



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



Volume 35 Number 9 **SEPTEMBER 2019**



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

WELCOME BACK! Can you believe summer is over and it's time to get together again? While I missed all the good things that our chapter meetings offer, it was nice to have a little break for the summer. One of the first things for your chapter officers and board members to consider is the nomination of members to serve next year. If you are interested in serving your chapter in any capacity please contact myself, Jim Haney, or any officer or board member with your interest so you can be a part of "Never Stop Serving".

I look forward to seeing each of you at our next meeting on Wednesday, September 4th. Our guest speaker will be CAPT. William F. Stoehs, USN (Ret) - see bio opposite this column. Bill is a dynamic speaker and has been a regular speaker at Memorial Day events, Veteran Day events, and JROTC events. Mark your calendar and plan on renewing many friendships and making some new ones. Of course, the catered lunch will be excellent as usual. Don't forget to help keep our chapter strong by inviting a friend or a new prospect. You are our best recruiters as you meet new people coming into the community, and when you hear they have served as an officer, invite them to come for a FREE lunch and an opportunity to join our chapter.

Have you seen the latest fresh look of the MOAA magazine or the MOAA website? Col. Dan Merry, USAF (Ret), Vice President for Government Relations, is asking all MOAA members to support MOAA National in taking action to "End the Widows Tax" and "Protect Military Medicine" initiatives. Check out the latest edition of the MOAA magazine or sign on to the MOAA website to see how you can EASILY support these important issues. It only takes a few minutes and 300,000 emails or letters make an impact on our congress people serving us. Let your voice be heard!

Last month I told you about the Florida Council of Chapters (FCOC) 2020 Annual Convention. It 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. Benny

SEPTEMBER SPEAKER

William F. Stoehs, CAPT USN (Ret)



Bill was born in Brooklyn, NY and grew up in the northern New Jersey town of Rutherford. After receiving his BBA degree in Business Management from Lamar University, he attended Navy OCS in Newport, RI. Upon commissioning, he served 2½ years as a deck officer and OOD on fleet Oiler, USS Kaskaskia (AO-27) in the Mediterranean and the Caribbean Sea. When his ship was decommissioned, Bill received river boat training and was sent to the Mekong Delta area of Vietnam.

He served with River Assault Division 153 as Senior Patrol Officer and later as Commanding Officer. Bill also served as Senior Advisor to a Vietnamese Navy unit, River Interdiction Division 48.

Upon returning home, Bill met his wife Cathy, and they had 4 children. Bill continued in the Naval Reserve for the next 20 years. Assignments included work with the Military Sealift Command and the Joint Chiefs at the Pentagon. He also completed the Strategy & Policy program at the US Naval War College.

He retired as a Navy Captain in 1992. Bill's personal experiences were highlighted in "Welcome Home/A Monument of Honor" a book written by Ross Lewis dedicated to the honor of Vietnam Veterans.

On the civilian side, after earning his MBA degree, Bill was an executive in the technology sector working for companies such as AT&T and Sprint. Bill also served on two business boards, a national non-profit board and Florida state boards for two Governors. Bill also is a regular speaker at Memorial Day and Veteran's Day events and for Junior ROTC units.

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Beverages: Decaf Coffee, Iced Tea, and Ice Water

Legion wins Bladensburg Memorial Supreme Court case



The Bladensburg World War I Veterans Memorial isn't going anywhere. In a landmark victory for The American Legion, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled 7-2 on June 20 that the 40-foot memorial can remain on public land

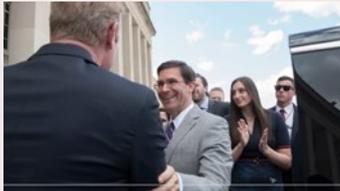
in Prince George's County, Md., where it has stood since 1925.

"This was not just about a single cross," American Legion National Commander Brett Reistad said. "This was about the right of a community to honor its fallen heroes. And that's why the World War I veterans of Bladensburg sacrificed their lives, to protect the freedom of others."

For decades, the memorial stood peacefully until the American Humanist Association (AHA) filed suit, claiming the memorial violated the First Amendment. The Bladensburg memorial was funded privately and the property where it stands was in private hands when it was erected. However, now it sits on land owned by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, a governmental agency.

"The American Legion does not consider these crosses, which honor so many veterans, to be religious memorials," Reistad explained. "But even if it were, freedom of religion is also a cherished right protected by our First Amendment. Americans can feel more confident today that veterans memorials, cemetery headstones and patriotic monuments throughout our country are safer as a result of this ruling."

Trump announces intent to nominate Mark Esper as new Secretary of Defense



The White House announced that President Donald Trump intends to nominate Army Secretary Mark Esper to be the next Secretary of Defense.

The announcement comes just days after President Donald Trump tweeted that Esper would be Acting Defense Secretary, as Patrick Shanahan withdrew his nomination. Esper officially took over as Acting SecDef on Monday, June 24th.

Because of the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, once Esper is nominated he will have to step aside as the acting secretary while his nomination is being considered; Navy Secretary Richard Spencer will likely take over as the acting secretary. McCarthy, how-

ever, will be able to serve as the acting Army secretary while his nomination is underway.

Future Newsletter changes

Because there are many sources of information that I find difficult to synopsise due to their large content that I feel might be of interest to the membership, I have decided to create a link to the article or information that will take you directly to the item in question. It will provide all of the information and will take up much less space in the newsletter. See page 7 information on the 'Aid and Attendance Pension Program'. I have also used this process with large amounts of MOAA information. I will however, continue to summarize the articles or information whenever possible. Any feed-back on the change is welcome.

For You History Buffs

This [Click here](#) link will take you to what I consider to be an excellent WWI discussion about the battle between the German and British Navies.

Trump OKs letting academy athletes play pro sports



Cadets and midshipmen attending service academies or earning a commission through ROTC will be able to pursue professional sports careers again under a new policy President Trump has announced.

The Defense Department has four months to put together a waiver directive that would give student athletes a path to defer their five-year service obligations if they are picked up in a draft, according to a memo from the White House.

"As I recently stated, these student-athletes should be able to defer their military service obligations until they have completed their professional sports careers," Trump wrote. "Such cadets and midshipmen have a short window of time to take advantage of their athletic talents during which playing professional sports is realistically possible."

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.

- 202 Chapter members
- 120 LIFE members
- 32 PREMIUM members
- 17 BASIC members
- 29 non-MOAA members
- 4 Honorary members

No New Chapter member(s) last month:

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

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.

