



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



**Volume 33 Number 10** **October 2018**

**OCTOBER SPEAKER**



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

**Greetings**

Did you know that the greatest threat to our national security is a cyber attack? If you attended the September meeting/luncheon, you would have heard Col. John McLaughlin, USA (Ret), talk about cyber and what the DOD and Homeland Security are working on. This month Major Robert Ura, Hillsborough County Sheriff's office will be our guest speaker (see bio in right column). Come out to the meetings so you don't miss these excellent speakers that are lined up for the fall.

The November meeting will be our Annual Meeting at which time we will elect our chapter officers and directors for 2019. Following is a list of your Nominating Committee's recommendations, which were approved by the board at the September 12th board meeting. If anyone would like to recommend another member for one of the positions, please forward the recommendation to the board this month so it can be added to the list.

**Recommended slate of officers and directors:**

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- 1st VP - Maj James Haney USMC (Ret)
- 2nd VP - CDR Cliff Korn USN (Ret)
- Secretary - LTC Ed Mooney USA (Ret)
- Asst. Secretary - Lt Col Ferris Garrett USAF (Ret)
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- Director - CAPT Frank Kepley USN (Ret)
- Director - Jane Foppe (Aux)
- Past President. - LTC Charles Conover USA (Ret)
- Director - CDR Ed Socha USN (Ret)
- Chaplain - Lt Col Samuel Rorer USAF (Ret)
- JROTC Coordinator. - Lt Col James Warchol USAF (Ret)

In closing I want to announce that the Tampa Chapter is hosting our 2019 Statewide Annual Convention, June 20-24, 2019, which will be held at the Safety Harbor Resort & SPA. Mark this date on your calendar, as I believe this is one that you will want to attend. I will have more information in the future.



**Major Robert Ura**  
**Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office**

Major Ura is a twenty-year law enforcement veteran having begun his career at the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office (HCSO) in 1997. He has served in the patrol and motor units, and as an undercover narcotics detective.

He joined the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) in 2002, as a Special Agent, and was assigned to a Drug Enforcement Administration's High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Methamphetamine Task Force. He later transferred to the Lakeland Field Office to focus on Homicide investigations in Polk and Hardee Counties.

In 2007, Major Ura was promoted to Special Agent Supervisor over Public Integrity and Officer Involved shooting investigations. He rejoined the HCSO in 2011, and was the Criminal Investigations Division Commander since 2012 to 2018.

Major Ura is proud veteran of the U.S. Air Force and a graduate of Ball State University. He is also a graduate of the Southern Police Institute's 136th Administrative Officers Course and FDLE's Foundational Leadership Course.

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## OCTOBER LUNCHEON



John E. McLaughlin, COL USA (Ret.)  
Benny Blackshire, LTC USA (Ret)



John E. McLaughlin, COL USA (Ret)

### Col. John McLaughlin, USA (Ret) featured speaker at MOAA luncheon

John E. McLaughlin, USA (Ret), was the featured speaker at the Military Officers of America Association (MOAA) monthly luncheon, which was held at the Sun City Center, North Side Atrium Building on September 5, 2018.

Col. McLaughlin currently serves as a consultant and keynote speaker on strategic, operational and tactical C4I and cyber security. Prior to this role, he most recently served as the Director of C4 Operations, United States Special Operations Command at MacDill Air Force Base, Florida. There, his responsibilities included providing operating and defending the Special Operation Forces (SOF) Information Environment (SIE) and all SOF Networks in support of global SOF operations.

Throughout his career, John has served in several key leadership and staff positions both CONUS and OCONUS. His assignments include deployments to Iraq, Afghanistan, and Haiti in addition to forward stationing in countries such as Korea and Panama. Other assignments include: 75th Ranger Regiment, Hunter Army Airfield, Savannah, GA; Brigade S6, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, NC; Regimental Signal Officer, 75th Ranger Regiment, Fort Benning, GA; Battalion Commander, 112th Signal Battalion, United States Army Special Operations Command, Fort Bragg, NC; Battalion Commander, Joint Communications Unit, Fort Bragg, NC; and Brigade Commander, DISA Global, Scott AFB IL.

Since retiring in late 2017, John has established his own independent consulting and keynote speaking firm, IPR Consulting LLC, specializing in Enterprise Operations and defense, Cyber Security, Satellite Operations, NETOPS and other C4I related areas. He currently serves as the AFCEA Tampa/St Petersburg Chapter President, where he leads efforts to establish Tampa as a Cybersecurity Center of Excellence.

He discussed DoD's defensive posture including its existing cyber security, the DoD network and the new developments in Cyber and Space. He stressed the effectiveness and importance of drone warfare.

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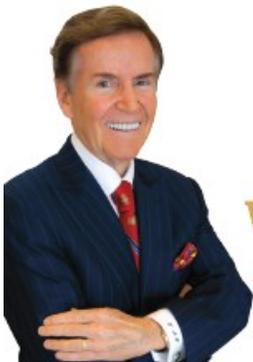


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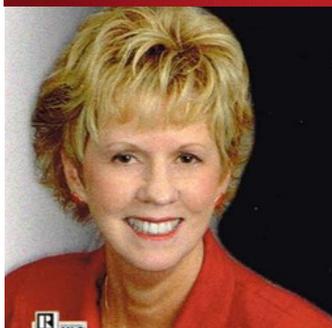
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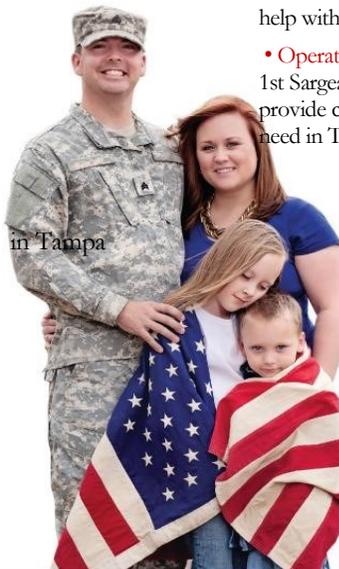


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- **Operation Warm Heart**, administered by the 1st Sergeants Group at MacDill AFB, who provide commissary vouchers for soldiers in need in Tampa.
- **Scholarships and Leadership Programs** for students from military families
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## 4 More Things to Know About the New Military Retiree Dental Coverage



As Tricare's retiree dental program prepares to shut down Dec. 31, military retirees will be able instead to choose dental insurance from a buffet of options through the Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP).

But to buy one of the plans, they must take action on the FEDVIP site during the open enrollment period between Nov. 12 and Dec. 10.

They can arm themselves with the information that is available, including both Military.com's first set of FEDVIP tips and these four helpful additions.

