Siboney Room
([See page 6](#))

10 December
6:00PM-10:00PM
Winter Gala REGISTER NOW!
([See page 4](#))

REMINDER:

SUBMISSION DEADLINE
FOR THE DECEMBER ISSUE IS
20 NOVEMBER 2021
Please submit articles in a Word
Document and photos in JPEG

NOTICE: if you have a change of address,
please notify our membership team—Bill
Schneider at 813 977-2572
geowilly@aol.com or Tom South 813 975-
5025 tsouth1811@gmail.com

LEGISLATIVE LOWDOWN



BY LTC REGINALD WILLIAMS, USA RET

Thanks you for your continued support and advocacy! Your work is critically important as we continue to advocate for those issues that are important to our community of veterans, retirees and servicemembers. We still have work to accomplish and I would like to charge you with further action. First, I would like to give you an update on your efforts as Congress begins its Winter break and we need to be postured by filling their respective inboxes, mailboxes, and answering services when they return in January. Let's move out!

Advocacy in Action 2021: How Your Work Has Made a Difference¹

It has been a while since MOAA launched Advocacy In Action in April, calling on you to overcome the pandemic and once again meet with your legislators either virtually, via email, or over the phone. You made a difference despite all these logistical challenges, and we applaud the overall results: MOAA members contacted all 535 congressional offices, sent over 20,000 messages to the Hill, and conducted 350 meetings in various formats.

Here's a synopsis of the three topics we asked you to share with your legislators:

Comprehensive Toxic Exposure Reform

You communicated the long-term effects of Agent Orange on our Vietnam veterans, as well as the service-connected illnesses from the Gulf War and Iraq and Afghanistan. What started as four bills became the catalyst for overarching (omnibus) legislation offered by the House and Senate — together, this topic has amassed 200 co-sponsors, including key legislators from both chambers.

What's Next? While we seek favorable legislation sooner than later, Congress is still coming to grips with funding the government and finding common ground on infrastructure improvements proposed by the administration. Legislation being sought here is not tied to the FY 2022 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), so it could have success as a standalone bill or be wrapped up with other supplemental legislation or appropriations. All of our efforts to date will be relevant as we head into the second session of this Congress in January.

TRICARE Young Adult Coverage Parity

You made sure our legislators understood that kids from military families transitioning to adulthood lack

continued on next page

the same health care protections as civilian families who have commercial plans. These concerns were made worse during the pandemic — and also complicated by the prospects of serious TRICARE Young Adult premium increases next year.

Even with nearly 100 co-sponsors from the House and Senate, we did not have enough to compel inclusion in the House version of the NDAA, nor through the Senate Armed Services Committee (SASC).

What's Next? Thankfully, we have a second session of Congress coming up, so the bills and support carry forward in 2022. Also of note, Rep. Elaine Luria (D-Va.) introduced her bill as an amendment to the House version of the NDAA, knowing it would be called out of order due to budget impacts. She has committed to continue this effort, as has Rep. Michael Waltz (R-Fla.), her original co-sponsor, who said he will work with the House Armed Services Committee to find the funds.

Stay tuned: We will be calling on our members to boost support through the second session.

Basic Needs Allowance

Support for improving the lives of our junior servicemembers and their families seemed to resonate with many on the Hill. While the number of co-sponsors was nearly the same as the TRICARE Young Adult effort, the stories and pictures of servicemembers in line at food banks likely fueled congressional efforts to ensure supporting language was included in both House and Senate versions of the NDAA.

What's Next? We are confident there will be some level of support in the FY 2022 NDAA. However, we have to be very attentive to the process of finalizing the bill through the conference committee as the two chambers have a significant difference in their provisions. The House excludes Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) in the computation for the 130% of the poverty line, which is on par with other federal assistance, and as MOAA supports. The Senate's provision, however, maintains BAH as a component in the poverty line computation, thus significantly reducing eligibility.

After the Senate approves its version, MOAA will need your help urging conferees to support the House provision for the final NDAA.

This was a lot of heavy lifting by our members, especially given the challenges of engaging legislators virtually — efforts not possible without our grassroots commitment to service. Our advocacy team at MOAA headquarters continues to work equally hard on these three topics and many more as noted in our legislative priorities.

Stay tuned for updates on all of these through *The Retrospect* and *The MOAA Newsletter*. If you are not getting this newsletter, [check here](#) and lend your support for these and other important advocacy efforts.

And please share these efforts broadly with those who may consider supporting MOAA as the leading advocate protecting service-earned benefits for those in all eight of our uniformed services, past and present, their families, and survivors.

White House Report Addresses Key Quality of Life

Issues Affecting Military²

A recently released White House report highlights several administration priorities in support of military families. Focal areas of the report include increasing economic opportunity and mobility for military families, supporting the educational needs of military children, and developing quality behavioral, social, and emotional health resources for military families, veterans, caregivers, and survivors.

The report addresses several issues that remain unresolved despite decades of work by DoD, Congress, and military and veteran nonprofit organizations. The military spouse unemployment rate continues to hover at 22%, and 39% of military families consider leaving the service because of the inability of the spouse to find and maintain employment. This report suggests making the federal government an "employer of choice" for military spouses.

All executive departments across the administration have joined the [Military Spouse Employment Partnership](#) (MSEP), committing to encouraging work opportuni-

ties for military spouses and increasing understanding and the merits of the noncompetitive military spouse hiring authority by human resource offices within the federal government.

"The MSEP marks 10 years this year and continues to refine its service delivery in support of effective spouse employment connections," said Rory Brosius, executive director of Joining Forces. "The concierge service will allow federal employer partners of MSEP to work with an MSEP account specialist to locate pools of qualified military spouse applicants."

To address the lack of available, affordable child care, DoD has implemented the [In-Home Child Care](#) Provider Fee Assistance Program at five locations, providing more flexibility for military families. The FY 2022 DoD budget includes a request for \$5 million to expand this program to additional installations.

Joining Forces is expanding the use of surveys and data collected from across the federal government. Previously, data on military families collected by a particular agency remained siloed, but going forward, data will be collected, shared, and reviewed at ongoing intervals so policies can be either adjusted or formed in the best interest of military families.

MOAA is pleased to see the reemergence of Joining Forces and the outline of priorities and commitments to improve the quality of life for military families worldwide. As President Joe Biden stated in a letter opening this report, "The commitment and resilience of military families are essential to the recruitment, retention, and readiness of our fighting forces and the enduring strength of our nation."

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

Sources:

- 1) www.moaa.org, article by Dan Merry, October 06, 2021
- 2) www.moaa.org, article by Jen Goodale, October 12, 2021
- 3) www.moaafl.org, FCOC Newsletter, October 2021

MOAA TAMPA CHAPTER MEMBERS ARE THANKFUL

First, I am thankful for the health my wife and I enjoy. Secondly, I am thankful for the freedom I have in living in the United States of America. We may disagree with parts of our government and our neighborhood, but we have the freedom to express our thoughts in speech and writing.

Richard G. Rhyne, Sr. (Col. retired)

I am grateful for all of our chapter members

Dick Helveston

We are thankful to be living in our 80's and in fairly good health, for all our family and friends who continue to show their love and for all our active and retired military.

Dick and Shirley Helveston

I am thankful for God's blessings during this very difficult year.

Dolores Incremona

I'm thankful for having these past 55 years, the best soldier's wife ever! I'm thankful that our children are doing what's best for their wives and especially our grandchildren. I'm thankful for each dawn, each noon, each evening, and each night we are given. And, I'm thankful for every member of our Armed Forces: for where they stand and for what they do!

Colonel Hal Harold W. Youmans Colonel, USA, Retired

I am thankful and grateful to Bob Silah, our former Tampa MOAA Chapter presi-

dent (unfortunately, now deceased), for inviting me to the U.S. Navy Ball in 2003. His invitation resulted in my becoming engaged and married to my Navy Ball date: Alder Allensworth - now my wonderful wife!

Also - I'm thankful for the wonderful medical service I have been receiving at the Tampa James A. Haley VA Hospital. I'm doing well and hoping to be discharged by November 12 in time to celebrate Thanksgiving at home with my wonderful wife!

Ben Ritter

I am thankful for my good health and for my beautiful blended family the good Lord has blessed me with!

Barbara Brotherton

Thankful that we live in a vast beautiful land - a county that offers the most freedoms and opportunities for all to enjoy.

Cornelius Cosentino



PRESS RELEASE:

Winter Gala 2021 - Tide Cleaners of Valrico

Tide Cleaners Gift Certificate Donated to Support MOAA Tampa Winter Gala 2021



Mr. Berry Wright, Owner / Franchisee of Tide Cleaners of Valrico, Florida proudly displays a Tide Cleaners Gift Certificate which will be part of the Winter Gala 2021. On the left is Danielle, a proud member of the Tide Cleaners Valrico Team.



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



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COMMUNICATIONS: SARA MARKS CAPT NC USN RET

LEGAL AFFAIRS: WILLIAM MITCHELL LTJG (former) USN

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS: REGINALD WILLIAMS LTC USA RET



MOAA MISSION STATEMENT

The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) is a nonprofit veterans' association dedicated to maintaining a strong national defense and ensuring our nation keeps its commitments to currently serving, retired, and former members of the uniformed services and their families and survivors. Membership is open to those who hold or have ever held a warrant or commission in any component of the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, Public Health Service, or MOAA and their surviving spouses.

