

Register for the Winter Gala Today!

Register today at: Winter Gala—MOAA(moaatampa.org) The cost is \$140/person
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: coms@moaatampa.org (28 Dec – 10 Jan).
After 10 Jan email to events@moaatampa.org



The RETROSPECT

TAMPA CHAPTER — A FIVE STAR CHAPTER OF MOAA NATIONAL

January 2023 VOLUME 29, NUMBER 1



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT: COL CHARLES DALCOURT USA RET.

GREETINGS!



Happy New Year! What a pleasure to welcome you into 2023. I pray that all enjoyed a peaceful respite during the holiday season and that you will experience overwhelming joy in 2023. We have high expectations for the Chapter this year and look forward to an incredible start.

We begin with a full plate this month. The Florida Council of Chapters will host a Leadership Seminar in Orlando the first week of the month. Tampa Chapter will conduct our first leadership retreat, at My Warrior's Place, the second weekend of the month. Our monthly luncheon is on 12 January and a few days later, we begin a 30-day countdown for The Winter Gala...scheduled for 17 February.

A Quick Review...

Leaning into the new year, we are excited about the opportunities our Chapter has to make a difference at echelon – local, state, and national levels. I present again the following as important areas in which the Tampa Chapter will pursue both improvement and expansion. Broadly, they are:

- Membership;
- Outreach;
- Communication; and
- Fundraising.

We seek to do more with the ROTC/JROTC programs within our footprint. We aspire to grow our outreach efforts to the Guard and Reserve Components. For another, we will provide resources that allow our Legislative Affairs Team to travel in support of advocacy efforts in and out of the state of Florida. These focal areas will be refined at our Leadership Retreat, and we will provide greater detail thereafter.

Key Highlights

As we enter 2023, there are a few things I would like to ensure you are aware of. Many of these are covered by our committee leads in other sections of this newsletter. I offer the following:

- MOAA Tampa Chapter 2023 membership renewal window is open;
- Volunteers are needed to support the Winter Gala on 17 February. Whether four hours or the full day, your contribu-

- tion will enable a successful event;
- Florida Council of Chapters will host a Leadership Forum in Orlando, FL from 6-7 January at the Rosen Centre; and
- We are seeking volunteers to fill critical openings in our administrative and outreach areas such as assistants for the surviving spouse liaison, treasurer, and speaker's bureau. We are also in need of members for our Communications and Outreach Committees.

Please consider these announcements, the import and impact you can make, and act immediately.

Member of the Month

To begin the year, we are privileged to honor Mrs. Indira Cozine as our January 2023 Member of the Month. Indira is our newest Honorary Member, yet she is no stranger to our Chapter. An incredible advocate and diligent participant, Indira has enabled the success of our Transition Seminar and served as a guest speaker on myriad occasions. Her support of MOAA's objectives is undoubtable. Her enthusiasm and energy, unquenchable.

We are so pleased to honor Mrs. Indira Cozine this month and thank her for her service to the Chapter. Indira's biographical information is included later in this newsletter. Please take time to read more about this exceptional lady and share your appreciation of her at the Winter Gala or Transition Seminar in February.

continued on page 2



Upcoming Events
7-8 January
FCOC Leadership Conference
Rosen Center
Orlando, FL
(See page 12)

12 January
Chapter Luncheon
11:30 AM - 12:00 PM Social
12:00 PM - 1:30 PM Lunch
Columbia Restaurant Siboney Room
(See page 9)

13-15 January
Board of Directors' and Committee
Leads' Retreat
My Warrior's Place, Ruskin, FL

19 January – 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
OpHH Dinner
USF Embassy Suites
(See page 10)

17 February
(postponed from December)
2nd Annual Winter Gala
Register Now!
(See page 6)

TBD February
"Thriving After Military Retirement"
Transition Seminar

REMINDER:

SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR THE FEBRUARY 2023 ISSUE IS 20 JANUARY 2023
Please submit articles in a Word Document and photos in JPEG
Email articles to Secretary@moaatampa.org

NOTICE: if you have a change of address, please notify our membership team via email—Matt Mulatroni at membership@moaatampa.org or Tom South at tsouth1811@gmail.com

LEGISLATIVE LOWDOWN



BY LTC REGINALD WILLIAMS, USA RET

Happy New Years to all from the Legislative Affairs Team! As we began the year, we will continue to advocate for the priority issues we did not close out in 2022, including the PACT Act execution, halting potential cuts to benefits for service-members, retirees, veterans, and families. With that said, you accomplished a lot in 2022 at the grassroots level. As a result of your hard work, MOAA capped off a highly successful 2022 by being named to *The Hill's* list of top lobbyists for the 16th consecutive year. We still have soon work to do as the 118th Congress comes into session in 2023.

VA Begins Processing PACT Act Claims for Terminally Ill Veterans¹

The VA began processing PACT Act-related benefits claims from terminally ill veterans Dec. 12, about three weeks before other claims can be considered.

The move is the department's latest fast-tracking of benefits connected to the MOAA-supported Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring Our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act, which the president signed in August. The VA already has enacted some of the bill's provisions that had been set for a phased-in approach, which would've limited the amount of veterans eligible to apply until October 2026.

ARE YOU ELIGIBLE?: VA.gov/PACT | MOAA.org/PACTresources

Terminally ill veterans will retain priority in the claims process after Jan. 1, and will be joined at the top of the list by:

- Veterans with cancer
- Homeless veterans, or those facing financial hardship
- Veterans over 85 years old
- Medal of Honor and Purple Heart recipients

"MOAA is grateful for the urgency shown by the VA as this process unfolds," said Cory Titus, MOAA's director of Government Relations for Veteran Benefits and Guard/Reserve Affairs. "Winning the legislative fight isn't enough – we will continue our partnership with other veterans advocates to ensure the VA provides these benefits in a timely and efficient manner to the millions of newly eligible veterans."

About 2,500 terminally ill veterans could see their claims fast-tracked under the policy, Military Times reported. More than 176,000 veterans already have applied for PACT-Act related benefits, per the VA press release, which included a link to dozens of town halls set for the coming days as part of the department's PACT Act awareness campaign, which will reach all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

RELATED: What You Need to Know About Camp Lejeune
continued on page 2

Message from the President cont.

In Closing:

Please stay connected via our website, Facebook page, and this newsletter to all that is happening in our sphere of influence. I ask that you continue to support Operation Helping Hand and the Veterans Treatment Court. These programs have a tremendous impact on servicemembers and their families.

I remain honored to serve as the Chapter President and look forward to another year of incredible progress. I am very thankful for

our Board of Officers and Directors and Committee Leads. They humbly “get things done.”

Thanks to all our volunteers that give of themselves to enable the progress and growth of the Chapter. Thanks again to our members for embracing change, the relevant modifications of methods, and the strategic approach we’ve taken to ensure our governance and business practices set the standard. I appreciate your membership and moreover, value your contribution to

this Chapter.

I pray that God’s protection covers you, His strength enables you, and His joy propels you throughout the New Year.

All the best!
Charles

LEGISLATIVE LOWDOWN cont.

Lawsuits

Veterans, families, or caregivers with questions about PACT Act-related benefits or claims can call 1-800-MyVA411 (1-800-698-2411) to speak with a VA representative.

Congressional Report Aims to Cut Deficit, But Would Cost Retirees Thousands²

A biennial report from the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) offering options to cut the deficit includes several proposals which could weaken or eliminate earned benefits for nearly all members of the uniformed services and veteran communities.

The CBO provides a 10-year overview of deficit-reduction measures once every two years, before the start of a new congressional session. As with past years, the report includes ways to reduce both mandatory and discretionary funding, as well as ways to increase federal revenue ... but it does not consider any long-term implications of these potential savings, nor the impact cuts would have on affected communities or on significant challenges facing the nation, such as military recruitment and retention.

These proposals, if enacted, could cost servicemembers past and present – and their families, survivors, and caregivers – thousands of dollars every year. Retirees and survivors would face TRICARE For Life enrollment fees and increased medical costs, and receive smaller cost-of-living increases for their retirement pay and survivor benefits. Veterans would see significant reductions in available VA care and reduced benefit payments. Servicemembers and their families would suffer from a cap on pay raises and cuts to a critical housing benefit.

MOAA has identified 13 options from the CBO report which could inflict such harm; we will continue to fight for our constituents to ensure proposals like these are not enacted, or even considered.

Mandatory Spending

- Introduce Enrollment Fees for TRICARE For Life
- Introduce Minimum Out-of-Pocket Requirements in TRICARE For Life
- Means-Test VA Disability Compensation for Veterans with Higher Income
- End VA’s Individual Unemployability Payments to Disabled Veterans at the Full Retirement Age for Social Security
- Reduce VA’s Disability Benefits for Veterans Who Are Older Than the Full Retirement Age for Social Security
- Narrow Eligibility for VA’s Disability Compensation by Excluding Veterans With Low Disability Ratings
- Use an Alternative Measure of Inflation to Index Social Security and Other Mandatory Programs

Discretionary Spending

- Cap Increases in Basic Pay for Military Service Members
- Replace Some Military Personnel With Civilian Employees
- Reduce the Basic Allowance for Military Housing to 80 Percent of Average Housing Costs
- Increase Prescription Drug Copayments for All Veterans
- End Enrollment in VA Medical Care for Veterans in Priority Groups 7 and 8

Revenues

- Include VA’s Disability Payments in Taxable Income

How You Can Help

We need to let Congress know where beneficiaries stand on these issues. Watch *The MOAA Newsletter* and [MOAA’s Advocacy News page](#) for ongoing updates throughout the year, beginning this month with an opportunity to tell Congress what you think about the CBO’s ideas to increase out-of-pocket costs for Tricare For Life beneficiaries, especially in the face of recent cuts to the TRICARE retail pharmacy network.

MOAA Named to Top Lobbyist List for 16th Consecutive Year³

MOAA capped off a highly successful 2022 by being named to *The Hill’s list of top lobbyists* for the 16th consecutive year.

The Hill, one of the nation’s top Washington-focused news organizations, honors “the most impactful advocates at K Street firms, companies, trade associations and grassroots advocacy groups.” MOAA was honored in the Grassroots section along with veterans groups Burn Pits 360 and Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW).

“This award is truly the result of a collective effort from both our national office in Alexandria, Virginia and the chapter members across the country,” said Lt. Gen. Dana T. Atkins, USAF (Ret), MOAA’s president and CEO. “Everyone on our team – from our Member Service Center reps working the phones, to our Council and Chapter leaders rallying the troops, to our Government Relations team testifying before Congress – joins forces to advocate for servicemembers, veterans, retirees, families and survivors. We are thrilled with the recognition that *The Hill* has given us.”

After seven years serving as MOAA’s president, Atkins will retire in early January. His leadership proved instrumental to MOAA’s advocacy success during this period, said Gen. Gary L. North, chairman of MOAA’s MOAA Board of Directors.

“It takes a lot of work and expertise to maintain this level of influence over an extended period as the voice for the uniformed

services community and their families and survivors,” North said. “It all starts with our President and CEO, Lt. Gen. Dana Atkins, who led us to this prestigious recognition every year during his tenure.”

MOAA members and staffers contacted every one of the 535 congressional offices during the annual Advocacy in Action lobbying campaign, conducting 250 virtual and in-person meetings, and sending over 10,000 messages to Capitol Hill. The campaign focused on military pay raises, eliminating the dollar-for-dollar offset in concurrent receipt for medically retired veterans, and reducing TRICARE mental health copays.

MOAA also lobbied successfully for the Sergeant First Class *Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act*, benefitting servicemembers impacted by burn pits and other toxic substances. Lobbying efforts included magazine and newsletter articles, and a letter-writing campaign.

In addition to the PACT Act, MOAA successfully pushed for additional legislative and policy provisions supporting servicemembers, veterans and their families to include requiring DoD to create an appeal process for Tier 4/non-covered prescription drugs and increased respite care hours for medically complex family members enrolled in TRICARE’s Extended Care Health Option (ECHO). It also supported the passage of S. 2533, which improves screening and treatment of mammography services in the VA, just to name a few.

MOAA will champion a number of measures in 2023, including full 2023 cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) payments for military retirees, disabled veterans, Social Security beneficiaries, and others receiving federal compensation. In addition, MOAA will be leading efforts to protect the TRICARE pharmacy benefit in the face of cuts to the retail network.

TAKE ACTION: [Ask Your Lawmaker to Help Reverse TRI-CARE Pharmacy Cuts](#)

“MOAA’s advocacy efforts will remain strong as the new Congress begins its deliberations,” said Col. Dan Merry, USAF (Ret), MOAA’s vice president of Government Relations. “Our core mission is to ‘Never Stop Serving’ our uniformed services and veteran communities, and we will continue to do so in the years ahead.”

TAKE ACTION: [Legislative Action Center](#)

Learn how you can make a difference on all of MOAA’s advocacy issues by visiting our [Legislative Action Center](#).

Sources:

- 1) [www.moaa.org](#), article by Kevin Lilley, December 12, 2022
- 2) [www.moaa.org](#), article by Allison Reilly, December 13, 2022
- 3) [www.moaa.org](#), article by Kipp Hanley, December 07, 2022

Florida Department of Veterans Affairs (FDVA)

—Submitted by Reginald Williams, LTC USA (Ret)

VA will Launch New Life Insurance Program in January, Making Life Insurance Available to More Veterans than Ever Before

WASHINGTON — On Jan. 1, 2023, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs will open enrollment for Veterans Affairs Life Insurance — the first new VA life insurance program for Veterans in more than 50 years — extending VALife access to millions of Veterans.