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LTC Benny Blackshire, USA (Ret).....	260-3105 bwblacks@aol.com
1st VP	
MAJ James Haney, USMC (Ret).....	220-8758 jhaney1@gmail.com Membership Chairman
2nd VP	
CDR Cliff Korn USNR (Ret).....	532-0913 cliff@kornhouse.net
SECRETARY	
LTC Ed Mooney, USA (Ret).....	751-6844 edmlc@yahoo.com
ASSISTANT SECRETARY	
Lt Col Ferris Garrett, USAF (Ret).....	841-0532 garrett4@tampabay.rr.com
TREASURER	
1st Lt Bob Cochran USA (Fmr).....	677-2606 boblo15@msn.com
ASSISTANT TREASURER	
D. Kay Benson (Aux).....	938-3030 mamby45@hotmail.com
DIRECTOR	
LT Dave Floyd, USN (Fmr).....	334-7797 DavidFloyd2012@yahoo.com
DIRECTOR	
Doris Glass (Aux).....	642-0497 Luncheon Reservation Coordinator dobygl@juno.com
DIRECTOR	
CAPT Frank Kepley, USN (Ret)	642-0801 Public Affairs Officer Legislative Affairs Publisher/Editor Officers Call Newsletter dkepley@tampabay.rr.com
DIRECTOR	
Jane Foppe (Aux)	541-2618 ljcfoppe@aol.com Surviving Spouse Liaison
PAST PRESIDENT	
LTC Charles Conover, USA (Ret).....	260-3257 charlierconover@gmail.com
PERSONNEL OFFICER	
CDR Ed Socha, USN (Ret)	634-4957 Personnel Affairs Proofreader (newsletter) ejsfalcon1@frontier.com
JROTC Coordinator	
Lt Col James Warchol, USAF (Ret).....	633-1063 wjammer39@gmail.com
CHAPLAIN	
Assistant Personal Affairs	
Lt Col Samuel Rorer, USAF (Ret).....	260-3882 srorer@hotmail.com

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1851 Rickenbacker Dr
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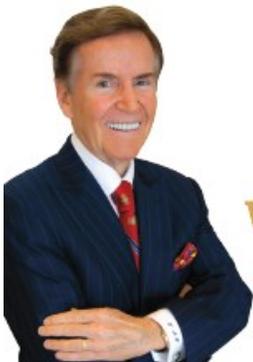
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CHAIRMAN & CEO

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1653 Sun City Center Plaza
Sun City Center, FL 33573

P: 813-633-7333

F: 813-633-61-20

SARASOTA
6371 Business Boulevard
Suite 200

Sarasota, Florida 31-21-0

P: 800-330-4248

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- **Service Dogs** for veterans with PTSD and other traumatic injuries
- **Homeless Prevention for Women Veterans:** help with rent, child care and licensing training
- **Operation Warm Heart**, administered by the 1st Sergeants Group at MacDill AFB, who provide commissary vouchers for soldiers in need



- **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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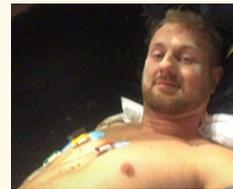


Benny Blackshire and wife Janet and Bob Cochran and wife Louise attend the MOAA National conference at Bay Harbor FL June 20—22.

'Not as thin as he thinks' — drunk Royal Navy pilot gets stuck in chimney during mess night game

For those looking for a little humor—read this story

[Click here](#)



Len Friedlander, Col USAF (Ret); Benny Blackshire, LTC USA (Ret); Dana Atkins, Lt Gen USAF (Ret)

MOAA receives communication awards from National MOAA

On June 21st at the Bay Harbor FL, Resort and Spa, local MOAA President Benny Blackshire, LTC USA (Ret), center in photo, is shown receiving two Five-Star Communication Awards for the SCC Chapter from MOAA National President and CEO Lt. Gen Dana Atkins, USAF (Ret), right in photo. On left is Col Len Friedlander, USAF, (Ret), President, of the Florida Council of Chapters. The presentation took place during the National Annual MOAA Convention during the President's Reception. It is the 3rd straight year that the local chapter has received a Five-Star Communications rating. The awards are for the chapter Website, created and managed by Jim Haney, MAJ USMC (Ret) and the monthly Newsletter published and edited by Frank Kepley, CAPT, USN (Ret).

Sun City Center MOAA Website

Don't forget to visit our new 5-star website. The link to the website is: <http://moaaf.org/chapters/SunCity/> or click on [MOAA Website](#)
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 jhaney1@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:

dkepley@tampabay.rr.com 813-642-0801



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LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

Frank Kepley, CAPT USN (Ret)

VA doesn't need more EHR modernization oversight, officials say



A Senate proposal to create an 11-member committee to oversee the Department of Veterans Affairs' EHR modernization project was opposed by VA officials. "We believe the additional layers of review by an 11-member advisory committee would not only be unnecessary ... but would also be unduly complicated and distract attention and resources from our core EHRM efforts and partnerships," according to written testimony by Teresa Boyd, assistant deputy undersecretary for health for clinical operations.

"We also believe there are already multiple avenues for robust Congressional oversight, including regular briefings and Congressional hearings on the progress of the Electronic Health Record Modernization (EHRM) effort, engagement with GAO, regular statutory reporting requirements, and responses to Congressional inquiries," she continued.

In her testimony, Boyd emphasized that this oversight committee may unnecessarily complicate the EHR implementation project rather than boosting transparency.

"We also believe the requirement to have meetings no less frequently than monthly for an 11-member advisory committee would be excessive," she added.

Editor's note: That's all they need – 11 people squabbling monthly over how to achieve their goal. When we implemented the EHR at Haley VA, we started with a 12-member committee that I rapidly reduced to 4 people who knew what they were doing and quickly reached their goal.

Veterans can now file class-action lawsuits against VA



A federal court ruling this week opened the possibility for veterans to file suit against the Department of Veterans Affairs as a class rather than individuals, a move that advocates say could dramatically shift how legal cases against the bureaucracy are handled.

The ruling, *Monk v. Wilkie*, came from the US Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims. The eight-justice panel ultimately ruled against the plaintiff's claim that their case should proceed as a class-action suit, arguing it failed to meet previously established standards for such legal consideration.

But they did say that in "appropriate cases" in the future, class-action lawsuits would be entertained.

"This is a watershed decision, and its importance should not be diminished merely because the court declined to certify this proposed class," Chief Judge Robert Davis wrote in the opinion. "On the contrary, the court's decision

will shape our jurisprudence for years to come and, I hope, bring about positive change for our nation's veterans."

In private lawsuits, individuals must prove specific harm or damage to their personal situation in order to win judgment. But in class-action lawsuits, plaintiffs can show illegal or harmful activity against a larger group, bringing with it different standards for correction.

Editor's Note: it was a long time coming but it has finally arrived.