Tampa Chapter



Military Officers Association of America

TAMPA CHAPTER MISSION:

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

GENERAL CONTACT INFO:

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



Register Today for this very special event...

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

REGISTER NOW!

THE TAMPA CHAPTER OF THE
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA



INAUGURAL FUNDRAISER

FRIDAY DECEMBER 10, 2021

6:00PM – 10:00PM

WINTER Gala



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

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

The evening will include:

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

Your registration fee includes:

Your choice of entrée from below

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

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

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

We have a maximum capacity at the venue, so don't delay! Register today at:
[Winter Gala — MOAA \(moatampa.org\)](http://moatampa.org) The cost is only \$125.00/person.

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

EYES OF FREEDOM, MEMORIAL EXHIBIT

NOVEMBER 17 @ 9:00 AM - NOVEMBER 20 @ 3:30 PM

EVENT HOST:

Veterans Art Center Tampa Bay (VACTB) 501c3
Mack Macksam, Founder
813.992.7692
vactbforceforart@gmail.com
The Eyes of Freedom: Lima Company Memorial

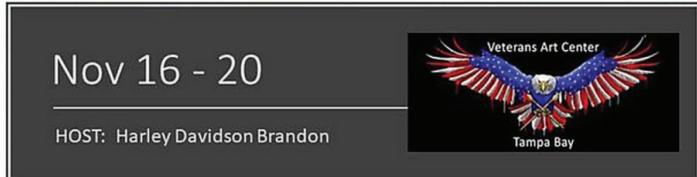
WHAT:

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

WHEN:

Location: Brandon Harley Davidson 9841 E Adamo Dr Tampa, FL 33619
17 Nov thru 20 Nov 2021

"We're very excited to bring this incredibly impactful military tribute to the Tampa Bay! We are proud to have everyone in attendance honor the men and women that serve in our great military," added Mike Strahle, Director of The Eyes of Freedom and a member of the Lima Company (he served along with the men honored in the life-size paintings). "There are many Veterans in the Tampa Bay area and all over the state that have served proudly, and I invite everyone to visit us during display hours to honor all branches of service, past present and future. Do not miss it!" Artist and creator of the exhibit Anita Miller added, "The main reason for creating The Eyes of Freedom was to heal family members and loved ones after suffering such loss in 2005, and now it travels as part of a much larger mission." Miller worked with family and Lima Co. Marines to paint this tribute, a project that took her two and a half years to complete.



ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND:

The Eyes of Freedom: Lima Company Memorial was created as a result of an Ohio artist's vision, in which she saw the finished memorial and felt she was being asked to create it. With the help of the families of the fallen and the returned Marines of L3/25, the work was created and unveiled in the Ohio State House Rotunda in 2008, as the vision foretold.

Although the paintings in this Memorial specifically depict the 23 fallen Marines from Lima 3/25, it has become much more; The Eyes of Freedom honors all who have answered the call to service. Behind each portrait we feel the honor and sacrifice of

the thousands of men and women who have served our country, in every branch of the armed forces.

Mike Strahle retired from Lima Co. 3/25 and upon seeing The Eyes of Freedom unveiled at the Statehouse in 2008 knew he had witnessed something truly special. Three years later he would contact Anita Miller, the artist and creator, requesting to host the memorial at a Veteran's Support fundraiser he co-founded. It was this reunion that sparked the passing of the baton from its creator to the hands of a brother in arms. For Mike this mission is personal. He too was badly injured in the explosion that took six of his squad members; two more fell to enemy fire just days prior.

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

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

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



So many things to be thankful for as we approach Thanksgiving this month. As I am writing my comments, I am thankful to have traveled safely to Portugal and returned home refreshed. And I'm so hopeful about the world beginning to recover from this terrible pandemic. I'm also thankful for our chapter members who responded to "What are you thankful for?" article. I

love hearing from each and every one of you.

I'd like to highlight our upcoming Inaugural MOAA Tampa Winter Gala! It's coming up very quickly (Friday 10 December!), SO REGISTER for this amazing event soonest!!! Our E-commerce site is up and running on our <https://moaatampa.org> website! You'll notice a RED button that says "Winter Gala" that you can click once and access the Event Registration.

Learn about the local artists featured in this newsletter who will be at our wonderful Gala!!! Many of our local businesses are sponsoring our event. Tide Cleaners of Valrico donated a gift card. More of our sponsors will be highlighted in the next edition of The Retrospect.

So many details as our Winter Gala Committee and Chapter prepare for this festive and fun time. We're looking for volunteers to help at all levels, so contact Dick Siegman, our Winter Gala Chair via email tampamoaa.event@gmail.com. Read the article with the questions and answers about the Winter Gala with Dick Siegman in this issue.

Happy Birthday to the US Marine Corps! And note that our Winter Gala is supporting Toys for Tots. You can donate as you register for the Gala or go to our new DONATE tab on our website and donate directly to Toys for Tots at that location on the MOAA Tampa website. We so appreciate your support for all of our initiatives. Read about the Army Vs Navy Game that will be

held in New Jersey this year, twenty years after 9-11. There are other articles that I hope you find interesting in this month's issue.

As I prepare for each edition of The Retrospect, I always love talking to our members highlighted each month in our newsletter. Our chapter wouldn't be successful without you. Our Member of the Month, voted by the chapter's board of directors, recognizes "excellence of service" of individuals in the MOAA Tampa Chapter. Our honorary November, Member of the Month, is Geoff Harrington. His love and devotion to the MOAA Tampa Chapter is apparent in all of his efforts as our chapter Secretary and ready and willing support in whatever is needed to help our chapter succeed. Geoff, it is a pleasure and a privilege working with you. I love your dry sense of humor and your support for me as Editor.

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. Send me your stories!

"Almighty God, who hast given us this good land for our heritage; We humbly beseech Thee that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of Thy favor and glad to do Thy will." – Franklin D. Roosevelt

Let us never forget. - NEVER STOP SERVING!

Sara Marks, CAPT NC USN (Ret)

THE RETROSPECT is published monthly by the Tampa Chapter of the Military Officer's Association of America (MOAA), P.O. Box 6383, MacDill Air Force Base, FL 33608-0383. The Tampa Chapter is a 501(c)(19) tax exempt veterans' organization not associated with the Department of Defense and is an affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA). MOAA National, the Florida Council of Chapters, and the Tampa Chapter are non-partisan organizations.

The views expressed in individually signed articles and the advertisements that appear in this publication/website do not reflect an endorsement by MOAA

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

OUR EDITORIAL POLICY:

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

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

ON THE WEB:

Tampa Chapter <https://moaatampa.org>

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

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

MOAA NATIONAL: www.moaa.org

OPERATION HELPING HAND: www.operationhelpinghandtampa.com

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

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.

NOVEMBER LUNCHEON MEETING

EVENT: Chapter Monthly Luncheon Meeting

DATE: Thursday, 11 November **TIME:** 1130 hours

LOCATION: Columbia Restaurant, Siboney Room 2117 E 7th Ave, Ybor City

RESERVATIONS: Call 813-676-4676 and follow prompts OR via email at:
moaatampa.reservations@gmail.com

REMEMBER a reservation made is a reservation paid.

Reservations must be made by NOON Friday, 5 November. Reservations are limited to 60.

CANCELLATIONS must be made by NOON Monday, 8 November by calling 813-676-4676

COST: Event cost \$30 payable by check or with cash. **MASKS:** Masks are optional.

DRESS CODE: Daylight savings time has ended, coat required, tie optional.

MENU: 1905 Salad, Cuban Bread and butter, Arroz con Pollo, Snapper "a la Rusa", Platanos, Black Beans, Seasonal Fresh Vegetables, Coffee, Iced Tea, Soft Drinks and Dessert

PARKING: Across the street from the Columbia Restaurant and behind the Columbia Restaurant

Luncheon reminders are sent via email. If you are not receiving the reminders, please call 813-948-7539 or send an email to lutzgranny89@gmail.com to be added to the distribution list.

By Zoom:

One Tap Mobile: US: [+13126266799](tel:+13126266799), [87189593978#](tel:+187189593978), ..., *427838# or [+16465588656](tel:+16465588656), [87189593978#](tel:+187189593978), ..., *427838#

Meeting URL: <https://triple-strand-global-solutions.zoom.us/j/87189593978?pwd=MWZvUi9BV0pSbIVXOTBEQXlrTHhIU09&from=addon>

Meeting ID: 871 8959 3978 Passcode: 427838

By Telephone:

For higher quality, dial a number based on your current location.

Dial: US: +1 312 626 6799 or +1 646 558 8656 or +1 301 715 8592 or +1 346 248 7799 or +1 720 707 2699 or +1 253 215 8782

Meeting ID: 823 3712 0870 Passcode: 548433



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).

