



**MILITARY OFFICERS CALL**  
**Sun City Center Chapter**  
**Military Officers Association of America**  
 P. O. Box 5693, Sun City Center, FL. 33571



**Volume 34 Number 8** **AUGUST 2019**



**President's Message**  
**Benny Blackshire, LTC USA (Ret)**

**NO LUNCHEON**  
 (Next luncheon Sept. 4th)

**Greetings**

This month I want to give you a report on the Florida Council of Chapters (FCOC) 2019 Annual MOAA Convention that was hosted by the Tampa Chapter at the Safety Harbor Resort & Spa. This was the third year my wife Janet and I attended the annual conference and were delighted this year to be joined by Bob and Louise Cochran of our chapter. See photo on page 13.

Each year the conference is a time to renew old acquaintances, hear from MOAA National leaders and Council leaders, and to gain new knowledge and insight on what is happening in MOAA. Here are some quick facts on the Florida chapters of MOAA. There are 42 active MOAA chapters in Florida ranging in membership from 20 members (Santa Rosa Chapter) to 1,429 members (Cape Canaveral Chapter) for a total of 6,300 MOAA members in Florida. Sun City Center Chapter is the 8th largest chapter in Florida with 187 members.

MOAA National is continuing to upgrade their image by improving their digital signature with an upgraded website (moaa.com) a new fresh look for the MOAA magazine, a Facebook page, Linked-in, and online webinars. The recruiting challenge is for the next generation of members and they are on social media. MOAA now has two virtual chapters with members spread across the country. Their meetings are online and are directed at specific groups; one for surviving spouses and one for nurses. They hope to start new virtual chapters for other target audiences, such as; aviators, Special Forces, women veterans, etc. A virtual chapter member is also encouraged to belong to a local chapter. There are lots of new things coming on the horizon.

At the President's reception on Friday night, our Sun City Center Chapter was awarded the 2018 Col Marvin J. Harris Communications 5 Star Award for Print Newsletter and 5 Star Award for Website. Congratulations to Frank Kepley (Newsletter) and Jim Haney (Website). There were lots of other information sharing meetings and once again I got some new ideas to bring back to our chapter. You will hear more of these in the fall when we start back up on Wednesday, September 4th

*Continued on page 2*

**Gold Star families who saw huge tax bill hikes could get relief from Congress**



A bipartisan group of House lawmakers is pushing for a quick fix to tax law changes that left some families of fallen troops owing thousands more to the government this year.

At issue is how taxes of survivor benefits are handled. In previous years, money given by the military to the children of troops who died on duty were taxed at the same rate as their surviving parents.

But under changes included in the December 2017 tax law overhaul, those benefits were instead treated the same as family estate transfers, which increased the tax rate from no more than 15 percent up to 37 percent. That translated into hefty tax bills for many of those military families this spring.

"Gold Star Families have already paid the ultimate price, so when a surviving spouse from Coastal Virginia alerted me to this injustice, I knew I had to fight in Congress to fix a broken system that should be working for her and her family."

The issue only affects spouses of fallen troops who opted to sign over the death benefits to their children, a common practice designed to maximize what the family may be eligible to receive.

Luria's measure would reverse the tax law changes for those benefits and be made retroactive for taxes paid this year.

Already seven Republicans and seven Democrats — several of them military veterans — have signed on to support the plan.

"Children of those who have paid the highest measure of devotion to our country shouldn't be burdened with the highest tax rate for their survivor benefits," said Rep. Michael Waltz, R-Fla. and an Army veteran.

Outside advocates like the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors have noted in recent weeks that Congress could also avoid the tax issues by solving underlying problems with military death benefits that force families to transfer everything into their children's names.

They are pushing for broader reforms of those payouts, in hopes of solving multiple issues complicating those military families' finances.

No timeline has been set for committee hearings or a chamber vote on Luria's bill.

Continued from page 1

In closing, the FCOC 2020 Annual Convention will be 29-31 May and will be hosted by the Palm Beach-Martin Counties Chapter at the refurbished Palm Beach Gardens Marriott. They are planning numerous activities for all ages: climb the Jupiter Lighthouse, kayak on the Loxahatchee River, fishing in the Atlantic, gorgeous beaches, a golf tournament, and 5-star shopping at the Gardens Mall. There will also be engaging speakers, military ball and cocktail party. Mark your calendars now and plan on a vacation for you and your spouse to the convention.

## Lawsuit filed over Bible display at New Hampshire VA hospital; uproar ensues



A dispute over a Bible display at the Manchester Veterans Affairs hospital in New Hampshire is erupting into a full-fledged war, to include close-air support and vows from both sides to trample the enemy

underfoot.

The Military Religious Freedom Foundation filed a federal lawsuit Tuesday on behalf of an Air Force veteran against Alfred Montoya, the director of the Manchester VA Medical Center, seeking the removal of a Bible on display at a POW/MIA table within the hospital. The display violates the First Amendment's establishment of religion clause, according to the lawsuit.

"The Christian Bible clearly doesn't represent all of the myriad religious faiths and non-faith traditions of the U.S. armed forces veterans using the Medical Center and to presume that it does is quite blatantly unconstitutional, unethical and illicit" said Michael L. "Mikey" Weinstein, MRFF's founder and president, in a statement.

At the center of the dispute is a Bible carried by a prisoner of war in World War II, which was added to the missing man remembrance table honoring missing veterans and POWs at the entranceway of the medical center. The Department of Veterans Affairs said Tuesday the table was sponsored by a veterans group called the Northeast POW/MIA Network.

In January, after MRFF was contacted by 15 veterans who are patients at the medical center — 10 of them practicing Christians, according to Weinstein — VA officials agreed to, and did, remove the Bible from the display.

But that brought an outcry from other veterans, who objected to the Bible's removal, and it reappeared on the table in February, this time encased in an acrylic box and bolted to the table.

## 2020 Appropriations Bill Devotes \$1.6B to VA EHR Modernization



The House Appropriations Military Construction bill for 2020 will allot \$1.6 billion to the VA EHR modernization project, up from \$1.1 billion in 2019.

VA's new EHR system will be built on a Cerner platform to enable seamless health data exchange with the Department of Defense (DoD), which uses the

Cerner-supported MHS GENESIS system.

"The bill contains \$1.6 billion to continue implementation of the VA electronic health record system," wrote the House Appropriations committee. "This will ensure the implementation of the contract creating an electronic record system for VA that will be interoperable with the system being developed for DOD."