DoD council will examine how 'wholesale' changes in military health care affect troops' families



As noted in earlier newsletter issues, citing upcoming changes in the military health care system, a high-level Defense Department advisory council will be focusing on how those changes affect military

families.

The DoD Military Family Advisory Council voted to make that a primary area of focus in 2020.

The military health care system has been undergoing reforms, which began implementation in 2018, including fewer Tricare regions, with new contracts that took effect in 2018. Families in many areas have had trouble finding health care providers who accept Tricare, and many complained about their increased costs.

But DoD is also in the process of changing the entire structure of the system, moving the management and administration of hospitals and clinics away from the Army, Navy and Air Force, to the umbrella of the Defense Health Agency. DoD has also been looking at "rightsizing" the system, with an 18 percent cut in medical billets.

This summer, DoD is expected to issue a report with details on which military medical facilities will be closed, which will be downsized, and which ones will be ramped up.

And DoD is reportedly rethinking the entire structure of its contracts for health care in the civilian community, which could include smaller Tricare regions and possibly agreements with some high-performing civilian health care systems. Across the board, these changes are being referred to as Military Health System reform.

Editor's Note: This will be a significant battle.

Tricare changes: What you need to know

The military's Tricare health program was overhauled in 2018 to include a strict limitation on switching between Tricare plans.

And for retirees, a new dental program, the Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program, or FEDVIP, has replaced the now-defunct Tricare Retiree Dental Program.

As of 2019, beneficiaries can't switch between Tricare Prime and Tricare Select until the yearly open season starting each November, unless there's some sort of qualifying life event, such as the birth of a baby, a move to a new duty station, marriage or retirement.

[Click here](#) for complete information on all changes.

Bid to end military 'widows tax' stalled despite congressional promises



A move to a fix on the military's "widows tax" failed after Senate leadership blocked plans to include it the fiscal 2020 defense authorization debate.

While advocates are hopeful they advance the issue, if their attempt in the House next month also fails, it could mean the end of efforts this year to address a situation affecting more than 65,000 military families nationwide, costing each an average of about \$11,000 annually.

Alabama Democratic Sen. Doug Jones took to the Senate floor just before the vote on the Senate's annual defense authorization measure in an attempt to add a repeal of the "widows tax," calling it an issue of fairness and justice.

Advocates say the problem rests with how the government treats two separate military survivor payouts. The first, the *Dependency and Indemnity Compensation* program, awards around \$15,000 a year to survivors of veterans or troops who die of service-related causes. There is no cost to troops or families to enroll.

The other, the Survivor Benefit Plan, gives families of military retirees who enroll up to 55 percent of their loved ones' retirement pay after the veteran dies. The life insurance-type payouts are subsidized by DoD, but require enrollees to pay-in part of their retirement benefit to be eligible.

Individuals who qualify for either SBP money or DIC benefits receive full payouts from the respective programs. But family members who qualify for both are subject to an offset, where for every dollar paid out in DIC their payouts under SBP are reduced by one dollar.

Jones noted that 74 other senators have signed onto his legislation to fix the problem and restore full funding to the families. But the price tag — \$5.7 billion over 10 years — has caused budget problems for members of Congress looking to advance the idea.

Several dozen advocates — including family members of deceased service members — packed the Senate gallery for the failed bid by Jones. Most vowed they'll return to Capitol Hill again after the July 4th break, when the House takes up its work on the defense bill.

"But we're not going to give up, and we're not going to stop trying," Jones said after the vote. "I'm going to keep working with leaders in both the Senate and the House to try to get this passed.

Editor's note: I keep reporting on this issue because the politicians continue to report that the "Widow's Tax" is history. Needless to say, it is not. It's all about the funding. Nobody is against it, but nobody knows where the money is going to come from. How about funding it with the money Congress keeps appropriating for their pay raises.

House Defense Bill Includes Pay Raise, Widows Tax Repeal (MOAA Newsletter)

The House version of the defense bill authorizes \$733 billion in spending, or \$17 billion less than President Trump's request for \$750 billion. The Senate's version of the defense bill, passed on July 1, approved the administration's request.

Here are some important amendments the House will consider:

- Gus Bilirakis (R-Fla.) introduced an amendment to expand concurrent receipt to military retirees with disability ratings under 50%.
- Kurt Schrader (D-Ore.) introduced an amendment to exempt servicemembers who voluntarily separate from active duty, are involuntarily recalled, and incur a 100 percent service-connected disability during that time from the requirement to repay voluntary separation pay.
- Joe Wilson (R-S.C.) introduced an amendment to repeal the widows tax, the dollar-for-dollar deduction of survivor benefits annuities from the VA's *Dependency and Indemnity Compensation*.
- Jackie Speier (D-Calif.) introduced an amendment authorizing the Secretary of Defense to refer military members for mental health services within the TRI-CARE network if services cannot be provided at a military medical facility within 15 days.

In addition, House Armed Services Committee Chairman Adam Smith (D-Wash.) introduced a separate amendment to end the widows tax and authorize a 3.1% military pay raise for servicemembers, necessary for recruitment and retention.

Editor's note: If the House fails to pass the bill, as noted in the previous article, it would mean the end of efforts to repeal the Widows Tax this year.

Coast Guard Authorization Bill Would Protect Pay During Future Shutdowns



A bill that includes an amendment protecting Coast Guard members and civilians from missing paychecks during future government shutdowns cleared the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee on June 26.

The Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2019 authorizes funding for the service through 2021. An amendment to the legislation from Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chair Peter DeFazio (D-Ore.) guarantees uniformed Coast Guard members and civilians would be paid during any funding lapse, and that death gratuities and other benefits for dependents would continue.

"This legislation ensures our Coasties can continue carrying out their important work to secure our waterways and keep our communities safe," DeFazio said in a committee statement. "In addition, I am proud to have added an amendment which guarantees that members of the Coast Guard are paid on time and in full, even in the event of another senseless government shutdown."

About 42,000 uniformed Coast Guard members missed their Jan. 15 paychecks, while several thousand Coast Guard civilians either worked without pay or were furloughed. Coast Guard Commandant Adm. Karl Schultz called the situation "unacceptable"; the money was restored to their accounts after the funding issues were resolved, but several members experienced financial difficulties or uncertainty.

NOAA Corps members also missed the Jan. 15 paychecks because their parent agency, the Department of Commerce, was unfunded during the shutdown.

More information on Urgent Care



1. You're probably eligible. Veterans who are enrolled in VA health care and have received care from VA or a VA community partner within 24 months and can receive care from participating community providers.

2. You don't need to tell VA. Prior authorization isn't required, but that doesn't mean you can walk into your nearest urgent care center without doing some homework.

3. You need to confirm provider participation. Beneficiaries must ask their provider if they are part of VA's contacted network, then tell the provider they want to use their VA benefit. The provider will confirm eligibility; if there's no confirmation, expect to get a bill for the full cost of treatment – and to get no help from VA paying it.