VALife will provide up to \$40,000 of whole life insurance for all Veterans, age 80 or under, with service-connected disabilities rated from 0-100%. Acceptance in the program is guaranteed, and no medical underwriting is required.

It will also allow Veterans to complete their application online, receive instant decisions, and perform self-service functions — including electronic payments and beneficiary updates.

“All Veterans deserve to know that their families will have financial support when they pass away,” said **VA Secretary Denis McDonough**. “VALife is a critical step toward making that goal a reality, helping VA provide more life insurance to more Veterans than ever before in our nation’s history.”

VALife will increase Veteran access to life insurance in several ways:

- There is no time limit to apply:** VA’s existing life insurance program for service-disabled Veterans, [Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance](#), required most Veterans to apply for insurance within 2 years of receiving their disability rating. VALife has no such time constraint for Veterans aged 80 and under.
- There is no health requirement to apply:** Under S-DVI, Veterans had to be in good health except for service-connected conditions. VALife has no medical evaluation tied to it.
- Veterans are eligible for more coverage than before:** Under S-DVI, most Veterans could only receive up to \$10,000 of coverage. Under VALife, all Veterans are eligible for up to \$40,000 of coverage.

VALife premium rates are competitive with, or better than, similar coverage available in the private sector, and \$40,000 of coverage is more coverage than other like products offered. The policy will build cash value after the first two years of coverage when the face value goes into effect. If a Veteran passes away

during this two-year waiting period, the named beneficiary will receive all premiums paid plus interest. Unlike S-DVI, Veterans will *not* be able to get a waiver for their premiums.

VA currently serves nearly 6 million Veterans, service members and their families with more than \$1.2 trillion of insurance. Veterans currently enrolled in S-DVI will have the option to keep their current coverage or switch to VALife. These Veterans can apply for VALife at any time after Jan. 1, 2023; however, if they apply between Jan. 1, 2023, and Dec. 31, 2025, they can also retain coverage under S-DVI during the two-year waiting period for the VALife death benefit to go into effect. Veterans will no longer be able to apply for S-DVI after VALife launch on Jan. 1, 2023

To learn more, visit [VALife](#). Information can also be found in the [final rule](#), which posted for public inspection on November 30, 2022.

Source:

- 1) [www.floridavets.org](#), article by November 30, 2022

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



2023 OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT: CHARLES DALCOURT COL USA RET
1ST VP: WILLIAM SCHNEIDER COL USA RET
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2023 DIRECTORS:

EDUCATION, TRAINING & EVENTS: TOM KUCHAR CDR USCG RET
COMMUNICATIONS: SARA MARKS CAPT NC USN RET
LEGAL AFFAIRS: WILLIAM MITCHELL LTJG (former) USN
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS: REGINALD WILLIAMS LTC USA RET



MOAA MISSION STATEMENT

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

Tampa Chapter



5 Star MOAA Chapter
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2020, 2021 Recipient of the
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Service Award

Military Officers Association of America

TAMPA CHAPTER MISSION:

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

GENERAL CONTACT INFO:

The Tampa Chapter of the
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E-Mail: Secretary@moaatampa.org



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



There is something about new beginnings as we march into a new year. I grew up in Jackson, Mississippi and would get up early in the morning to either go to swim practice or deliver papers on my paper route...later I delivered papers before I went to swim team practice. When I'd turn on the radio I would listen to an announcer, Farmer Jim. One of my favorite quotes comes from him, "It's a brand new day! It hasn't been

used yet!" So, as we come into a new year, we have an opportunity to make it a great year. We have that choice every day, to make the most of each day. And we also have a choice to continue to serve. Our Chapter will officially be recognized by MOAA National this month in Orlando at the Florida Council of Chapter's Leadership Conference with the FIVE STAR Level of Excellence Award and looking forward to putting in our submission for the FIVE STAR Communication Award in the upcoming months. I'm so proud to be associated with each and every one of our MOAA Tampa Chapter members and am looking forward to the new year ahead and working with you.

Our MOAA Tampa Chapter Second Annual Winter Fundraising Gala is scheduled for Friday February 17. Hurry and register for this festive event! There is limited space with registration ending January 31st. The registration link is live on our website with updated details in this newsletter and on our <https://moaatampa.org> website. Our Inaugural Gala was such an amazing event, and we believe the 2nd Annual Winter Gala will be even more amazing and such a great time to plan for a festive event after the holiday rush. Come and have a great time and comradery while supporting our chapter's many initiatives including our homeless veterans' initiatives, supporting our local JROTC and ROTC units, our scholarships and Transition program for military, officer and enlisted, for life after their service.

This month we are highlighting our Member of the Month Mrs. Indira Cozine who was voted by the Board of Directors as an Honorary Member and is a great supporter of our MOAA Tampa Chapter's Thriving After The Military Transition Program. Our Chapter Spotlight this month is Mrs. Shirley Helveston, who joined the Military Officers Wives Club in 2004 and was an active member until the club folded in 2018. She and her husband CDR (Ret) Richard Helveston

are both strong supporters of MOAA Tampa. Please read their bios in the newsletter.

I always appreciate articles submitted by our chapter members and their contributions to *The Retrospect*. I'd like to thank BGEN Larsen for always providing such timely updates from the coalition forces, especially with all the real time world events that he and his fellow coalition partners are constantly working. He invited some members of our Chapter to the International Night held at MacDill AFB. It was a joy to see all the wonderful food, drink and customs of our Coalition Partners. Other articles that I hope you'll enjoy are the history of New Year's Day and the many customs around the world, how to find your military buddies, history of celebrating Martin Luther King Jr's birthday, how to purge your house of junk (good way to start for the New Year!) and several articles about how our military is planning strategies for the Arctic, future use of radios and other articles that I hope you'll find informative and interesting.

Chapter Members, this is your newsletter so please share your stories, including such topics as military history, individual biographies, the role of military spouses, special events of interest to members, any vignettes of military or veterans service, holiday, commemorative, or celebratory themes, etc. I challenge all of our Chapter Members to send me your stories! I love hearing about your stories and adventures. You never know who you may inspire by sharing your experiences. Page 3 of our newsletter has our Chapter Secretary's email, so send any articles or questions to secretary@moaatampa.org or you may contact me at coms@moaatampa.org.

It is always my pleasure and honor to serve as your Editor for *The Retrospect* and work on our chapter's website. It has been and still is a rich and rewarding learning experience, but one that I don't do alone. Through the grace of God and the blessings of so many wonderful, kind, and caring people in our MOAA Tampa Chapter and all of my family and friends I'm constantly inspired to rise up to challenges. Wishing everyone a Very Happy New Year!

"There are far, far better things ahead than any we leave behind." – C. S. Lewis

Let us never forget. - NEVER STOP SERVING!

Sara Marks, CAPT NC USN (Ret)

THE RETROSPECT is published monthly by the Tampa Chapter of the Military Officer's Association of America (MOAA), P.O. Box 6383, MacDill Air Force Base, FL 33608-0383. The Tampa Chapter is a 501(c)(19) tax exempt veterans' organization not associated with the Department of

Defense and is an affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA).
OUR EDITORIAL POLICY:

MOAA National, the Florida Council of Chapters, and the Tampa Chapter are non-partisan organizations. The views expressed in individually signed articles and the advertisements that appear in this publication/website do not reflect an endorsement by MOAA or this affiliate. Articles in the newsletter/website are the opinions solely of the individual authors and do not necessarily express the policy or opinions of the newsletter's editor or publisher, nor do they reflect an endorsement by the Tampa Chapter or the National organization of the Military Officers Association of America, unless so indicated. The views expressed in individually signed articles do not necessarily reflect Chapter policy. MOAA National, the Florida Council of Chapters, and the Tampa Chapter are nonpartisan organizations. Our chapter membership is open to all Military officers (Commissioned and warrant), including Active Duty, National Guard, Reserve, former officers, and spouses/surviving spouses of military officers.

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

ON THE WEB:

Tampa Chapter <https://moaatampa.org>

Communications directed to specific board members listed in the main menu ABOUT US then LEADERSHIP may be made by emailing secretary@moaatampa.org or going to the main menu to CONTACT and email us using the form provided.

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

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

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

MOAA NATIONAL: www.moaa.org

OPERATION HELPING HAND: www.operationhelpinghandtampa.com

TAKE ACTION: <https://moaa.quorum.us/>

MOAA'S NEWS LISTING - Click for the latest news and resources from MOAA. www.moaa.org

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

Auld Lang Syne: 5 Fast Facts You Need to Know

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

Sally Is Right: 'Auld Lang Syne' Really Is About 'Old Friends'

Rob Reiner's *When Harry Met Sally...*, which was written by Nora Ephron, reaches a climax on New Year's Eve. As "Auld Lang Syne" plays at the party, Billy Crystal's Harry wonders what the song is all about.

"What does this song mean? My whole life, I don't know what this song means," Harry asks Sally. "I mean, 'Should old acquaintance be forgot'? Does that mean we should forget old acquaintances, or does it mean if we happen to forget them, we should remember them, which is not possible because we already forgot them?"

"Well, maybe it just means that we should remember that we forgot them or something. Anyway, it's about old friends," Sally (Meg Ryan) tells Harry. She was right.

Burns didn't really mean that we should forget old acquaintances. As Scotland.org notes, the song is really meant to be about "preserving old friendships and looking back over the events of the year." So, if you do forget about old acquaintances, you can look back on the year and remember them.

*Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
And never brought to mind?
Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
And auld lang syne!*

*We twa hae paid'd in the burn,
Frae morning sun till dine;
But seas between us braid hae roar'd
Sin' auld lang syne.*

*For auld lang syne, my jo,
For auld lang syne,
We'll tak a cup o' kindness yet,
For auld lang syne.*

*And there's a hand, my trusty fiere!
And gie's a hand o' thine!
And we'll tak a right gude-willie-waught,
For auld lang syne.*

*And surely ye'll be your pint stowp!
And surely I'll be mine!
And we'll take a cup o' kindness yet,
For auld lang syne.*

*For auld lang syne, my jo,
For auld lang syne,
We'll tak a cup o' kindness yet,
For auld lang syne.*

*We twa hae run about the braes,
And pou'd the gowan fine;
But we've wander'd mony a weary fitt,
Sin' auld lang syne.*

To read the other facts follow this link: <https://heavy.com/news/2016/12/auld-lang-syne-meaning-lyrics-new-years-eve-day-song-words-2017-robert-burns/>



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MEMBER OF THE MONTH INDIRA COZINE, HONORARY MEMBER

Indira Cozine is a Financial Advisor with 1847 Financial. As a former educator of 20 years, she is dedicated to educating transitioning military, young professionals, and teachers about strategies that help them achieve their financial goals! She was frustrated that Financial Literacy was not a priority in school, so she always incorporated activities each year in her classroom. Understanding that this lack of education translates to a general population who is undereducated about their financial options, she has made it her mission to share as much information as possible with those who are willing to have a conversation.

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



DID YOU KNOW?

There have been only five 5-star generals

The five-star rank didn't exist until 1944, and it was retired in 1981 when Omar Bradley, the final recipient died. The most notable of these five men was former president Dwight D. Eisenhower. George Washington was formerly a five star general, but he was posthumously promoted to a six-star general in 1976.

CHAPTER MEMBER SPOTLIGHT SHIRLEY HELVESTON

Shirley June Colby was born and grew up in East Pembroke, NY which is located between Buffalo and Rochester. She always says it's a good place to be from. Music has been a good part of her life since the fourth grade when she was allowed to join the band and chorus. Before finishing high school, she was directing the choir at her local church. Voice was her major while attending Stetson University in DeLand, Florida. Several students signed up to help a little rural church by holding services and classes, so Shirley packed them in her car and made two trips each Sunday. This is how she and a ministerial student, Richard Helveston, started dating. They were married in 1959. Dick joined the Navy as a Chaplain in 1968 which meant traveling around the country. The family joined him for a year's tour in Japan. After he retired, they served United Methodist churches in Virginia for 22 years. Shirley spent 15 years as a church officer manager before retiring to Florida. She has directed church choirs, played and directed handbells and played her baritone sax in the Bartow Adult Concert Band for 17 years until 2019. After retiring her instrument, she has stayed with the band to continue producing their programs for the

seven annual concerts and maintaining their emails used for communicating.

Shirley joined the Military Officers Wives Club in 2004 and became their treasurer in 2006. She soon began to produce their monthly newsletters until the end of 2018 when the club folded. She was active in their quest to aid Homeless Women Veterans for many years.

She and her husband Richard raised twin boys and a girl and now have six grandchildren and six great grandchildren. David (Julia) live in Newport News, VA. He is retired from the US Army Chorus where he was a member for 20 years and then from the Department of Interior (2010-2022). Daniel (Lisette), works from home near Charlotte, NC as a computer consultant at the Senate and NRC, and Ruth is a home care giver and lives near her parents in Lakeland, FL.

The MOAA Tampa Chapter has been very meaningful in their lives, and they cherish the friendships developed there.



6th Medical Group, MacDill wants YOU!

WHAT:

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

WHEN:

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

WHY:

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

POINT OF CONTACT:

Diana Pagan - 813-827-9785



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

Annual Subscription 1 July - 30 June
Half Page Ad: \$1000

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

E-Mail: Secretary@moaatampa.org

MOAA Tampa Awarded the Five Star Excellence Award at the MOAA National Convention

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

MOAA leaders from across the nation met in Kansas City, Missouri at the MOAA National Convention and Annual Meeting of the Membership, October 27th to 29th. At the gathering, MOAA announced a change of leadership with Gen Gary North, USAF (Ret), becoming MOAA's Chairman of the Board, and Lt Gen "B.K." Kelly, USAF (Ret), announced as the new President and CEO of the association when Lt Gen Atkins, USAF (Ret), steps down at the end of the year. Florida was well represented with Council President CDR Pat Kluever, USN (Ret), leading the Florida Delegation. During the proceedings, MOAA representatives noted that Florida was responsible for sending the most "Take Action" Quorum messages to our legislators of any State. Florida also received the most Level of Excellence (LOE) Awards of any State, with 23 total LOE awards, including the Council receiving the Five Star Excellence Award.