**1. You could have a waiting period ... or not.** Retirees who might need major dental work soon have one less thing to worry about after FEDVIP officials clarified a waiting period rule.

FEDVIP officials had announced that unless users pick a plan that doesn't have a waiting period, they could be hit with a delay of up to a year before getting coverage for in-process treatments such as orthodontia. That means that if a user has braces right now, he should select a plan that provides coverage right away, or risk paying out of pocket.

Officials clarified that those waiting periods impact only orthodontics, not other major work. That's because, they said, unlike many commercial plans, none of their current plans has a waiting period for anything but orthodontia. Phew.

They also noted that some insurers might elect to allow a one-time exemption to their normal orthodontics waiting period rules for those who had previously used the Tricare retiree dental plan. Whether that's an option won't be known until October, when the 2019 plan details and rates are announced.

**2. Make sure you know the open enrollment times.** Military retirees who want dental coverage in 2019 must pick one of the FEDVIP plans during open enrollment, Nov. 12 to Dec. 10, or risk going without next year.

Information on what the 2019 plans will cover or cost won't be available until October, officials said. That means retirees can't compare or accurately research plans until then. But if you're the type of person who waits until the last minute to take care of things, you'll want to know another important timing detail. Open enrollment is on East Coast time, officials said. That means the open enrollment period closes at 11:59 p.m. Eastern time on Dec. 10. If you're on the West Coast, for example, that's an important detail.

**3. Struggle with computers?** They'll have an 800 number. Some retirees who emailed us noted they're worried about registering for a new plan via the FEDVIP website because they rely on family or neighbors to help them with computer use. Fortunately, for those users, the website isn't the only option. FEDVIP officials say they'll release an 800 number for FEDVIP users closer to the open enrollment period.

**4. They have helpful webinars.** FEDVIP's experts said users who are having problems or are nervous about using the system should check out the webinars. Can't make the webinar time? Not a problem, because they are archived on the site.

## Mar-a-Lago group influencing decisions at the Department of Veterans Affairs.



The non-profit newsroom ProPublica reported that Trump and his White House staff allowed billionaire Ike Perlmutter, physician Bruce Moskowitz and lawyer Marc Sherman, none of whom ever served in the military, to

screen candidates for senior VA executive positions, helping to determine who got hired, promoted and fired including nominees requiring Senate confirmation.

In an attempt also to influence VA policy, the trio reportedly had daily communication with then-VA Secretary David Shulkin or senior staff, suggesting programs, particularly on veterans' health care, to carry out a White House agenda aimed at privatizing more of the medical care that veterans receive.

It was an agenda that Shulkin and senior aides had resisted, or moved too slowly on, resulting in firings, forced retirements and denied promotions.

According to ProPublica, the trio was led by Perlmutter, 75, chairman and CEO of Marvel Entertainment. Perlmutter, Moskowitz and Sherman reviewed "all manner of policy and personnel decisions," it reported. They "prodded the VA to start new programs."

Curt Cashour, VA press secretary, said the Mar-a-Lago trio only shared ideas. "These individuals are not administration officials, and have no direct influence over VA," said Cashour. "That said, we appreciate hearing from anyone who has good ideas about improving care and benefits for veterans, and talk to a broad range of people, including academics, doctors, veterans groups and many others."

Several Democratic senators and representatives, including Rep. Tim Walz (Minn.), ranking Democrat on the House Veteran Affairs Committee, have called for the VA inspector general and the Government Accountability Office to investigate the legality of any influence the Mar-a-Lago group had on VA appointments and policy, and whether laws were violated, or personal business interests advanced.

Aimed at preventing the three wealthy members of President Trump's private club from influencing decisions at the Department of Veterans Affairs, VoteVets, a liberal advocacy group, filed a lawsuit in federal court in Washington, D.C., against VA Secretary Robert Wilkie.

*Editor's note: Oh my, stand by for more disarray.*

### 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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## LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

Frank Kepley, CAPT USN (Ret)

### Wilkie Lays Out 5 VA Priorities During Confirmation Hearing

(Taken from MOAA Newsletter)



#### On privatization:

"My commitment is that I will oppose privatization," Wilkie said.

On decreasing VA wait times:

The VA Mission Act, which was signed into law earlier this month, includes a provision to consolidate several community care programs - including VA Choice - that allow veterans to see private doctors if they cannot get VA appointments. Rounds pressed Wilkie to explain what he finds to be a reasonable time for veterans awaiting care.

"It's complicated," Wilkie said. "It depends on what the veteran is seeking. If the veteran is seeking a yearly physical, I'm not expecting the VA to handle that in two to three days. Thirty days is not acceptable."

The VA is pursuing a new computer system that will help prioritize requests so veterans with dire needs get appointments faster. But it could take several years to fully integrate, he said.

In the meantime, Wilkie said he'd like to see better training for VA employees who schedule for appointments.

#### On improving rural-area health care:

For veterans in Montana or Hawaii, a trip to the closest VA facility could mean a 600-mile roundtrip drive or even hopping in a plane.

Several senators expressed concern about rural-area veterans' access to care. Construction on new centers would help, but they also need to be able to recruit and retain doctors to work in them, Sen. Dean Heller, R-Nev., said.

Wilkie agreed, and said he'd look into new incentives for medical positions.

"We have to do a better job of training doctors coming out of the military and learn how to get commitments from doctors to working with the VA," Wilkie said

#### On electronic-health records:

Wilkie said one of his top priorities is to improve access to care - and he wants to create electronic health records for patients so they can seamlessly move between providers while tracking claims and health concerns better.

"A new electronic health record system is the first thing that will modernize the VA," he said. "It will get us started to monitoring disability claims. Interoperability of new electronic system will connect the VA to the DoD and private doctors around the veteran's needs."

#### On preventing opioid abuse:

"The VA has come up ... a simple way of dealing with this: alternative therapies" Wilkie said. "The other thing the VA has done is emphasize rehab care.

"...It's absolutely vital that we stop [prescribing so many opioids]."

### Why Must Congress Lean on Veterans To Fund Veteran Benefits?

Tom Philpott



The military widows tax is also known as the Survivor Benefit Plan-Disability Indemnity Compensation (SBP-DIC) offset because these surviving spouses see SBP payments cut dollar-for-dollar by amounts they receive in tax-free DIC from VA. With Congress deciding it can't afford to end the offset, it moved last year to

make permanent, and to adjust annually for inflation, a Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance (SSIA) started in 2008 to ease the impact of the offset.

And yet to make SSIA permanent, Rep. Mac Thornberry (R-Texas), chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, said he had to find a "pay for," as PAYGO required, by reducing current "mandatory" spending elsewhere. The only such accounts controlled by the armed services committees are the retirement trust fund and another trust established in 2001 to cover medical costs for service elderly under the TRICARE for Life and mail order pharmacy programs.

