



Chapter FL 41

Flagler County Military Officers Association of America

# Officers Call

One Nation Under God



Jan 2021

## OFFICERS

### *President*

1LT John Morris, USA  
386-313-5096

### *1st Vice President*

COL Peggy Hengeveld, USA  
717-645-8586

### *2nd Vice President*

### *Vacant*

### *Secretary*

Maj Deidre Wright, USAF  
386-586-2915

### *Treasurer*

Karla A. Key, CPA  
386-447-8889

## DIRECTORS

LTC Mike Connors, USA

CW2 Richard Oexmann, USA

Ms. Gloria Wilkins

CPT Alan Thornton, USA

## STAFF

### *Chaplain*

LTC Harry Gilman, USA  
386-439-4222

### *Legislative Affairs*

Lt Col David Lydon, USAF  
386-315-4628

### *Sunshine*

Mrs. Glenn Wood  
386-446-9788

### *Auxiliary (New Beginnings)*

Ms. Gloria Wilkins  
386-313-6867

### *County Veterans Services*

Lt Col David Lydon, CVSO  
386-313-4014

### *Editor*

CDR Daniel Maxwell, USN



## FL Chapter 41 President's New Year's Message

# 2021

Happy New Year

2020 has been a very eventful year for all of us. Thanks to all of you for your support and participation in the programs that we have been able to hold. I hope that you and your families had a wonderful holiday season including Christmas and Hannukah, and I wish you all a very prosperous and Happy New Year.

I want to especially thank the officers and board members who have served so faithfully during the year and those who have agreed to extend their service for next year as listed in the December newsletter. We, also, want to thank Mike Connors for his willingness to serve on the Board of Directors beginning in 2021. As previously noted, we still need a volunteer for the position of 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President and recruiting chairperson. Please consider joining us in this leadership position.

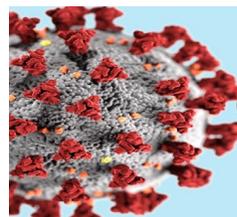
As we look forward into the New Year, we note that the initial COVID 19 vaccines are set to begin distribution and administration, and we all hope and pray that they will bring this pandemic under control and eventually allow us to return to a more normal situation.

We, as your MOAA chapter, will continue to go forth with our meetings and hope that you all will continue to join us. Hopefully, the programs and speakers that we schedule will provide you with meaningful information. We are always looking for interesting and topical speakers. If you have any suggestions along those lines, please speak with any officer or board member and we will follow up. We, also, hope to resume our annual riverboat cruise in the May timeframe assuming conditions allow that type of activity by then.

As a reminder, annual dues of \$20 is due for 2021 by March 31st. Remember that we ALL are recruiters, and added membership brings with it, additional revenue, new ideas and new friendships into our fraternity of veterans. So please reach out to other potential members and invite them to become members and participate in our events. In this time of limited public access, it becomes even more important that those we can contact are made aware of our group and our events.

Again, thank you for your service and your participation in this local MOAA chapter and I hope to see you all more often in the New Year.

**John L. Morris**  
**President**



Good Bye

# COVID-19

CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

And Good Riddance

## Flagler County Chapter, FL 41 News/Activities



**Amanda Weinstein**  
@ProfWeinstein

An epidemiologist, an ICU doctor, and a scientist walk into a bar....  
*cinema*  
Just kidding.

### January Program/Speaker Paul Rehme, DVM, MPH, LtCol, USAF Ret.

If that name sounds familiar, it should. Paul is the son of Ruth Rehme, former director of our New Beginnings group. He spoke to our chapter in March 2019, roughly a year before COVID-19 became a household word. As mentioned at that time, he currently serves as **Northeast Florida Regional Environmental Epidemiologist**, headquartered in Jacksonville. I am sure that we all now know what an epidemiologist studies, having suffered through this pandemic for most of 2020.

Paul received his BS from Florida State and his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from the University of Florida. Subsequently, he received a Masters Degree in Public Health from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Paul's military career began in September 1989 and concluded in September of 2013 with his retirement at the rank of LtCol. He served in numerous positions in the Public Health arena, and was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal (5 Oak Leaf Clusters), The Air Force Commendation Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, and the Joint Service Achievement Medal. In 1998, he was the Air Force Public Health Officer of the year.

His message for us on January 28th will be incredibly interesting, given his position, as the COVID-19 pandemic surged through our country and the world, last year.



It is with sadness that we inform you of the passing of Catherine Hammond, after a prolonged illness. Catherine was the wife of LTC David Hammond, who has served as a board member and officer of our chapter. We extend our condolences to David, their family, and friends at Catherine's passing.



### Now Hear This!!

- **Veterans Day Observances** Due to the successful hosting the County Veterans' Day ceremony at Flagler Auditorium, it has been decided to make this the venue for these annual services on a permanent basis. Memorial Day observances will continue to be held at the County Administrative Services Building.
- **Annual JROTC Scholarship (Academic Achievement) Award** During the December Board of Director's meeting, this topic was on the agenda. In February 2020, the Board had decided that it was necessary to reduce the award to \$750 from \$1,000 for each of the two recipients. This was due to decreased income resulting from declining membership. It was also decided (at the December meeting) to change the name of the award to "Academic Achievement" rather than Scholarship, to allow the recipient more flexibility in their use of the award. It also relieved our treasurer of the administrative burden of having to work with the Bursar's Office of the chosen institution of the recipient which is not always known at the time the award is made. The revised administrative protocol for the disbursement of the award will be finalized at the January 2021 Board meeting.
- **February 2021 Luncheon Meeting Program** Our 1st Vice President COL Peggy Hengeveld will be our speaker. Her presentation is entitled "Herstory" (not a typo.) According to Billy Jones, "Peggy has some good stories to tell." She will have a special introduction which you will not want to miss.