MOAA Tampa Chapter President Charles Dalcourt, USA (Ret) was present to receive the Five Star Excellence Award at the National Convention. A formal presentation to all the Florida winners will be held January 6th, 2023 at the Florida Council of Chapters Leadership Conference in Orlando, Florida.

2ND ANNUAL WINTER GALA

TAMPA CHAPTER OF THE MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Please join us for the 2nd Annual Winter Gala • Friday, February 17, 2023

Our principal fundraising event, the Winter Gala provides vital support to our numerous outreach programs in the Greater Tampa Area:

Transition Seminars • JROTC Programs • Veterans Affairs • Operation Helping Hand National Guard & Reserve Outreach • Support Scholarships

Cocktail Hour with Hors d'oeuvres • Plated Dinner • Live Music • Silent Auction • Raffle Chapter Awards Presentations • Art Show & Sale • Military Fellowship



THIS EVENING OF ELEGANCE

will raise funds critical to allow the Chapter to expand the tremendous services we provide to the Tampa Bay Veteran Community

Hurry 1/31/2023 is the last day to purchase your tickets!

To register: <https://www.moaatampa.org/winter-gala/>

Questions: events@moaatampa.org

Private Country Club - Tampa, FL

Ticket cost \$140 • Formal attire

GALA UPDATE: AUCTION ITEMS FOR THE GALA FUNDRAISER!

—By Tom Kuhar, CDR USCG (Ret) and Gala Chair

As part of the 2023 Tampa MOAA Winter Gala, we will be hosting an online auction and raffle. The auction will go live approximately one week before the Gala (watch for announcements) and will close approximately halfway through the Gala. *Anyone may participate in the Gala regardless of attendance or MOAA membership.* All auction/raffle items will be posted on the website and all bidding/tickets will take place on the app and website. We will have people at the Gala to assist with this process for anyone who may have questions. You will simply scan a QR code for items you would like, enter your name, email, and phone number. If you are the winning bidder, you will be notified immediately upon the auction closing. You will pay via the app, and the item will be yours. Some items will require shipping (shipping will be at the bidder's expense and will be an additional charge). Items will be added to the auction all the way through February 16 - so keep checking frequently. The auction hosting service supports non-profit organizations by offering this service for free; an option to provide a donation to the auction host service is offered for each transaction to help offset this service.

The 2nd Annual Tampa MOAA Winter Gala is our flagship fundraising event of the year. It is February 17 starting at 6PM. Registration closes at midnight on January 31st. Do not miss out on your opportunity to be a part of another great evening of fellowship, service, and recognition of the great work MOAA Tampa Chapter does in continued service to the Tampa military and veteran communities. Register now before it is too late!!



ITEM 1 - Bronzed Eagle Sculpture *“Winged Majesty”* by Ronald Van Ruyckevelt. Metal statue approximately 11”w x 8”h x 5”d. Multiple retail sites have comparable ones for \$180 - 250. Recommend opening bid at \$75.00. (In the pictures, this is the eagle sculpture that has a solid color, without the American flag).



ITEM 2 - *The Number One Collection American Eagle statue with American Flag.* Resin cast statue approximately 10”w x 12” h x 6”d. Multiple retail sites have comparable ones for \$40 - \$150+. Recommend opening bid at \$25. (In the pictures, this is the eagle sculpture that is colored with the American flag).



ITEM 3 - Handmade *“Christ is the Reason for the Season”* wooden sign. Solid wood, with wood beaded hanging ribbon; approximately 12” diameter. Multiple retail sites have comparable ones for \$25 - \$100+. Recommend opening bid at \$25.



ITEM 4 - *“Unsung Heroes - A History of the Enlisted Airmen from the Dawn of Flight to Desert Storm”* Published by the Airmen Memorial Museum. New in original wrapper. Multiple retail sites have used copies from \$15 - \$45. Recommend opening bid at \$20 (unless we opt to raffle this item).



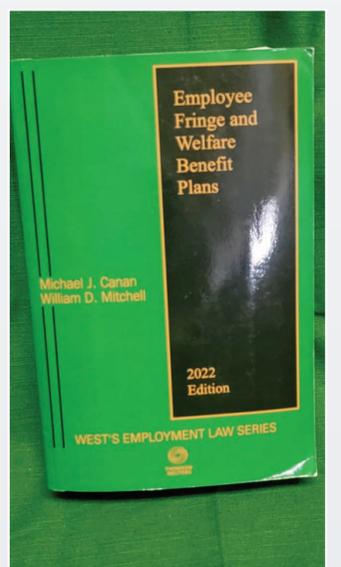
ITEM 5 - *“US Army Home”* handmade wooden sign (designed to lean against a wall/porch). 50”h x 9”w x 1”d. Online prices range from \$45 - \$200. Recommend opening bid at \$40.



ITEM 6 - *“US Air Force Home”* handmade wooden sign (designed to lean against a wall/porch). 50”h x 9”w x 1”d. Online prices range from \$45 - \$200. Recommend opening bid at \$40.



ITEM 7 - US Army E9 custom glass wall clock. 11.5” diameter. Czech made glass clock (battery operated). Recommend opening bid at \$40.



ITEM 8 - Employee Fringe and Welfare Benefit Plans (2022 edition; Employment Law) book. New copy. Authored by Michael J. Canan & William Mitchell (Tampa MOAA Member). Online prices range from \$990.00 - \$1995. Recommend opening bid at \$350.



Item 9 - Pastel painting of the historic Vinoy Hotel in St. Petersburg, Florida; titled *“Vinoy at Sunset.”* Artist is Carol Zieres; Description: Giclee reproduction of an original pastel, digitally imaged on professional gallery wrapped canvas. Value: \$250; Starting bid: \$50. Carol is a Tampa MOAA member.

“Since you get more joy out of giving joy to others, you should put a good deal of thought into the happiness that you are able to give.”

—Eleanor Roosevelt

How to Ruthlessly Purge Your House of Junk

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

Inside: Learn how to ruthlessly purge your house of junk to enjoy a more simplified space!

Do you feel like your house is starting to become full of junk?

Are you hanging onto too much stuff that you'll probably never use again?

Has clutter become a huge problem in your life?

It might be time to ruthlessly purge your house of junk.

If you aren't sure how to purge stuff from your home, but you're ready to make a change and transform your life, this article is for you. Keep reading to learn how to purge your house – even when it feels hard – and declutter your space.

Are you really ready to be ruthless to purge your house of junk?



Now, before you begin, you've got to ask yourself one question.

Are you ready to be ruthless?

When it comes to decluttering and purging, many people approach the task like it's going to be easy. And then they end up holding onto tons of stuff they thought they'd be able to part with.

But if you're really trying to purge your house of junk, you've got to be ready to sever the emotional ties you've made to the stuff you own and let it go.

When your goal of having a clutter-free space becomes more important to you than holding onto all of the things, you're ready to be ruthless in decluttering your stuff.

Some people who are really ruthless will end up doing [extreme decluttering](#) and have very dramatic results. Even if you don't want to take it to quite that degree, you can still make a big impact on your home.

How do you know when it is time to purge junk?

You might be wondering, "Do I really need to purge my house of junk?"

If you're asking that question, the answer is probably, "Yes."

Most of us keep [too much stuff in our homes](#) without even thinking about it.

Keeping less clutter around can bring lots of benefits. They include: mental clarity, better focus, and less stress, not to mention less time spent cleaning.

You'll definitely benefit from purging junk in your home – so why not start today?

Why does decluttering and purging my house seem so hard?

The idea of decluttering your home and purging your house of junk can seem overwhelming and even a little bit scary. [Change is hard](#) and it takes work to create a decluttered space.

We develop a sense of attachment to the things that we own, especially if we're dealing with any kind of scarcity in our lives.

But one thing's for sure – as overwhelming as it might feel, you can absolutely figure out how to purge stuff from your house as long as you're committed to making a change.

How do I start purging junk from my home?

The hardest part about purging junk from your house can be getting started. Fortunately, all it takes is a single step to start building momentum and ultimately transform your space into a clutter-free, junk-free sanctuary.

The best way to start purging junk from your home is by starting. Get the 5 Areas to Declutter in 10 Minutes to help you to begin making progress right away!

After you start on some easy areas in your home, then move through room by room to ruthlessly declutter the junk in your home.

Have a plan for what you're going to do with unwanted items.

If you think you have so much junk you need a trash-hauling solution, like a rentable dumpster, go ahead and look into renting one.

Do you think you'll want to [hold a yard sale](#) and try to turn a profit off of your stuff? If so, that's fine, but realize that it will take longer to achieve the clutter-free space of your dreams.

By making a plan and having a [checklist of steps to follow](#), you can stay on track and declutter your house for good.

How to get ruthless when decluttering junk!

Ready to start decluttering your junk? It's time to get ruthless.

And by that, I mean – it's time to make some hard decisions. Say "no," and get rid of some of the stuff you've been holding onto.

Not quite sure how to take a ruthless approach to decluttering your junk and purging your house?

Think about the fact that you're labeling it junk.

If the things that filled your home were all valuable, you wouldn't call it junk – and you wouldn't be thinking about purging it.

Somewhere, subconsciously, you've recognized it's time for that stuff to go.

Don't start your junk purge with the sentimental stuff

It certainly can be hard to get rid of some things, especially items that evoke strong memories or come with sentimental ties.

Make it easy for yourself to build momentum when purging your house by starting with the easy stuff – old magazines, a closet full of [clothes you never wear](#), or something else you truly don't care about.



When was the last time I used/thought/needed it?

If you're having a hard time parting with a specific item, ask yourself, "When was the last time I actually used this? When was the last time I needed it?"

You can sometimes make yourself see a little bit of logic and reason by asking those straightforward questions. You can't argue that you need that spatula if it's one of six in your kitchen and you haven't used it in at least six months.

Don't cry over "spent money," It's already spent

Some people struggle to get rid of stuff because they see it as throwing away money. You bought it, after all! Getting rid of it is essentially throwing that hard-earned money into the trash... right?

While it isn't ideal, there's no use crying over money that's been spent. It's already gone. You aren't getting it back, and if you aren't using the stuff you spent it on, you aren't getting any value out of it and it's just taking up space.

It ends up serving as a reminder of past purchase regrets and nobody needs that kind of negativity in their life.

If it's junk, broken, and you haven't fixed it by now, you aren't going to!

Are you one of those people who holds onto stuff that's only a little broken, convinced you're going to fix it one day?

Chances are, that day never comes – and that's one of the ways you've accumulated so much clutter and junk in your home.

If you've been holding onto stuff that you could fix but simply haven't, stop trying to convince yourself that you will. Either do it, or get rid of it.

If it's still packed from your last move, let it go

Still have items packed in boxes from your last move? It's time to let that stuff go. If you haven't bothered to access those items in years, then clearly they aren't very important to you.

People have a tendency to [hold onto items for someday when...](#), but, often, someday never comes and they've used up valuable space in their home for years storing extra stuff.

Holding onto excess stuff can keep you from fully embracing your life now. It also means more things to move and maintain.

Tips to keep junk from building up again

Once you've finally managed to declutter your home and

purge your house of junk, you've got to find a way to keep it that way forever. The last thing you want is to undo your hard work and find yourself in the same mess you were in before.

Fortunately, there are some steps you can take to prevent junk and clutter from building up in your house ever again.

Why am I buying this and is it "junk"?

[Before you make a purchase](#), ask yourself why you're buying it. Is it something you need? A planned and budgeted purchase? Or is it just something you want – something you're going to forget about entirely in a few days?

Sometimes, you might realize what you're about to buy is junk – or will become junk quickly enough. In those situations, moving on and saving your money is the wisest course of action.

Learn to [shop more intentionally](#) to keep clutter from piling back up in your home.

Do I want it or do I need it?

Another way to determine whether or not a purchase makes sense is to ask yourself – is it something you want, or something you truly need?

While you don't have to deny yourself of all 'wants,' the things you need to buy should clearly take precedence – and shouldn't contribute significantly to junk or clutter in your house.

One in one out rule

If you have lots of a specific type of item, like shoes, clothes, or bakeware, an easy way to keep your collection under control is to embrace the "one in one out" rule.

Every time you buy a new piece to add to your collection, get rid of one. Sell it or donate it, if possible. Make room for whatever you're adding so you don't end up in a situation where you're surrounded by junk.

Wait at least 24 hours for new purchase

A good way to keep yourself in check is to wait at least a full day before deciding if you're going to make a big purchase.

By giving yourself time to truly think about it, you'll gain clarity and be more likely to avoid making a poor purchasing decision.



Benefits of purging your home of junk:

There are many [benefits that come with purging](#) your home of junk. As painful as the actual process might be initially, you'll certainly enjoy the rewards that come from a cleaner home, like...

Enjoy Your Home More

With less clutter and mess around, you'll be surprised to see how much more you enjoy relaxing at home. A clean, organized space can be uplifting and calming – unlike a cluttered, junk-filled space, which can [cause stress and anxiety](#).

Home Functions More Efficiently

When your home contains only the items that you actually love and use, everything is more efficient. Cooking, cleaning, working, relaxing – everything becomes easier.

There's simply less to distract and deter you from what you're actually trying to do.