NOVEMBER IMPORTANT DATES

- National Veterans & Military Family Month
- Warrior Care Month
- National Family Caregivers Month
- 2 Election Day
- 1-5 National Veterans Small Business Week
- 7 Daylight Savings Time ends
- 10 Marine Corps Birthday
- 11 Veterans Day
- 11 Armistice/Remembrance Day
- 25 Thanksgiving Day

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 E-Mail: TampaMOAA.Secretary@gmail.com

Receiving the Levels of Excellence Award at the MOAA Annual Meeting



MOAA President and CEO Lt. Gen. Dana Atkins, USAF (ret.) and MOAA Chairman Gen. Walter "Skip" Sharp, USA (ret.) present Col. Charles J. Dalcourt Jr., USA (ret.) from the Tampa Chapter, MOAA with a Levels of Excellence Award during the MOAA Annual Meeting at the Sheraton Pentagon City Hotel in Arlington, Va. on Friday, Oct. 15, 2021. (Mike Morones/MOAA)

Comments from the MOAA Florida Council of Chapters (FCoC) West Central Area Vice President

January Leadership Forum

Now is the time to start planning on attending the Leadership Forum on January 7-8 in Orlando. The registration page, agenda, etc., for the 7-8 January Leadership Forum in Orlando are "live". Go to the FCoC home page and you can print a copy of the agenda, see the invitation letter, and register for the event. Thanks to John Snyder, FCoC Webmaster, for his assistance in setting up the landing page and registration system. Venue is Rosen Centre hotel as in the past. Go to www.moaaf.org to see details.

I recommend the following Chapter Leaders attend this forum: President, Membership Chair, Legislative Liaison, Surviving Spouse Liaison, and Webmaster/newsletter editor. Of course, everyone is invited, but these areas should be covered. There will be training on the new Committee Module, Chapter Operations, Legislative Affairs, Surviving Spouse Affairs. The big dinner on Friday night will be paid for by MOAA National and Lt Gen Atkins will present the LOE's at that dinner.

I want to thank all chapter members for continuing to serve and supporting MOAA.

Regards,
 Benny Blackshire WCA VP
 MOAA FCoC

October Luncheon Photos

Photo credits: Bob Sawallesh



CHAPTER MEMBER OF THE MONTH COMMANDER GEOFF HARRINGTON, USN (RET)

First, an introduction – most of you know me as Geoff Harrington. To the Federal Government and the U.S. Navy, I am Frank Geoffrey Harrington. My tale is a long and swashbuckling series of daunting and sometimes dangerous tasks!! Now if you believe that, I have an historic bridge in Brooklyn, NY that I might be persuaded to sell to you for the right price.



to the Great Lakes Naval Training Center in Chicago as a Seaman Recruit (SR, E-1). After 4 months and 3 days in one of the coldest places I've been, I finished boot camp as a seaman Apprentice (SA, E-2). I flew home and rejoined my reserve unit in New Rochelle, NY, rising to the rank of Seaman (SN, E-3). At the center I was assigned as a CTM brancher (Communications Technician) with the Security Group Unit where I stayed until the following fall when I attended Naval OCS in Newport Rhode Island. I was commissioned as an Ensign, unrestricted line

Communications Stations in Norfolk, VA, Winter Harbor, ME, Anchorage, AK, Tokyo & Yokosuka, Japan, Guam and Hawaii.

With the wind-down of the Vietnam War, I was released from active duty to return to my reserve life. I re-joined my original unit as the Training & Executive Officer. MY reserve career moved my all over the 1st and 4th Naval Districts (New York & Connecticut areas) as Commanding Officers of eight reserve units during the remainder of my

Since those of you who know me would find this utter rot, I'll proceed with a mercifully brief account of the person you know. I started my military interest when I was a kid playing "army" with my cousin. While I outgrew that, I never lost my interest in and support for the military's role in our society. So in my first year in college, I took 1 year of Air Force ROTC, ultimately being assigned as an Air Policeman during our fall homecoming. Being an engineer it became evident that I needed to focus on my required subject if I were to graduate so I dropped ROTC after a year. When I graduated from college, I found that although engineering is a solid career choice, it was also a time when the Country was moving into full swing in Vietnam. I was summoned to Whitehall Street in NYC where I "received" my physical and a strong suggestion that I join and go to Army OCS. I declined and, on the following 01 September two things happened: 1) I signed up for the Naval Reserve and 2) I received my draft notice.



officer.

My orders were not to be assigned to a tin can in the Tonkin Gulf but rather to be an instructor at the Naval Communications School right there in Newport. During my 3-year tour there I taught subjects ranging from basic electronics, naval communications, communications and cryptographic equipment, coding & decoding and the Registered Publications System to prospective Naval Communications Officers. From there I was transferred to the Headquarters of the Naval Security Group Command in Washington, DC. I was assigned to the Special Communications & Operations Division as the Head of the Material Branch. My responsibilities included FBM emergency communications material readiness. In that job is where I got to see more of the world. Briefly, I visited



career. During that period I was assigned ACDUTRA (active duty for training) including Washington, Maine, Fort Schuyler, NY, the Philadelphia Shipyard, Shotgun, NC and NAVCOMMSTA Rota, Spain. During that one, I was there during President Reagan's admonishment to the Libyan air force that messing with the U.S. Navy was not a wise idea! All during my reserve time I was working for Savin/Ricoh Business Machines, Connecticut Business Systems, Global Imaging Systems (here in Tampa) and Xerox Office Products. I used my

engineering background to its greatest advantage (?) with Global/Xerox as the director of employee benefits – don't ask me how that happened..... I'm retired now from both the Navy (22 years) and civilian (total of 49 years) but, as you may know, now I'm active with the 5-Star Tampa Chapter of MOAA as the secretary – one of my best jobs! I've been married 53 years, have 2 grown children and 7 grandchildren, ranging from 11 – 18 years – that's really my best job ever!! I wish you all "Fair winds and following seas!!"

So the real kickoff to my naval career started on 16 September with an all expenses air flight



Coalition Corner

Submitted by: **BGEN Henrik Larsen**

Dear MOAA members,

Let me initially extend my gratitude for having the opportunity to attend the monthly Helping Hand dinner up at the Embassy Suites in the University of South Florida compound again. It is great to be able to bring along coalition members. We are all aware of the fact that it's currently not possible to have the dinners at the James A. Haley Veteran's Hospital. The Embassy Suites is a nice alternative though we miss the interaction with the patients there - our colleagues - the true heroes. I am aware that an option to establish a internet based solution allowing some of the patients to participate via Zoom or something similar is being considered or perhaps already under way. That would be really nice.

So far representatives from Sweden, Denmark, Romania and Poland have attended the dinners. In November I will be joined by members from another two coalition nations.

During the last MOAA luncheon I had the pleasure of presenting my colleagues from Pakistan and Kazakhstan who were both very thankful for the opportunity to meet with MOAA representatives.

The senior national representatives are now rotating regularly again since the COVID restrictions have been lowered in many nations. We are indeed very happy with that since it allows us to be joined by family and friends during our stay here in Tampa.

Though the Halloween tradition originated from Ireland I believe it has primarily been associated with the US. However, like Valentines Day the Halloween celebration is becoming bigger and bigger around the globe. In Europe you will find that a lot of amusement parks or similar are having Halloween theme events each year that have become more and more popular and attract a lot of people of all ages. This all started two decades ago making the Halloween tradition a relatively new event in Europe.

One of the oldest amusement parks in the world is the Tivoli in Copenhagen (Denmark). The oldest one is just north of Copenhagen named Bakken (the hill), which opened in 1583.

Every year these parks are hosting a Halloween event. In Tivoli there are more 20.000 thousands pumpkins decorations and a lot of scary stuff.



The German SNR



The Canadian SNR



The entrance to Tivoli in Copenhagen, Denmark during Halloween



Halloween decorations at Tivoli Friheden in Aarhus, Denmark

In October some of the coalition members celebrated Halloween. I'm convinced that this was not the only event among coalition members. You might be able to recognise some of the senior national representatives and their spouses...

On behalf of the Coalition I wish you and your families all the best for a happy Thanksgiving.

All the best

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



From right to left are the senior national representatives from Italy, Spain, the Netherlands, Belgium and Denmark.

UPDATE OPERATION HELPING HAND



LTC JIM GRIFFIN
Chairman, OPHH

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



As most of you know, we restarted our OPERATION HELPING HAND DINNERS in SEPTEMBER. It was great to see so many faces that we haven't seen for about two years. The EMBASSY SUITES HOTEL turns out to be a perfect location to begin again. We used the SEPTEMBER DINNER to work all the kinks out and the volunteers were able to accomplish this. The 21 OCTOBER DINNER bore this out. The dinner was spectacular thanks to the help of many. It was suggested that we add a MIA/POW table. This was done and it was done perfectly.

We encourage all of you to make reservations (813 771-6744) and join us for the NOV/DEC DINNER on Thursday NOV 18 at 6PM.

We have a new DIRECTOR AT THE JAMES A HALEY VA. The new director is MR. DAVID K. DUNNING. He was appointed this month. We look forward to meeting with him and bringing him into the OPERATION HELPING HAND FAMILY. WELCOME ABOARD !! On a sad note, we lost TRUDY SOUTH this month. TRUDY was the wife of TOM SOUTH, who is one of the founding members of OPERATION HELPING HAND. TOM SOUTH has served as the SECRETARY of the EXECUTIVE COUNCIL since 2004. Our thoughts and prayers go out to TOM and his family. May TRUDY rest in peace.

OPERATION HELPING HAND expanded its mission. In addition to providing assistance to the families of the active duty wounded and injured patients at the JAMES A HALEY VA SCI AND POLYTRAUMA sections, we will also provide assistance to veterans of all wars who utilize the SCI for their primary source of rehabilitation. In addition, we will continue to support the dynamic ART, MUSIC, AND VIRTUAL REALITY THERAPY PROGRAMS. This, of course includes the continued support and funding for the POLYTRAUMA FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP.