Thornberry and colleagues therefore chose to pay for permanent SSIA by accepting a Senate and DoD proposal to raise pharmacy co-payments for TRICARE users, including services for the elderly. House conferees, he said, were reluctant to do it but understood the Senate's argument that higher pharmacy fees made mandatory budget dollars available to fix an issue for surviving spouses.

A similar tradeoff is occurring with the proposal to extend Vietnam-era Agent Orange benefits to Blue Water Navy veterans who patrolled territorial waters during that war. Nearing approval on Capitol Hill, this long-sought initiative has a clear path to enactment because, to address demands of PAYGO, the veterans affairs committees reached a bipartisan deal to raise fees on initial VA home loans.

Without cutting some benefits to create space in mandatory VA spending accounts, VA committees contend, they wouldn't be able to fund VA health care and disability compensation for Blue Water Navy veterans with illnesses on the list of conditions that VA presumes were caused by exposure to wartime defoliants.

Military associations and veterans' groups increasingly are frustrated by PAYGO restrictions as they fight to help currently serving military and veterans. Some contend they are being told more often than ever not to press for new benefits unless ready to identify fees to be raised or benefits to be trimmed to pay for them.

"Attaching any cost of [improved] benefits squarely on the beneficiary, as opposed to the nation as a whole, diminishes the selfless service and in-kind payments already made by those in uniform," wrote retired Air Force Lt. Gen. Dana T. Atkins, president and CEO of MOAA, to the House and Senate chairs and ranking members of the armed services committee May 9.

"This resourcing option places the financial burden solely on our nation's 1.3 percent who serve or have retired from service and relieves the remaining 98.7 percent of our citizens of any responsibility to pay for these costs," Atkins added.

PAYGO is both an ever-present obstacle for new spending initiatives, large or small, and yet it can be ignored entirely or circumvented by congressional leaders.

## Former McCain CO sentenced at court-martial for fatal collision



The officer who was in charge of the destroyer John S. McCain when it collided with the 30,000-ton, 600-foot-long oil tanker Alnic MC had his punishment doled out at a special court-martial in front of family members of the 10 sailors who died in the carnage.

Cmdr. Alfredo J. Sanchez pleaded guilty, as part of a pretrial agreement, to dereliction of duty for his role in the Aug. 21 collision off the coast of Singapore.

Ensuring the ship's safe navigation, setting a proper watch, taking control of the ship during a system casualty and following operational standing orders were all duties Sanchez failed to perform, according to the charges.

Sanchez was sentenced by Navy judge advocate Capt. Charles Purnell to a letter of reprimand and a forfeiture of \$2,000 per month for three months. He currently has a base pay of \$9,009 per month.

Part of the plea deal also stipulates that Sanchez will submit a retirement request.

*Editor's note: An all-digital Integrated Bridge Navigation System, or IBNS, was installed on the destroyer four months before Chief Boatswain's Mate, Jeffery D. Butler's arrival to the McCain, which was the first destroyer he had ever served on. He was given 30 minutes of training on the system and was then put in charge of training the crew on the new highly complex system. Butler pleaded guilty to a charge of dereliction of duty before a summary court-martial for his role in training and qualifying sailors who demonstrated that they were unable to perform basic ship-steering operations. You think? Talk about the blind leading the blind. The Navy, inexcusably, placed Butler in that untenable position and then hammered him when it all fell apart. More sequestration fall-out.*

## Bay Pines VA activates new patient ward, continues modernization and expansion efforts



The Bay Pines VA Healthcare System (VAHCS) is working to transform and improve the delivery of care for Veterans through initiatives aimed at modernizing facilities, programs and services. The work is direct result of intensive strategic planning and feedback from Veterans, their loved ones, and other stakeholders from an array of

methods available to capture, "the voice of the customer."

One such initiative is the complete renovation and upgrade to existing acute medical/surgical wards located at the C.W. Bill Young VA Medical Center.

Activation of 5D, an acute inpatient ward and now home to the stroke unit, has been completed. The newly renovated ward opened to serve Veterans in May 2018.

One of the most significant improvements at the VA Medical Center campus is the new 155,000 square foot Mental Health Center. The new facility features three patient care floors and a wide array of services for Veterans seeking mental health care. Outpatient services and residential programs located on the first and second floors opened to serve Veterans in late 2017.

Activation of the inpatient psychiatry unit located on the third floor is expected to occur later this summer.

On the north side of the campus, a new 17,375 square foot cancer infusion/chemotherapy center is currently being constructed. The new center will augment and be connected to the existing radi-

ation oncology center. The new facility will feature 26 chemotherapy stations and an onsite compounding pharmacy. Construction is expected to be completed in fall 2018.

*Editor's note: This is a major upgrade and renovation of the medical center.*

## Here's why more veterans, caregivers may get commissary, exchange privileges by 2020



Former prisoners of war, Purple Heart recipients, certain disabled veterans and caregivers for veterans are a step closer to being allowed to shop at commissaries and exchanges, and other retail facilities

on military bases, such as military lodging.

House lawmakers voted to agree to the conference report for the fiscal 2019 defense authorization bill. A provision in that bill would give shopping and some other privileges to veterans who have been awarded the Purple Heart, those who are former prisoners of war and those with service-connected disabilities, as well as to caregivers of veterans. They would also be able to use morale, welfare and recreation facilities. They would be allowed to use these facilities on the same basis as a service member entitled to retired or retainer pay. This has been included in the House version of the defense authorization bill. It is not included in the Senate version of the bill; lawmakers will decide whether to include it in the final bill.

Under the proposal, Defense Department officials will set a user fee for this population, to offset any increase in expenses at commissaries that would be paid by the Treasury Department associated with the use of credit or debit cards. That user fee would be in addition to the current surcharge of 5 percent of the commissary purchase, added at the cash register. Because Medal of Honor recipients already have commissary shopping privileges, the fee would presumably not apply to them.

"All of these people who fall into these categories are heroes, have given so much for our country above and beyond even what other service members have given. It's important to recognize that," said Rep. Daniel Lipinski, D-Ill. He and Rep. Walter Jones, R-N.C., introduced the proposal.

House and Senate armed services committees plan to implement the provision by Jan. 1, 2020.

**LUNCHEON**  
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## JOIN TODAY

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## VA's Board of Veterans' Appeals Using Innovative Tools to Make a Record Number of Decisions



Strengthened by innovative tools, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) recently issued a record number of decisions for Veterans appealing their disability benefits claims.

As of July 11, VA's Board of Veterans' Appeals has issued more than 64,025 decisions for fiscal year 2018, a record high tied to several efficiency innovations, including a new interactive decision template and a specialty case team, which have allowed the Board to serve more Veterans.