Less Money Wasted

If you live in a cluttered home that's filled with junk, it can be hard to even know what is in your house.

Sometimes, you might find yourself buying stuff you know you already own – but simply can't find. And that's a real waste of money that can be avoided if you can manage to purge your house of junk.

It feels great to get rid of junk!

Purging your house of junk might sound scary, but once you get started, you'll be amazed to see just how amazing it can feel to live in a clutter-free space. Not only will your space benefit from this shift, but your mind will, too!

Source: <https://www.thesimplicityhabit.com/how-to-purge-house-junk/>



JANUARY LUNCHEON MEETING



EVENT: Chapter Monthly Luncheon Meeting

DATE: Thursday, 12 January **TIME:** Social time 1130 hours, Meeting time 12 noon – 1330 hours

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

RESERVATIONS: Call 813-676-4676 and follow the prompts OR via email to bab@digital.net.

REMEMBER: Reservations must be made by NOON Friday, 6 January. Reservations are limited to 60. A reservation made is a reservation paid.

CANCELLATIONS must be made by NOON Monday, 9 January by calling 813-676-4676.

COST: Event cost is \$30 payable by check or cash, \$31 by credit card (includes service charge).

MASKS: Masks are optional.

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

MENU: 1905 Salad, Cuban Bread and butter, Ropa Vieja, Pollo Salteado, Platanos Maduros, Fresh Broccoli Alioli, White Rice, Coffee, Iced Tea, Soft Drinks and Cake

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 813-374-3309 or send an email to bab@digital.net to be added to the distribution list.

Or by Zoom:

One Tap Mobile: US: [+13052241968](tel:+13052241968), [89747483931#](tel:+89747483931), ..., *031275# or [+16469313860](tel:+16469313860), [89747483931#](tel:+89747483931), ..., *031275#

Meeting URL: <https://triple-strand-global-solutions.zoom.us/j/89747483931?pwd=dE5YN0gxbWY0ZEdNM2lkM2ZmTFBhZz09&from=addon>

Meeting ID: 897 0829 2982 Passcode: 206251

Join by Telephone:

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

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- +1 507 473 4847 US, +1 564 217 2000 US, +1 669 444 9171 US, +1 689 278 1000 US,
- +1 719 359 4580 US, +1 720 707 2699 US (Denver), +1 253 205 0468 US,
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- +1 386 347 5053 US

Meeting ID: 897 4748 3931 Passcode: 031275



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 Lt Col Kiley Stinson USAF Ret, Sick Call Chairman 813-957-1127 so that he may call or send cards to let them know they are missed.

Alternatively, you may send an e-mail to: Secretary@moaatampa.org

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).

IMPORTANT DATES IN JANUARY

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 New Year's Day | 22 Chinese New Year |
| 16 Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday | 27 Vietnam War Cease-Fire (1973) |

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



Buddy Call Program

We're restructuring the Buddy Call Program. Looking for volunteers to assist with calling our members.

Please contact CAPT Angie Nimmo, NC USN RET at **(760) 401-9718**



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UPDATE OPERATION HELPING HAND



LTC JIM GRIFFIN
Chairman, OPHH

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



UNISEN join our family. THANK ALL OF YOU UNISEN AND VILLIAN FOLKS for attending.

The KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FROM ST. PAUL made a donation as a successful result of their golf tournament. Special thanks to you KNIGHTS! Also. MR ROBERT AHERN provided a bundle of cash from his BOBBY’S BACKYARD BBQ which was held last month at WESTCHASE.

All our volunteers with whom we are extremely blessed to have. They have never failed to be willing to pay the price to make it work. You must be willing to pay the price to make it work.

OPERATION HELPING HAND will continue to provide support and assistance to the MUSIC, ART, VIRTUAL REALITY, AND MOTION THERAPY PROGRAMS. We will always support the POLYTRAUMA FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP which provides a vital to join old and new patients and their families.

OPERATION HELPING HAND is an all-volunteer 501 (c) 3 organization, in which 96.5% of all donations received goes to support all these programs. OPERATION HELPING HAND will need your continued support to allow us to continue our assistance to all these vital programs. This support can be by donations by checks or by using our website
OPERATIONHELPINGHANDTAMPA.COM.

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

On 15 DECEMBER, OPERATION HELPING HAND held its 205TH monthly dinner to support the wounded and injured who receive treatment at the SCI/POLYTRAUMA facilities at the JAMES A HALEY VA HOSPITAL. We were honored to have over 100 dedicated supporters attending the dinner. EMBASSY SUITES prepared an excellent CHRISTMAS DINNER which was totally enjoyed by all. Special thanks to the CHEF AND STAFF AT EMBASSY SUITES. The colors were presented by THE PHILLIP C. DELONG MARINE DETACHMENT. MS PAULINE EVANS presented us with her CHRISTMAS POEM. The entire event was covered by CHANNEL 11, ABC! SPECIAL THANKS TO MAUREEN FAMIANO, our official PUBLICIST for making this happen. This evening’s dinner was sponsored by ARMA GLOBAL. THANK YOU, FOLKS- MUCH APPRECIATED. It was an honor to have a very, supportive group from

Operation Helping Hand December Dinner Photos

Photo credit: CWO Tom South USA (Ret)



Returning With ‘Love From Above’

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



—71 Years of ‘Love From Above’

“When I was in fourth grade, all I can recall is remembering the sound of the plane, the people being excited to receive the packages, anticipating the surprises that were inside the packages.”

—Army National Guard Sgt. Johnsey Hagel

~Army National Guard Sgt. Johnsey Hagel

After six years away from home, Army National Guard Sgt. Johnsey Hagel, Task Force Talon team leader, had the honor of returning for a mission with the U.S. Air Force, to drop packages to his island of Mog Mog during Operation Christmas Drop — the very event that inspired him to join the military.

[Operation Christmas Drop](#) is an annual Air Force tradition of packaging and delivering donated supplies such as food, fishing equipment, schoolbooks and clothing to more than 20,000 islanders across more than 50 remote islands throughout Micronesia and Palau.

Source: <https://www.defense.gov/News/Feature-Stories/Story/Article/3252118/returning-with-love-from-above/>



—Bundles descend from a U.S. Air Force C-130J Super Hercules assigned to the 36th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron at Ulithi, Federated States of Micronesia, Dec. 4, 2022. Operation Christmas Drop is the longest-running Department of Defense humanitarian and disaster relief mission. Each year, the USAF partners with countries in the Pacific Air Forces area of responsibility to deliver supplies to remote islands in the South-Eastern Pacific.

How to Find Your Old Military Buddies After You Get Out

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

—By Jim Absher



From time to time, we here at Military.com get emails from veterans wanting to know how to contact their old military buddies. While that isn't necessarily an easy task, in today's connected society, it's easier than ever before to locate someone if they want to be found.

Here are several places to begin your search or just get caught up with people you may have served with.

Government Organizations

While the government and military branches won't provide contact information for veterans or active-duty personnel except for official business, they do offer a lot of good starting points for locating people who served at various commands, including lists of reunions.

- The [Department of Veterans Affairs](#) can forward a message to a veteran, providing the veteran has filed a claim with VA and their current address is on record.
- The [Army's SoldierForLife](#) program offers a lot of helpful information for both retired and veteran soldiers, including access to the magazine «Echoes.»
- [Navy Retired Activities](#) offers a wealth of information for retirees and veterans, as well as a link to reunions and access to the «Shift Colors» magazine.

- [Air Force Retiree Services](#) has a website that provides several helpful links, including information about reunions as well as access to the «Afterburner» magazine for Air Force retirees.
- The [Marine Corps' "Leatherneck"](#) magazine has links to unit reunions, as well as helpful information for retirees and veterans
- The [Coast Guard](#), United States Public Health Service and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration have an official retiree magazine, the "[Long Blue Line](#)", for all three. It lists reunions, as well as more information for retirees.

Veterans Directories and Locators from Other Organizations

- The [Interactive Vietnam War Memorial](#) from Footnote.com enables visitors to search the Wall for people they know and pay tribute by adding photos, comments and stories of those who lost their lives during the Vietnam conflict.
- The [Directory of Veterans Service Organizations](#) is a short list of service organizations that may offer reunion listings or locator services. The [American Legion](#) and [Veterans of Foreign Wars](#) both have magazines that contain lists of reunions and more..

Facebook

Believe it or not, [Facebook](#) may be one of the easiest ways to look up your old military buddies or units.

You can search for anyone by name and send them a message directly from within Facebook, if you feel comfortable doing that. A better way to locate your old friends is to search for a Facebook group for your old duty station.

There are Facebook groups for current and former military bases, units and ships, as well as groups related to serving at those commands. Depending on what command you are looking for, there may be several groups you can choose from, including tenant commands or groups of people just looking to reminisce.

Good luck in your search.

Source: <https://www.military.com/off-duty/how-find-your-old-military-buddies-after-you-get-out.html>

When Is New Year's, and Why Do We Celebrate It?

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

—Charlotte Hilton Andersen

Here's the real story behind New Year's Eve and New Year's Day—and how they became holidays

It's time to start thinking about all your favorite [New Year's traditions](#) and make some plans. Maybe you'll be hosting a [New Year's Eve party](#), in which case you'll need some [fun game ideas](#) and [decorations](#). And no matter what you do, you'll probably want to [watch the ball drop](#) at midnight. You might also want to make some [New Year's resolutions](#). 'Tis the season, after all! But whatever you choose, you might have a few questions about this ancient and sometimes mysterious holiday. When is New Year's? Who decided the new year starts in January? And what's with the New Year's traditions in other countries, like wearing colorful undies on the big night? We have answers!

What day is New Year's?

When is New Year's, exactly? The answer is a little more complicated than you may think, since there's more than one definition of a "year." When celebrating the New Year, it's helpful to know exactly which new year you're talking about! Different civilizations have measured time in different ways, with some basing the year around the sun and others clocking the year by the moon.

The United States uses the Gregorian calendar, based on the solar year; one solar year, or the time it takes the Earth to orbit the sun, is around 365 days. That means New Year's Day is celebrated on the first of January every year. The next occurrence will be on Sunday, Jan. 1, 2023. According to Time and Date, the first country to officially enter 2023 will be the Republic of Kiribati, an Oceania island.

The lunar New Year varies and takes a little calculating; one lunar year, or 12 full cycles of the moon, is roughly 354 days. [Chinese Lunar New Year](#) is the most popular and begins at sunset on the day of the second new moon following the winter solstice. Don't worry, we did the math for you: The next occurrence is Jan. 22, 2023, followed by Feb. 10, 2024; Jan. 29, 2025; and Feb. 17, 2026.

Is New Year's Eve a holiday?

New Year's Eve, Dec. 31, is not an officially recognized federal holiday in America. That said, many people love celebrating it and count it as one of their favorite holidays. It makes sense—it's hard to celebrate New Year's Day without the New Year's Eve countdown and other festivities the night prior! This year, New Year's Eve falls on a Saturday, which will up the ante for your celebrations. Try telling these [New Year jokes](#) to get the party started.

Is New Year's a federal holiday?

New Year's Day, Jan. 1, is the first officially recognized federal holiday on the calendar in America. In 1870, Congress passed a law that declared New Year's Day (along with [Christmas Day](#) and [Independence Day](#)) to be a national holiday.

The history of New Year's Day

Celebrating the first day of another year on Earth has been a historical tradition for millennia. After all, survival and new beginnings are a pretty big deal. However, New Year's Day, as most of the world currently celebrates it, on Jan. 1, is a fairly recent invention. In fact, there have been a lot of different days chosen to mark the start of a new year.

The first recorded new year celebration happened in Mesopotamia four millennia ago, about 2000 B.C. They picked the [vernal equinox](#), around March 20, to mark the beginning of their new year. After that, we have records of other ancient civilizations, including the Egyptians, Persians and Phoenicians, choosing the [autumnal equinox](#), around Sept. 20, to be the start of their new year. Then, the ancient Greeks picked the [winter solstice](#), around Dec. 20, to begin the new year.

Enter the Romans: Emperor Julius Caesar decided to end all the confusion by creating a



—MOUSSA81/GETTY IMAGES

standardized calendar that would follow the solar year. After consulting with scientific experts, in 46 B.C., he introduced the Julian calendar. In this calendar, Jan. 1 was established as the official first day of the new year. This coincides with the time of year that the Earth is closest to the sun. It's also in honor of Janus, the namesake god of January, known for having two faces—one looking forward to the future and one looking backward to the past.

That wasn't quite the end, though. In 1582, Pope Gregory XIII tweaked the Julian calendar, creating the Gregorian calendar, which is the standard most of the world uses today. He reestablished Jan. 1 as New Year's Day.

What are some New Year's traditions around the world?

In the United States, New Year's is typically celebrated with a large party starting on New Year's Eve. People count down the time—sometimes using the ball drop in New York City or elsewhere—until the clocks officially begin the new year. They often toast with champagne, share a [New Year's kiss](#) at the stroke of midnight, sing "[Auld Lang Syne](#)" and make New Year's resolutions (some may even [base them on their zodiac sign](#)). Many people also coordinate the perfect [New Year's makeup](#) and [nail looks](#) to ring in the new year in style. Fireworks, cheers and songs officially start the first day of the new year.

Whether they are eating [New Year's Eve's lucky foods](#) (like [pork and sauerkraut](#)) or throwing crockery, many cultures have fun and unique ways of celebrating New Year's Day.

China

The Chinese started the tradition of using pyrotechnics—they invented fireworks—to celebrate the New Year. So it makes sense that while many places use fireworks, Chinese New Year's displays are some of the biggest and brightest.

Spain

People attempt to eat 12 grapes in the 12 seconds before midnight on New Year's Eve. Just don't choke!