OPERATION HELPING HAND remains as an all-volunteer 501 (c) (3) organization, in which 96.5% of all donations received goes for the support of these vital programs.

OPERATION HELPING HAND will need your continued support to allow us to continue our vital program of service to all of these vital programs. This support can be through donations by checks or by using our website (OPERATIONHELPINGHANDTAMPA.COM). **STAY SAVE, HEALTHY, AND RESILIENT.**

OUR TREMENDOUS GROUP OF VOLUNTEERS MAKE ALL OF THIS POSSIBLE!

Don't miss this event!

Join us for Bobby A's Backyard BBQ!

Preorder your meal ahead of time on our website, www.operationhelpinghandtampa.com.

Bring a chair and enjoy the afternoon as we celebrate our Veterans and enjoy great BBQ and camaraderie!

Happy Birthday, Marine!

The Birthday Ball is a celebration of Marine Corps' history and traditions. It gives us a look at the Corps' past, present and future. On 10 November Marines throughout the world celebrate the birth of their Corps — whether in the fanciest hotel in town, a base gym, a ship at sea, or in a smoldering pile of rubble in some far off place with lit matches stuck in an MRE pound cake serving as candles.

In 1921, the 13th Commandant, Major General John A. Lejeune, issued Marine Corps Order No. 47, Series 1921 (read that [order here](#)). Major General Lejeune's order summarized the history, mission, and tradition of the Corps. It further directed that the order be read to all Marines each year on 10 November to honor the founding of the Marine Corps. Soon after, Marine commands began to not only honor the birthday, but celebrate it.



The first "formal" Birthday Ball took place in Philadelphia in 1925. Attendees included the 13th Commandant, the Secretary of War, and a host of statesmen and elected officials. Prior to the Ball, Major General Lejeune unveiled a memorial plaque at Tun Tavern, where, according to legend, was where the Marines held their first recruitment drive. Then all headed for the Benjamin Franklin Hotel for an evening of celebrating.

Over the years the annual Birthday Ball has changed and formalized into the ceremony we know today. One of the most important traditions of the Birthday Ball is the reading of the Commandant's birthday message to the Corps.

Part of the Commandant's 241st birthday message in 2016 read, "...we are part of something bigger than any of us could imagine. Whether you fought in the battles...in the Pacific during World War II, in Korea or Vietnam...Desert Storm, or in the streets of Iraq and Afghanistan — or you are just starting out on your Marine Corps journey...For the rest of your life, the first term people use to describe you will be 'Marine.'"

On 10 November, regardless of where Marines are stationed, or deployed, whether they are still on Active Duty, Reserve, or a former Marine, you will always hear "Happy Birthday, Marine."

To learn more about the Marine Corps and its traditions, we encourage you to attend a [L.I.N.K.S. class](#). There is always something new to learn! Contact your local [Marine Corps Family Team Building office](#) for more information.

Source: <https://usmc-mccs.org/articles/happy-birthday-marine/>



Surviving Spouse Corner:

Submitted By Renee Brunelle

Overview of National MOAA meeting in Washington, DC

Summary of Surviving Spouse Advisory Council Meeting

- The Virtual Chapter is growing with 172 members to date. There is a goal to grow the attendee numbers by rotating an educational meeting and then a more social meeting.
- Surviving Spouse Liaison Excellence Award applications will be in June of 2022.
- New focus on National Guard and Reserve, plus adding Coast Guard as well
- Looking at Education of the different types of membership a Surviving Spouse can have with Life-Premium-Basic options. To share the benefits of each with ladies who have not been attending meeting at Chapters.

Highlights of Annual Meeting

- Attended the Open Board of Directors meeting: President's Report-highlighted the year of Advocacy, Membership growth, MOAA Charities, Chapter Impact, new Board of Director selection and new Video.
- Strategic Planning Committee-has six main areas of focus with metrics to determine how the areas are performing. Will report Green-Amber-Red status
- Governance Committee-align the new metrics to Chapters' ratings, Travel policy was discussed for members with Physician documented disabilities.
- Investment Committee-showed 10% in portfolio with Goldman Sachs but trending for decline.
- Membership Committee-Basic Membership up 101.5% compared to goal. Total of more than 350,000 members with 90,000 Active Servicemembers. 46% are Life Members. End of year to "Lock in Rates" to have membership take advantage rates before increase in 2022.
- Accounting Report-Annual Dues \$6000 below budget, Advertising Revenue down \$304000 due to impacts of COVID. They did receive \$1.7 Million in PPP benefit to keep staff working remotely during 2020. Hoping to reclass a portion of the PPP for the Enduring Relief Fund. Operating Expense down \$22000 due to no one traveling last year.
- Finance & Audit Committee—96% of Zero percent student loans are being paid back to fund the next group of students. 1300 student last year received loans. College Students are eligible for MOAA loans and grants.
- General Counsel-upcoming 2022 elections for Board of Directors have opens for membership

8-Army	8-Navy	8-Air Force	3-Marine
2-Coast Guard	1-NOAA	1-USPHS	

- Government Relations-Advocacy for the NDAA, Toxic Exposure, Tricare for Young Adults, BHA allowance to receive low income subsidies, Concurrent receipt of benefits penalty removal.
- 14th in the Top 50 Lobbyist Groups and only Veteran Organization on list.
- MOAA partnerships with SimpliSafe, Identity Guard, GE Appliances, eKnowledge College Test Preparations, UPS Discounts, EA+ Emergency Travel program, Dental Dental and Voyer Life Insurance.

Tentative Plans for April 24-28 2022 Advocacy in Action in Washington, DC.

Spouses and Surviving Spouses Summit

- Pat Green was the Moderator, Gail Joyce and I were guest panelists and all are members of the Surviving Spouses Advisory Council. Gail spoke about the details on being prepared and advance planning. I presented tips on Downsizing and De-cluttering plus getting documents stored in one place.



About this event

— Submitted by PJ McAneny, COL USAF (Ret)

When you are released from active duty military service you receive any number of info briefings on the importance of a good resume, how to interview, how to dress, and on and on. At this point you've probably got that pretty firm in your mind if not on paper. To be sure, you need to get a job with pay and benefits adequate to meet your family needs; and, of course, you want that next job to lead to a fulfilling career with advancement and all that goes with it.

But...is there more to life after military service than getting a job and starting a non-military career? What about you and your family? Have you really thought out what your health insurance options are and how much they cost? Have you considered life insurance options, building a nest egg over and above your military retirement, your finances, your taxes? Do you have a will, health power of attorney, and have you set up a trust? You have a lot going for you and now is the time to capitalize on it by seriously considering these questions.

Alright then, you've got a handle on this, having military training and experience you know the value of service. You served your country with honor and integrity and you did so proudly! How about taking some of that commitment and spreading it around? Voluntary service is out there just begging for you to join in and myriad opportunities abound in our fast growing Tampa Bay Region. Find out what the Veterans Treatment Court (VTC) does and learn how you can support your fellow veterans who may not be as fortunate as you. Join a local Krewe - many of these organizations do more than just march and throw beads in the big Tampa parades (but, no doubt, that's a heck of a lot of fun too!) and are very much into community service. Want to start a local business? Then get active in one of our award winning Chambers of Commerce. How about supporting the various veteran organizations in the Tampa area? Consider helping the VA's homeless veterans' initiatives. If you were an officer, join the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) and its local 5-star award winning chapter. If you were an NCO, how about the NCOA (Non-Commissioned Officers Association). There's also SOF Foundation, Association of the US Army, and many more. Many Veterans have found their niche in exciting and unusual part-time gigs such as fitness instructors and working in stadium staff for our local Professional Sports Clubs. Finally, there are volunteer organizations - too many to mention here - like Habitat for Humanity, various church-sponsored food banks, and so on.

It's your brand new life as a civilian - make the most of it!! Our focus is on you, your family, and our community. The MOAA-Tampa Chapter offering a new and unique "Thriving after Military Service" event on Tuesday, 2 November from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm at the FIVE Labs Conference Center; it's located at 4115 W. Spruce Street, Tampa. Due to COVID19, space is limited to ensure appropriate spacing and compliance with all safety requirements, including mask wearing. Best yet, there's no cost to you and a light lunch will be served.

Thriving After Military Service

MOAA

EoS FITNESS

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE SOUTH TAMPA

MARTINEZ LAW

U.S. VETERANS ASSOCIATION

SPORTSAUTHORITY



Retired Members of the MOAA Tampa Chapter

WHAT: "Thriving After Military Service" Transitioning Veteran Event

WHO: Hosted by the MOAA Tampa Chapter

WHERE: FIVE Labs Conference Center, 4115 W Spruce St., Tampa, FL

WHEN: Tuesday, 2 November from 9:00 am - 4:00 PM

WHY: There are a multitude of events for transitioning military members, BUT none quite like this! The typical event focuses on resume development, interview skills, dressing for success, building your elevator speech, etc., while our event goes a completely different direction...

...we are focused on helping military members support themselves and their families now that they have the opportunity to put down real and lasting roots in the Tampa community.

COST: No cost. **Open to ALL RANKS and spouses!** Light complimentary lunch & beverages provided.

REGISTER: Seating is limited. Click the following link to register:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/thriving-after-military-service-transition-seminar-tickets-19124085547>

What are people saying about this event:

- "Amazing program that I will be a big advocate for and spread the word."
- "Extremely valuable! I'm in the middle of my transition now and this was the only venue I've seen that covers these topics."
- "Love the energy and purpose!"