"These two identical systems will ensure our veterans get proper care, with timely and accurate medical data transferred between the VA, DOD, and the private sector," the committee continued. "The bill also continues GAO oversight of this program to ensure that the EHR system is implemented in timely manner."

VA signed the \$10 billion EHR implementation contract with Cerner to replace its homegrown legacy VistA system in 2018.

In addition to enabling interoperability with DoD, VA plans to continually add new capabilities and EHR functionality to the Cerner system to ensure veterans, VA care providers, and community care providers have access to all health IT tools necessary to deliver high-quality care in an ever-evolving digitized healthcare system.

*Editor's note: I am thoroughly familiar with the legacy Vista A system having headed the implementation team at a Harley VA. It is an excellent system but it could not be made compatible with the DoD system no matter how much money was spent trying to do so. I am not convinced the Cerner MHS GENESIS system will be successful either. Time will tell.*

## Senate Approves Blue Water Navy Bill

In a historic vote by unanimous consent Senate lawmakers approved legislation to grant benefits for Agent Orange exposure to Navy veterans who served in the waters off Vietnam — culminating a decades-long fight for the thousands of veterans who have been denied claims of presumptive exposure.

The bill passed without opposition. Last year, similar legislation failed in the Senate when two senators blocked a motion for unanimous consent votes, the furthest it had ever moved.

*Editor's Note: And that my friends is that!*

## MEMBERSHIP CORNER

The Membership Committee Chair is providing the following to update the Chapter membership regarding our Chapter LOE & MOAA rewards. Also, this article will list new Chapter members.

- 189 Chapter members
- 112 LIFE members
- 30 PREMIUM members
- 14 BASIC members
- 29 non-MOAA members
- 4 Honorary members

New Chapter member(s) last month:  
Major George Bodmer, USA (Fmr)  
Col. Rodney Rivard, USAF (Ret)

REMINDER: The Chapter reimburses \$100 to members upgrading to LIFE when LIFE certificate is presented to the Treasurer.

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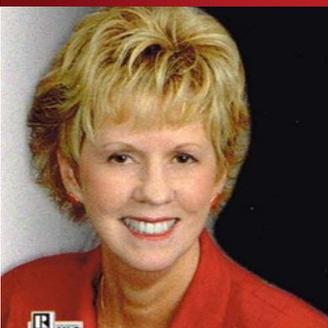
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- **Scholarships and Leadership Programs** for students from military families
- **Operation Helping Hand:** monthly support for military families of wounded servicemen and women at the James A. Haley VA Hospital in Tampa

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## Virtual reality was used to treat dementia



Patients suffering from dementia benefited from treatments that included virtual reality tours of places like a sandy beach, a rocky beach, a cathedral, a forest and a countryside. The treatment helped patients remember past experiences, reduced their aggression and improved their interactions with caregivers. The study only included a small number of patients, but the results are promising because those virtual reality environments were generic. It seems like the positive outcomes would be enhanced if the virtual environments could be customized to match places the patient actually visited.

## Coast Guard visits Philippines for first time in seven years after training in South China Sea



The U.S. Coast Guard cutter Bertholf, on loan to the Navy's 7th Fleet and busy across the western Pacific, joined Philippine coast guard vessels for training and maneuvers Tuesday in the South China Sea.

The Bertholf and Philippine vessels BRP Batangas and BRP Kalanggaman practiced search-and-rescue scenarios and other procedures near Scarborough Shoal in disputed waters off the western coast of the Philippines, the Navy said in a statement Wednesday.

Chinese coast guard vessels stood off and observed the U.S.-Philippine exercises but did not interfere, according to a report Thursday by NHK, the public broadcasting service in Japan.

The U.S.-Philippine exercises afforded the Bertholf an "excellent opportunity to compare techniques and maintain proficiency while further building upon friendly relations amongst both coast guards and professional mariners," Capt. John Driscoll, Bertholf's commander, said in the statement.

## Pentagon wants to reimburse Taliban for travel to peace talks says report



Afghanistan's Taliban and U.S. representatives have held six rounds of peace talks since October in the Gulf state of Qatar, where the group maintains a political office.

While there have been significant steps toward a deal to end the nearly 18 years of war, those diplomatic gains have come with some costs — namely travel costs for the Taliban, according to the spokesman for the Democratic chair of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense.

Kevin Spicer, the spokesman for Indiana Democrat Pete Visclosky, told Roll Call that the Trump administration asked Congress for funds to cover the Taliban's costs for transportation, lodging, food and supplies.

Spicer added that the request "would implicate provisions of law concerning material support to terrorists..." Consequently, Visclosky's committee approved a defense spending bill for fiscal 2020 that bars reimbursing the Taliban.

And as noted in the Roll Call story, the Taliban gets much of its money from opium sales.

*Editor's note: Reimbursing the travel costs of terrorists?? So we have to pay them to get them to discuss peace? That will show them we mean business! Guess the opium crop must be meager this year.*

## Sun City Center MOAA Website

Don't forget to visit our 5-star website. The link to the website is: <http://moafl.org/chapters/SunCity/> You will find much membership information, photos, calendar of events, past newsletters and more. If you would like to suggest topics for inclusion contact Jim Haney at [jghaney1@gmail.com](mailto:jghaney1@gmail.com)

## Publisher/Editor

### CAPT Frank Kepley, USN (Ret)

We need your input about member activities associated with MOAA and articles of interest to the military community. Contact Frank at:

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**VA Will Soon Let You Go to Civilian Urgent Care Doctors**



Got a sore throat or a sprained ankle and don't want to go to a Department of Veterans Affairs hospital? Got sick at 8:00 on a Friday night and don't want to wait until Monday to see a VA doctor? A new VA program may be for you.

Since June 6, 2019, the VA has started offering medical care to eligible veterans at selected civilian urgent care facilities nationwide.

This is an expansion of the VA's Mission Act, which itself was an expansion of the Veterans Choice Act. The Choice Act was passed in 2014 as the result of highly publicized problems with veterans not being able to get appointments at VA hospitals in a timely manner.

Under this new expanded program, veterans are eligible to get limited urgent care from civilian doctors regardless of how close they are to a VA facility.

**Eligibility**

If you are enrolled in the VA health care system and have received VA medical care within the last 24 months, you should be eligible for this program. However, you should contact your local VA medical facility before visiting a civilian urgent care provider. Only certain services and providers are covered under this new benefit. If you visit a provider that isn't part of the program, or you get medical treatment that isn't covered under this program, you may end up paying out-of-pocket.