[RELATED: A More Accurate, Completely Digital DD-214 Is on Its Way]

4. You can find participating providers online. Head here [Urgent care locator](#) to access a locator map hosted by VA's urgent-care contractor, TriWest. To find VA facilities or non-urgent care community providers, continue using VA's online location finder. Be sure you are using the right tool for the job: VA-approved community care providers may not be part of VA's urgent care network, for example.

5. You can't use urgent care for excluded services. Preventative care and dental services aren't covered. Neither are life-threatening cases, which fall under VA's emergency care coverage. Consult VA if you're not clear whether your ailment qualifies. The only preventative-care exception: Per VA guidance, you're covered for a flu shot.

6. You might have to pay \$30. Copayments are broken down by VA priority groups. Here's the breakdown: Beneficiaries in Priority Groups 1 through 5 get three zero-copay visits in a calendar year. Each visit after that costs \$30.

Priority Group 6 beneficiaries must pay \$30 for all visits, unless the visit is "related to a condition covered by a special authority," per VA – in other words, related to ailments caused by service-connected toxic exposure, military sexual trauma, and similar service-related issues. Consult VA for specifics. The first three visits connected to these issues have zero copay; they'll cost \$30 after that.

Beneficiaries in Priority Groups 7 and 8 pay \$30 per visit.

Aid and Attendance pension program

Aid and Attendance is a pension program designed to help supplement the cost of longterm care for a Veteran, their spouse or widow. Provided the necessary care is in place, Aid and Attendance can be used to offset the cost of room and board in your care community, making senior living more affordable than ever.

[Click here](#) for complete information on program

Why a Florida VA hospital serving WWII veterans has swastika floor tiles



Surprised to see a VA hospital's floor decorated with swastikas, a Florida man sent a local news station a photo of the tiles and asked them to investigate.

The swastikas, which became the ultimate symbol of evil under the Nazis, are carved into floor tiles at the Bay Pines VA Healthcare System as part of a decorative scheme, according to Selina Meiners, the Public Affairs Officer at the hospital.

Tampa, Florida's WTSP 10News, which first reported on the facility's swastika tiles, showed the pictures to Larry Jasper, a Jewish Army veteran, to get his opinion.

"The initial reaction would be shocked as to why is this here," Jasper told 10News.

The Bay Pines VA Healthcare System in St. Petersburg was built before World War II, and its swastikas have been a recurring topic of discussion over the years, according to Selina Meiners, a hospital spokeswoman.

Before its use in World War II, the swastika symbol was used to represent well-being, peace, and continuity in a number of cultures.

Because of the historical significance behind the swastika tiles, the Bay Pines system does not plan to remove them. Instead, officials have presented an historic preservation plan with Florida's State Historical Preservation Office.

VA's Urgent Care Benefit: New Details on Prescriptions

MOAA Newsletter



Veterans seeking to use their new private-sector urgent care benefit can fend off some potential headaches by printing out a three-page guide [guide \(PDF\)](#) for themselves.

TriWest, the contractor responsible for the benefit network, has posted the guide (PDF) on its website. Beneficiaries are asked to print out the pages and take them along when they seek care and when they pick up related prescriptions.

The new urgent care benefit, effective June 6, includes three free in-network urgent care visits per year for some VA beneficiaries, and a \$30-per-visit copay for others. Get full eligibility and payment details here. That link also includes VA guidance on the difference between urgent care and emergency care; VA strongly encourages beneficiaries to err on the side of emergency care if their condition is unclear. The three-page printout includes information previously available at the VA website as well as from other sources, including MOAA. However, some of the details either are new or are worth emphasis:

[Click here](#) for additional information on this important topic.

JOIN TODAY (every voice counts)

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Trump gets the green light to use \$2.5 billion from the military's budget for the border wall

The Supreme Court gave the Trump administration the go-ahead in a 5-4 ruling to use \$2.5 billion from the military's budget to help build the wall at the southern border.

The legal case that had tied the money up in court — which raises environmental concerns, among others — will continue, but the administration will be allowed to use the money in the meantime, per the New York Times. Trump filed an emergency request for the freeze to be lifted earlier this month.

The \$2.5 billion will build "more than 100 miles (160 kilometers) of fencing," per the Associated Press, replacing barriers in New Mexico and Arizona.

A 101-year-old World War II vet just commissioned his grandson into the Air Force

Military.com



This is what it's all about. Joseph Kloc was commissioned by his grandfather Walter Kloc. The 101-year-old WWII veteran traveled all the way from New York for this moment. Walter received a standing

ovation, and everyone in the room was gifted with a memory they'll never forget.

Walter's appearance in Colorado Springs was an increasingly rare opportunity for the next generation of military officers to connect with their WWII predecessors.

Walter's son (and Joseph's dad) William traveled with his dad from Amherst, New York for the graduation. William told local TV station WGRZ that Walter served as both a bombardier and a pilot for the Army Air Force during WWII.

Just how old is Walter? When he was born, the United States was fighting in World War I. He's so old that he was able to enjoy an automotive industry career with General Motors.

This is how 1,500-plus aircraft bird strikes have affected the Marine Corps in the past 15 years



While most aircraft bird strikes result in minimal damage, birds can present a serious safety dilemma for U.S. military pilots.

Since fiscal year 2004, the Marine Corps has recorded roughly 1,540 bird or animal strike incidents.

Less than 30 of those incidents resulted in serious damage or a mishap classification between A to C, according to Marine spokesman Capt. Christopher Harrison.

Harrison said that a May 7 F-35 bird strike out of Iwakuni, Japan, which caused an estimated more than \$2 million in damages, was the second Class A mishap resulting from a bird strike for the Corps in the past 15 years.

The previous incident occurred in 2011, when an AH-1W Cobra, with Marine Light Attack Helicopter Training Squadron 303 out of Camp Pendleton, California, hit a hawk, "causing in-flight breakup" of the Cobra.

Marine Cobra pilots Capt. Jeffrey Bland and 1st Lt. Thomas Heitmann collided with a red-tailed hawk on Sept. 19,

2011, which damaged the pitch change link, according to the San Diego Union-Tribune. Both of the pilots were killed in the accident.

Since 1995, the Air Force recorded more than 69,000 wildlife-aircraft strikes, according to the AHAS site. Those strikes resulted in the deaths of 23 aviators and destroyed 12 aircraft, causing millions in damages.

Space Command nominee says space is no longer a 'peaceful, benign domain'



The Air Force general nominated to lead the Pentagon's newest combatant command that would direct the U.S. military's space operations told lawmakers on Tuesday that any future conflicts with major powers such as

Russia or China would be partially fought in space.