Switzerland

The Swiss drop blobs of whipped cream on the floor and leave them there overnight to invite richness and wealth in the new year.

Scotland

The "first footer"—the first person to step into your home on New Year's Day—is seen as an omen of what the next year will bring. Tradition says that someone tall and dark brings the best luck.

Colombia

Yellow is said to symbolize love and happiness, so to make sure the new year is full of both, Colombians don a brand-new pair of yellow underwear before heading out to celebrate. And they're not the only ones. Bolivians also swear by yellow undies, Italians have a similar tradition but with red unmentionables, and Argentinians wear pink panties to ring in the new year. Those [New Year's colors](#) have significant meaning!

Japan

Buddhist temples ring their bells 108 times to represent each of the "human sins" and encourage people to make better choices in the new year.

Siberia

Taking an icy plunge on the first day of the new year is one way that Russians symbolize starting over with a clean slate.

England

Couples kiss at the stroke of midnight. The passion in the kiss is said to foretell the future of the relationship.

Source: <https://www.rd.com/article/when-is-new-years/>



—HAPPY_LARK/GETTY IMAGES



Florida Council of Chapters Military Officers Association of America



Leadership Seminar

2023 Florida Council Annual Leadership Seminar Attendee Registration

1/6/2023 8:00 AM to 1/7/2023 4:00 PM

All chapter leaders are cordially invited.

Open for Registration. Click link to register

<https://www.moaaf.org/LeadershipSeminar/SeminarRegistration.aspx?Year=2023>

USS Paul Ignatius returns to Rota from 6th Fleet patrol

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

Geoff Ziezulewicz Dec 22 at 05:16 PM



—The [guided-missile destroyer Paul Ignatius](#) returned to Rota, Spain, on Tuesday from a patrol in the 6th Fleet — its first as a Forward-Deployed Naval Forces-Europe ship.

The Ignatius' homeport shift from Mayport, Florida, earlier this year aligns with the [Navy's plan to rotate the destroyers](#) based in Rota and comes as the service aims to bolster its destroyer fleet in Spain from four to six warships in the next several years.

During the patrol, which kicked off in August, the ship operated in the Arctic Ocean, Baltic Sea and North Sea conducting theater antisubmarine warfare, air and missile defense, surface warfare training, and exhibiting expeditionary warfare capabilities.

The destroyer integrated with the Kearsarge Amphibious Readiness Group and Marines from the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit in the Baltic Sea to conduct interoperability operations with NATO allies. Additionally, the ship participated in the Finnish Navy Command-led exercise "Freezing Winds" in the Baltic Sea, along with units and personnel from 11 other countries.



—Sailors assigned to the destroyer Paul Ignatius single up a line as the ship arrives in Riga, Latvia, Sept. 15. The ship, part of the Kearsarge Amphibious Ready Group, was under the command Task Force 61/2 in the U.S. Naval Forces Europe area of operations. (MC2 Aaron Lau/Navy)

"I couldn't be more proud of this crew," Cmdr. Corry Lougee, executive officer of Paul Ignatius, said in a Navy news release. "We have been operational since February, and this ship continues to excel. Our Sailors executed the most successful homeport change to date, fought through the adversity of patrol, and now return to our new homeport stronger than ever. The mental toughness of this crew is beyond words, and we are so appreciative of the overwhelming support from our families, the base, Destroyer Squadron 60 and the amazing Spanish people of Rota."

The ship was commissioned in 2019 and is named after former Secretary of the Navy Paul Ignatius, who served during the Lyndon B. Johnson administration.

The destroyer arrived in Rota June 17.



—The destroyer Paul Ignatius remote live-fires a Mark 38 25mm machine gun during a pre-action calibration Dec. 5 in the Baltic Sea. (MC2 Aaron Lau/Navy)

Source: <https://www.navytimes.com/news/your-navy/2022/12/22/uss-paul-ignatius-returns-to-rota-from-6th-fleet-patrol/>

Birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Is Martin Luther King, Jr Day a federal holiday?



—Martin Luther King, Jr.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day is a federal holiday that falls on the third Monday of every January.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day 2023 in United States of America is on Monday 16th January

In 1968, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated while he was leading a workers' strike in Memphis, Tennessee in the USA. Black people and white people who had worked so hard for peace and civil rights were extremely shocked and angry.

The world grieved the loss of this man of peace who had tried to bring all of mankind together in the preceding years. On January 20, 1986, in cities and towns across America people celebrated the first official Martin Luther King Day, the only US federal holiday commemorating an African-American.

All through the 1980's, controversy surrounded the idea of the US celebrating a Martin Luther King Day. Many citizens and congressmen had petitioned the President of the day to make January 15, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday, a US federal holiday. Other people wanted to make the holiday on the day he died, while some people did not want to have any holiday at all.

As a result, January 15 had been observed as a public holiday for many years in 27 states of the US.

In 1986 President Ronald Reagan declared the third Monday in January a US federal holiday commemorating Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – A Day to Celebrate Peace and Human Rights

As a federal holiday in the United States, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day is an official day of remembrance for one of the United States' foremost leaders of civil rights, human rights, and peace. The holiday is held on the third Monday of January since this is around the time of Martin Luther King's birthday. Despite the fact that this special day had some difficulty becoming fully recognized, it is now a notable day used to celebrate peace and human rights in the US and some other countries around the world.

The Man – Martin Luther King Jr.

Martin Luther King was active in the civil rights movement of the 1960's, especially in the South. Born in Georgia, Martin Luther King became a Baptist minister. In the 1950's, he led several non-violent acts of defiance for the current state of civil rights and segregation in the United States.

Martin Luther King Jr. "I Have a Dream" speech.

In 1963 he led the March on Washington, where he gave his very famous "I Have a Dream" speech. Five years later, King was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee. Despite his untimely death, King's legacy remains to this day.

Observations of the Holiday

The holiday is officially observed in every state in the USA, as of the year 2000. The holiday is also observed in some countries such as Japan, where it is used as a day to commemorate all who have fought for human rights and non-violent protest.

Initially, there were some objections to the holiday, in Arizona, New Hampshire, North Carolina, and South Carolina. Despite the fact that King passed away in 1968, the day to commemorate him was not passed into law until 1983 by President Ronald Reagan. At this point, however, only a limited number of states adopted the holiday, and it wasn't until the year 2000 that the entire country officially observed Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Activities of the Day

There are a number of memorials honoring Martin Luther King, and these are typically the center of activities surrounding this special day. Another place which will have special celebrations is King's alma mater, Morehouse University in Atlanta, Georgia. These events usually are sponsored by living members of the King family as well as other notable civil and human rights leaders.

The Martin Luther King Day of Service

There are several organizations that have been established specifically for the purposes of furthering King's doctrine. In his later years, the late Martin Luther King, Jr. pushed for greater assistance for those in need, including those in poverty stricken areas. In order to continue the ideas which King had, the MLK Day of Service has been started.

There are specific websites dedicated to furthering these activities, such as mlkday.gov which provides a portal for those wishing to sign up to assist in needy areas. By pushing for sustainable citizen action, this website and others like it have been able to create a legacy for Martin Luther King, Jr. in areas which he would be happy to have seen things accomplished.

For more information about how to find a place to help support MLK Day services, please contact your local government office.

Source: <https://usafederalholidays.com/birthday-of-martin-luther-king-jr>

7 Cool Things About The Army Navy Game

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

December 9, 2022

Every November the halls of the Pentagon are torn apart in one of the biggest and oldest rivalries in college sports: the Army-Navy Game, presented by USAA. While the outcome of the game may no longer affect who will win the College Football National Championship, it will affect the interpersonal relationships within the Department of Defense for days, maybe weeks after. It also may affect who gets the biggest prize of all, The Commander-In-Chief's Trophy and a trip to the White House to have it presented personally by the President of the United States. So yeah, it's about a lot more than pride. The game is a spectacle, full of more than 100 years of traditions, pranks, and the best military showmanship the two service academies can muster.

Here are 7 cool things that happen during the Army-Navy Game

Spirit videos

Ranging from highly-polished, well-produced masterpieces to simple iPhone-shot music videos, West Pointers and Annapolis midshipmen shoot, edit, and publish numerous videos about how their school is going to beat the other school, how their school is superior to the other school, and how their culture is more fun. It's not just students and staff, either. All over the world, troops and graduates make their own videos and upload them to YouTube, DVIDS, and anywhere else someone might see their work of art.



The Army-Navy game prisoner exchange

For one semester every year, the U.S. Military Academy and the U.S. Naval Academy choose select members of their classes to attend the rival school. At the beginning of the annual Army-Navy Game, these students are returned to their proper academy. The swap at the beginning of the game is known as "The Prisoner Exchange."

The march on

If you're into watching military formations on the march as a military band plays on, be sure to catch the pre-game events before the Army-Navy kickoff. One of these events is called "The March On," and features the entire student bodies of both service academies marching in formation across the open field. It's really quite a sight.

Military hardware

The Army-Navy Game always starts with a huge show of military power, either in the form of Blue Angels flyovers, Army helicopters, the Army's Golden Knights Parachute Team, the Navy's Blue Angels, or who-knows-what-else. This pre-game display is always an awesome sight.



New uniforms

Every year, both Army and Navy take the field in their newest digs, ones designed to honor a part of their individual histories or traditions. Past uniforms have honored Army World War II Paratroopers, the 10th Mountain Division, and types of Navy ships.

Presidential traditions

When the Commander-In-Chief is present at the Army-Navy Game, he has traditions of his own he needs to follow. Of course, the POTUS is the person in charge and can do whatever he wants, but is always expected to cross the field at the 50-yard-line at halftime and watch the game from the other side, a tradition dating back to President Woodrow Wilson.

Honoring the fallen

No matter who wins or who loses, both teams will not leave the field without singing both schools' alma maters. The winners go to the losing team's fans and sing to them, taking the sting out of such a rivalry loss (at least a little bit). Then the two teams will sing the winners' song.

This article originally appeared on We Are The Mighty. [Read more of their great content here.](#)

Source: <https://www.veteransadvantage.com/blog/military-veterans-news/cover-story-7-cool-things-about-army-navy-game>

DOD Establishes Arctic Strategy and Global Resilience Office

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

— By Jim Garamone

The United States is an Arctic power, and the Defense Department has established an office to ensure U.S. strategy and policy protects U.S. interests in that crucial region.

Iris A. Ferguson is the deputy assistant secretary of defense for Arctic and global resilience, a new position that signifies the importance U.S. leaders place on the region. "[The Arctic] is a critical region for power projection and also for homeland defense," Ferguson said during a Zoom interview.

The importance of the region will only grow as the impacts of climate change accelerate. Ferguson noted that temperatures in the Arctic are rising at least three times faster than anywhere else in the world. "We're seeing a lot of geophysical changes that have dramatic impact on our operations and our infrastructure," she said.

A lot of military infrastructure in the region is built on permafrost foundations, which are melting. "We're working to mitigate that," she said. "There's also coastal erosion that has the potential to impact our radar sites."

The changes are also opening up the area to civilian endeavors — and to strategic competitors, Ferguson said. "We're seeing increased geopolitical activity by Russia, as well as China, in the region," she said.

Russia has the largest land mass in the Arctic, and Russian leaders think of the country as the region's preeminent power, the deputy assistant secretary said. "They have been refurbishing a lot of their airfields and renewing much of their defense architecture across the Arctic region."

There might not be conflict now — and there hopefully will never be conflict in the Arctic — but we need to be prepared to operate there."

Iris A. Ferguson, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Arctic and Global Resilience

Russia is only 55 miles away from the United States at the Bering Strait. Russian officials maintain their bases and assets in the Arctic are defensive, yet they arm their icebreakers with Kalibr-K missiles, defense officials have said. "We're increasingly watching the amount of activity that's happening in the Arctic region from them," she said.

China, the United States' other strategic competitor, is thousands of miles from the Arctic. Yet, Chinese leaders have "been trying to insert themselves into the Arctic," she said. "They have called themselves a near-Arctic nation, even though they aren't even remotely near the Arctic."

Chinese leaders are trying to adjust international norms and governance structures in their favor,



and they are cognizant of their economic coercion globally and in the Arctic region, she said. "So, we're being very mindful about their activity and in wanting to ensure that our interests are protected in the region," she said.

The Arctic is often overlooked, "but it's a place where we have immense territorial equity, actually, for our homeland defense needs, our ability to monitor and respond to threats, and our capacity to project power," Ferguson said.

The Air Force has based its top-of-the-line aircraft in Alaska because they can be easily deployed to respond to crises throughout the Indo-Pacific. It's also a key refueling stop for aircraft. The Army has established the 11th Airborne Division in the region to develop expertise in Arctic mobility and extreme cold weather operations.

From a military standpoint, the region is a key defense node for the homeland, with missile defense facilities, radars, early warning sites and more throughout Alaska and Canada as part of the North American Aerospace Defense Command.

The latest DOD strategy on the Arctic refers to the region as an avenue of approach to the homeland. "The priorities for that defense strategy are in protecting the homeland, ensuring that our national interests are safeguarded and protected, and working with nations on shared challenges," Ferguson said. "The overarching goal is to ensure we maintain peace and stability in the region."

The Arctic is a huge area with segments in three geographic combatant commands' areas of responsibility: U.S. Northern Command; U.S. European Command; and U.S. Indo-Pacific Command. Ferguson's office is a focal point for Arctic policy. Its initiatives include helping the services prioritize capabilities for the region, developing deeper partnerships with allies and partners, and enhancing Arctic education across the department through its oversight of the newly created Ted Stevens Center for Arctic Security Studies on Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson near Anchorage, Alaska.