***Due to COVID19, space is limited to ensure appropriate spacing and compliance with all safety requirements, including mask wearing. Complimentary masks and hand sanitizer will be available.*

How We Help and Why You Should Join!



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

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

NEVER STOP SERVING!

Tampa Chapter Join Form

Name _____

Rank _____ Service _____ Status _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ @ _____

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

Date of Birth – Month _____ Day _____

Spouse _____

Emergency Contact: Name _____

Phone _____

MOAA National Member Number _____

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

Conflict(s): _____ Dates _____

Tampa Chapter Annual Dues: \$25.00

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

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

You can join National MOAA at their website:

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

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

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

TampaMOAA.Membership@gmail.com

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

Yes _____ No _____



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

OR No service during any of these periods of time

* dates are generally accurate per Congressional Research Service



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

CHAPLAIN (COL) BERNARD H LIEVING JR USA RET



As we come into the month of November and our nation's recognition of "Thanksgiving Day," first proclaimed in 1789 by President George Washington's words calling on "the people of this state to render thanks to Almighty God," I have been moved to look again at the Jewish and Christian book of Psalms, especially Psalm 136.

It was a hymn of national thanksgiving to God for God's actions in creation and throughout Israel's history and was used in the seasonal festivals. The worship leader would call out one of God's actions and the worshipping community would response, "For his hesed endures forever." The Hebrew word hesed becomes several words or phrases when translated into English – mercy, loving kindness, faithful love, and, my favorite, steadfast love. God's love

is neither fickle nor changing; God's love is firm and fixed.

Your chaplain's challenge to you is to spend time between now and Thanksgiving Day thinking, meditating upon your life and the ways God has heard, answered, saved, redeemed, delivered, helped, protected, and forgiven you. Write down each time you have been blessed with the gifts of health, family, friends, and during good times and bad times. Then write after each "God's steadfast love endures forever."

My prayer for all of us is that we might use this way of thanking God not only on Thanksgiving Day but that it will become a means by which we give thanks to God in the year to come.

MEDICAL CORNER

A Major Pharmacy Provider Is Rejoining the TRICARE Network. Another Is Leaving

By: Karen Ruedisueli

CVS will rejoin the TRICARE pharmacy network as of Dec. 15, while Walmart/Sam's Club will leave the network at the same time, Express Scripts officials told MOAA. With the change, military families will have access to the two largest chain drugstores in the U.S. – Walgreens and CVS – together with many smaller chains and independent pharmacies.

The change is part of the [next generation](#) TRICARE pharmacy contract. Given the preliminary information available, MOAA believes the quality of the TRICARE pharmacy program will be maintained with these network adjustments and even improved for many beneficiaries. We understand families who fill prescriptions at Walmart or Sam's Club will be inconvenienced, but others will be pleased to once again have CVS as an option for their prescription medications. With the robust number of CVS pharmacies, these network revisions will be a positive change for most military families.

Beneficiaries who get prescriptions filled at Walmart or Sam's Club will receive a letter notifying them of the change. The letter will include three local TRICARE network pharmacies they might consider using instead, together with suggestions on how to transfer prescriptions most easily to another retail pharmacy, home delivery, or a military treatment facility (MTF) pharmacy.

Families who fill prescriptions at Walmart or Sam's Club will need to move them to another TRICARE network pharmacy location by Dec. 15.



Beneficiaries who fill [specialty medications](#) at Walmart or Sam's Club will receive a letter and phone call from Express Scripts to assist in moving the prescription to another network specialty pharmacy. Due to the complexity of specialty medications, beneficiaries will have a 30-day grace period to move their specialty medication. The grace period is for specialty medications only; non-specialty prescriptions must be transferred by Dec. 15.

Changes to network participation are part of any prescription drug plan and help to keep costs down. MOAA will continue to monitor access to retail network pharmacies and stand by

to assist impacted MOAA members who encounter problems finding an alternate pharmacy as the Dec. 15 transition date approaches. Please report problems with transferring your prescriptions to legis@moaa.org.

Please watch MOAA's [social media](#) and [The MOAA Newsletter](#) for reminders and more information about this change to the TRICARE Pharmacy program.

Source: https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2021-news-articles/advocacy/a-major-pharmacy-provider-is-rejoining-the-tricare-network.-another-is-leaving/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=TMNsend&utm_content=NC+AFHRM+1+ERet+L+NC

DHA Transition:

— Submitted by ORUARO N. IDUDHE, Maj, USAF, NC, MSN, CMSRN
Education and Training Flight Commander
6 MDG MacDill AFB, FL



On 1 Oct 2021, the 6th Medical Group realigned under direct management of the Defense Health Agency (DHA). As part of the restructuring, DHA assumed responsibility for budgetary matters, information technology, health care management, administrative policy and procedure, and facility infrastructure. The 6th Medical Group became one of 68 military treatment facilities (MTF), along with 17 smaller markets, to realign under DHA's newly formed Small Market and Stand-Alone MTF Organization (SSO). In this new role, the 6th Medical Group reports to market leadership, while continuing to provide the same high quality, trusted care to our beneficiaries, with no changes to patient enrollment anticipated at this time. Our community will be kept abreast of any changes as they occur.

Unit Effectiveness Inspection:

The 6th Air Refueling Wing is getting ready for their Unit Effectiveness Inspection, or UEI, in December 2021. The UEI provides an independent assessment of the Wing's resource management, leadership, process improvement efforts, and ability to execute the mission. Finally, the UEI focuses on identifying areas where risks from undetected non-compliance are greatest and aid the Wing in identifying areas for improvement.

The 6th Medical Group will also be inspected during the UEI, with a heightened focus on services which more directly support the Wing's readiness, such as Flight Medicine, Mental Health, Public Health and Bioenvironmental Engineering.

Immunization:

The 6 MDG is providing the Covid-19 Booster vaccine to beneficiaries by appointment. Please make an appointment by using the attached QR link.



Flu Vaccination Update

- Base Flu Day from 0600-1000 and 1100-1700 for AD Members, Contractors, GS, Retirees and Dependents 12-up.
 - o 26 OCT 21 @ Base Theater-2420 Florida Keys Avenue
- Please bring your CAC ID
- The flu vaccine does not counteract with any other vaccine to include any in the COVID series
- Beneficiaries can also be vaccinated at any TRICARE approved network location if they prefer
- For more information, please follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/6thMedicalGroup>
- 4 After Hour Pediatric Flu Days from 1530-1800 for Dependents 6 mo-17 yrs of age.
 - o 27 OCT 21 @ Immunizations Clinic
 - o 28 OCT 21 @ Immunizations Clinic
 - o 3 NOV 21 @ Immunizations Clinic
 - o 4 NOV 21 @ Immunizations Clinic
- Please bring your CAC ID
- The flu vaccine does not counteract with any other vaccine to include any in the COVID series
- Beneficiaries can also be vaccinated at any TRICARE approved network location if they prefer
- For more information, please follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/6thMedicalGroup>

Army-Navy football game returning to Meadowlands in 2021

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

EAST RUTHERFORD — The annual Army-Navy football game has been played at the Meadowlands on four previous occasions, but the 2021 contest there might have an even more emotional vibe.

That's because that game will be played in the 20th anniversary year of the terrorist attack on New York City and elsewhere that killed thousands.



Navy team faced Notre Dame at MetLife Stadium in 2010 and is scheduled to return in 2020.

Talks about bringing the fabled game to the Meadowlands started about a year ago, officials said, and Christie said he got a call from former Naval Academy and Dallas Cowboys quarterback Roger Staubach about three months ago.

The news of the Dec. 11, 2021 contest came at a press conference Tuesday afternoon at MetLife Stadium — which will feature the game for the first time. Gov. Chris Christie attended Tuesday's announcement, as did the Army and Navy athletic directors and Giants owner John Mara, among others.

Christie predicted that the game will be “a particularly poignant moment for the men and women of the U.S. Military Academy and Naval Academy to be rooting on their teams.”

Navy Athletic Director Chet Gladchuk agreed.

“There is such an emotional tie for what this game means to be in New Jersey, just 11 miles from Ground Zero,” Gladchuk said. “It was a factor, and we wanted to find a way to make it work.”

Several NFL stadiums and even a few baseball stadiums bid on the 2021 game, said Gladchuk, whose

“He said the state had to step up — that we were on the 5-yard line, and we needed to get into the end zone,” said Christie, a passionate Cowboys fan who teased front-row spectator and Giants co-owner John Mara about that.

The rivalry dates back to 1890 and has been played annually since 1930. The game has been played in Philadelphia a majority of the time, and that will happen again for the next four years.

The contest — usually played as the season finale in early December — was played at Giants Stadium in 1989, 1993, 1997 and 2002.

Army's 21-17 win last year was its first over Navy since 2001.

Source: <https://www.northjersey.com/story/news/new-jersey/2017/08/22/metlife-stadium-host-army-navy-football-first-time-2021/590610001/>



History of Veterans Day

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

World War I — known at the time as “The Great War” — officially ended when the Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28, 1919, in the Palace of Versailles outside the town of Versailles, France. However, fighting ceased seven months earlier when an armistice, or temporary cessation of hostilities, between the Allied nations and Germany went into effect on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. For that reason, November 11, 1918, is generally regarded as the end of “the war to end all wars.”