"We no longer have the luxury of operating in a peaceful, benign domain. And we no longer have the luxury of treating space superiority as a given," Gen. Jay Raymond told the Senate Armed Services Committee during a hearing to consider his nomination to lead U.S. Space Command.

Raymond has spent the vast majority of his 35 years in the Air Force working in space operations. He now leads the organization responsible for training and equipping the Air Force's roughly 15,000 space operators while also leading space forces assigned to U.S. Strategic Command.

Pentagon officials have said once Raymond is confirmed, the Defense Department will begin establishing U.S. Space Command as its 11th unified combatant command, which are joint forces that command and control operations within a certain geographic region or functional area such as cyber operations or special operations. Space operations have been commanded by STRATCOM, which is primarily responsible for America's nuclear capabilities, since 2002 when the former U.S. Space Command was scuttled during a post-9/11 reorganization.

New VA Policy Aims to Stop Veterans from Hiding Guns in Wheelchairs



The VA has adopted a new policy for wheelchair-bound veterans visiting their medical facilities following a shooting in a West Palm Beach, Fla., VA medical center last February in which a patient in a wheelchair pulled out a gun and

fired shots in the emergency room, wounding three. "We are asking ... that, when people come to the emergency department, they be put in a wheelchair that is owned by the medical center," said Renee Oshinski, a VA official.

Oshinski said the wheelchair transfer policy is directed at all VA medical centers, but she couldn't vouch for how many had put it into effect besides West Palm Beach.

Editor's Note: Obviously, seems like a needed change but it has been my experience that there are not always hospital wheel chairs available at the entrance. Then what do they do? And what about the power chairs? They will not be leaving those at the front entrance. They only need to frisk those patients for weapons, not exchange chairs. And if they just exchange chairs without patting down the patients, they may still miss hidden weapons. Bottom line: closely examine the chairs and the patients.

Tricare approved this disabled airman's surgery, then stuck him with a \$46K bill



First, Tricare approved the surgery that a retired and disabled Air Force master sergeant needed to correct a debilitating back disease and reimbursed his costs.

Then, the Defense Department's health insurance program said they

had made a mistake — and sent him a bill for nearly \$46,000.

Retired Master Sgt. Robin Gift, 56, has now been fighting Tricare on this for roughly seven years, and he's almost out of moves — and money. Tricare at one point agreed to cut the \$45,956 debt in half, to \$22,978, his attorney Stephen Jewell said — but he would have to declare the forgiven debt as income and pay taxes on it.

In 2009, he underwent a lumbar disc replacement surgery in Germany, the cost of which he paid up front. Tricare approved the surgery and in early 2010, reimbursed him for \$45,956.

But by 2012, Tricare's opinion had changed, according to a release from Jewell's law firm, Tully Rinckey. Tricare told Gift that it had made a mistake; the procedure was not covered, and he would have to repay the full amount.

Jewell doesn't think he should have to pay, since Tricare agreed to cover the costs nearly a decade ago. What's more, Jewell said, Tricare now officially covers the surgery and has since at least 2017.

Editor's note: Stories like this drive me nuts!! First, they said they covered it when they did not; now they say they do cover the procedure but because they didn't when he had it done, he has to pay. Unbelievable!

The Navy is naming a warship after a Coast Guard hero for the first time ever



Secretary of the Navy Richard V. Spencer named a future Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer, the DDG 132, in honor of Coast Guard Capt. Quentin Walsh, who was awarded the Navy Cross for his service during

World War II.

It is the first time a U.S. Navy ship has been named after a member of the Coast Guard.

"Capt. Walsh was a hero whose efforts during World War II continue to inspire, and his leadership in securing the French port of Cherbourg had a profound effect on the success of the amphibious operations associated with Operation Overlord," Spencer said in a statement.

Operation Overlord was the codename for the Battle of Normandy. The Allied operation, launched on June 6, 1944, started the successful invasion of German-occupied Western Europe during World War II.

Spencer made the announcement Thursday alongside Adm. Karl Schultz, the commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard, in a ceremony aboard the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Eagle in Cherbourg, France.

'Space Force' Shrinks in House Proposal



Lawmakers on the House Armed Services Committee are expected to approve a trimmed version of the Pentagon's proposal to sweep space-related personnel into a new compo-

ment of the Air Force.

Under a deal reached by Reps. Jim Cooper, D-Tenn., and Mike Rogers, R-Ala., a bipartisan amendment will be added to the annual defense authorization bill during committee markup this week. The resulting "Space Corps" would be "smaller and more focused" than the "Space Force" sought by the Trump administration, chairman Adam Smith, D-Wash., told reporters Monday.

"The main difference from the administration's approach is less bureaucracy. We don't have three four-stars, we only have the one," Smith said. "There's a lot less mandatory transfers of personnel into the Space Command," he said, another sticking point in ongoing talks between the Pentagon and Capitol Hill.

As for what the new component will be called — Space Force? Space Corps? — that remains up for debate.

Naval War College gets first female president



The next president the U.S. Naval War College will be a woman, a first for the century-old institution, after the previous president was removed.

Navy Secretary Richard Spencer announced Friday that Rear Adm. Shoshana Chatfield will be the next president of the Navy's senior leader college in Newport, R.I.

"Rear Admiral Chatfield is a historic choice for the Naval War College. She is the embodiment of the type of warrior-scholar we need now to lead this storied institution as it educates our next generation of leaders," Spencer said in the Navy's prepared statement.

The announcement comes less than a week after the previous president, Rear Adm. Jeffrey Harley, was removed and reassigned. The Associated Press reported that he was being investigated amid allegations of mismanagement and inappropriate behavior at the college, including excessive spending and having a margarita machine in his office.

Chatfield will be the first female president in the institution's 135-year history. Since 2017, she has served as the commander of Joint Region Marianas, based in Guam.

Chatfield has held several commands including the first commander of Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25. In 2008 she was the commander of a joint provincial reconstruction team in Farah province, Afghanistan, and from 2011 to 2013 she was the type wing commander of Helicopter Sea Combat Wing of U.S. Pacific Fleet, according to the Navy.

She earned a bachelor's in international relations and French language and literature from Boston University; a master's in public administration from Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government; and a doctorate in education from the University of San Diego.

DJ REYES

M.A., J.D., Colonel US Army (retired)
Senior Mentor/Coordinator, 13th Judicial Circuit
Veterans Treatment Court

The below article, which features our own
Col. Ron Rook, was written and forwarded by Col. DJ
Reyes



Quiet Warrior.....one step at a time. Tampa's Veterans Treatment Court (VTC) and Senior Mentors are especially proud of one of its own, Colonel (USMC retired) Ron "the Running Man" Rook. Having run over 27 USMC marathons during his 50 year career in government service, Ron was recently notified of his upcoming induction into the Marine Corps Marathon Hall of Fame, Class of 2019. He'll be inducted during the MCM

Weekend Pre-Race Festivities in DC, on Friday 25 October. In Ron's own words: "I don't run to add days to my life - I run to add Life to my Days." Semper Fidelis!