**Falling Enrollment in VA's Caregiver Program Raises Concerns**



A new analysis from the office of Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash., found that more than 30 percent of individuals enrolled in VA's Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers have dropped out of the system over the last

two years, a figure she calls "disturbing."

The program provides several thousands of dollars a month to some families caring for veterans who served after 9/11.

In the last eight years, VA officials have approved more than 40,000 caregiver applications, but only 19,295 were actively participating in the program at the start of April this year. In eight states — Hawaii, Delaware, Kentucky, Maryland, Nevada, Oregon, Tennessee, and Vermont — enrollment has dropped by more than half since the start of 2017.

In a statement, VA officials disputed those figures, saying the data "includes many intervals of care, including approv-

als and/or removals and multiple caregiver assignments over time for the same veteran, so it's not the best measure of program participation."

In 2010, MOAA lobbied successfully to get the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act (Public Law 111-163) signed into law. It provides comprehensive support services and benefits directly to family caregivers of eligible veterans with a serious injury incurred or aggravated in the line of duty on or after Sept. 11, 2001. The VA Program of Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC), as it is formally known, includes education and training, respite care, mental health services, beneficiary travel, a monthly stipend payment, and access to health care through the CHAMPVA program to individuals with no health insurance coverage.

They noted that of the 8,000-plus individuals who have been removed from the program since 2017, nearly one-third have been voluntary withdrawals. The total of disenrolled veterans also includes individuals who have been institutionalized or passed away.

Last year, VA Secretary Robert Wilkie ordered a moratorium on clinical eligibility discharges and reductions in benefits levels for participants in the caregiver program after reports of numerous families being improperly booted from the program. VA spokesman Curt Cashour said that order remains in effect today.

VA Secretary Robert Wilkie said, "Caregivers make tremendous sacrifices to address the daily needs of Veterans who served our nation. These mothers, wives, fathers, husbands and other loved ones deserve our recognition and support for all they do to care for Veterans."

**VA Secretary confident his department is ready for Mission Act**



On June 6, hundreds of thousands of veterans enrolled in VA health care became eligible for new expanded community care rules, allowing them to seek private-sector medical care at taxpayer

expense. The moment has been a year in the making, and brought with it significant concerns from veterans groups who fear the massive rules shift could ultimately undermine existing VA services.

"We do expect to be ready," he said during an appearance on C-SPAN's Newsmakers program calling the change a significant moment for his department but not one that will bring chaotic changes to core VA operations. "I'm confident that our team is ready across the country ... (Most veterans) are not going to experience a great change."

At issue is the Mission Act, a focal point of President Donald Trump's reform plan for the sprawling veterans administration. The legislation — passed by a wide bipartisan vote in Congress last summer — mandates a review of department facilities, an overhaul of the department's caregiver stipend, and the community care changes.

That last section has been Wilkie's main focus for the past year, even before he was confirmed for the top VA job (he worked as acting secretary for several weeks before his nomination).

The VA secretary insists it is a transformational moment, but also one that won't turn operations at VA upside down.

*Editor's Note: It shouldn't take long to feel the impact.*

## Lawmaker Presses for Survivor Benefits for Medal of Honor Recipients' Families



The chief sponsor in Congress of the long-overdue Medal of Honor for Marine Gunnery Sgt. John Canley is backing a bill to support the families of recipients of the nation's highest award for valor.

Rep. Julia Brownley, D-California, said that, under current law, the special pension now amounting to about \$1,366 per month awarded to Medal of Honor recipients does not extend to their survivors and ends with the death of the recipient.

At a House Veterans Affairs Subcommittee hearing Brownley said she is backing a bill introduced in March by Rep. Conor Lamb, D-Pennsylvania, "to amend Title 38, United States Code, to provide payment of Medal of Honor special pension under such title to the surviving spouse" or other family members of a deceased Medal of Honor recipient.

Brownley said she was inspired to back the bill after meeting with Gold Star Mother Dolia Gonzalez, whose only son, the legendary Marine Sgt. Alfredo Cantu "Freddy" Gonzalez, died in the brutal 1968 battle of Hue City in Vietnam and was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor.

## VA, DoD Electronic Health Records Still Aren't Compatible, and Lawmakers Are Angry

MOAA Newsletter



Acting Defense Secretary Patrick Shanahan was grilled by lawmakers Wednesday on the lengthy and costly effort to develop compatible electronic records systems between the Defense Department and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

"I don't ever recall being as outraged about an issue than I am about the electronic health record program," Rep. Kay Granger, R-Texas, told Shanahan at a House Defense Appropriations Subcommittee hearing on the DoD's proposed fiscal 2020 budget.

She said a hearing last month with DoD and VA health program managers on the progress of meshing the records "was terrible."

"I can't believe that these program managers think that it is acceptable to wait another four years for a program to be implemented when we've spent billions of dollars and worked on it for over a decade," Granger said.

"For 10 years we've heard the same assurances" that the electronic health records problem will be solved," Rep. Hal Rogers, R-Kentucky, said. "It's incredible that we can't get this fixed." Veterans are suffering "because of bureaucratic crap," he said.

"Why can't we have the computers marry? Can you help me out here? Don't promise something you can't deliver," he told Shanahan. "I can't believe that we have not already solved this problem."

"We owe you a better answer," Shanahan told the committee, "and four years is unacceptable" as a time frame for

making the records compatible. He promised to help DoD "deliver" a fix.

Pilot programs to make the records compatible are underway in Washington state at Joint Base Lewis McChord, Naval Base Kitsap, Naval Air Station Whidbey Island and Fairchild Air Force Base.

The "rollout and implementation" of the fix to the electronic health records has shown promise at those installations, and the next step is to put the program in place at California installations this fall.

In the latest effort to mesh the records, then-Acting VA Secretary Robert Wilkie in May 2018 awarded a \$10 billion, 10-year contract to Cerner Corp. of Kansas City to develop an integrated electronic health record (EHR) system, but related costs over the course of the contract are estimated to put the total price at about \$16 billion.

Previous attempts to mesh the EHR systems have either failed or been abandoned, most recently in 2013 when then Defense Secretary Leon Panetta and then VA Secretary Eric Shinseki dropped an integration plan after a four-year effort and the expenditure of about \$1 billion.

## 90,000 'blue water' Vietnam veterans in line for disability benefits after Justice officials drop appeal



The Department of Justice will drop its appeal of a federal court decision awarding disability benefits to tens of thousands of veterans who claim exposure to cancer-causing chemical defoliants while serving in the seas

near Vietnam, handing advocates what appears to be a final legal victory.