In November 1919, President Wilson proclaimed November 11 as the first commemoration of Armistice Day with the following words: “To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations...”

The original concept for the celebration was for a day observed with parades and public meetings and a brief suspension of business beginning at 11:00 a.m.

The United States Congress officially recognized the end of World War I when it passed a concurrent resolution on June 4, 1926, with these words:

Whereas the 11th of November 1918, marked the cessation of the most destructive, sanguinary, and far reaching war in human annals and the resumption by the people of the United States of peaceful relations with other nations, which we hope may never again be severed, and

Whereas it is fitting that the recurring anniversary of this date should be commemorated with thanksgiving and prayer and exercises designed to perpetuate peace through good will and mutual understanding between nations; and

Whereas the legislatures of twenty-seven of our States have already declared November 11 to be a legal holiday: Therefore be it Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), that the President of the United States is requested to issue a proclamation calling upon the officials to display the flag of the United States on all Government buildings on November 11 and inviting the people of the United States to observe the day in schools and churches, or other suitable places, with appropriate ceremonies of friendly relations with all other peoples.

An Act (52 Stat. 351; 5 U. S. Code, Sec. 87a) approved May 13, 1938, made the 11th of November in each year a legal holiday—a day to be dedicated to the cause of world peace and to be thereafter celebrated and known as “Armistice Day.” Armistice Day was primarily a day set aside to honor veterans of World War I, but in 1954, after World War II had required the greatest mobilization of soldiers, sailors, Marines and airmen in the Nation's history; after American forces had fought aggression in Korea, the 83rd Congress, at the urging of the veterans service organizations, amended the Act of 1938 by striking out the word “Armistice” and inserting in its place the word “Veterans.” With the approval of this legislation (Public Law 380) on June 1, 1954, November 11th became a day to honor American veterans of all wars.



Soldiers of the 353rd Infantry near a church at Stenay, Meuse in France, wait for the end of hostilities. This photo was taken at 10:58 a.m., on November 11, 1918, two minutes before the armistice ending World War I went into effect

Later that same year, on October 8th, President Dwight D. Eisenhower issued the [first “Veterans Day Proclamation”](#) which stated: «In order to insure proper and widespread observance of this anniversary, all veterans, all veterans' organizations, and the entire citizenry will wish to join hands in the common purpose. Toward this end, I am designating the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs as Chairman of a Veterans Day National Committee, which shall include such other persons as the Chairman may select, and which will coordinate at the national level necessary planning for the observance. I am also requesting the heads of all departments and agencies of the Executive branch of the Government to assist the National Committee in every way possible.

On that same day, President Eisenhower sent [a letter to the Honorable Harvey V. Higley, Administrator of Veterans' Affairs \(VA\)](#), designating him as Chairman of the Veterans Day National Committee.

In 1958, the White House advised VA's General Counsel that the 1954 designation of the VA Administrator as Chairman of the Veterans Day National Committee applied to all subsequent VA Administrators. Since March 1989 when VA was elevated to a cabinet level department, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs has served as the committee's chairman.

The Uniform Holiday Bill (Public Law 90-363 (82 Stat. 250)) was signed on June 28, 1968, and was intended to ensure three-day weekends for Federal employees by celebrating four national holidays on Mondays: Washington's Birthday, Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and Columbus Day. It was thought that these extended weekends would encourage travel, recreational and cultural activities and stimulate greater industrial and commercial production. Many states did not agree with this decision and continued to celebrate the holidays on their original dates.

The first Veterans Day under the new law was observed with much confusion on October 25, 1971. It was quite apparent that the commemoration of this day was a matter of historic and patriotic significance to a great number of our citizens, and so on September 20th, 1975, President Gerald R. Ford signed Public Law 94-97 (89 Stat. 479), which returned the annual observance of Veterans Day to its original date of November 11, beginning in 1978. This action supported the desires of the overwhelming majority of state legislatures, all major veterans service organizations and the American people.

Veterans Day continues to be observed on November 11, regardless of what day of the week on which it falls. The restoration of the observance of Veterans Day to November 11 not only preserves the historical significance of the date, but helps focus attention on the important purpose of Veterans Day: A celebration to honor America's veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good.

Source: <https://www.va.gov/opa/vetsday/vetdayhistory.asp>



President Eisenhower signing HR7786, changing Armistice Day to Veterans Day. From left: Alvin J. King, Wayne Richards, Arthur J. Connell, John T. Nation, Edward Rees, Richard L. Trombla, Howard W. Watts

MOAA Tampa Chapter Winter Gala Chairman Answers Questions About The Inaugural Ball

What is the Winter 2021 Gala?

"The MOAA Tampa Chapter's inaugural Winter Gala is, what we plan to be, an annual premier fundraising event to support our outreach programs the chapter delivers to our veteran community here in Tampa."

How do you see the Gala raising funds?

"Through ticket sales, donations, and business sponsorships we have set a goal of raising \$35,000.00 this year to support our outreach activities. In previous years, the Chapter used our operating funds to cover our outreach activities and we were taking the required monies from our investment accounts – that is not a sustainable model. The Board of Directors, made a deliberate decision to have a distinctive campaign to raise outside money to support our activities. That manifested itself in the Gala."

What is the price of a ticket to go? What do you get for it?

"Tickets cost \$125.00 per person. For that, you get your choice of 4 plated entrees, two drink tickets which can be used for any drink at the bar, as well as a glass of wine for the ceremonial toasts. We will also have photographers taking portraits and candid photos – they will be able to print a photo for you on site and will email all your pictures to you as well. Further, we will have a jazz ensemble, a pianist, a live art show, and an auction and raffle. We have checked other area fundraising galas, or balls, and don't think any of them compare to the value we are offering."

Who is invited?

"We naturally want all chapter members to attend – so buy your tickets soon, as we only have 200 seats available. We are inviting representatives from the Florida Council of Chapters, National MOAA and are inviting all of our guest speakers from the luncheons. Our biggest sponsors are also given tickets to at-



tend so they can see firsthand what their support will provide. We are inviting members of the US Central Command International Coalition and their families as well. It should be a great evening of comradery and friendship. Hopefully, you will leave with a new friend!"

What else should everyone know?

"This will be a wonderful evening. Our planning committee has been working hard since early July getting this going. The evening will begin at 6:00 PM with a cocktail hour on the patio overlooking the golf greens with passed hors d'oeuvres. During this time, guests can view the art show, place a bid on an item from the silent auction and take a chance on a raffle item. Then we will head to the main ball room for dinner and the "business" of the night – recognizing our sponsors and donors and highlighting some of our great chapter members with awards. We've got a couple other "special things" planned as well.

Oh – and not to be forgotten – we will have representatives from the US Marine Corps Toys-for-Tots programs accepting donations of toys (new and unwrapped of course) or money. This is an incredible program and we think it fits directly with our motto of "Never Stop Serving".

How does someone get a ticket?

"Easy, go to www.moaatampa.org and click the red button on the home page that says "Winter Gala" and give us your information. You will pay for it right there on the website with your credit card. It's that simple: do it soon!"

That is a lot! How can someone help out?

"Call me or email our new email at tampamoaa.event@gmail.com. We can always use help to spread the work. If you know of a business that may be interested in donating or sponsoring the Gala, we'd love to reach out to them. We also need items donated for the auction and raffle too."

Toys for Tots helps bring the joy of Christmas to less fortunate children. Our Chapter will collect unwrapped toys, cash and checks at our Gala on December 10 to present to the Marine's Toys for Tots program. Please bring your donation to the Gala. If you are writing a check, please make it payable to Toys for Tots.

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

Thanks for making a child's Christmas a little happier.



Veteran's Treatment Court Annual Recognition September 2021

Local judges, politicians, and mentors highlighted the success of Judge Scianti and senior mentor D.J Reyes, both members of MOAA.



Pictured: Judge E.J. Salcines (left) and MOAA Tampa Chapter Member, Norm Bild.

LOCAL ARTISTS SUPPORT MOAA TAMPA'S INAUGURAL WINTER GALA

Carol Zieres

Carol Zieres, a resident of Safety Harbor, Florida, received her Bachelor's degree from the State University of New York at Oswego and later earned her graduate degree from Chapman University in Orange, California. Carol is a retired, Army Veteran and since her discharge from Active Duty in 2011, she has been busy cultivating a second career in Fine Arts. Carol combined two of her favorite hobbies, photography and art, to create very detailed images bursting in color and texture. Her specialty is landscape painting using Watercolor, Acrylics, and Pastels. While stationed in The Netherlands, her inspiration to paint landscapes originated during her travels in Europe where she purchased her first Aquarelle set (Watercolor tube paints). "Europe has some of the most romantic scenery in the world; whenever I had a chance to take leave, I would pack my camera and paint set in my duffel bag and drive around the Dutch countryside taking photos of windmills, castles, tulip fields and stone arched bridges that I would later paint."