Editor's Note: **oorah!!!**

Swim skills required to see this new veterans memorial

(Military Times)



For the last 20 years, a scuba diving instructor and oceanographer in Pinellas County, Florida, has been trying to make the area's Veterans Reef more interesting than a bronze plaque and an American flag.

But after the Army tanks he put underwater rusted and a storm ripped his Neptune bomber plane to pieces, Heyward Mathews knew he had to come up with a better idea for the attraction located 10 miles off the coast of Dunedin Beach.

"(I) just wanted something that was going to be permanent and also wanted something that was going to honor our veterans in a unique and different way," he said. That it is.

When Circle of Heroes officially opens — as soon as Mathews' multiple iterations of Gen. Patton's prayer for fair weather get answered — the new memorial will feature life-

size cement statues of service members around a 100-foot circle. It will be the first of its kind in the country, its creators say, and has the potential to draw people from all over the world.



And since it will be only 40 feet below the surface, guests don't have to be expert scuba divers; even surface-level swimmers will be able to see the statues with a snorkel.

The memorial will feature 24 statues in a 100-foot circle around this marker, which honors service members of the five military branches.

(Heyward Mathews) The statues weigh 1,300 pounds each and will be bolted down to the bottom of the reef in a 100-foot circle by 2,000-pound bases as soon as weather on the Gulf Coast permits. There are currently 12 completed, and the eventual plan is to have 24.

The memorial has already garnered interest on social media from diving clubs around the country.

VA approves psychedelic ketamine for PTSD treatment

This month's decision by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to offer a psychedelic drug to treat post-traumatic stress disorder while marijuana remains off limits is leaving some stakeholders flummoxed amid the ongoing wave of veteran suicides.

Spravato, derived from the family of anesthetic drugs called ketamine and produced by a division of Johnson & Johnson, will be prescribed to VA clients on a case-by-case basis and administered as a nasal spray.

The addition of a new remedy for lowering military suicide rates at a moment when retired and active-duty personnel are killing themselves roughly 20.6 times a day was hailed as a milestone by VA Secretary Robert Wilkie.

But for those like Sean Kiernan, an Army veteran who attempted to take his life in 2011, the VA's simultaneous embargo on marijuana is incoherent.

My question is, why are you so willing and eager to accept something that, on the face of it, is the very thing you complain about with marijuana, like THC, which isn't nearly as strong? This is hypocrisy, and it makes no sense."

Editor's Note: *Hard to disagree with that logic.*

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NEW MEMBER

Howard S. Paris COL USA Retired



Branch Infantry
Retired 1988 at Fort Bragg, NC with
30 years of service.

Key assignments:
Commanded basic training compa-
nies at Fort Dix, NJ.
Two combat tours Viet Nam. Award-
ed Combat Infantryman Badge.
Commanded mechanized Infantry
Battalion in Panama.

Staff assignments at Hq CONARC, US Army
MILPERCEN, HQ XVIII Airborne Corps, 193
Inf Bde, Panama.

Qualifications:

Airborne (Master Parachutist)
Ranger
Special Forces

Schools:

Infantry Officer Advanced Course
US Army Command and General Staff College
US Army War College

(Also, on faculty at each)

Other:

Participated in Jonestown Guyana Peoples'
Temple humanitarian effort 1978.

Civilian Education:

Undergraduate - University of Nebraska
Masters – University of Oklahoma
Doctorate – NC State University (after
Military retirement)

Post Retirement:

Advisor to G3 (Operations Officer) Saudi Arabia Nation-
al Guard (14 mo).

Dean of Continuing Education James Sprunt Communi-
ty College Kenansville, NC (11 1/2 years).

With amputations on the decline, could doctors forget how to do them?



Doctors aren't performing as many
combat-related amputations these
days.

But with that good news for ser-
vice members comes one potential
downside: Military medical professionals could forget how
to treat patients with missing limbs. That happened after
the Vietnam War.

The Military Health System's Extremity Trauma and Am-
putation Center of Excellence, or EACE, commissioned
the study and plans to use RAND's recommendations as a
starting point for future training of doctors, physical thera-
pists, psychiatrists, prosthetists and others who work with
amputees throughout the rehabilitation process.

"We didn't want to repeat what had occurred following
the Vietnam conflict, where the capabilities and the com-
petencies to provide amputee care were slowly lost over
time and then we had to relearn those all over again," said
EACE Director John Shero. "We want to make sure that

our casualties in the future get at least as good, if not bet-
ter, (treatment) from that future conflict as our wounded
warriors receive and have received over the past series of
years."

In the nearly two decades since 9-11, the Defense De-
partment has treated 1,724 patients with major limb ampu-
tations from deployment injuries, Shero said.

The number of service members with combat-related
amputations has declined sharply since 2011, when the
number of amputations was at a peak of 260, according to
the report. There were three in 2018.

Patients are treated primarily at Walter Reed National
Military Medical Center in Maryland, Brooke Army Medical
Center in San Antonio and the Naval Medical Center San
Diego, which have treatment centers specifically designed
for military amputees.

Study finds VA prescribes far more opioids to rural veterans than urban counterparts



Rural veterans are given almost a
third more opioids than urban vets,
according to a study that analyzed
outpatient prescribing practices in
2016 by doctors within the Veterans
Health Administration.

While opioid prescribing by the VHA
among rural veterans declined significantly from 2012 to
2016, it remains "unclear as to why rates remain 32%
higher than urban counterparts," concluded the study,
published in the most recent issue of the journal Military
Medicine.

Most of the difference between rural-urban opioid pre-
scribing was due to differences in long-term use by veter-
ans, with rates of short-term use similar between the two
groups, the study said.

The study did not assess whether this higher rate of rural
prescribing has played a role in America's growing opioid
epidemic, which has led to a dramatic increase in deaths
and overdoses, particularly in rural states such as Ken-
tucky, West Virginia and Oklahoma.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report-
ed earlier this year that the nation's overall total of opioid-
related deaths increased by 12% from 2016 to 2017, with
47,600 deaths attributable to opioids in that latter year.

Senate fails to limit Trump war powers amid Iran tensions



Political unease over the White
House's tough talk against Iran is reviv-
ing questions about President Donald
Trump's ability to order military strikes
without approval from Congress.