"Decisions made by the Board affect Veterans' lives and it's up to VA to keep improving this process," said VA Acting Secretary Peter O'Rourke. "We will continue to innovate throughout VA even while employing the new tools that are already making the process better for service to Veterans."

Some examples of those important decisions made by the Board include:

- Collaborating with the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), within 24 hours of a Board hearing, to begin disbursement of nearly \$50,000 in benefits to a homeless widow of a retired Veteran;
- Saving a Veteran from foreclosure due to quick action from VBA, the Board, and a local Veterans Service Organization; and
- Ensuring that a terminally ill Veteran on life support received qualifying benefits quickly after the Board was able to draft, issue and dispatch a decision-granting benefits expeditiously.

For more information about the Veterans appeals process, visit [www.bva.va.gov/](http://www.bva.va.gov/).

## Here's how state and federal authorities are targeting sham veteran charities



Federal and state authorities have put sham veteran charities on notice.

The FTC — with law enforcement officials and charity regulators in 70 offices from every state, the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam and Puer-

to Rico — announced "Operation Donate with Honor," which includes the crackdown on sham charities, as well as an education campaign for potential donors. Officials announced more than 100 actions across the country.

FTC Chairman Joe Simons announced action against a charity, Help the Vets, Inc., which was run by Neil G. "Paul"

Paulson, Sr., who is reportedly an Army veteran, according to his Guidestar charity profile, and according to an Internet Archive of Help The Vets' website. His military service couldn't be immediately confirmed. The Guidestar profile says the charity is closed.

Paulson and Help the Vets Inc. will be banned from soliciting charitable contributions under settlements with the FTC and the states of Florida, California, Maryland, Minnesota, Ohio and Oregon, for allegedly falsely promising donors their contributions would help wounded and disabled veterans. *Officials alleged that Help the Vets collected more than \$20 million from 2014 through 2017, and that 95 percent of those donations went to fundraising, administrative expenses and Paulson's salary and benefits ... not to veterans.*

Paulson also reportedly operated charities under the names of American Disabled Veterans Foundation, Veterans Fighting Breast Cancer, Vets Fighting Breast Cancer, Military Families of America and Veterans Emergency Blood Bank.

As part of their education campaign, officials are urging potential donors to be aware that just because a charity's name includes words such as "veteran" or "military," it doesn't mean the organization is legitimate.

*Editor's note: The safest way to contribute is to ignore all phone solicitations and contact the charity you wish to contribute to yourself to make a donation.*

## F.E. Warren AFB commander's removal of Bible from POW/MIA table brings praise, protests



Former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, a conservative Republican candidate for president in 2008 and 2016, called on President Trump to reverse Air Force officials' decision to remove a copy of the Bible

from a display table meant to honor prisoners of war and service members missing in action.

In recent years, the Military Religious Freedom Foundation — an advocacy group that says it's dedicated to upholding service members' constitutional right of religious freedom — has repeatedly objected to the inclusion of Bibles within POW/MIA displays at military bases and VA hospitals and clinics. The issue arose again recently at Francis E. Warren Air Force Base, near Cheyenne, Wyoming, which like many other bases had placed a POW/MIA table in its military dining facility. The tables date back to the Vietnam War.

The Military Religious Freedom Foundation petitioned the base in May to remove the Bible and replace it with a generic "book of faith" respecting all religions, according to Mikey Weinstein, the group's founder and president.

Weinstein's demand was met July 17 when Col. Stacy J. Huser, the commander of the 90th Missile Wing at F.E. Warren, alerted him that base chaplains had purchased a generic "book of faith" and would replace the Bible with it.

"It's embarrassing to the nation. We're supposed to be a nation that has freedom of religion, not freedom from religion" -@GovMikeHuckabee on Air Force replacing Bible with "book of faith."

*Editor's note: I have a feeling that this issue is not over.*

## Why the future of the Military Order of the Purple Heart is at risk



For more than 85 years, the Military Order of the Purple Heart has united veterans wounded in combat, a fraternity literally forged with blood.

The program bankrolls dozens of caseworkers nationwide and submitted more than 12,000 VA claims in fiscal year 2017, obtaining nearly \$214 million in benefits along the way, according to the non-profit.

Part of the Foundation's woes appear to be because it pays too much to professional fundraisers and gets too little in return.

The Foundation reported raising \$24.9 million overall in fiscal 2017, but the organization only kept about \$8.5 million, with the rest going to pay the fundraisers it hired, according to records.

The foundation raised \$13.7 million through a household goods donation program, but had to pay \$11.4 million to GreenDrop, an organization that ran the effort for them, according to the 2017 filing.

The Foundation at times has invested in fundraising agreements that end up costing more than they bring in, according to records

In one instance, the Foundation lost about \$193,000 in fiscal 2017 because it paid nearly \$505,000 to a company for a fundraising campaign that only brought in about \$311,000, according to records.

Top-rated charities generally spend 75 percent or more of their budget on programs and less than 25 percent on fundraising and other costs, she said.

The Foundation spends just 25 percent on actual programs, and it costs \$89 to raise \$100.

The Foundation's financial problems are not new, according to Stephanie Kalivas, an analyst with the American Institute of Philanthropy's Charity Watch, which grades non-profits on how efficiently they spend their donations.

"We've given them an F for a long time," she said.

## 'Push button' captains in the Navy now one step closer to reality (cyber experts)

The Navy is one step closer to recruiting officers with much-needed skills into the service and immediately promoting them to a pay grade up to captain — O-6 — without any prior military experience.

It's a move the Navy has been asking Congress to allow for the past couple years, specifically in the hope of adding high-powered cyber experts to expand the service's uniformed information warfare capabilities.

Despite being rocketed up the ranks, these officers won't be commanding ships. Instead, the skillful software engineers will serve the critical role of ensuring the military's ability to fight and wage cyber war, both on offense and defense.

The Navy is not only competing with Silicon Valley companies for these skills, he said, but with the rest of the government, where there is already a program in place that can pay employees with these skills substantially more.

The new wording would allow lateral entry up to the O-6 paygrade to "any scientific or technical field designated by the Secretary of Defense" that "requires a high level of skill

and that an insufficient number of officers possess in the military department concerned."

## Trump orders creation of independent space force - but Congress will still have its say



WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump appeared to sign an executive order directing the Pentagon to create a new "Space Force," a move that could radically transform the U.S. military by pulling space functions variously owned by the Air Force, Navy and other military branches into a single

independent service.

"I am hereby directing the Department of Defense and Pentagon to immediately begin the process necessary to establish a Space Force as the sixth branch of the armed forces," Trump said during a meeting of the National Space Council.