When Carol retired in Safety Harbor, she started volunteering at the City Chamber of Commerce. Visitors would come in and ask if the Chamber had any postcards of the town for sale. None of the gift shops around town had any post cards either. "I saw this as an opportunity to begin painting landscapes of not only Safety Harbor, but 'Olde Florida.' Today, I am supplying my hand painted 'Harbor series' collection of postcards to the Chamber and several other retail shops downtown." Two of her watercolor paintings were featured on the front cover of the Chamber of Commerce business directory, a nationally circulated publication. "I received a telephone call from the Safety Harbor City Manager asking me to give permission to send one of my watercolor paintings to Tallahassee (The Centennial Painting – Safety Harbor Then and Now). Senator Ed Hooper wanted a historical painting of Safety Harbor to display in his office as part of a

Florida history project. The painting remains on display in the Senate building today. Another surprise phone call came a year later from my Alma mater, the Oswego Alumni Association magazine editor, who learned that I was a Watercolor artist. I was excited to hear that she wanted to feature my story with a watercolor painting in the Alumni Magazine, entitled, 'The World in Watercolor.' The article may be found at: magazine.oswego.edu, Alumni Association of the State University of New York at Oswego, The Water Issue, Vol. 45, NO.1, Pg. 31, Spring 2019.



This painting was created from a photo I took of an Adirondack Mountain lake sunset on Long Lake where I went hiking a couple of years ago.

Carol joined a local artist nonprofit group, The Exhibiting Society of Artists (TESA), participating in juried art shows in numerous art galleries and local community cultural centers. Her paintings have received several Honorable Mentions. Carol is the Co-founder of the MOAA Tampa Chapter Star-spangled Art Show that featured Military Veterans and Gold Star families' artwork displays at both the Carrollwood Cultural Center and St. Petersburg College in Tarpon Springs, Florida for six consecutive years. "The highlight of my public art exhibitions was in the spring of 2018, when the James A. Haley Veterans Hospital Creative Arts Director asked me to participate in a 'Bill of Rights exhibit – Power to the People,' in conjunction with the STRAZ Center. As one of ten artists chosen for the project, I proudly showcased my interpretation of the VII Amendment BOR painting as part of a public art display at The STRAZ on the Hillsborough Riverwalk!"

Carol also teaches Watercolor and Mosaic classes at the Safety Harbor Museum and Cultural Center. She is the Past President of MOAA Tampa Chapter; past-Treasurer, and past-Editor of the Retrospect chapter newsletter.

Rebekah Lane

Raised in an unhealthy environment, I clung to the discovery of imagination and creating as my self expression. As an adult I understand the essential need for open discussion on mental health, PTSD and abuse but its still a taboo topic. My vision as an artist is to release the societal teaching that one's struggles shouldn't be discussed.

Mix media is my medium of choice, but I've worked across the board as an intuitive self-educated artist. With a former career as a head textile designer and a major in color psychology with the IANCC-NA. My artistic style tends to release a wide variety of esthetics mimicking my personal expression of the moment and professional experience.



Artist Rebekah Lane



Zen 2015



Lillies 2020

Robert (Bob) Sawallesh

Biography as of 18 September 2021

Around 2013 or so Bob was talking to an out of state art curator at a Veterans' Art Show in Carrollwood and he thought that he would try his hand at painting. He paints scenes with house paint on plywood.

One of his hobbies is photography and he likes to use his photographs to develop a painting scene. Sometimes, multiple photographs to plan one painting scene.

He uses everything from kindergarten art to mechanical drawing to digital photography to plan and develop a military or Veterans' painting scene. He likes the frame of the painting to be part of the scene.

His paintings have received two Honorable Mentions at the Star Spangle Art Exhibits at the St. Petersburg College in Tarpon Springs and have also been on display at the James A. Veterans' Hospital and the Straz Center for the Performing Arts as part of the JAHVH Arts Program. He received an Honorable Mention at a Florida Elks Veterans' Arts & Craft Display.

Bob has 26 years of active duty and retired from the US Army. He is a Vietnam Veteran - 9th Infantry Division. Following military retirement, he was a civilian-military advisor in



Stuart Dwork

Stuart Dwork poses next to his oil painting, "Never Forget Them" that hangs on the wall at HQs, CENTRAL COMMAND Bldg, Mac Dill AFB.

A native from Brooklyn, NY, painting and art has been Stuart's first love since age 7. His specialty is mixed media painting (watercolor, oil and acrylic). Stuart graduated from the Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art in New York City with a Bachelor's degree in Art. In 1963, he enlisted in the U.S. Army and was stationed at the U.S. Army Quartermaster School, FT. Lee, VA in the Special Services group as an Illustrator. A two-year stint as an illustrator in the army turned him on to the plight of veterans, and even after becoming creative director of a successful advertising company and traveling the world, Stuart never forgot about showing appreciation to those who served. He has devoted much of his talent and time to shining a spotlight on America's vets. One such iconic painting is "Never Forget Them" which is a stirring painting depicting one soldier cradling another on the battlefield. Stuart created this painting in the Ft. Lee craft shop in 1964, "It was my way of saying 'no more war;' it's about your buddy and caring for each other, even in battle." A copy hangs in the new CENTCOM building at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa and the painting is frequently used in publicity ads for various Veterans Day events.

In addition to numerous pieces he's created for and about the military, Stuart has worked

for a number of organizations dedicated to America's veterans, including the Greater Tampa Veterans Committee and is the Co-founder of Star Spangled Art, an art exhibit for military Veterans sponsored by MOAA Tampa Chapter and Operation Helping Hand. In the Spring of 2018, Stuart was one of ten artists selected to participate in the "Bill of Rights exhibit – Power to the People" in conjunction with James A. Haley VA Hospital and the STRAZ Center in Tampa.



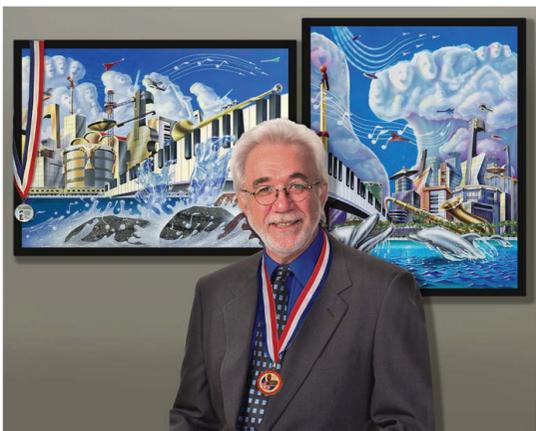
Stuart is an honorary member of MOAA Tampa Chapter and former President of The Exhibiting Society of Artists (TESA), a nonprofit that organizes shows for local artists at area galleries where he remains a member at large today.

Andrew (A.J.) Miller

Andrew (A.J.) Miller is an illustrator with a love for creating images and blending color. He began his career with airbrush on motorcycles while serving in the U.S. Air Force. The G.I. Bill education benefits, grants, and scholarships made formal art school possible in Detroit at the Center for Creative Studies. After several years employed as a designer, art director, and illustrator, A.J. launched his freelance career in Detroit.

In 1983, he relocated to the Tampa Bay area in Florida. A.J. Miller's illustration quality and detail was sought after for most every market. His client list ranged from the local area businesses into the Fortune 500.

"I still enjoy the creative energy of drawing and painting. I seek to start a project by resolving a strong drawing and then block in the shapes. The fun begins by adding the details. I love to add the highlights and bring it all to life." "I am enjoying this continual evolution from traditional art tools into today's digital art tools."



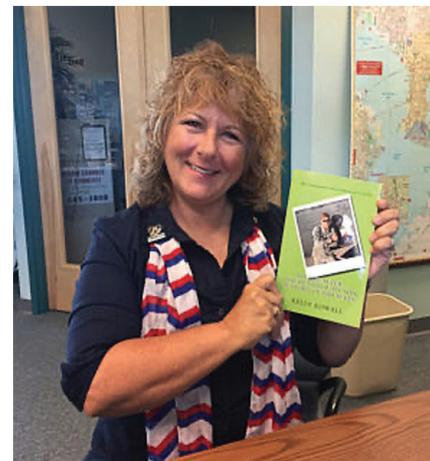
A.J. began offering digital artwork in 1999. He is currently excited to be studying Motion Graphics for animation.

Among his many awards, A.J. Miller was honored with a National 1st Place Medal in the Acrylics category, "City Fantasy 2" in the 2008 Veterans National Creative Arts Festival. Then in the 2013 Veterans National Creative Arts Festival, A.J. won 1st Place in the Graphics category with an intaglio print, "Give Regards My to Frogway". He prefers to add some fun to his personal artwork.

At the Bay Pines VA Hospital, Andrew J. Miller has been working in Volunteer Services for several years to help teaching painting in the Veterans Rehab Residents program for veteran patients with PTSD, Homelessness, Drug and Alcohol recovery.

Kelly Kowall

Kelly Kowall is a proud Gold Star mother to her 20 year old son, Army Spec. Corey Kowall. He was an active duty soldier on a combat mission in Afghanistan when he was killed on September 20, 2009. "As the mother of an active-duty Soldier in Afghanistan, I was aware of the possibility of losing my son, but no doubt that foreknowledge did not make the news of Corey's death any easier to bear."



Kelly Kowall poses with her book – My Life After – The Death of My Son (A Story of Miracles)

Kelly is one of those rare individuals capable of turning tragedy into a wide-reaching good. To her son's memory, Kelly founded a 501©3 nonprofit called "My Warrior's Place" located on prime real estate on the Little Manatee River in Ruskin, FL; provides a serene retreat-like atmosphere for veterans and their families, or for those families who lost a military hero. Kelly also formed a 501©3 non-profit organization – FAVE Boating Expeditions that offers free pontoon boat rides to veterans staying at My Warriors Place. "I felt a connection to my son while driving the boat and interacting with other veterans who were devastated from the conflicts of war." Run mostly by volunteers, My Warriors Place and FAVE Boating Expeditions offer a relaxed setting and a safe harbor where healing can begin for those who have endured the sacrifice that is made when one serves or has a family member who serves in the military.