The Senate fell short in a 50-40 vote,
on an amendment to a sweeping Defense bill that would
require congressional support before Trump acts. It didn't
reach the 60-vote threshold needed for passage. But law-
makers said the majority showing sent a strong message
that Trump cannot continue relying on the nearly two-
decade-old war authorizations Congress approved in the
aftermath of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

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.

Editor's Note: This is one of those 'duh' decisions.

Authorities add charges in sub vandalism case



HACK-ENSACK, N.J. — Authorities have increased the charges against five people ac-

cused of flooding a World War II-era submarine in New Jersey during a pair of break-ins last summer.

NorthJersey.com reports that an eight-count indictment from July 9 added counts of conspiracy and knowingly causing a flood to the burglary and criminal mischief counts filed earlier against the defendants, described as alleged urban explorers.

The Submarine Memorial Association says the 1,500-ton vessel is still afloat in the Hackensack River but several valuable artifacts — radio transmitters, uniforms, textiles — are lost due to water damage.

The Ling once served as the New Jersey Naval Museum's centerpiece exhibit, but damage to the museum from Superstorm Sandy forced its closure in 2013.

Authorities say four bronze plaques taken from a World War II-era submarine in New Jersey have been recovered.

Record reports the plaques — valued at approximately \$10,000 — were recently returned by a member of the Submarine Memorial Association, which maintains the USS Ling.

Resistant Bacteria Abundant on Nursing Students' Cell Phones



Samples from cell phones of students studying to be healthcare professionals revealed evidence of antibiotic resistant bacteria, such as methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA), a researcher said here.

Overall, 40% of examined cell phones from students in the nursing, biomedicine, pharmacy, dentistry and nutrition programs at a Brazilian university were contaminated with *S. aureus*, including several with evidence of resistant strains of the bacteria on their phones, reported Lizziane Kretli Winkelstroter Eller, MD, of the University of Western Sao Paulo in Brazil.

Nursing students were the worst offenders, with two-thirds of nursing students having contaminated phones, Eller and colleagues reported in a poster at ASM Microbe.

"The widespread use of cell devices in hospitals and healthcare settings has raised major concerns about nosocomial infections, especially in areas requiring the highest standards of hygiene, such as the operating room," Eller said in a statement. "In this context, cell phones may thus serve as a reservoir of bacteria known to cause nosocomial infections and could play a role in their transmission to patients through the hands of health professionals."

Editor's Note: Good reason for not using others' phones or letting others' use your phone.

What You Need to Know About the Blue Water Navy Benefits Law



Veterans with one of 14 diseases presumed to be related to the herbicide Agent Orange and who served offshore or in the specified areas of the DMZ, can now file a disability claim with the Department of Veterans to receive bene-

fits, thanks to a law enacted June 25.

H.R. 299 extends disability compensation to personnel who served off the coast of the Republic of Vietnam between Jan. 9, 1962, and May 7, 1975. It specifies that veterans must have served on a ship not more than 12 nautical miles off the coast. The expanse of territorial water covered begins on the southwestern demarcation line of Vietnam and Cambodia and runs through several points spelled out in the law.

According to Congress and the Department of Veterans Affairs, an estimated 90,000 veterans may be eligible for benefits under the law.

Those eligible include veterans with one or more of the presumptive diseases whose claims were previously denied. It also includes those with new claims.

If a veteran is not sure where their vessel was located, but they have one of the associated diseases, they should file a claim anyway -- and do it as soon as possible, according to John Wells, an attorney with Military-Veterans Advocacy.

[Click here](#) for information on how to file.

Vietnam Veterans Who Died from Agent Orange Effects to Be Honored



Just months after Robert Earl Hanson graduated from Colonial High School in 1966, the outgoing young man known as "Bobby" found himself thrust into the jungles of Vietnam as an Army private carrying a teletype machine and a rifle.

At the time, U.S. military planes were spraying millions of gallons of the defoliant Agent Orange across the Vietnamese countryside to expose enemy soldiers during the Vietnam War.

Hanson, like millions of other American and Vietnamese soldiers, was exposed to the dangerous herbicide. It led to Hanson's malignant lung cancer decades later and ultimately caused his death on June 29, 2018, at the age of 69, according to doctors.

Hanson will be among 536 deceased veterans – including 13 from Florida – who will be inducted into the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund's "In Memory Program" as part of an annual three-day ceremony held every June in Washington, D.C.

More than 400 of the honorees this year died as a result of Agent Orange exposure.

Soon You May Not Even Have to Click on a Website Contract to Be Bound by Its Terms

A private and influential legal group you've never heard of is about to vote on what critics call a fundamental rollback of consumer rights.

If you're like most people, you've probably clicked "I Agree" on many online contracts without ever reading them. Soon you may be deemed to have agreed to a company's terms without even knowing it. A vote is occurring that would make it easier for online businesses to dispense with that click and allow websites that you merely browse — anything from Amazon and AT&T to Yahoo and Zillow — to bind you to contract terms without your agreement or awareness.

That includes everything from provisions that allow the sale of customer data or grant the right to track visitors to policies that limit consumers' legal rights by barring them from suing in court or in class actions. Some courts have already given their blessing to this practice. But the proposal up for a vote is set to make those kinds of business-friendly rulings all the more common.

The proposal has outraged consumer advocates, state attorneys general and other constituencies. They see it as improperly tilting the scales in favor of business interests. They argue that the solution is creating clearer, simpler contracts rather than lengthy, confusing ones that are harder to find. The proposal's authors counter that they have simply summarized trends in American law.

Big Tobacco Wants 21 to Be the New 18



In a surprising about-face, the tobacco industry is putting more lobbying time and resources into raising the legal age for buying smoking and vaping products to 21 on a state level – so-called Tobacco 21 laws – after decades of fighting against it. But the Center for Public Integrity suggests that this

seemingly altruistic push for higher age limits might be a Trojan horse filled with loopholes and preemptive language that benefits the industry.

As bipartisan support for an age-21 requirement grows on the federal level, Big Tobacco could be seen as merely preparing for

the inevitable in individual states. Public health advocates have a different view; some call it a "PR stunt" while others worry that "piecemeal" enforcement of weaker industry-backed laws will render the legislation meaningless. Nine states have already passed age-21 laws this year.

Marine and Army squads could get this new 40 mm laser guided grenade round



Marines and soldiers will no longer need to use "Kentucky windage" to put 40 mm grenades on target if the two branches field Raytheon's laser guided Pike munition. The new 40 mm round is guided by semi-active laser designators, meaning the munition will home in on a target that

has been lased and destroy it with precision, according to Townsend Blanchard, a senior manager with Raytheon's land warfare systems. The Pike is an anti-personnel and anti-light skinned vehicle precision munition that boasts an extended range of nearly 2 km — far surpassing the roughly 300–400 meter range of standard unguided 40 mm grenades, Blanchard told Marine Corps Times. The round also has counterdefilade capabilities. "Our goal is to bring that precision lethality down to the lowest level, which is the squad," Blanchard said. According to Navy budget documents, the Corps says the M320 "will allow for the use of more capable 40 mm grenades for counter-defilade, breaching and non-lethal applications." The Corps wants to sink nearly \$6.6 million in fiscal year 2020 for 6,307 M320 grenade launchers, according to its recent budget request.