"That's a big statement. We are going to have the Air Force and we are going to have the Space Force. Separate but equal. It is going to be something. So important," Trump added. "General Dunford, if you would carry that assignment out, I would be very greatly honored."

Dunford responded in the affirmative, telling Trump, "We got you."

"The Congress alone has the power to establish a new branch of the military and to establish the positions of senior executive officials to lead such a department," said Jonathan Turley, a professor at Georgetown University's law school who has studied constitutional issues relating to the military. "While the Pentagon can informally create study or working groups, it has no such authority."

"What the President can do is to order the study and proposal for a new branch, which would ultimately go to Congress of any authorization and appropriations," he said.

## Winter is coming: Army gets closer to being able to produce ice on the battlefield



The Army is quickly approaching the clearing of another battlefield hurdle: It will soon have the capability of producing ice on the battlefield for soldiers. Ice can fill a number of roles in combat, including keeping food and liquid

cold, in addition to mortuary and medical assistance, according to the Army.

The ability to make ice on the battlefield will come courtesy of the Containerized Ice Making System, also known as CIMS. It is a container that can generate ice on demand — up to 3,600 pounds a day, provided the machine is supplied with the appropriate water and power.

The CIMS, which is a four-sided box, can open on three sides and is fully insulated in order to minimize the heat inside the unit. Ice production is also not the unit's only use, though it is its primary function.

The CIMS can be easily transported with a flatbed truck or forklift, and it was designed to be used with the Force Provider ATLAS forklift. According to the Army, it is easily deployable and can be used anywhere with the necessary water and power requirements.

## More cancer treatment options opening to veterans thanks to new partnership



Veterans battling cancer could have easier access to cutting-edge treatments and experimental trials under a new partnership between the Department of Veterans Affairs and National Cancer Institute.

Department officials say the arrangement will not only provide better health care options to veterans but also hopefully provide new advancements for researchers working on cancer treatment breakthroughs.

“By increasing enrollment in these trials, VA and Veterans will contribute to important cancer research,” acting VA Secretary Peter O’Rourke said in a statement. “This will not only help our veterans, but also advance cancer care for all Americans and people around the world.”

Initial work will start at VA facilities in 12 different states spread across the country. Officials from the institute will establish an infrastructure for the federal sites to participate in their clinical trials, while VA officials will make changes to its operational rules and goals to bring them in line with the trial work.

Department officials noted that the VA health care system already conducts significant research on cancer prevention and treatment, but face challenges linking that work to externally funded trials.

## Veterans choosing to be tobacco free



The Bay Pines VA Healthcare System offers Veterans, family members and employees several resources that can help them along their journey to being tobacco free.

“Research has demonstrated that people find the most success in quitting tobacco

when they use a combination of tobacco cessation medication approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in addition to tobacco cessation counseling,” said Dr. Candis Cornell, clinical psychologist and health behavior coordinator, Bay Pines VAHCS.

Tobacco treatment coaches at Bay Pines offer the highest level of support, education and behavioral strategies to aid Veterans in their journey to becoming tobacco free.

The Tobacco Free program meets once a week for one-hour sessions. The classes are designed to address different topics each week. Topics include overcoming triggers, altering habits and managing stress. The class also provides the necessary tools and skills to help Veterans achieve success, monitor their tobacco use and encourage setting a quit date within the first few weeks of attendance.

Motivational interviewing strategies are used by tobacco treatment facilitators during group and individual counseling sessions. These strategies play an instrumental role in helping Veterans quit for good.

To learn more about the Bay Pines VAHCS Tobacco Free program, please visit: [https://www.baypines.va.gov/BAYPINES/services/Tobacco\\_Cessation.asp](https://www.baypines.va.gov/BAYPINES/services/Tobacco_Cessation.asp). The webpage includes valuable information and tobacco cessation resources as well as information about Bay Pines VAHCS’s tobacco free policy.

## NSAIDs Plus Anticoagulants a Dangerous Combination



In a recent analysis NSAID use was associated with significantly more major gastrointestinal bleeding and more frequent hospitalizations.

Rates of MI (heart attacks) and all-cause mortality were similar with and without NSAID use.

In a time-varying analysis, however, the risk for stroke or systemic embolism was significantly elevated with NSAID use.

While ischemic stroke was significantly elevated with NSAID use, hemorrhagic stroke rates were similar. In an interaction analysis, NSAID use did not alter the ability of the anticoagulant to prevent stroke/systemic embolism relative to warfarin.

Future research is still required to investigate the effects of NSAIDs when used with direct OACs in patients with atrial fibrillation (AF).

The authors said that Doctors should tell their patients with AF who are receiving anticoagulant therapy not to use over-the-counter pain killers.

It is suggested that Tylenol (acetaminophen) could be an alternative but most patients say Tylenol does nothing for their osteoarthritis, and that’s because it’s not an anti-inflammatory agent. There is an inflammatory component in arthritis and that is what needs to be treated.

NSAIDs are known to increase bleeding risk, especially in the elderly, but the bleeding was largely thought to occur in the stomach. Now, there is increasing evidence that bleeding occurs in the intestines.

What was surprising in the study was the fact that very few patients who were taking NSAIDs were receiving a proton-pump inhibitor (PPI) for gastroesophageal reflux. That said, they only protect the stomach and do not afford protection against intestinal bleeding.

“Until safe and effective non-NSAID, nonopioid analgesics are available, we are stuck with the high-stakes, common question of how to manage patients with AF and OA,” the authors said.

They suggested Doctors should consider using a drug such as celecoxib (Celebrex), which is associated with less bleeding and does not decrease platelet function but still has anti-inflammatory properties,

*Editor’s Note: I have AF and have been taking Ibuprofen and a PPI for several years. I did in fact develop gastric bleeding and had to switch to Tylenol. The authors are recommending Celebrex, but beware, there are many side effects attributed to this drug. The association with strokes when using an anticoagulant and a NSAID noted in this study is certainly alarming.*

## Survey: 49% of US adults worry about health care data security

Forty-nine percent of more than 2,000 US adults polled said they were extremely or very concerned about the security of their health data, such as health history, diagnoses and test results, according to a survey conducted by The Harris Poll for health care marketing firm Scout. Researchers also found that 47% of US adults who do not use an online health portal to access their personal information prefer discussing their health in person.

## VA and IBM Watson Health Extend Partnership to Support Veterans With Cancer



The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and IBM Watson Health announced the extension of a public-private partnership to apply artificial intelligence (AI) to help interpret cancer data in the treatment of Veteran patients.

First announced two years ago as part of the National Cancer Moonshot Initiative, VA oncologists have now used IBM Watson for Genomics technology to support precision oncology care for more than 2,700 Veterans with cancer.