"It's important to have an office like this now to try to start laying the groundwork for how we can best prepare ourselves and to know what the challenges of the future may be," she said. "There might not be conflict now — and there hopefully will never be conflict in the Arctic — but we need to be prepared to operate there."

This is the first of a two-part series on the creation of a new DOD position: deputy assistant secretary of defense for Arctic and global resilience. Part 2 involves adapting to modern problems faced by service members around the world.

Source: <https://www.defense.gov/News/News-Stories/Article/Article/3171173/dod-establishes-arctic-strategy-and-global-resilience-office/>





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

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



22 October 2022

Dear Fellow Member,

Our MOAA Tampa Chapter has experienced another great year. Despite its challenges, 2022 has been characterized by growth, expanded capability, and increased advocacy/engagement. We retained our 5-star status, won the Communications Award for our website and newsletter, and touched our community in myriad ways. Thank you for your involvement and continued support.

Well, it is time to renew your Tampa Chapter membership and you can do so beginning 1 November. As you know, the cost of goods, supplies, and services required to operate the chapter has increased substantially over the past two years. In response, the Board of Directors determined, and the membership voted unanimously at the annual meeting at the October luncheon, that the 2023 membership dues will be \$30.00. This small increase along with improved fundraising efforts will help offset rising costs for required expenses. Dues must be paid by 31 January 2023 to remain an active member of the MOAA Tampa Chapter.

In addition to your Chapter membership, please remember that our Tampa Chapter bylaws require all chapter members to also be members of MOAA national. If you are not already a member of the national level organization, joining is easy. When you go online at [MOAA - Why Join MOAA](#), you will find an application and a description of the various categories of membership. You may join as a Basic member at no charge. However, please note that the benefits provided within the Premium and Life membership categories are stellar and include career and financial resources, MOAA-exclusive publications, spouse protection, and numerous discounts on products and travel.

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

If you have any questions concerning the enclosed dues renewal form, please contact our membership chair, Matt Mularoni, at membership@moaatampa.org. On behalf of the Board of Directors and your fellow chapter members, I extend to you and your family our very best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

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

How We Help and Why You Should Join!

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

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

NEVER STOP SERVING!



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

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



Name _____

Rank _____ Service _____ Status (Active, Retired, Former) _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

EMAIL address _____

Phone (HOME or CELL) _____ Date of Birth: Month: _____ Day: _____

Spouse _____ Phone _____

Emergency Contact: Name _____ Phone _____

MOAA National Member Number _____ If not a MOAA National member, can we set up a Basic membership for you at no cost? I give my permission: signature: _____

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

World War II _____ Korean War _____ Vietnam Era: _____ Vietnam (in country) _____

Gulf War (Desert Shield/Storm) _____ Lebanon, Grenada, Panama _____

Iraq/Syria (OIF/New Dawn/OIR) _____ Afghanistan (OEF/ORS/OFS) _____

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

Tampa Chapter Annual Dues: \$30 No fee for Active Duty or Surviving Spouses.

Chapter name tag \$13 YES ____; NO ____: Name as you want it on name tag: _____

You may bring the completed form to any Chapter event, or you can **mail** it with your check (payable to **MOAA Tampa Chapter**) to: **Matt Mularoni, C/O MOAA Tampa, PO Box 6383, Tampa, FL 33608-0383.**

Email questions to: membership@moaatampa.org

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



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

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



MOAA Tampa Chapter Dues Renewal Form

Deadline for renewing your membership is January 31, 2023

Name _____

Rank _____ Service _____ Status _____

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

Address _____

EMAIL address _____

Phone _____ Cell _____

Spouse _____ Phone _____

Check here if there are no changes _____

NOTE: Active-duty Service Members and Surviving Spouses are not required to pay chapter

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

Consider donating to our chapter scholarship fund.

Amount enclosed:

Dues \$ 30.00

Scholarship \$ _____

Total \$ _____

Please make checks payable to: **MOAA Tampa Chapter**

Mail to: MOAA Tampa Membership C/O Matt Mularoni, PO Box 6383, Tampa, FL 33608-0383.

You may also pay your Tampa chapter dues online at MOAA National website at:

<https://chapterdues.moaa.org/Membership.aspx>

Email questions to: membership@moaatampa.org

Coalition Corner



Dear MOAA Tampa members,

I trust you all enjoyed the holidays and arrived safely in the new year.

Some coalition families went home to their respective nations to spend the holidays together with family and friends. Others stayed in the Tampa area over Christmas, and some had visitors from home coming over to Florida. My wife and I went back to Denmark for three weeks. Not exactly the same temperatures known in Tampa. We had snow. As always it is not about the weather but how we dress up.

Due to COVID 19 we had to cancel the International Night the last two years. After three years we were all very pleased to be able to conduct the International Night again on December 8 last year.

Hosting an International Night offers the Coalition members a venue to show the appreciation

of the good and friendly cooperation and support we all receive from both the military and civilian staff at MacDill Airforce Base, but also the partners in the Tampa Bay Area.

Previous events have been quite popular with approximately 3000 guests passing through the exhibition area. This event that now has become a tradition all started back in 2004 and we aim to continue the International Night in years to come. A total of 35 nations served food and displayed various items from their nations.

All in all a fantastic evening. We are already looking forward to the next one in December this year. Enjoy the photos.

On behalf of the entire international community with US CENTCOM I wish you all a very happy January.

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

International Night



MEDICAL CORNER

Do COVID-19 At-Home Tests Expire?

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

—By Rachel Nania,

Still have kits stashed from last year's surge? What you need to know before you swab

With COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations climbing once again, more people are returning to at-home testing to determine if [their cough](#) is indeed due to the coronavirus. But before you rip open a box and swab your nose, be sure to check the expiration date.

COVID-19 tests have a shelf life, and if yours has been sitting in the medicine cabinet for some time, you'll want to make sure it's as accurate as the day it was packaged. Many are good for between 12 and 20 months; some need to be used within six to eight months. And a handful have expiration dates that have been extended by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

Where can I find my COVID test's expiration date?

The expiration date for FDA-authorized COVID-19 tests, which can vary by brand, is printed on the outside of the test's box, much like how food expiration dates are posted on the outside packaging.

How is the expiration date determined?

Manufacturers do what's called stability testing to determine the period over which the performance of the test is expected to remain stable while stored.

Stability testing takes into account varying temperatures so that at-home tests can be shipped in cold and hot climates. That said, your test could be affected by temperature if you use it while it's still hot or cold, "such as being used outdoors in freezing temperatures or being used immediately after being brought inside from freezing temperatures," the FDA says. To get the best results, make sure your test is at room temperature before swabbing.

If my COVID test is expired, should I still use it?

The FDA does not recommend using a test that has expired. The various parts and pieces that make up the test may degrade or break down over time, the FDA says, and this could cause inaccurate results.

But before you trash your test, check to see if it was recently assigned an extended expiration. Because stability testing takes time — sometimes upwards of a year — the FDA typically authorizes at-home COVID-19 tests with a shelf life of about four to six months and then adjusts the expiration date as stability testing data comes in, the agency explains.

The FDA recently extended the expiration date of several testing brands, including the iHealth tests that were mailed out by the federal government earlier in the year. To determine if your test has been affected, [check this FDA list of authorized tests](#) and look in the far right column under "expiration date."



—XAVIER LORENZO / GETTY IMAGES

I'm all out of COVID tests. Where can I get more?

If your stock is expired or depleted, there's good news: The government just restarted its free home testing program. Every U.S. household is once again eligible to receive four free at-home COVID-19 tests by mail. Shipping is also free. Find more information at [COVID.gov/tests](#) or by calling 800-232-0233 (TTY 888-720-7489).

The new push to distribute free tests is part of a [larger effort from the White House](#) to curb a surge in illness from COVID-19, which along with flu and RSV is circulating in many areas throughout the country. Health officials are also urging [updated COVID-19 boosters](#) and [flu vaccines](#) to help keep Americans healthy.

Need more tests? Medicare and private health insurance plans will cover the cost of [up to eight](#) FDA-authorized at-home tests per month.

Many community health centers and rural clinics also have at-home tests available.

What if I test positive for COVID?

By now, most people know that it's important to stay away from others if you have COVID-19 so you don't infect them. But it's also important for adults 50 and older to [consider treatment](#) the second that test strip turns positive, White House COVID-19 coordinator Ashish Jha, M.D., said in a recent news briefing. More than 90 percent of COVID-19 deaths in the U.S. have occurred in people 50 and older.

"The truth is we have fantastic treatments," Jha said. Oral [antiviral pills Paxlovid](#) and Lagevrio (molnupiravir) can help to keep a mild infection from progressing to something more severe in people at higher risk of developing COVID-19 complications. The same goes for the antiviral infusion remdesivir (Veklury). All three medications require a prescription, however, and are most effective the sooner they are started.

"Anybody over the age of 50, anybody with chronic disease should get evaluated. Personally, as a physician, I think it's very clear to me that anybody in their 60s or above should be treated," Jha added.

Another consideration after testing: Report your results to [makemytestcount.org](#), from the National Institutes of Health, so the U.S. can continue to monitor infection levels.

"We don't want this winter to look like last winter or the winter before," Jha said. "If every American does their part, if every American goes out and gets an updated vaccine, if every American gets treated who's eligible for treatment, we can have a very different winter ahead."

Source: <https://www.aarp.org/health/conditions-treatments/info-2022/do-at-home-covid-tests-expire.html?cmp=EMC-DSM-NLC-OTH-WBLTR-1309502-1598303-6920792-NA-122322-Webletter-MS7-NA-NA-TM60-Health&encparam=oGBLSg3o5rgw0F28%2f%2bqrJVE35Zebh%2fZ93BY8x%2fU3tQ%3d>

Surviving Spouse Corner: Contributed by Renee Brunelle Matthews

Surviving Spouse Q-and-A: Benefits and Remarriage



By: Paul Frost

Editor's Note: This article is part of MOAA's 2022-23 TRICARE Guide, brought to you by MOAA Insurance Plans, administered by Association Member Benefits Advisors (AMBA). A version of the guide appeared in the November 2022 issue of Military Officer magazine.



—Van Williams/Air Force

A surviving spouse retains his or her health care coverage if the military retiree dies first. That includes TRICARE Prime, Select, Overseas Select, and TRICARE for Life (TFL).

The death of a beneficiary is a "qualifying life event," which, if desired, enables a surviving beneficiary to change TRICARE plans Prime to Select or Select to Prime (TFL and Overseas Select remain unchanged).

A surviving spouse retains all other relevant benefits and ID card for access to base, commissary, and exchange. If a surviving spouse remarries, their TRICARE benefit is gone forever, unless they marry another military retiree.

If a couple takes the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) at retirement, and the retiree dies first, the surviving spouse must "apply" for the annuity to begin. Find the required paperwork [at this link](#).

Here are some frequently asked questions:

Q. If we haven't made all 360 payments, will the remaining premiums be deducted from the annuity?

A. No, premiums stop upon the retiree's death.

Q. If my spouse dies first, do I get my premiums back?

A. No, this is an insurance policy and there is no refund in this case. If the retiree remarries, on the one-year anniversary the new spouse will be covered (DFAS must be notified soon after you remarry). If you had not made your 360th payment before the first spouse died, your premiums will begin again where they left off until reaching 360.

Q. What if my ex-spouse receives the benefit?

A. If your ex-spouse dies first, the benefit can be transferred to your current spouse. If you die first, your ex-spouse will begin receiving the benefit, and it cannot be transferred to your surviving spouse upon your ex-spouse's death.

Q. I'm receiving SBP. What happens if I remarry?

A. If you have reached your 55th birthday before remarrying, you continue receiving the benefit. If you marry before your 55th birthday, the benefit is suspended. If that subsequent marriage ends in death or divorce, SBP can be restarted.

VA Benefit

VA disability compensation ends upon a veteran's death. A surviving spouse is eligible for the VA's version of SBP, called Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC), if a servicemember died while on active duty, if the veteran died from a service-connected disability, or if the veteran was rated 100% permanently and totally disabled during at least the last 10 years of life. A surviving spouse must apply for DIC. Learn more at [this VA website](#).

Q. Do I receive DIC for the rest of my life?

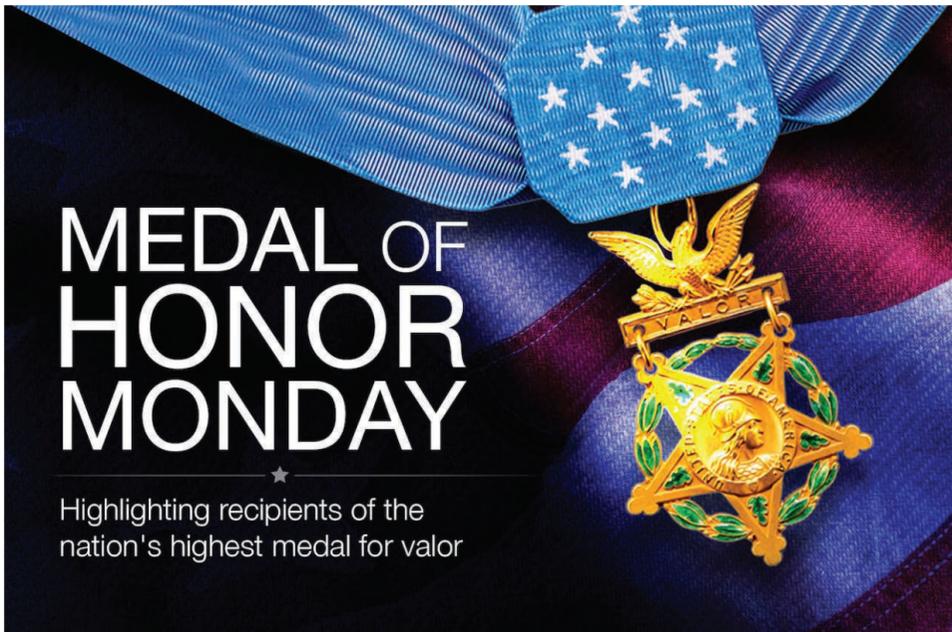
- A. Yes, under one of the following conditions:
- You remarried on or after Dec. 16, 2003, and had already reached your 57th birthday.
 - You remarried on or after Jan. 5, 2021, and had already reached your 55th birthday.