In a filing with the Supreme Court Tuesday, Justice Department officials said they will not argue for overturning the Procopio vs. Wilkie decision from January which undid years of Veterans Affairs policy denying benefits to about 90,000 "blue water" Navy veterans.

Congressional Budget Office officials had estimated that awarding the benefits to the blue water veterans could total about \$1.1 billion over 10 years, but VA officials in the past have estimated the total could rise to more than \$5.5 billion.

Under current rules, the blue water veterans can receive medical care for their illnesses through VA. But to receive disability benefits — worth up to several thousand dollars a month — they must prove that their ailments are directly connected to toxic exposure while on duty.

VA officials had already begun to process some blue water veterans benefits since the January decision, and are expecting that caseload to rise now that the court decision is final.

*Editor's Note: At last, a final decision.*

### JOIN TODAY

**Not a member of MOAA? When you join MOAA, you become part of the strongest advocate for our military's personnel and their families. The stronger our membership is, the stronger our voice becomes. Consider joining today because every voice counts.**

## Former Marine, Current ICU Nurse Spreading Support for Ailing Vets

A good deed goes a long way and former Marine Dalton Rarick knows that well as he now works as a nurse inside the ICU at Unity Hospital.

He's been spending time at the hospital touching the hearts of those he shares that military brotherhood with.

Until last week no one knew that he was hanging Marine Corps and American flags on the doors of veterans in the ICU to let them know their service is appreciated and as a way to say "thank you." His efforts provide the vets an extra layer of comfort in what could be their final days.

"I did get to see the patients face when I hung the flag up, I gave him a hug and thanked him for his service," Dalton said. "I said I couldn't find him a Marine Corps flag, but I figured he was a fan of Lady Liberty. The last image I have of him is his smiling and tearing up."

That gentleman did pass away last week and his family was so grateful for what Dalton did they took a picture of the man in front of the flag before he died. This was a special moment for him because his schedule doesn't always allow him to spend time with the patients and their families.

No one knew Dalton was doing this until last week, but now that the cats out of the bag he's working to have funds set aside so flags are readily available, and possibly create another program down the road.

## A US warship hit hard by the mumps is finally virus-free after being quarantined at sea for months



A viral mumps outbreak that left a deployed US Navy warship quarantined at sea for around four months is finally under control.

US military personnel aboard the USS Fort McHenry, a Whidbey Island-class dock landing ship carrying sailors and

Marines with the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit, began falling ill and were diagnosed with viral parotitis shortly after the ship departed Mayport Naval Station in Florida in mid-December.

The Navy later clarified that affected personnel appeared to be suffering from a probable case of the mumps. By early April, the number of affected service members had risen to 28, roughly 4% of the 703 people on board.

It's been 112 days since the ship made a port call, a unusually long stretch to go without a break for the crew and resupply for the ship. Typically, deployed US warships make a port call every month.

Outbreaks of influenza and other common illnesses occur every year aboard Navy vessels, but this situation was a bit different as US troops are vaccinated against the mumps.

"It is not common for us to see outbreaks of vaccine-preventable viral infections," the Navy's Bureau of Medicine and Surgery previously told BI, adding that while "vaccines are effective at reducing the incidence and severity of vaccine-preventable diseases," the mumps portion of the measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine is only 88% effective, suggesting that a vaccinated person could still be infected.

## Trump pardons former US soldier who killed Iraqi prisoner



President Donald Trump has pardoned a former U.S. soldier convicted in 2009 of killing an Iraqi prisoner, the White House announced.

Trump signed an executive grant of clemency, a full pardon, for former Army 1st Lt. Michael Behenna, of Oklahoma, press secretary Sarah Sanders said.

Behenna was convicted of unpremeditated murder in a combat zone after killing a suspected al-Qaida terrorist in Iraq. He was paroled in 2014 and had been scheduled to remain on parole until 2024.

Behenna acknowledged during his trial that instead of taking the prisoner home as he was ordered, he took the man to a railroad culvert, stripped him, and then questioned him at gunpoint about a roadside bombing that had killed two members of Behenna's platoon.

Behenna, a native of the Oklahoma City suburb of Edmond, said the man moved toward him and he shot him because Behenna thought he would try to take his gun.

Attorney General Mike Hunter said he believed Behenna's conviction was unjustified because of erroneous jury instructions and the failure of prosecutors to turn over evidence supporting a self-defense claim.

*Editor's note: This prisoner was a known bomb maker and was thought to have made and placed the bombs that killed the two soldiers.*

## Japan-based 7th Fleet has changed since 17 sailors died in accidents 2 years ago



Vice Adm. Phil Sawyer, who was tasked with returning his fleet to a high state of readiness in the world's most dangerous seas answers questions.

*There was concern after the accidents that the demands on your ships were too great. Do these changes put you in a better place?*

If you go back to the reports in the wake of the accidents, one of the things that stands out was that ships were not getting the training and certification needed, and the maintenance they needed was getting shorted. And the reason was operations. So we don't do that anymore. We recognize we have to do a certain level of training and certification; you have to do a certain level of maintenance to be long-term sustainable. That is what we are doing now. Regardless of what they were supplying back then, now we're at the point where we make sure the ships are maintained and they are trained and certified before they go out and do operations.

To the larger point, there is always more demand than I have supply. And that has been the case since I first started in the Navy, and it's always going to be the case. I only supply that which I can supply. And said another way: We're not going to put them out there to do operations unless they are trained and certified.

*Editor's note: It would seem that until there are enough ships and crews to man them, the demand will continue to outstrip the supply and stretching the fleets operational capabilities will continue.*

## Afghan pilot training ends after almost half went AWOL in America



A program to train Afghan attack pilots has been ended after the airmen kept going absent without leave, or AWOL, while training in the United States.

More than 40 percent of the Afghan Air Force students enrolled in the U.S.-based training program to fly the AC-208 Combat Caravan, a light attack combat aircraft, went AWOL, according to a quarterly report by the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction, or SIGAR.

"The AC-208 Training Center of Excellence is designed to provide partner nations with instructional classroom activities and initial aircrew and maintenance training on the Northrop Grumman modified AC-208 Eliminator aircraft," a Northrop Grumman press release reads.

Those students that did not go AWOL were pulled back to Afghanistan to complete their training. As a result, only one class graduated from the U.S.-based program. The second and third classes will continue and finish their training in Afghanistan.

## Incoming commandant open to another gender-integrated boot camp class in 2020



Lt. Gen. David Berger, the nominee to be the next top Marine, told lawmakers during his confirmation hearing that there may be another gender-integrated boot camp class in 2020.