In Secret, Seniors Discuss 'Rational Suicide'



The seniors, who live in independent apartments at a high-end senior community near Philadelphia, showed no obvious signs of depression. They're in their 70s and 80s and say they don't intend to end their lives soon. But they say they want the option to

take "preemptive action" before their health declines in their later years, particularly due to dementia.

Needless to say, this subject is very controversial; however, it is a topic that is frequently discussed by seniors among themselves.

If you are interested in reading the full article on this currently taboo subject [Click here](#). Otherwise, move on to the next page. I was conflicted with the decision to include this article in the newsletter.

Florida Council of Chapters Communiqué

August 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/communique

Editor—Polly Parks. Send articles and photos to:

Polly Parks pparks@igc.org

TurboTax Used A “Military Discount” to Trick Troops Into Paying to File Their Taxes

Intuit, the maker of TurboTax, created and promoted a “military discount” that charges service members who are eligible to file for free.



In patriotism-drenched promotions, press releases and tweets, TurboTax promoted special deals for military service members, promising to help them file their taxes online for free or at a discount.

Yet some service members who've filed by going to the TurboTax Military landing page told ProPublica they were charged as much as \$150 — even though, under a deal with the government, service members making under \$66,000 are supposed to be able to file on TurboTax for free.

In the commercial version of TurboTax that includes the “military discount,” customers were charged based on the tax forms they filed. If they used a form to claim a retirement savings credit TurboTax required a paid upgrade to file. If they started from the TurboTax Free File landing page instead of the military page, they would have been able to file for free.

International spirit, veterans also competing at Tampa’s Warrior Games



Daryl Sagar is an example of just how hard the athletes compete at the Warrior Games. He flipped his wheelchair over while playing basketball at the Tampa Convention Center and suffered a concussion.

His friends were all watching on Facebook Live when it happened — nearly 3,000 miles away, in Edmonton, the capital of the Canadian province of Alberta.

That's because Sagar is also an example of another kind of athlete at the Warrior Games: He is one of 96 international competitors representing the military from Australia, Canada, Denmark, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom.

Sagar is competing with Team Canada and spent 24 years serving in the Canadian Armed Forces. The sergeant and medic injured his spinal cord while serving in Afghanistan in 2008.

But when his wheelchair flipped over, nationality didn't matter. He blacked out briefly, then regained consciousness and found all of his fellow athletes had rushed to his side and called for help.

That, he said, is what the Warrior Games is all about.

The new plan to prevent veteran suicides: new grants, better research, more community focus



The White House is creating a new high-level task force on preventing veterans suicide which will include new community outreach grants aimed at former service members and expanded projects

across a host of government agencies to coordinate research and prevention efforts.

President Donald Trump will sign a new executive order on the initiative — dubbed the President's Roadmap to Empower Veterans and End a National Tragedy of Suicide.

It's the latest in a series of steps by his administration to address the problem, which claims an estimated 20 veterans lives every day. Last year, the president signed a separate executive order providing more counseling and mental health care for recently separated service members, who face a significantly higher risk of suicide than other military groups.

According to senior administration officials, the new order will give agency officials a year to develop plans for a more aggressive approach to suicide prevention, with a goal of more state and local community engagement.

Veterans Affairs officials estimate that of the 20 veterans a day who take their own lives, about 70 percent have little or no contact with the federal veteran system. That makes targeted community outreach to populations outside those systems critical to addressing the suicide problem.

The 2019 Warrior Games drew record number of athletes and crowds



The 2019 Department of Defense Warrior Games came to a close June 30 in Tampa, Florida.

This year's games were co-hosted by U.S. Special Operations Command and the city of Tampa. For only the second time since the games began in 2010, the events for the annual Paralympic-style competition were held in public venues instead of on military installations.

“It's the largest crowds that we have ever had at a Warrior Games from the public's perspective,” said Col. Cary Harbaugh, director of this year's games, in a statement to Military Times. “From the added sports that we have never had, to the most athletes that we have ever had at the Warrior Games, it's just been absolutely wonderful and phenomenal across the board.” “Best I've ever seen in a Warrior Games turnout,” Harbaugh continued.



IN MEMORIAM

Bernard Meisel, COL USA (Ret)
SCC Chapter member passed 1 Aug. 2019

Monthly Member and Board Meetings

Luncheon: Wednesday Sept 4th, 2019 11:00 am
Florida Room

Board Meeting: Wednesday Sept 11th, 2019
10:00 am—Trinity Baptist Church

Membership Committee Mtg. Club Renaissance
3rd Wednesday Sept 18th, 2019



Chapter 5–Star
Level of Excellence Award



Newsletters 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. 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 U.S. AIR FORCE

SEPT 18 1947
72 years old



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Opinions presented herein are those of the individual and not necessarily of the Chapter. Commercial solicitation of members using membership rolls and/or rosters is prohibited. Some articles may be taken from MOAA and DoD publications. The Chapter is tax exempt under Section 501(c)(19) of the Internal Revenue Codes.

**THE MILITARY ORDER OF THE WORLD WARS (MOWW)
INVITES YOU TO OUR 12TH ANNUAL**



**SUN CITY CENTER
VETERANS DAY BALL**

PROCEEDS TO FURTHER OUR YOUTH PATRIOTIC EDUCATION PROGRAMS

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9th, 2019

5:00 P.M. UNTIL 9 P.M.

(4:30 PM to 6:30 PM complementary photos)

The Ball will feature a patriotic program; hors d'oeuvres; champagne toast; a four (4) entrée Grand Buffet Dinner including prime rib, with multiple serving lines; plated garden salad with rolls at your table; multiple choice dessert station; and coffee/tea station catered by Banquet Masters.

FORMAL DRESS ENCOURAGED

MILITARY, BLACK TIE, OR DARK BUSINESS SUIT

ENTERTAINMENT AND DANCING

BYOB (GLASSES AND ICE PROVIDED)

SUN CITY CENTER COMMUNITY HALL

1910 S. PEBBLE BEACH BLVD.

OPEN TO ALL - NO MILITARY SERVICE REQUIRED

\$60.00 PER PERSON - CHECKS PAYABLE TO MOWW



VETERANS HISTORY PROJECT

PRESERVE YOUR MILITARY HISTORY .



A PROGRAM OF THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS.

This 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**



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