Precision oncology is the practice of biologically directed cancer care. For example, the mutations in a cancer's genome (the cancer's DNA) can significantly impact the treatment options available to treat that cancer and the likely outcomes after treatment. By knowing the cancer genome, oncologists and patients are able to choose therapies that specifically target the patient's cancer.

VA's precision oncology program primarily supports stage 4 cancer patients who have exhausted other treatment options. The partnership extension with IBM will enable VA oncologists to continue using Watson for Genomics through at least June 2019.

## Synthetic Cannabis Laced With Rat Poison a Risk to US Blood Supply, FDA Warns



Illegal synthetic cannabis products laced with rat poison continue to be sold in the United States and pose a significant health risk not only to people who use these products but also the US blood supply,

the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) said this week in an update on the ongoing problem.

Hundreds of people in about 10 states have been hospitalized with serious and sometimes fatal bleeding linked to use of synthetic cannabinoids laced with brodifacoum, a highly lethal long-acting vitamin K antagonist anticoagulant commonly used in rat poison, the agency said on July 19.

For months, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the FDA have been warning about the dangers of illegal synthetic cannabis products that are sold under names such as K2 and Spice in convenience stores and gas stations.

The effects of brodifacoum are treatable, and the FDA said people who use synthetic marijuana products should be vigilant for signs of bleeding and should seek immediate medical attention. "Standard coagulation tests, such as the prothrombin time, can be dramatically elevated in these settings, and prompt treatment with high doses of vitamin K and other supportive care can potentially be life-saving," they add.

## CVS Health Highlights Latest Accomplishments of Opioid Abuse Prevention Programs

CVS Caremark, the company's pharmacy benefit management (PBM) business, has implemented criteria to help adopting clients manage opioid utilization in a manner consistent with the Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The CDC-aligned criteria offered by CVS Caremark include covering a 7-day supply of opioid therapy, or less, for patients new to opioid therapy with an acute condition. For clients adopting this utilization management criteria, the number of prescriptions covered for more than a 7-day supply decreased by 71.9 percent. Among those clients, the number of prescriptions covered for a 7-day supply or less is now 94.3

percent.

Additionally, following work to enhance counseling for retail pharmacy patients new to an opioid prescription, CVS Pharmacists have counseled nearly 3 million patients about recommendations for safe opioid use and the dangers of addiction over the past five months. These recommendations align with the CDC Guideline, instructing patients about using the lowest effective dose for the shortest possible duration, understanding the risk of dependence, keeping medications secure in the home and methods of proper disposal of unused medication.

CVS Pharmacy has also implemented an industry-leading program to increase access to the opioid overdose-reversal drug naloxone in 47 states. In those states, the life-saving medication is available to patients at CVS Pharmacy locations, without an individual prescription. Following the Surgeon General's Advisory on Naloxone and Opioid Overdose issued in April 2018, the company has further expanded its ongoing efforts to educate patients about naloxone. As part of this campaign, all CVS Pharmacy locations now have in-store signage and in-store radio messages to educate patients about the availability and accessibility of the life-saving drug.

## Walgreens launches 'Find Care Now,' a digital platform for connecting customers to healthcare providers



Walgreens Boots Alliance has launched a new digital platform, available through its mobile app and website, called Find Care Now. The service is designed to be a way to connect customers to a range of healthcare providers that Walgreens has partnered with, including telemedicine companies, digital-enabled house call companies, and more traditional providers.

Seventeen partners are going to be available at the platform's launch. The list includes just one generalist telemedicine service; MDLive, which has worked with Walgreens for the last four years.

"Through its Find Care Now initiative, Walgreens and MDLive are transforming the role of retail pharmacy in delivering convenient, affordable healthcare," Rich Berner, CEO of MDLive, said in a statement emailed to MobiHealthNews. "We are proud to partner with the nation's most visionary retail pharmacy in bringing affordable virtual care to nearly every home throughout America."

Other than LabCorp, the rest of the list is brick and mortar providers like Advocate Health Care in Chicago, NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital in New York City, Providence St. Joseph Health in Portland, Oregon, and several more, with additional partnerships in the works.

The app itself automatically filters by location and allows the patient to filter by condition or complaint. (That feature is available online and is coming soon to the app).

*Editor's note: And the ever changing face of medicine marches on.*

## National World War I memorial a step closer to reality



A century after the first world war, a project to build a national World War I memorial has taken a significant step forward.

The latest design concept for the memorial has been approved by the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts, according to an announcement Thursday from the World War I Centennial Commission.

Plans call for the memorial to be built at Pershing Park along Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, D.C., by 2020.

Illustrations of the planned memorial feature a long stone wall with figures of troops leaving their families, fighting and falling in combat, suffering wounds and ultimately returning. The plan shows the structure in a wooded park setting with a reflecting pool.

Designs for the memorial got a unanimous vote during a presentation Thursday by the commission's project team. The project was presented to CFA, the National Park Service and the National Capital Planning Commission.

"We will continue to push forward in this effort. Our veterans deserve our best effort, and we owe it to them," said WWI Centennial Commission chair Terry Hamby in a release.

A memorial to the war already exists on the National Mall, a small structure with columns supporting a dome, placed by the citizens of the District of Columbia in the 1930s. But a national World War I memorial was never built, while the nation's World War II memorial opened in 2004, and the site for the Desert Storm memorial was approved last month.

## No space force for Trump in big Pentagon policy bill

Defense News

U.S. President Donald Trump wants a new military "Space Force," but Congress isn't ready for blast off.



The Senate and House did come together Monday on a \$716 billion defense authorization report that could set the stage for a sixth military service dedicated to space. It would create a sub-unified command for space under Nebraska-based U.S.

Strategic Command, whose main mission is to oversee the military's nuclear arsenal.

"You could view this as some of the preparatory work. They're trying to get the Air Force in better shape to spin off its space forces," said Todd Harrison, director of the aerospace security project at the Center for Strategic and

International Studies.

"What they're not doing is trying to integrate space forces across the military. The only way to really do that would be to actually set up a separate department," Harrison said, adding that the Air Force's space forces are outnumbered by the combined space forces of the other services.

A House-proposed requirement to establish a new numbered Air Force dedicated to space war fighting was dropped, likely to compromise with members of the Senate Armed Services Committee, where the idea of a separate service was largely met with skepticism, if not opposition.

## Military services to work together to speed hypersonic weapon development



The U.S. military's services will work together to boost development of ultra-high-speed weapons capable of penetrating the most advanced air-defense systems in the world, said Air Force Secretary Heather Wilson.

Wilson, Army Secretary Mark Esper and Navy Secretary Richard Spencer signed an agreement in recent weeks to co-develop a prototype hypersonic missile, Wilson told an audience at the Washington Post. The Pentagon has worked for more than a decade to design and build hypersonic weapons capable of traveling in excess of Mach 5, or five times the speed of sound.