***IF you have a new address or telephone number, please let us know.***



## Flagler County Chapter, FL 41 News/Activities

### VA Disability Claims Backlog Spiked to 300,000 During Pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic has led to a backlog of about 300,000 new disability claims at the Department of Veterans Affairs, the head of the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) said recently. "We've got to get this backlog down," VBA Chief Paul Lawrence said in an interview with Military.com. "We're really trying hard to figure this out."

By last November (2019,) the department had succeeded in processing claims at a high rate and brought the new claims backlog down to an all-time low of 64,000 cases, he said. In March 2013, the backlog of new disability claims at the VA had reached a peak of 611,000. From January through the end of March 2020, the number of backlogged claims increased slightly, to 70,000. Then, the spike began, as restrictions were imposed across the government in an effort to limit the spread of COVID-19, wiping out the progress the VA made during 2019 in processing new claims, Lawrence said.

On April 1, the VA announced that "as concerns about COVID-19 infections increased and the president declared a national emergency, VA suspended its in-person medical disability examinations for its compensation and pension (C&P) programs." The VA did not restart in-person exams until late August, and then only on a limited basis.

In addition, COVID-19 restrictions at the vast National Archives warehouse in St. Louis limited the VA's access to records needed to verify veterans' claims, Lawrence explained. "That really set us back in terms of the ability to grant benefits," he said. "The two bits of information we need are the C&P exams and the personnel records."

To break the logjam, the VA began sending its own personnel to assist the National Archives. "We actually have people in their warehouse in St. Louis [going through the files and] getting them scanned into our records," Lawrence said. At one point, the VA had 48 of its own personnel working in the National Archives warehouse, he said. Encouragingly, the increase in backlogged new cases appears to have leveled off in recent weeks, Lawrence added. "We're processing at about the same rate we're receiving," he said. "Now, we're looking forward to the fall and beyond when we can drive it back down."

Source: Richard Sisk @military.com

#### General Meeting Reservation

**THURSDAY Jan 28th, 2021**

**Hilton Garden Inn**

Social Time— 5:30 PM

Dinner & Meeting— 6:00 PM

Program - COVID 19

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

	# Desired	Total
Chicken Pasta Primavera	\$23.00	_____
Eggplant Parmesan	\$23.00	_____
	_____	_____

**Supporting Donations (Circle one):**

Toys for Tots/Feed Flagler/JROTC Academic Achievement Award/ Other (please designate) \_\_\_\_\_  
Suggested charitable donation—\$10 min)

**\$20 dues for 2021 (due by 3/31/2021)! We will gladly accept early payment** \_\_\_\_\_

Total \_\_\_\_\_

**IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND MEETING, PLEASE USE THIS FORM TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE CAUSES THAT WE SUPPORT OR TO PAY YOUR DUES. WE NEED EVERYONE'S HELP TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE. MARK "NO MEAL," CIRCLE FUND, AND INDICATE AMOUNT.**

Mail Check to: MOAA , P.O. Box 352495, Palm Coast, FL 32135-2495

Please ensure that checks and reservations are received by **Wednesday, Jan 20th, 2021**

Dates to Remember			
<p><b><u>Board Meetings</u></b></p> <p>County Admin Bldg. Jan 7th 3:00 PM</p> <p>County Admin Bldg. Feb 4th 3:00 PM</p>	<p><b><u>General Membership Meetings</u></b></p> <p><b>Dinner Meetings</b> <b>Hilton Garden Inn</b> Jan 28th Mar 25th</p> <p><b>Luncheon Meetings</b> <b>Halifax Golf Club</b> Feb 25th April 22nd</p>	<p><b><u>January Birthdays</u></b></p> <p>1 Annette Weaver 2 Sally Morris 6 Dhalma Azua 7 Rene McClanahan 7 Kandi Wells 8 Sue Lewis 9 Gene Walker 11 Gerry Bell 12 Rhonda Stapleford 18 Jim Long 20 Bob DeVilbiss 23 Isobel Karvatt 25 George Bertish 25 Kris Woycke 27 Fred Azua 27 Charles Erickson 27 Linda Hoskins</p>	<p><b><u>January Anniversaries</u></b></p> <p>1 Hershel &amp; Mary Lou Gober 4 David &amp; Victoria Kelsey 5 Bill&amp;Mary Anne Ortmyer</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>
<p><b><u>January Observances</u></b></p> <p>Jan 1st New Years Day ( Welcome 2021) Jan 16th Desert Storm began (1991) Jan 18th Martin Luther King Jr. Day Jan 20th Inauguration Day Jan 27th Signing Viet Nam Peace Accord (1973) Jan 28th Vietnam War Cease Fire (1973)</p>			



**Happy New Year!**

Flagler County Chapter

Military Officers Association of America

P.O. Box 352495

**NEVER STOP SERVING®**

Flagler County Chapter website: <http://www.moaaf.org/chapters>. Email questions to: [fcmoaa41@yahoo.com](mailto:fcmoaa41@yahoo.com).