The first ever gender-integrated Marine boot camp class graduated on March 29, aboard the Parris Island, South Carolina recruit depot.

However, Marine officials have been murky about a recurrence of the gender integration experiment while routinely expounding that the company's integration was solely done out of efficiency because few female Marines were slated for January's recruit training cycle.

But Berger told senators on Tuesday that India company's integration "went great" and that he discussed with Gen. Robert B. Neller, the commandant of the Marine Corps, that "we have to look at this perhaps for next year."

Brig. Gen. James Glynn, commander of the Parris Island depot, told the Associated Press that the male and female recruits of the integrated company saw each other a tad more when they lined up and marched to chow and when they formed up for the day's fitness routine.

But the Parris Island commander appeared skeptical that the experiment would ever take place again.

"Our drill instructors stay with their recruits 24 hours a day, seven days a week the entire time they are there," Neller told reporters at a televised Pentagon briefing in May 2018. "So I am not considering having men and women live together in an open squad bay."

## At least 8 Marine Corps drill instructors punished over hazing claims



The Marine Corps has punished at least eight drill instructors amid allegations of hazing and abuse at a training center in Parris Island, South Carolina.

Marine officials and documents obtained by The Washington Post say investigators found multiple incidents of female drill instructors abusing female recruits in the 4th Recruit Training Battalion.

The documents say investigations into the allegations were launched when the Corps began considering more fully integrating male and female recruit training.

One instructor is accused of shoving a recruit and chipping her tooth, another is accused of forcing a recruit to wear "feces soiled underwear" on her head. The latter instructor denied that.

Spokesman Capt. Bryan McDonnell says instructors received punishments "relative to substantiated allegations." He says some officers who oversaw the instructors were also punished.

*Editor's note: And we thought the men were bad.*

## House lawmakers back big military pay raise, block plans to cut 18,000 defense medical jobs



House lawmakers would back White House plans for a 3.1 percent military pay raise and a boost of nearly more 1,500 active-duty troops but also block Defense Department plans to cut about 18,000 uniformed medical jobs under draft language in their annual defense authorization bill released Monday.

The plan, which House Armed Services Committee staffers dubbed "a focus on taking care of servicemembers and their families," follow draft legislation released last month from Senate defense lawmakers. The full House committee is expected to vote on the proposals next week, and both sides are expected to take most of the summer to negotiate a compromise bill.

If approved, the 3.1 percent pay raise would be the largest for troops in a decade. It matches the figure proposed by the administration and the one mandated by law, although military officials have pushed for reducing that federal calculation in past years to save money for other force priorities.

But they broke with military and administration plans to shift nearly 18,000 uniformed medical billets — doctors, nurses, dentists and other specialists — into civilian jobs to increase the number of warfighting positions within the armed forces.

The draft bill would prohibit the Defense Department from making any such moves until medical end strength until analyses are conducted and officials have reported back on the availability of health care services around stateside military bases.

*Editor's Note: Lets hope this bill makes it through the Senate. Shifting the docs into civilian jobs is a terrible idea.*

## Trump Gives Full Support: 'All In' on Banning the Burning of US Flag

President Donald Trump threw his full support behind a Republican senator's proposed constitutional amendment that allows Congress to ban the burning of the United States flag.

Trump praised the amendment on Twitter, saying he was "all in" on the proposal and calling it a "no brainer."

## Trump picks next chief of naval operations



The man President Donald J. Trump has nominated to replace Adm. John Richardson as the Navy's 32nd chief of naval operations is a Cold War aviator who helped reinvent the sea service as its top personnel officer.

If confirmed by the Senate, Adm. William Francis "Bill" Moran will fleet up from his position as the vice chief of naval operations to take the helm of a Navy in flux, pursuing a fleet of 355 warships during an era of increasing competition from Russia, China and other rising powers.

In a prepared statement emailed to Navy Times, Secretary of the Navy Richard Spencer welcomed the White House on the nomination of Moran, calling him "a stalwart partner and adviser."

### MORAN SELECTION UPDATE

**In a prepared statement provided to Navy Times, Moran said that he won't become the next chief of naval operations and instead will retire due to "an open investigation" into emails he exchanged with a retired former staffer "who had, while in uniform, been investigated and held accountable over allegations of inappropriate behavior." The staffer was involved in inappropriate behavior with females at a Christmas party. U.S. Navy Secretary Richard Spencer might bypass the current four-star candidates for the service's top uniformed position and instead recommend a three-star admiral. See next page.**

## Obesity Is Not a Service-Connected Disability: VA



Obesity cannot be considered a service-connected disability, according to a new ruling by the Department of Veterans Affairs General Counsel expected to be published in the April 8, 2019, edition of the Federal Register.

The new ruling, among several precedent opinions set to be included, reinforces the VA's long-standing opinion that obesity isn't a disease or injury according to the law for wartime or peacetime compensation and can't be considered directly related to military service for compensation purposes.

So why does the VA reject obesity as a service-connected disability if Medicare covers obesity treatment and the Centers for Disease Control and National Institutes of Health both say obesity is a disease?

While the VA treats obesity as a disease for which treatment is warranted, the distinction is in the words "service-connected." The VA simply does not see it as a condition that was a result of military service, and therefore for which compensation is payable.

## FDA Warns Against Use of Unauthorized Diabetes Devices

The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has issued a warning against the use of unauthorized diabetes devices,

including insulin pumps and continuous glucose monitors (CGMs), as well as other nonapproved devices and algorithms used to create systems for automated insulin delivery.

"These unauthorized diabetes management devices have not been reviewed by the FDA to ensure they provide a reasonable assurance of safety and effectiveness for their intended use. Use of unauthorized devices could result in inaccurate glucose level readings or unsafe insulin dosing, which can lead to injury requiring medical intervention or death," according to the FDA statement.

## The Navy's electromagnetic railgun may finally see testing on a warship



The Navy has spent years test-firing the railgun at the Naval Surface Warfare Center Dahlgren Division in Virginia, but conducting a tactical demonstration of the weapon from an actual surface

vessel would constitute a significant advance for the beleaguered system. Generating the railgun's electromagnetic fields requires a capacitor base that only "electric warships" like the USS Zumwalt can currently generate, as Task & Purpose previously reported in December 2017, while other surface vessels would require a major overhaul to incorporate the "pulsed-power architecture" capable of loosing off multi-shot salvos.