Source: https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2022-news-articles/surviving-spouse-q-and-a-benefits-and-remarriage/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=TMNsend&utm_content=I+bo9Kpsk90AMHJh1eJHNA==+FL+ATFHSRM+1+SRO+L+CC

Medal of Honor Monday: Army Maj. Thomas McGuire Jr.

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

—By Katie Lange



During World War II, Army Air Corps Maj. Thomas B. McGuire Jr. was a legend. The young pilot became one of the top-scoring airmen in U.S. air combat history in a very short time frame. His skills and prowess in the air also helped him earn the Medal of Honor over Christmas 1944.

McGuire was born Aug. 1, 1920, in Ridgewood, New Jersey, to parents Thomas and Pauline. He was the only child of the fairly affluent couple, who owned an automobile dealership.

McGuire's parents eventually separated, so he moved with his mother to Sebring, Florida, where he spent his teenage years playing various musical instruments and becoming a sports car enthusiast. He also grew interested in flying after hearing stories from an uncle who was a World War I pilot.

After graduating high school, McGuire went to the Georgia School of Technology (now Georgia Tech) to study aeronautical engineering. However, he left in July 1941 after his third year of studies to join the Army Air Corps as World War II raged. McGuire trained to be a fighter pilot, earning his wings and a commission in February 1942.

His first assignment was flying patrols over the Aleutian Islands and Alaska in a P-39 Airacobra. That's where he honed his instincts as a pilot – something that seemed to come natural to him. In December 1942, McGuire transitioned to flying the P-38 Lightning. That same month, he married Marilyn Giesler, whom he had met during training in Texas.



In March 1942, McGuire, who went by the nickname Mickey, was sent to Australia with the 49th Fighter Group. A few months into his deployment, the 475th Fighter Group was created, and he was chosen to join it as part of the 431st Fighter Squadron. Nicknamed "Satan's Angels," the 431st flew all over the South Pacific on missions that ranged from escorting bombers to making fighter bomber sweeps. He also helped the armorers with testing new machine guns and cannons on the P-38s.

In August 1943, McGuire got his first taste of aerial combat. Over the span of two days, he shot down five enemy aircraft while protecting bombers over New Guinea. By the end of the month, he had scored two more kills, received a Silver Star and earned three Distinguished Flying Crosses — a record made over an eight-day period that no one in Air Force history has

surpassed.

During the summer of 1944, McGuire struck up a friendship with famed aviator Charles Lindbergh, who was visiting the 475th in the Pacific as a civilian consultant. According to the newspaper *The Ridgewood News*, McGuire and Lindbergh bunked together in a hut in New Guinea, and Lindbergh flew the occasional secret mission with McGuire in his P-38.



On Christmas Day 1944, McGuire volunteered to lead a squadron of 15 P-38s as protection for heavy bombers attacking a Japanese-held airfield over Luzon Island in the Philippines. They were on their way when the formation was attacked by 20 Japanese fighter aircraft.

McGuire repeatedly flew to the aid of his embattled comrades and drove off enemy assaults, even though he was sometimes outnumbered three to one. At one point, his guns jammed, but he continued the fight by forcing an enemy aircraft into his wingman's line of fire. He had shot down three Japanese Zeros by the time he headed back to his base.



On the 26th, McGuire led more escort fighters on a mission to Luzon's Clark Field, which the Japanese had taken from the U.S. when it invaded the Philippines earlier in the war. While he was trying to rescue a crippled bomber, he shot down one aircraft, then evaded four other enemy fighters, one of which he shot down. McGuire destroyed two more aircraft before the mission was over.

According to *The News*, a newspaper from Paterson, New Jersey, McGuire was hospitalized for three days due to injuries he suffered during those missions.

By this point, McGuire had 38 kills and was closing in on the record for aerial victories for the 5th Air Force. He was second only to Maj. Richard Bong, who had shot down 40 enemy aircraft.

McGuire hoped to add to his tally and become the No. 1 ace, so on Jan. 7, 1945, he led a group on a volunteer mission to another Japanese-held airstrip on Los Negros Island. When a Japanese Zero aircraft came toward them, McGuire had his squadron surround the Zero, which tried to get out of the snare by dropping down to 200 feet. According to the Air Force Historical Support Division, "there, the formation scattered, and the enemy plane maneuvered into position on the tail of one of the Lightnings." McGuire came to that pilot's rescue, but the dangerous maneuver he tried to use caused his aircraft to stall and crash.

After 325 missions, McGuire was reported as missing in action. His remains were eventually found in June 1949 in the jungles of Los Negros near a pineapple plantation. He was repatriated to the U.S. and buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

McGuire's aerial accomplishments were honored well before that, though. On May 8, 1946, his wife accepted the Medal of Honor on his behalf from Army Gen. George C. Kenney during a ceremony in Paterson, New Jersey. That honor was added to the many other accolades McGuire had received during his career, including the Distinguished Service Cross, three Silver Stars, six Distinguished Flying Crosses and 15 Air Medals.

McGuire is still the highest-ranking American ace to have been killed in action.



Perhaps the biggest honor of his career came around the time his remains were finally found. In June 1949, the airfield at Fort Dix, New Jersey, was renamed McGuire Air Force Base. According to *The Ridgeway News*, a WWII P-38 was flown to the base in 1981 and resides there in his honor.

Source: <https://www.defense.gov/News/Feature-Stories/Story/Article/3253118/medal-of-honor-monday-army-maj-thomas-mcguire-jr/>

Fielding the Radios of the Future with MARCORSYSCOM

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

As recent developments in distant battlefields have shown, successful military operations rely on resilient communication architectures capable of closing kill chains in austere environments.

In order to maintain fleet lethality, Marine Corps Systems Command is working on fielding a state-of-the-art multichannel handheld radio system that mitigates against peer adversary threats and enables Marines to quickly add new waveforms and enhanced capabilities to address evolving requirements.

"The Multichannel radio family of systems will provide the [Fleet Marine Force] with an enhanced capability that increases resiliency and survivability through network interoperability during missions involving both ground and vehicular-based forces," said Richard Sessions, program manager for communications systems at MARCORSYSCOM. "These new radios will provide the fleet with many new options in configuring communications and network pathways while leveraging newer, more secure waveforms."

Ultimately, this effort will help further the Department of Defense's 2022 National Defense Strategy, which calls for preserving command, control, and communications in a fast-paced battlefield. Furthermore, it falls in line with the Department's Joint All-Domain Command and Control Implementation Plan – or JADC2—a "warfighting necessity to keep pace with the volume and complexity of data in modern warfare and to defeat adversaries decisively."

"What I really appreciate about the team is their investment. It's something I see from government, civilians, and contractors alike..." Lt. Col. Joshua Kapp, product manager for ground radios.

"Fielding a tactical radio that allows data to be transmitted helps advance JADC2 because the framework itself requires connectivity at all levels. In order to fully realize this vision across the Department of Defense, our team has worked tirelessly to develop a radio that closes communications links between the Corps and the joint forces; prevents communications from being compromised; ensures resiliency; and operates on the right waveforms," said Lt. Col. Joshua Kapp, product manager for ground radios.

But as Kapp knows well, one of the first steps in creating a modern communication architecture is acquiring – and sustaining – tactical ground radios that operate on reliable, secure, and flexible communication networks. In today's defense landscape, these systems operate on high-frequency, ultrahigh-frequency, very high-frequency bands, satellite communications and multiband radios.



—OVER AND OUT
U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Nghia Tran/Released 190322-M-MD920-019.JPG

"Collectively, our mission is to field and sustain tactical radio equipment that enables command and control and the situational awareness at echelons and elements across the MAGTF and provides a line of sight beyond line-of-sight secure voice data," Kapp said in a recent MARCORSYSCOM podcast. "It's a long way of saying that we cover all of the tactical radios in the Marine Corps."

Acquiring the correct systems to ensure the lethality of the modern warfighter is no easy task – especially when the team must maintain the 85,000 radios currently owned by the Corps, in addition to fielding an additional 34,000 radios over the next five years.

"We're in a consistent cycle of contract prep and award, product testing, software and firmware updates, technological evaluations, waveform development, FMF engagement, and support and sustainment efforts," Kapp noted. "Without a doubt, we also spend a considerable amount of time doing commodity management and integration activities across the Command and [other] Services."

According to Sessions, fielding of the new multichannel handheld radios will begin in the first quarter of fiscal year 2024.

Driving a highly professional acquisitions program has also benefited the Corps, however, and Sessions was quick to note that the recent industry contract for handheld multichannel radios ended up saving the Corps millions of dollars.

"We're talking about an initial savings of \$82 million. Beyond that, we've negotiated 10 years of support and an agreement to allow our Marines to do Level 3 maintenance without voiding our warranty. That isn't something a radio vendor has allowed before," Sessions noted.

But Kapp believes his team's success wouldn't be possible without the hard work and dedication of his team members – many of whom are Marine Corps veterans.

"What I really appreciate about the team is their investment. It's something I see from government, civilians, and contractors alike. What you may not know, however, is that the vast majority of my team is made up of past Marines. They have children, brothers and sisters who are still serving," Kapp said.

"Inevitably, this means that they bring a ton of dedication into the work that they do. It's not just about being successful... there's true passion behind the work they do because they know what the end result is."

Source: <https://www.marines.mil/News/News-Display/Article/3253971/fielding-the-radios-of-the-future-with-marcorsyscom/>

Delivering Babies, Plowing Snow: Hundreds of Guardsmen Deploy as New York Is Buried in Historic Storm

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

— By Steve Beynon

Staff Sgt. Colin King and a team of airmen were racing against the clock to the hospital to deliver two critical patients in the back of their F-350 pickup truck: a woman in labor and a man on life support with critical medical gear swiftly running out of power.

The problem was that the Guardsmen of the 107th Attack Wing were navigating Buffalo, New York, where a historic storm dropped snow as high as four feet, leaving streets littered with abandoned vehicles.

"We were driving through parking lots, over sidewalks; there were a ton of stranded cars to get around. It looked like the apocalypse," King told Military.com in an interview about a convoy of two pickup trucks the airmen were using. "Our trucks got stuck about six times, and we had to dig out with our hands and shovels."

More than 500 New York Guardsmen are deployed as Buffalo has been devastated by a crippling winter storm, with at least 28 people dead.

Buffalo was walloped by at least 49 inches of snowfall over Christmas weekend, and local officials are scrambling to dig out the city and its surrounding suburbs, with many neighborhoods still cut off from emergency services. The Buffalo Niagara International Airport is closed until at least Wednesday, adding to nationwide flight cancellations and delays.

Troops have been conducting health and wellness checks alongside first responders, a Guard spokesperson told Military.com. Those checks amount to going door-to-door in hard-hit areas, some of them impossible to navigate by vehicle. In some cases, Guardsmen are driving doctors and nurses to work. Military Police will also be helping local authorities and state troopers enforce a driving ban in Erie County, which includes Buffalo. Guardsmen, however, are not deputized, according to a Guard spokesperson, and therefore will only be assisting officers and not enforcing local laws themselves.

King described the harrowing experience of trying to help the two patients who had been loaded into the pickup truck.

The woman in labor had to be moved from Kenmore Mercy Hospital, which was short on staff and equipment, limiting the facility's ability to handle any complications during delivery. The other patient, a man with a blood-pumping medical device and no means to properly charge his equipment at the hospital, needed to go home for extra batteries. He was also suffering from frostbite.

Both patients were loaded into an F-350. The woman had priority, as doctors believed the man's medical device had at least 10 hours of life left. But the six-mile trip to the John R. Oishei Children's Hospital took at least an hour. The woman and husband were eventually dropped off without incident, but the airmen had a medical kit in case she needed to deliver in the back of the truck.

But then the man's medical device started beeping, indicating it had about 30 minutes of life left. He couldn't survive without it.

"We're probably only three miles away from his house, but there was a four-foot snowdrift everywhere," King said.



—New York Army National Guard soldiers assigned to the 827th Engineer Battalion clear snow at the Cheekowaga Senior Citizens Center in Cheekowaga, New York on Dec. 26, 2022, as part of the New York state government's response to a major snowstorm. (New York National Guard courtesy photo)

The truck got stuck, despite efforts to dig it out, but New York state officials sent plows that managed to get the man out to a hospital. He survived. But the storm has proven deadly for others; in at least one case, airmen responded to a fatality in which someone may have frozen in their car. Guardsmen worked with local authorities to properly remove the body, according to King.

With plummeting temperatures and extreme windchill, the storm has claimed dozens of lives as thousands of residents struggle to find warm shelter despite widespread power outages. Temperatures are forecast to stay below freezing until Wednesday. In one case, airmen with the 107th Attack Wing [rescued a man and his dog](#) stuck in high snow drifts on Christmas Eve. Many people were trapped in their cars after getting stuck and running out of gas.

Pfc. Matthew Waldman, who is assigned to the 105th Military Police Company, was late reporting to his unit on Christmas after stopping at a woman's house to help her deliver a baby.