Kelly also initiated an onsite peer-to-peer veteran grief support-mentoring program called, "Project Corregidor." Veterans may connect with each other to find inner peace and hope by sharing their stories of loss and gratitude. Kelly is a certified Life Coach, a certified Grief Support Provider and a certified Fire Walking Instructor. She is also a published author, an artist painting still-life and landscape images, and a much sought-after public speaker.

November is Military Family Appreciation Month

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



Fifty years ago, a group of military spouses gathered around a kitchen table determined to make sure their widowed friends—whose spouses died in war—weren't forgotten. They marched to the Capitol telling their stories and the National Military Family Association (NMFA) was born.

November is Military Family Appreciation Month—a time when America honors and recognizes those unique sacrifices and challenges family members make in support of their loved ones in uniform. No matter what rank or branch, or where life has taken them, our nation's military families share the common threads of service and sacrifice.

NMFA celebrates military families each day through:

Advocacy

Since our founding, NMFA has influenced, drafted, and supported [legislation that protects and cares for military families](#) through every stage of military life.

Camps, Retreats, & Adventures

Our [Operation Purple Program](#), includes camps for military kids, as well as Buddy Camps, Family Retreats, and Healing Adventures to serve and support the whole military family.

Scholarships

Our [Military Spouse Scholarship](#) program empowers military spouses to pursue their academic goals and cover business costs like license transfer fees, recertifications, and entrepreneurial startup costs.



The challenges of today's military family aren't the same as they were in 1969, but our mission to strengthen and support every member of the family remains the driving force behind our work.

As long as military service members lace up their boots and fight for our freedom, NMFA will support the ones who stand behind the uniform.

Caring for military families is a privilege and a responsibility—one we commit to continuing into our next 50 years.

Together we're stronger®.

Source: <https://www.militaryfamily.org/november-is-military-family-appreciation-month/>

Father Craig Gross

Craig Gross from Oldsmar, FL, is a Watercolor artist who grew up recreating the mountain scenes he fell in love with near his hometown near Corning, N.Y. Now, Craig paints patriotic scenes in honor of his son Army Cpl. Frank (Frankie) R. Gross, who was killed in action July 16, 2011, in Afghanistan. Painting is something Craig, Toni, and "Frankie", all enjoyed doing together. After his son's death, the idea of dabbing a brush or detailing a canvas brought back so many painful memories. That all changed after a 2018 trip to Arlington National Cemetery to visit his son's grave. "I made a promise to my son at his gravesite that I would start painting again," said Craig. "I really believe that art heals."



Craig Gross with his wife, Toni, (standing to his left) reads a letter from Gov. Ron DeSantis in observance of national Gold Star Mother's and Families Day at Veteran's Memorial Park in Oldsmar, FL

Craig began small. He painted a wildlife scene with a barn and cow. A few forest paintings dot the walls of his garage. Soon after, he started creating patriotic landscapes. His "Some Gave All" painting depicts a soldier's cross at the foot of a blood-soaked hill. The painting he calls "Wreaths Across Arlington" shows a bald eagle placing a Christmas wreath on his son's tombstone. He paints portraits of other fallen soldiers and sends them to Gold Star families. "Painting is therapeutic."



Wreaths Across Arlington

In 2017, Craig and Toni were invited to the White House along with 25 other Gold Star families from around the nation to Washington for a first-class weekend. Craig sent one of his patriotic paintings to the President of the United States as a token of thanks for his visitation to the White House. He and Toni were stunned to receive a personal letter in the mail dated August 5th signed by then, President Trump thanking the Gold Star Family for the "Wreaths Across Arlington" painting, which proudly hung in the White House. Craig is active in other local organizations like Veterans Alternative to teach painting skills to veterans to help them combat PTSD.

His newfound love for an old hobby has helped him cope with his own grief. Craig's artwork was also featured at St. Pete College in Tarpon Springs during the Star Spangled Art Show sponsored by MOAA Tampa Chapter and Operation Helping Hand. Craig has also been featured on 10 Tampa Bay News, first for his since-sold BBQ Restaurant and for his Memorial Day tribute to Frankie. You can see all of his work at <http://38thcalvaryart.com/>

When to turn back your clocks in 2021. Plus, 9 things to know about daylight saving time

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

The annual ritual is nearly upon us.

The end of daylight saving time, which offers an extra hour of sleep, is fast approaching. The seasonal time change will occur on Sunday, Nov. 7.

Daylight saving time ends at 2 a.m. which is the [official hour to set all of our clocks back to standard time](#). That's when local time will instantly become 1 a.m. and people gain an extra hour of time.

The change also brings a downfall, since many people with traditional 9-to-5 office jobs will no longer see much daylight outside the office on weekdays until next spring.

Here are 9 things to know about [daylight saving time](#):

It's not plural

It's daylight saving time not saving's or savings time. It's singular, no matter how people around you say the phrase.

When is it exactly?

Since 2007, daylight saving time begins on the second Sunday of March and ends on the first Sunday of November. Previously, it had started on the last Sunday of April and ended on the last Sunday of October.



Never about the farmers

It was not started to help America's farmers out. According to [timeanddate.com](#), daylight saving time was first used in 1908 by a few hundred Canadians in Thunder Bay, Ontario. But Germany popularized daylight saving time after it first set the clocks forward on April 30, 1916, to save coal during World War I.

Daylight saving time became a national standard in 1966 when President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Uniform Time Act, which was established as a way to continue to conserve energy. The thinking was if it's light out longer, that's less time you'll need to use the lights in your house.

Do all states observe DST?

Presently, Hawaii and Arizona are the only two U.S. states that do not observe daylight

saving time. Neither do the U.S. territories of Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa and Northern Mariana Islands.

Which states want out?

In the past four years, 19 states have passed legislation or resolutions seeking to make Daylight Saving Time the standard time in their states, if Congress takes action, according to the [National Conference of State Legislators](#).

Those states include:

- Alabama, Georgia, Minnesota, Mississippi and Montana in 2021.
- Georgia, Idaho, Louisiana, Ohio, South Carolina, Utah and Wyoming in 2020.
- Arkansas, Delaware, Maine, Oregon, Tennessee and Washington in 2019.
- Florida in 2018. California voters also authorized a change, but legislative action is pending.

Federal law does not currently allow for full-time DST, but the [Sunshine Protection Act of 2021 seeks to change that in Congress](#).

A bill in the state Legislature calls for Daylight Saving Time to become the year-round standard in New York. It would be contingent on a repeal of the 1966 federal law, and would only take effect if neighboring states went year-round, too.

"Studies show that it is the transition out of Daylight Saving Time, which leads to an increase in car accidents, causes more on-site work incidents, and disrupts the health of all who are subject to this time change," the bill states.

The New York bill hasn't made it out of committee.

What about the rest of the planet?

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.

Next year?

Daylight saving time will return at 2 a.m. on Sunday, March 13, 2022 when we will "spring forward" and lose an hour of sleep.

Phones and smoke alarms

Most phones and computers automatically adjust for the time change, though manual clocks need to be reset. It's also a good time to change the batteries in your smoke alarm.

Scrutiny around daylight saving time

Last year, the American Academy of Sleep Medicine released a statement saying public health and safety would benefit from eliminating daylight saving time.

"Permanent, year-round time is the best choice to most closely match our circadian sleep-wake cycle," Public Safety Committee Vice Chair Dr. M. Adeel Rishi said in a statement. "Daylight saving time results in more darkness in the morning and more light in the evening disrupting the body's natural rhythm."

Additionally, research has shown that cluster headaches are more likely within two week of the time change, and people are more prone to car crashes because of the one less hour of sleep.



Source: <https://www.democratandchronicle.com/story/news/2021/10/26/daylight-saving-time-2021-when-to-turn-back-your-clock-new-york-dst-things-to-know/6134002001/>

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:

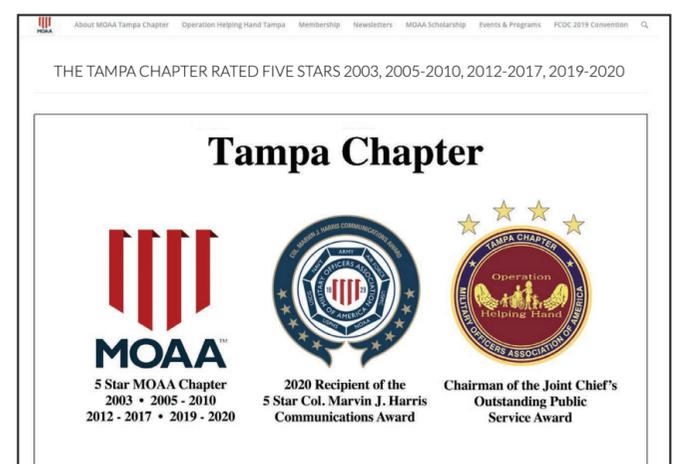
Events Calendar: We have a new "Events" page where you will find an updated calendar, displaying our upcoming MOAA events, as well as events happening with Operation Helping Hand. Click on our [Events Page](#) to check it out!

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.



"NEVER STOP SERVING"