While the Navy NWTT EIS/OEIS appears to indicate that service may have cracked the code for power generation, the success of the railgun is also contingent on the development of a universal "common mount" for equipping surface vessels with a tactical version of the ONR prototype.

As previously reported that mount isn't just a technical challenge, but a political one: a 2016 House Armed Services Committee report noted that lawmakers were increasingly worried that changing Pentagon priorities would end up nuking funding for a mount and resigning the system to an R&D limbo of sorts.

## Paris is reopening its most terrifying attraction at the Eiffel Tower



When it comes to thrill-seeking, blood-pumping activities fit for adrenaline junkies, a visit to the Eiffel Tower doesn't exactly spring to mind.

Well, that's until now, with the city making big plans to re-open its most terrifying attraction.

The Smash Perrier Paris zipline was originally set up by the French mineral water brand of the same name in 2017 to celebrate the French open, coinciding with the 130th anniversary of the Eiffel Tower.

From June 11, 2019, it will re-open to the public. The free ride will see brave participants climb to the zipline's summit of 115 metres, and descend 800 metres of cable at maximum speeds of 88 kilometres per hour. The terrifying journey from the Eiffel Tower to the Ecole Militaire lasts just 60 seconds, but boasts incredible views of the city – are you brave enough to give it a go?

*Editor's Note: No!*

## Navy secretary may skip 4-star candidates in selecting top Navy officer, sources say



U.S. Navy Secretary Richard Spencer might bypass the current four-star candidates for the service's top uniformed position and instead recommend a three-star admiral, according to three sources familiar with the internal discussions.

Sources said former head of U.S. Fleet Cyber Command and 10th Fleet commander Vice Adm. Michael Gilday, currently head of the Joint Staff, is among the top contenders for the job of chief of naval operations.

If Spencer elevates a three-star admiral, it would be a rare exception. Adm. Arleigh Burke, who led the Navy in the mid-1950s through 1961, was elevated from a two-star to a four-star job at CNO, and is widely considered one of the great CNOs in Navy history.

Gilday, if he gets the nod, would bring valuable experience in cyberwarfare, seen as one of the foremost challenges facing the Navy as it focuses on competing with China and Russia.

The discussions come against the backdrop of a remarkable leadership crisis sparked by the stunning retirement of Adm. Bill Moran, the current vice chief of naval operations who had already been confirmed by the Senate, after details emerged of a continuing professional relationship with Chief of Naval Operations Adm. John Richardson's former public affairs officer who was investigated, but not charged, for sexual harassment.

In his Facebook posting, Richardson said that once he was aware of the allegations against Servello, "I immediately tasked the Director of the Navy Staff [DNS] to lead a preliminary inquiry.

"At the conclusion of the preliminary inquiry, DNS referred the matter to NCIS [Naval Criminal Investigative Service] to conduct a criminal investigation," he said.

"Throughout the duration of the investigation, appropriate and effective measures were put in place to ensure a safe environment for the complainants."

In a statement to USA Today, Servello said that NCIS recommended against criminal charges but his career likely is over.

## Army, Navy face big shake-up on the road to confirming the next SECDEF



The clock is ticking. The Pentagon has until the end of this month to get a secretary confirmed before Congress and the White House get involved with the Defense Department's long-vacant top job.

Following former Defense Secretary James Mattis's resignation last year, and the June nomination withdrawal of his no. 2, former Deputy Defense Secretary Patrick Shanahan, top defense officials are putting together contingencies for keeping leadership in place at the department after multiple setbacks. Best case scenario: Acting Defense Secretary Mark Esper, who had been serving as Army secretary since late 2017, gets a

confirmation hearing and a Senate vote in the next couple of weeks.

Under federal law, Esper cannot be considered for the Pentagon's top job while he serves in the "acting" role, so the plan is to send him back to the Army after the Senate announces they have received his nomination for SECDEF. Then current Navy Secretary Richard Spencer will step into the acting role during the confirmation process.

## 'Blue water' veterans' claims delayed until next year



Thousands of veterans already waiting for years for their disability benefits will have to wait a few months longer after Veterans Affairs officials announced they won't start processing "blue water" Vietnam veterans claims until next year.

In an announcement late last week, VA Secretary Robert Wilkie said the delay is designed to "ensure that we have the proper resources in place to meet the needs of our Blue Water Veteran community and minimize the impact on all veterans filing for disability compensation."

But some advocates call the move another disappointing delay for aging, infirm veterans who have already waited decades for the benefits they believe they deserve.

"Time is of the essence in this matter. Blue Water Navy Veterans are dying every day," John Wells, retired Navy commander and the executive director of Military-Veterans Advocacy, wrote in a letter to Wilkie. "These veterans have waited long enough."

At issue is a new law signed by President Donald Trump last month (and passed without objection by the House and Senate) which awarded presumptive benefits status to Navy veterans who served in the waters off Vietnam during the war there five decades ago.

## This week in Congress: The next Joint Chiefs chairman



Lawmakers return from their holiday break with a host of military issues on the docket and only a few weeks of summer work left to complete them.

The full House begins its debate on the annual defense authorization bill this week, with a host of hot-button issues like transgender troops and climate change expected to be among amendment fights.

On the other side of Capitol Hill, senators will begin the confirmation process for Gen. Mark Milley to take over as the next joint chiefs chairman. He isn't expected to face major opposition from lawmakers but could see uncomfortable questioning on issues like instability in the Middle East and the military mission along the southern U.S. border.

Officials are hoping to advance both of those issues — along with the confirmation of Defense Secretary candidate Mark Esper — before the start of August and the extended congressional break until September.

## Putin hails new Russian laser weapons



President Vladimir Putin says that new types of laser weapons developed in Russia will significantly enhance the nation's military capability.

Speaking during Friday's meeting with top officials, Putin specifically mentioned the Peresvet, the military's first laser weapon that entered service last fall.

Peresvet is a high-energy laser, whose specific data and purpose have remained secret.

It's believed to be capable of blinding enemy electro-optical devices and downing drones.

Putin told officials that some other new laser weapons under development "until just recently only figured in science fiction."

He added that such weapons "will determine the combat potential of the Russian army and navy for decades ahead."

*Editor's note: See next article.*

## Laser-armed warships no longer science fiction



The Navy has never been closer to fielding lasers and other directed-energy weapons.

Technological challenges remain, but the sea service is slated to test a 150-kilowatt spectrally beam-

combined fiber laser on the amphibious platform dock ship Portland this year.

And by 2021, the Navy's director of surface warfare, Rear Adm. Ron Boxall, intends to mount a nastier warship killer on a guided-missile destroyer.