Soldiers with the 827th Engineer Company are assisting with snow removal efforts in areas that need access to emergency vehicles, such as a senior living center in

Cheekowaga, a suburb of Buffalo.

On Monday, President Joe Biden declared a state of emergency in New York, a move that opens up federal resources and money for relief efforts. It is also part of a series of steps that can be taken to put Guardsmen on so-called Title 32 orders, which means the troops would be federally activated and could earn some benefits – such as retirement points – and get disability assistance and compensation if injured on duty while still under the control of the governor.

However, troops are still on state active duty, or SAD, orders. Under those orders, Guardsmen are effectively state contractors and not formally affiliated with the military on paper. They generally cannot file disability claims with the [Department of Veterans Affairs](#) or accrue key benefits such as the [GI Bill](#) or VA home loans. Guardsmen also generally do not have access to free health care while on state missions, something Gen. Daniel Hokanson, the chief of the [National Guard Bureau](#), [is lobbying to fix](#). It's unclear whether Guardsmen will be placed on federal orders in the coming days. New York Gov. Kathy Hochul's office did not respond to a request for comment.

On the other hand, New York pays all soldiers a baseline of E-5 pay, meaning privates are paid a sergeant's wage on state orders, a policy a few states have due to junior enlisted pay being roughly equivalent to minimum wage. Guardsmen on state orders [can also potentially unionize](#), as soldiers in Texas did.

It is unclear how long the New York Guard's mission will last. Most service members were activated before Christmas and missed the holiday with their families.

"I think what was meaningful is these roads were a ghost town, but people saw our military members out getting through it. We were the only ones in the street," 1st Lt. Richard Burns, who is assigned to the 107th Attack Wing, told Military.com. "People were cheering us on."

Source: <https://www.military.com/daily-news/2022/12/27/delivering-babies-plowing-snow-hundreds-of-guardsmen-deploy-new-york-buried-historic-storm.html>



MOAA Tampa Scholarship Announcement



To: MOAA Tampa Chapter members

The Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce that the MOAA Tampa Chapter will award college scholarships of up to \$2,000.00 each to high school seniors who are planning to attend college during the academic year 2023-2024. Applicants must be a dependent or grandchild of a MOAA Chapter member who has been in good standing for at least one year prior to the date of application. The selection committee reserves the right to limit scholarship awards to one per sponsor.

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

Completed applications and documentation must be submitted no later than midnight April 15, 2023 to:

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

Scholarship winners will be announced on May 1, 2023.

If you have any questions, please contact Colonel Schneider at (813) 977-2572 or via email at wajs33647@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

MOAA Tampa Chapter Scholarship Committee.

Eligibility Requirements

1. Be a dependent or grandchild of a MOAA Tampa Chapter member who has been in good standing for a minimum of one year prior to the date of application.
2. Have a GPA of 3.0 or higher.
3. Complete the scholarship application
4. Attend the May 11, 2023 Luncheon and Awards Ceremony. Attendance is required by the recipient or immediate family member in order to receive the award.

Required attachments

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

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

Submit application and attached documents not later than midnight April 15, 2023 to:

Colonel (Ret) William A. Schneider, USA
15888 Sanctuary Drive, Tampa, FL 33647
(813) 977-2572
wajs33647@gmail.com



MOAA Tampa Scholarship Application



Date of application _____

Sponsor name _____

Date sponsor joined chapter _____

Student name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Graduating school _____

College accepted _____

Academic awards _____

School activities _____

Community activities _____

Completed application and supporting documents must be submitted no later that April 15, 2023.

Famous Florida Resorts Served Soldiers in Time of War

The Breakers, the Vinoy and the Don CeSar are among others the famous Florida resorts that were training and convalescent centers during World War II.

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

—By Jon Wilson

The affluent traveler's delight for decades, the former Tampa Bay Hotel's arresting peculiarities no longer surprise leisure lovers requiring posh accommodation. Nowadays, the old hotel's minarets and domes loom over brick ramparts housing University of Tampa offices and classrooms – and the [Henry B. Plant Museum](#), named for the Gilded Age industry captain who pushed his railroad to Tampa in 1884.

Among other claims to fame, the hotel, built in 1891 for \$2.5 million, housed Theodore Roosevelt and other high-ranking officers when the Rough Riders prepared to invade Cuba in 1898. Closed as a hotel since 1933, the national historic landmark remains a destination for students and history buffs. It is one of several famous Florida resorts that served military roles and which remain in themselves popular destinations.

Two more come quickly to mind across Tampa Bay in Pinellas County.

The Vinoy Renaissance Resort in St. Petersburg and the [Don CeSar](#) in [St. Pete Beach](#) both blossomed during the Florida real estate bloom of the 1920s. Both became military sites during World War II, languished as post-war travel habits changed, closed their doors – and then leaped to splendid, new life in the late 20th Century.

Combos played "Yes Sir, That's My Baby" when the Vinoy opened in 1925. In 1942, it became an Army Air Corps training center where fledgling military cooks and bakers learned their craft.

Reopening as a hotel after the war, the Vinoy operated for nearly 30 years before closing. It became an abandoned, downtown eyesore, a mosquito breeding ground and a haven for the homeless.

But a hotel chain spent \$93-million to restore the Vinoy as a luxury hotel, and it reopened in 1992 with an 18-hole golf course, a 74-slip marina, 12 tennis courts, five restaurants and 361 guest rooms.

Known as the "Pink Lady" or the "Pink Palace," the [Don CeSar](#) opened in 1928 and immediately won a reputation as a getaway for the rich and famous, including Franklin D. Roosevelt, Clarence Darrow, F. Scott Fitzgerald and perhaps Al Capone.

As so many hotels did, the Don became a World War II military facility, serving as a hospital from 1942 to 1944, when it became a convalescent center for wounded warriors. After the war, the hotel became a Veterans Administration regional office, which closed in 1969. It reopened as a hotel in 1973 and underwent renovations that have turned it into a posh spot with a signature restaurant. The national landmark is now known as the Loews Don CeSar Beach Resort and Spa.

The swanky [Biltmore Hotel](#) in [Coral Gables](#) is another creation of the Florida boom, opening in 1926 as the Paul Whiteman orchestra played to several thousand guests. It was said to have the world's largest pool – where *Tarzan* actor Johnny Weissmuller gave swimming lessons.

The Biltmore survived a hurricane the same year, got through the Great Depression and became an Army hospital during the war. It also served as a VA center before temporarily closing in 1968. Now a national landmark, the hotel has an 18-hole golf course and its own culinary academy.

Seventy-six miles north is [Palm Beach's Breakers Hotel](#), where World War II Coast Guard Women's Reserve enlistees learned to swab decks by practicing in the halls of the hotel that railroad magnate Henry Flagler first built in 1896, calling it the



Palm Beach Inn.

Two fires destroyed earlier versions, but the grand hotel that reopened in 1926 was far more opulent than any of its predecessors. Now it occupies 140 acres of oceanfront property, offers a half-mile of private beach and boasts 25 private beach bungalows with concierge service.

Another 67 miles up the Atlantic Coast is Fort Pierce, home of the [National Navy UDT- SEAL Museum](#), the birthplace of frogmen. During the war, thousands of volunteers trained as members of Navy underwater demolition teams. The frogmen eventually evolved into the elite force recognized worldwide, the SEALs.

Lakeland and other parts of Polk County provided training grounds for hundreds of American and English airmen. The Fantasy of Flight event venue recalls the World War II pilots with restored P51 Mustangs, a Curtis TC40, a B-26 Marauder and a B-24 Liberator.

[Pensacola](#) and [St. Augustine](#), Florida's oldest cities, are troves of military history dating from the Spanish era that began in 1513.

St. Augustine's [Castillo de San Marcos](#) is among the nation's most famous forts. The city's [The Ponce Hotel](#), another Flagler creation completed in 1888 that is now the centerpiece of Flagler College, was a Coast Guard training center.

Pensacola's sites include 19th century [Fort Pickens](#) and [Fort Barrancas](#), and the [Pensacola Naval Air Station](#) is home to the [Blue Angels](#), the Navy's famed flight demonstration squadron.

Source: <https://www.visitflorida.com/travel-ideas/articles/places-to-stay-famous-florida-resorts-served-soldiers-time-of-war/>



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CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

CHAPLAIN (COL) BERNARD H LIEVING JR USA RET



As a kid and teenager growing up on a farm in the Ohio River Valley of West Virginia I used to run to get wherever I needed to go. My high school did not have a track team so I never was able to figure out if I had the speed or distance I needed to "be good." In college I had to work to help finance my expenses so I never considered talking to the track coach to see if I should even consider trying out for the team. My seminary education and working to fund it and the busyness of my first pastoral appointment never allowed running to be part of my adult life.

Then, I became an Army chaplain and my life changed. My assignment after my year in Vietnam was to Fort Bragg, NC in an airborne combat engineer battalion. Suddenly, not only was I ABLE to run again, I HAD to run. Regardless of where I was assigned during the next 25 years, I was a runner. I was not fast; I ran because I enjoyed it and I knew it was good for my heart, lungs, muscles, and physical well-being generally.

It was also good for my mental well-being. It was often time I spent in conversation with friends. On several assignments, it also allowed time for me to do sermon preparation in my head for the next Sunday's service. Most often, it was time for me to be in conversation with

God who created the world in which I was running and to whom I often needed to take a situation in which I needed divine counsel.

I ran 10K races, never being anywhere near the front of my age group. I ran the New York City Marathon in 1978 and two years later, ran the San Francisco Marathon. I was just happy to finish, especially doing an hour's better time in San Francisco than in New York.

When I retired I continued to run in Tampa, including several 10Ks on Bayshore. Then, my knees started, each in its own way, saying, "enough," and I started riding my bike. Two years after two knee replacement surgeries, I asked my surgeon if I could start running again and he said, "YES! If you want me to have to do your surgeries again." O well, I like bike rides.

The next time you see a runner on the Bayshore or wherever you see men and women out doing what they need to do for their heart, lungs, muscles, and physical well-being generally, look past the anguish and despair that contorts their faces, and celebrate that they are having the time of their lives. You may also offer a prayer for them that whatever they are dealing with emotionally or spiritually as they run, God, who loves them, will help them, offer them guidance, and give them the grace to celebrate the beauty of nature in which they are running. If you are a runner, enjoy your time out there and God bless you through the days of 2023.

10 TIPS TO HELP YOU KEEP YOUR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION

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

—By: Louise Smith

Chances are at some time in your life, you've made a New Year's resolution — and then broken it. This year, stop the cycle of resolving to make change and then not following through. If your resolution is to take better care of yourself and get healthy, you will have a much better year if your resolution sticks. Here are ten tips to help you get started.



1. BE REALISTIC

The surest way to fall short of your goal is to make your goal unattainable. For instance, resolving to NEVER eat your favorite food again is setting you up to fail. Instead, strive for a goal that is attainable, such as avoiding it more often than you do now.

2. PLAN AHEAD

Don't make your resolution on New Year's Eve. If you wait until the last minute, it will be based on your mindset that particular day. Instead, it should be planned well before December 31st arrives.

3. OUTLINE YOUR PLAN

Decide how you will deal with the temptation to skip that exercise class or have that piece of cake. This could include calling on a friend for help, practicing positive thinking and self-talk, or reminding yourself how your "bad behavior" will affect your goal.

4. MAKE A "PROS" AND "CONS" LIST

It may help to see a list of items on paper to keep your motivation strong. Develop this list over time, and ask others to contribute to it. Keep your list with you and refer to it when you need help keeping your resolve.

5. TALK ABOUT IT

Don't keep your resolution a secret. Tell friends and family members who will be there to support your resolve to change yourself for the better or improve your health. The best-case scenario is to find a buddy who shares your New Year's resolution and motivate each other.

6. REWARD YOURSELF

This doesn't mean that you can eat an entire box of chocolates if your resolution is to eat a better diet. Instead, celebrate your success by treating yourself to something you enjoy that doesn't contradict your resolution. If you have been sticking to your promise to eat better, for example, reward yourself with new fitness clothing or by going to a movie with a friend.

7. TRACK YOUR PROGRESS

Keep track of each small success. Short-term goals are easier to keep, and each small accomplishment will help keep you motivated. Instead of focusing on losing 30 pounds, focus on losing the first five. Keep a food journal to help you stay on track, and reward yourself for each five pounds lost.

8. DON'T BEAT YOURSELF UP

Obsessing over the occasional slip won't help you achieve your goal. Do the best you can each day, and take one day at a time.

9. STICK TO IT

Experts say it takes about 21 days for a new activity to become a habit and six months for it to become part of your personality. It won't happen overnight, so be persistent and patient!

10. KEEP TRYING

If you have totally run out of steam when it comes to keeping your resolution by mid-February, don't despair. Start over again! Recommit yourself for 24 hours. You can do anything for 24 hours. The 24-hour increments will soon build on each other and, before you know it, you will be back on track.

What are your New Year's goals? Share them in the comments section below, and start getting support now!

Source: <https://www.gaiam.com/blogs/discover/10-tips-to-help-you-keep-your-new-year-s-resolution>

HAVE YOU VISITED OUR WEBSITE AND 'LIKED' OUR FACEBOOK PAGE?

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

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](https://www.facebook.com/moaa.tampa)" where you can scroll through our photo albums, like and share our posts, and stay up to date on Tampa Chapter news and events.

Check out our NEW Instagram account!
https://www.instagram.com/moaa_tampa/



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

Tampa Chapter

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

2020, 2021 Recipient of the 5 Star Col. Marvin J. Harris Communications Award

Chairman of the Joint Chief's Outstanding Public Service Award

"NEVER STOP SERVING"