Wilson said she believes by working with the other military services, a prototype weapon could be tested by 2020 or 2021, significantly earlier than Pentagon officials had previously publicly said such a trial would be expected.

Hypersonic weapons are among the Pentagon's top development priorities, as outlined in Defense Secretary Jim Mattis' National Defense Strategy, which was released earlier this year. The new strategy places the threats posed by near-peer adversaries such as Russia, China, North Korea and Iran ahead of terrorists groups. Those threats create the need to develop modern weaponry.

## Air Force zeroing in on cause of T-6 hypoxia problem



JB SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, Texas — Since late last year, a rash of unexplained physiological events such as hypoxia has caused dangerous breathing problems for pilots of T-6 Texan II

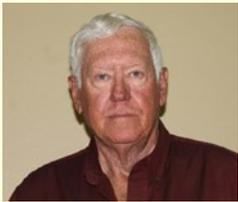
training aircraft, and led to multiple groundings.

But now, the Air Force is finding more clues, and coming closer to solving the problem once and for all, said Lt. Gen. Steven Kwast, head of Air Education and Training Command.

"Within the next couple of months, you're going to see some communication from [the safety investigation board at Edwards Air Force Base in California], that they are starting to really discover the root cause here," Kwast said in a July 23 interview at his office here. "We're finding insights that we did not know before, that will help us understand what's going on and give us a pathway to solving the problem permanently. We're getting close, and you should see something soon."

## Member of the Month

### William Cunningham, LTC, USA (Ret)



LTC William R. Cunningham, Ret.  
(Nickname, Ted)  
Born February 22, 1942, Portland,  
Maine.  
Graduated Wofford College, Sparten-  
burg, SC, 1964.  
US Army, 1965-1989, Military Police  
Corps.

Chief of Police, Director of Public Safety, Fitchburg State Univer-  
sity, Fitchburg, Massachusetts. 1990-2000.

Vietnam, 1965.1970.

Married, Mary Lou Webb Cunningham. Two sons, three Grand-  
children.

Relocated from New Hampshire February 2016. Happy to be  
here!

### 'A trailblazer to the end: The Navy's first female admiral passes away at 98



The Navy's first female admiral, retired Rear Adm. Alene B. Duerk, passed away Saturday at the age of 98.

Born in Defiance, Ohio, in 1920, Duerk joined the U.S. Naval Reserve as an ensign in 1941 after completing nursing training at the

Toledo Hospital School of Nursing, a Navy release said.

Her initial tours were spent as a ward nurse at Naval Hospital Portsmouth, Virginia, Naval Hospital Bethesda, Maryland, and at sea aboard the USS Benevolence, a Navy hospital ship. During that 1945 at-sea tour, Duerk would provide aide to wounded personnel returning from World War II and the fight against Japan.

The crew of the Benevolence also assisted in repatriating recently-liberated allied prisoners of war, the release said.

"The time I was aboard the hospital ship and we took the prisoners of war, that was something I will never forget," Duerk said years later. "That was the most exciting experience of my whole career."

Duerk was released from active service in 1946 but returned in 1951 as a nursing instructor at the Naval Hospital School in Portsmouth. She would spend the next 20 years in hospitals in San Diego and Yokosuka, Japan, and in recruiting stations in Chicago and Washington.

In 1970, Duerk was appointed as the director of the Navy Nurse Corps, where she helped expand Navy medical capabilities in anesthesia, pediatrics, obstetrics, gynecology and ambulatory care.

President Richard Nixon approved Duerk's selection to rear admiral in 1972, making her the first woman to be selected for a flag rank.

### Some veterans with symptoms of TBI excluded from VA coverage



Standard VA questionnaires to diagnose traumatic brain injury do not cover noncombat use of heavy weapons, leaving some veterans with TBI symptoms but without a diagnosis ineligible for VA benefits to cover care. Ongoing studies might confirm a link

between TBI and heavy weapons use in training, making more veterans eligible for coverage, says Dr. Joel Scholten, associate chief of staff for rehabilitation services at the Washington, D.C., VA Medical Center.

the Department of Veterans Affairs doesn't have a category for vets who may have sustained traumatic brain injuries from training rather than combat.

### Veterans seeking marijuana for medical use must go around VA



Many states have legalized marijuana and cannabis-based products for medical use, but veterans who want to use medical marijuana must go outside the VA system to obtain it. A bipartisan House bill would order the VA to study the drug's

efficacy and safety for treating PTSD and chronic pain, potentially resulting in rule changes that would allow VA doctors and clinics to prescribe medical marijuana.

The department has largely said no to medical marijuana, citing federal law. It won't recommend cannabis products for patients, and for the most part it has declined even to study their potential benefits. That puts the department out of step with most of the country, where at least 30 states now have laws that allow the use of medical marijuana in some form.

Congress is now considering changing that. A bipartisan bill introduced in the House of Representatives this spring would order the department to study the safety and efficacy of marijuana for treating chronic pain and PTSD. If the bill passes, the department could not only develop expertise about a drug that many veterans have turned to on their own — it may also start down the road toward eventually allowing its doctors and clinics to prescribe cannabis.

*Editors note: As usual, the VA is having to play catch-up.*

### Marine, former infantry commander, to take helm of U.S. Central Command

Marine Corps Lt. Gen. Kenneth F. McKenzie Jr. has been nominated to take over U.S. Central Command and appointment to a fourth star, according to a Department of Defense Posting on Wednesday.

McKenzie is currently serving as the director, Joint Staff in Washington, D.C.

The former Marine infantry commander led Marines in Iraq from 2005-2006, and Afghanistan in 2004, as commander of the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit, according to his official military bio.

He has served with the Joint Staff since January 2015, and became director of the Joint Staff in July 2017.

### Florida Council of Chapters Communiqué August 2018 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/communique](http://www.moaafi.org/communique)

Editor—Polly Parks. Send articles and photos to:

Polly Parks [pparks@igc.org](mailto:pparks@igc.org)

## SEAL Medal of Honor Memorial destroyed



In an early morning arrest, authorities nabbed a New York teen they believe destroyed the Lt. Michael P. Murphy Memorial.

Fourth Squad detectives from the Suffolk County Police took the unnamed 14-year-old boy into custody at his Ronkonkoma home, according to a statement released to Navy Times by Police Commissioner Geraldine Hart.

He was charged with Criminal Mischief in the 2nd Degree and will be arraigned at Suffolk County Family Court in Central Islip at a later date, she added.

Because he's a juvenile, officials declined to identify the suspect. He's accused of smashing the memorial into a dozen shards at Lt. Michael P. Murphy Memorial Park in the Long Island community of Lake Ronkonkoma.