"This is something we have to have on our ships," he told the audience at the 2019 Directed Energy Summit in Washington, D.C., on March 20.

The Navy's also moving to install ODIN — Optical Dazzling Interdictor, Navy — on two Arleigh Burke-class destroyers this year, with up to six more units on the way, according to unclassified budget documents.

Low-energy laser ODIN is designed to dazzle drones, not set enemy fleets on fire.

*Editor's note: Tit for Tat.*

## University of Florida partners with Air Force to combat cyberattacks



The University of Florida has partnered with the U.S. Air Force to create a center to better fortify *autonomous vehicles* against cyberattacks.

UF and the Air Force Office of Scientific Research (AFOSR) have

launched a Center of Excellence for Assured Autonomy in Contested Environments at the UF Herbert Wertheim College of Engineering, the school announced Monday.

The center's purpose will be to study, research and develop methods to better protect information shared via autonomous vehicles — like drones — from getting into the wrong hands, to block enemy agents from hacking into the autonomous vehicle controls and computer systems, and to build up autonomous vehicles' tolerance to cyberattacks,

said Warren Dixon, a professor at the engineering college's Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering.

The goal of the research is to assure that autonomous agents can fulfill their missions in contested environments.

Dixon said the intellectual property developed at the Center of Excellence will remain UF's property, but the Air Force, "because they're paying for it," will have free rights to it.

He said he is excited UF was chosen for the center, beating out competition from universities across the country.

## Chelsea Manning is headed back to jail — again



WASHINGTON (Reuters) - A federal judge found former U.S. soldier and WikiLeaks source Chelsea Manning in contempt of court and ordered her back to jail on Thursday for refusing to testify before a federal grand jury, a law enforcement official and her legal team said.

Manning was subpoenaed to testify before a grand jury hearing evidence collected by prosecutors who have for years been investigating WikiLeaks, and who recently unsealed a criminal indictment against its founder, Julian Assange.

U.S. District Judge Anthony Trenga sent her back to jail on Thursday and ordered that, if she does not comply with the subpoena, after 30 days she will be fined \$500 a day.

The fine would go up to \$1,000 a day if she continues to refuse to testify after 60 days, the law enforcement official and a spokesman for her attorneys said.

## Virginia town remembers the high price paid on D-Day



Twenty men from Bedford or the surrounding area were killed on D-Day, June 6, 1944. Nineteen fell while trying to take Omaha Beach as members of Company A of the 116th Infantry Regiment. The 20th man was in a different company.

The decisive World War II invasion took a horrific toll on Bedford, a town of about 4,000 at the time. Its D-Day losses were among the steepest, proportionally, of any community in America.

The dead were country boys who came of age during the Depression and joined the National Guard before the war for extra income and uniforms that local girls thought looked sharp, according to author Alex Kershaw's 2003 best-seller "The Bedford Boys."

Their time in combat was short. Among the first waves in the assault on Omaha Beach, Bedford's soldiers were wiped out by Nazi machine guns and mortars within minutes after their landing craft hit the sand.

In 1996, Congress designated a plot of land next to Bedford as the site of the National D-Day Memorial, a monument to the more than 4,000 Allied troops who lost their lives in the battle.

"When people come here, it is important to see the town as the monument itself," President George W. Bush said at a 2001 ceremony dedicating the memorial.

## The art of sucking oil out of a tanker sunk in World War II



SOUTHAMPTON, N.Y. — Work is underway to extract oil from a British tanker sunk by a German U-boat off Long Island during World War II.

A team has been at the site of the tanker, named Coimbra, since April 29 and has pumped more than 62,000 gallons (235,000 liters) of oil since May 11, the Coast Guard said in a news release.

Initial dive operations found the tanker was leaking small amounts of oil.

The Coimbra was carrying more than 2 million gallons of oil when it was torpedoed in January 1942, killing 36 officers and crew members.

It now lies 180 feet (54 meters) beneath the surface of the Atlantic Ocean, about 30 miles (48 kilometers) off Long Island's south shore.

The Coast Guard and the state Department of Environmental Conservation are working with a private company, Resolve Marine, to assess and reduce any pollution threats posed by the leak.

German U-boats sank 148 petroleum tankers and countless other ships near the U.S. Gulf and East coasts.

Some came close to heavily populated areas. The one that torpedoed the Coimbra had ventured just hours earlier along the New York City shoreline, bobbing on the surface near Rockaway Beach, Queens, and in view of Coney Island's Parachute Jump and Wonder Wheel amusement rides, according to "New York at War," a book by Steven H. Jaffe.

## Space Force: It's Not Dead, But...



WASHINGTON: It's not dead yet, but House appropriators took a stand against full funding for the Space Force which highlights the Trump Administration's shaky ground as it tries to get the new service off the ground.

The House Appropriations Committee's (HAC) version of the fiscal 2020 budget, released ahead of tomorrow's mark-up, approves only \$15 million for DoD to study the idea. No funding to create it. Not a dime.

The draft bill does not specify that no 2020 funds can be spent on the Space Force, one former DoD official who supports the White House proposal pointed out, so that leaves room for the Pentagon to reallocate funding. If it chooses to. But it will have to take that money from other pots.

The HAC members are not the only skeptics in Congress. Democrats in the House Armed Service Committee (HASC) — that has the power to say yes or no to the creation of the Space Force but not the power to appropriate funding for it — are uncomfortable with the proposal.

## Marine vet, disabled in Sangin explosion, wins \$250,000 settlement after park ranger allegedly used excessive force over use of a handicapped parking spot

In 2012, a disabled Marine veteran was visiting the Sequoia National Park in California, where he says a National Park Service ranger used excessive force against him over his use of a handi-



capped parking spot.

Dominic Esquibel said that despite displaying an appropriate handicapped marker, a park ranger didn't believe he was disabled. Esquibel wears brace on his leg for an injury from a 2011 bomb explosion in Afghanistan.

The end of the confrontation allegedly ended with the parking ranger kicking the Marine veteran's injured leg and handcuffing him.

"I'm combat wounded, and you're kicking my salvaged limb," Esquibel said he told the ranger and his nearby partner, according to the Washington Post.

A charge against Esquibel for failing to follow a lawful order was dropped, but he filed a lawsuit against the federal government over the excessive force that could result in the loss of his leg.

The Washington Post reported that Esquibel won a \$250,000 settlement from the federal government in March, as it was trying to avoid a trial.

Esquibel told the Post that he was "grateful" the ordeal was over, but that he plans to have the foot totally amputated, calling the injured foot a "total loss."

Esquibel was awarded the Navy Cross for braving machine gun fire to rescue two Marines and carrying out the body of another Marine during operation Phantom Fury, also known as the Second Battle of Fallujah, in Iraq in 2004.

*Editor's note: The stupidity that exists out there boggles the mind!*

## Soldiers in Korea are finally allowed to protect themselves from the dangerous air quality



The South Korean government puts out air quality warnings when hovering fine dust gets to dangerous levels, encouraging residents to wear masks for protection. But until recently, American soldiers serving there weren't allowed to use them. Airmen were, however, and have been since 2017.

Until now. In an undated memo posted Monday to U.S. Forces Korea's Facebook page, Gen. Robert Abrams authorized protection on days when particulate matter makes air quality index "orange" or worse, based on a color-coded scale put together by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

*Editor's Note: See preceding Editor's note.*

## Florida Council of Chapters Communiqué

June 2019 Issue

See what the other Chapters are doing. The *Florida Council of Chapter's* newsletter, the "Communiqué" can be accessed by clicking on the link below. After you click the link and then click *Allow*, it may take a minute or so for the newsletter to pop up. It is worth the wait.

Apr2014.pdfhttp:[www.moaafi.org/communiqué](http://www.moaafi.org/communiqué)

Editor—Polly Parks. Send articles and photos to:

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## RADM Silva and wife visit Normandy

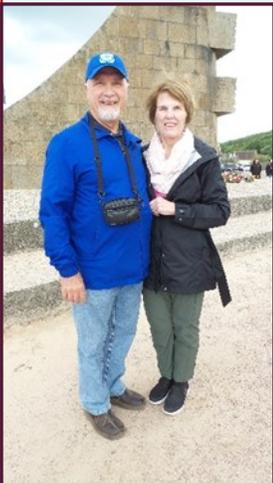
“RADM Ron Silva, USCG (ret) and Bev Silva represented the Sun City Center Chapter of the Military Officer’s Association of America (MOAA) on the MOAA National Chartered D Day River Cruise to Normandy on 9- 16 June 2019 to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the D Day Invasion (see attached photos).

The group visited both Utah and Omaha Beaches, sites of the two landings by US Armed Forces on D Day. LTGEN Dana Atkins USAF (ret), MOAA National President and CEO, laid a wreath at the Signal Monument on Omaha Beach (see attached photos).

The group also visited the Normandy American Cemetery at Colleville-sur-Mer on the bluff overlooking Omaha Beach (see attached photo) and several other monuments and museums commemorating the D Day Invasion. “The visit to Normandy was a very moving experience for all.”



Benny Blackshire—Janet Blackshire— Louise Cochran—Bob Cochran at the Annual National Convention at the Bay Harbor FL, Resort and Spa. on June 21st.



Ron Silva and wife Beverly on Omaha Beach at Signal



LTGEN Dana Atkins USAF (Ret), MOAA National President and CEO



Normandy Cemetery overlooking Omaha Beach



Wreath laid at the Signal Monument on Omaha Beach

*Editor’s Note: I have always wanted to make the trip to Normandy, but alas, I have been unable to do so. I envy all those folks who have taken the trip. My wife was able to visit Normandy when she followed our ship (Enterprise) in the Med. Talks about it every year.*

## Kelly Kowall’s story goes national

If you missed the email I sent out that contained a link to Kelly’s story about My Warriors Place, below is the link to the national program. Just make sure you have a box of tissues handy as it is a real heart-warming tear jeeper.

[Click here](#)

## MOAA ACTION SITE

I have created this box to direct members to the online MOAA ‘Take Action’ site in order to assist MOAA in achieving their legislative goals.

[Click here](#) and select the issue(s) you would like to have MOAA discuss with your representatives. Fill in the form and click submit. MOAA will send it to your representatives. You can add your own comments if you wish.

## IN MEMORIAM

No passings noted for the month of August

Monthly Member and Board Meetings

**Board Meeting: No board meeting in August**

**No Membership Committee Mtg. in August**



Chapter 5–Star  
Level of Excellence Award



Newsletter 5-Star  
Communications Award

## MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

**MOAA:** The SCC Chapter of The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) membership is granted to Army; Navy; Marines; Air Force; Coast Guard; National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; Public Health; the National; Guard or Reserve components both active or retired; and former officers and Warrant Officers who were separated under acceptable conditions.

**MISSION:** The mission of Sun City Center FL chapter shall be to promote the purposes and objectives of the Military Officers Association of America; foster fraternal relation among retired, active duty and former officers of active duty, retired and reserve components personnel of the uniformed services and their dependents and survivors; provide useful services for members and their dependents and survivors and serve the community and the nation.

**MEETINGS:** A meeting is held monthly (except July/August) in the Atrium building in the Florida room at 11:00 a.m. and includes lunch and a guest speaker.

**ACTIVITIES:** Coordinate and sponsor Annual Memorial Day ceremony; provide awards and honorariums to outstanding JROTC Cadets; contributed to Operation Warm Heart and Helping Hand; contribute to My Warriors Place; provide funds for MOAA scholarships and participate in numerous community activities.

Additional information can be obtained by calling 813-642-0801 or e-mailing [dkepley@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:dkepley@tampabay.rr.com). You can also contact us by mail at Frank Kepley, 815 Freedom Plaza Circle, Apt 104 Sun City Center Fl. 33573.



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## **COAST GUARD BIRTHDAY** August 4th 1970—229 Years old



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SELF APPOINTED TABLE CAPTAIN CAN RESERVE A  
TABLE OF EIGHT WITH A \$120.00 DEPOSIT by 30 June, 2019  
TICKETS OBTAINED FROM JOHN GLYNN  
glynstewart@yahoo.com (preferred) or call (813)260-3910**



# VETERANS HISTORY PROJECT

## PRESERVE YOUR MILITARY HISTORY .



### A PROGRAM OF THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS.

**T**his program captures through a video interview, firsthand account of Veterans who served in any branch of the US military in any capacity, from World War I through the present, and are no longer serving. Civilians who served in support of a US war effort in a professional capacity are also welcome to participate.

**3rd Friday of Each Month**  
**10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**  
**By Appointment Only**

If you are a Veteran or know Veterans that would like to share their stories, schedule your appointment now.

**To schedule your recorded interview at  
Sun Towers Retirement Community  
call 813-634-3347.**



**American  
Red Cross**



# SUN TOWERS

A RETIREMENT & REHABILITATION COMMUNITY  
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