Although a \$2,500 reward was offered through Crime Stoppers for information leading to his arrest, detectives didn't identify the suspect through a tip, officials said.

Murphy, a member of SEAL Delivery Vehicle Team 1, posthumously received the Medal of Honor — America's highest award for battlefield bravery — for his gallantry near Asadabad in Afghanistan's Konar Province during Operation Red Wings in 2005

## VA officials push back on Congress' blue water Navy benefits fix



Veterans Affairs officials strongly opposed legislative plans to extend disability payouts to roughly 90,000 veterans who claim exposure to Agent Orange during the Vietnam War, saying the move could set a problematic precedent for future benefits awards.

"The science is not there, and what we do depends upon science," said Paul Lawrence, under secretary for benefits at the Department of Veterans Affairs.

But advocates for so-called "blue water Navy" veterans argued that VA officials are willfully ignoring an abundance of evidence showing veterans' exposure to toxic chemicals, and demanding evidence that could only have been collected more than four decades ago.

"These people were exposed, how much they were exposed doesn't make a difference," said Rick Weidman, executive director at the Vietnam Veterans of America. "And you can't put that all together 40 years later."

At issue is a change in VA policy 15 years ago that excluded veterans serving on ships off the coast of Vietnam — known as "blue water Navy veterans" — from being in-

cluded in a class of former service members presumed to be exposed to Agent Orange.

For troops who served on the ground or in inland rivers, exposure to the chemical defoliant is assumed, which speeds up the medical and disability benefits process when those veterans later contract a host of illnesses related to chemical contamination.

But the blue water veterans still must prove they were directly exposed to Agent Orange for their illnesses to be labeled as service-connected.

The House passed the bill on June 25 and several lawmakers have pushed for quick passage of the House measure, but Isakson appears opposed to that idea.

That likely means several more months of waiting before any resolution on the legislation. The Senate is scheduled to go on recess before working on nominations issues and both chambers will break again in October in advance of the November mid-term elections.

## Senate passes \$675 billion defense budget bill hoping to avoid funding lapse next month

WASHINGTON — Senators advanced an \$857 billion appropriations measure that includes full defense funding for fiscal 2019 and raises hopes that Congress may be able to avoid a government shutdown or short-term budget extension for Pentagon programs this fall.

The measure, which passed 85-7, includes money for the departments of defense, health and human services, labor and education. The so-called "minibus" of appropriations bills was touted by Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., as making America "stronger overseas and right here at home."

### Sun City Center MOAA Website

Don't forget to visit our new website. The link to the website is: <http://moaaf.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 [jhhaney1@gmail.com](mailto:jhhaney1@gmail.com)

IN MEMORIAM

**NO REPORTED DEATHS THIS MONTH**

Monthly Member and Board Meetings

**Luncheon: Wednesday Oct. 3rd, 2018 11:00 am**

**Florida Room**

**Board Meeting: Wednesday Oct. 10th, 2018 10:00 am—Trinity Baptist Church**

**Membership Committee Mtg. Club Renaissance**

**3rd Wednesday Oct. 17th, 2018**



## 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.



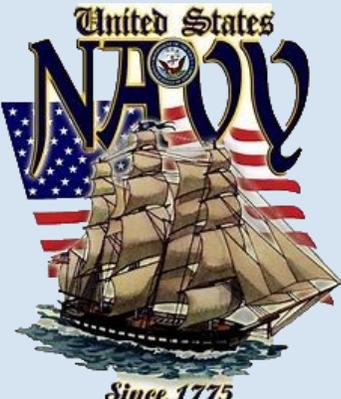
Sun City Center Chapter  
Military Officers Association of America  
P.O. Box 5693  
Sun City Center, FL. 33571-5693

Place Stamp  
Here.

Or Current Resident

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY NAVY**

**OCTOBER 13, 1775 243 YEARS OLD**



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# 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**

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THE MILITARY ORDER OF THE WORLD WARS (MOWW)  
INVITES YOU TO OUR ANNUAL



SUN CITY CENTER  
VETERANS DAY  
MILITARY BALL

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10th, 2018  
4:30 P.M. UNTIL 9 P.M.

THE BALL WILL FEATURE A PATRIOTIC PROGRAM  
HORS D'OEUVRES - A SERVED DINNER  
ENTERTAINMENT AND DANCING

BYOB (GLASSES AND ICE PROVIDED)

*THERE WILL BE A GIFT FOR EVERYONE*

SUN CITY CENTER COMMUNITY HALL  
1910 S. PEBBLE BEACH BLVD.

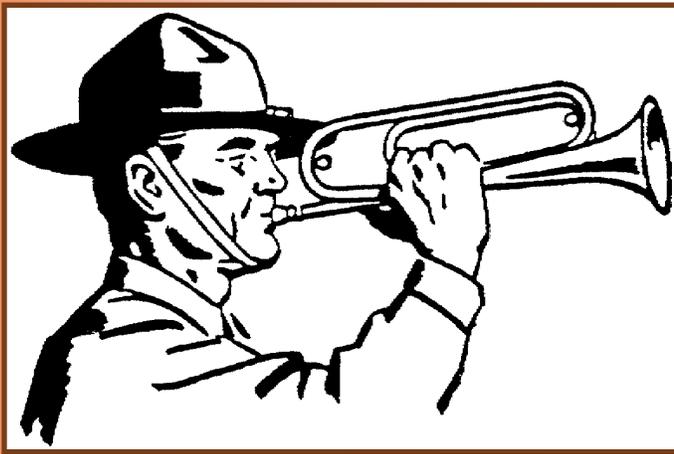
**OPEN TO ALL - NO MILITARY SERVICE REQUIRED**  
FORMAL DRESS ENCOURAGED - MILITARY, BLACK TIE ,  
DARK BUSINESS SUIT

**\$60.00 PER PERSON - CHECKS PAYABLE TO MOWW**  
SELF APPOINTED TABLE CAPTAIN CAN RESERVE A  
TABLE OF EIGHT WITH A \$120.00 DEPOSIT  
TICKETS OBTAINED FROM JOHN GLYNN

# *Veterans Day*

## **Ceremony**

**Friday November 9<sup>th</sup>**



**Formalities at  
2:00 p.m.  
in the CA  
Community Hall  
1910 South Pebble  
Beach Blvd.**

## **A Public Tribute to All Military Veterans**

**Master Chief Hospital Corpsman, Walter E. Raysick,  
US Navy, Retired, will be guest speaker**

**A Musical Interlude will be presented by the  
Trinity Singers directed by Rev. James Feist**

**Presentation of Colors will be conducted by the  
Lennard High School Army JROTC Color Guard**

**Guests are requested to be seated by 1:45 p.m.**

**Sponsored by the Combined Military Veterans Organizations of Sun City Center**