



DRUMBEAT

April 2023

UPCOMING EVENTS



President's Message for April

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Happy April and let's all hope we get some rain; our local area is in dire need for some good April Showers. April also brings two important holidays, first on 9 April is our yearly celebration of Easter and the ushering of Spring and just prior to that on 5 April we honor our Gold Star Spouses.

Thanks to all our membership for the great contributions to our Annual Golf Tournament fund raiser, our Chapter membership made a significant contribution to the event, and we look to have a very positive year in raising funds for our seven JROTC programs in the area. The Golf tournament is on 22 April and there is still time to sign up and play eighteen holes.

If you have not yet paid your Chapter dues now is the time to complete this important task. The Chapter Dues remain the same for 2023 at \$20 for membership and \$15 for spouse members. You may send your dues payment to Jane Belson at **1824 Northwood Dr Clearwater, FL 33764-2462**.

Our April luncheon is scheduled for the 26th and we have Clete Belsom lined up as our key note speaker, Clete is a member of the Tampa Bay History Center and will be discussing the history of Ybor City. In May we have our new West Central Area Vice President Charles Dalcourt set to speak to us. Charles will also be presenting our Five Star Level of Excellence Award from 2021 at the May meeting.

Enjoy the spring weather while it lasts, and I look forward to seeing you all in April.

Together we are "One Powerful Voice", Still Serving! Hooah!

Jeff Doll

Board Meeting	Apr 19
Lunch Meeting	Apr 26
Board Meeting	May 17
Lunch Meeting	May 24
Board Meeting	Jun 21
Lunch Meeting	No Luncheon
Board Meeting	Jul 19
Lunch Meeting	No Luncheon

Contents of our latest Newsletter.



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Clearwater Chapter MOAA Membership

Total Members	78
Regular	45
Spouses	10
Surviving Spouses	23

Numbers reflect removal of members failing to pay 2022 dues

The Drumbeat is published by the Clearwater Chapter which is an affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA). MOAA and its affiliated chapters and councils are nonpartisan. The advertisements that appear in this publication also do not reflect an endorsement by MOAA.

Join Clearwater Chapter MOAA - Click on: [Application](#)

Contact your Senators and Representative — Click on: [Take Action](#)

LUNCHEON NEWS

Wednesday April 26, 2023

Join us for Lunch at the Clearwater Country Club; 525 N Betty Lane, Clearwater. Directions: going north from Drew Street it'll be the last right turn before the railroad tracks, from Palmetto Street heading south it'll be the first left after the tracks. CCC phone: (727) 446-9501. Luncheon check-in starts 11:15, program at noon. Meal selections

(if reservation is NOT made On-line) are to be made by calling Jane Belson: (727) 535-9151 **NLT 12:00**

Apr 21, 2023. Cancellations must be in **NLT 12:00 Apr 24, 2023.**

Please have check ready in the **NEW amount of \$22.00 per person** before arrival!

You are encouraged to use the Chapter Web Site to make reservations and meal selections:

<http://moaafi.org/Chapters/MOAAFLCWC/Default.aspx>



Menu:

Hot: house salad/ Italian Dressing, Spaghetti & meatballs w/garlic toast, Chef's choice of dessert

Cold: Soup du Jour, Cobb Salad, Chopped mixed greens topped with turkey, bacon, tomato, egg, bleu cheese and avocado, Served with homemade ranch dressing, Chef's Choice of Dessert,

Meals will be accompanied with rolls & butter

Beverage Station will be Set Up including Iced Tea and Coffee available throughout the Luncheon

April Speaker

Clete Belsom

Clete Belsom is a native of New Orleans, but a proud resident of Tampa for the past 44 years.

He graduated from Tulane University in Business and from Michigan State University in Economics. He is married, has two children and four grandchildren.

Clete was a career Air Force officer with worldwide assignments in strategic and tactical intelligence. A very memorable assignment as an Air Force officer was teaching economics for four years at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

Clete retired from the Air Force in 1980. Follow-on careers included real estate investment, brokerage and urban redevelopment for the City of Tampa and Tampa Economic Development Corporation.

Clete became a volunteer docent at the Tampa Bay History Center when it opened in 2009. Besides conducting school tours, Clete is a member of the History Krewe outreach team and the Sunland Journal discussion group.

Clete would add that he is a 43 year member of MOAA.

Loss of Chapter Member

The Chapter regrets to announce the death of Chapter member and author Deanna Bennett. Her death was reported by her niece Ms. Rachel McCutcheon. No service information was provided by the family nor the date of her passing. She will be missed by all with whom she came in contact. Deanna left the following poem for how she wished to be Remembered:

Afterglow

I'd like the memory of me to be a happy one. I'd like to leave and after glow of smiles when life is done. I'd like to leave an echo whispering softly down the ways, of happy times and laughing times, and bright and sunny days. I'd like the tears of those that grieve, to dry before the sun of happy memories that I leave when life is done.

Military Coalition and Lawmakers Rally as Star Act Support Expands in Congress

Veteran advocates converged Tuesday on Capitol Hill to fight for the Major Richard Star Act, a bill that would correct an injustice and provide earned pay to more than 50,300 combat-injured veterans.

“...Coalition members met with lawmakers and staffs throughout the day and were joined by Sen. John Tester (D-Mont.) and Rep. Gus Bilirakis (R-Fla.) in a Tuesday press conference calling for swift passage of the bipartisan legislation, which would allow combat-injured veterans to receive both vested longevity pay and VA disability. The retirement pay of these veterans is currently subject to an offset, reduced by a dollar for every dollar of VA disability received...”.

Click on: [Star Act](#)

Veterans: What's Taxed (and What's Not) on Your Federal and State Returns

Veterans who receive a variety of special pays thanks to military service could be shielded from big federal or state tax bills, depending on whether they served all the way to retirement, received education benefits, have a service-connected disability or live in a state with special rules.

Click on: [Your Taxes](#)

5 Ways to Avoid Social Security Fraud

The Social Security Administration (SSA) marked National “Slam the Scam” Day March 9 as part of fraud-prevention efforts, with scammers claiming tens of millions of dollars in benefits each year from unsuspecting victims.

The SSA fielded more than 568,000 reports of fraud in 2021, per a CNBC report, resulting in losses of \$63.6 million. One type of fraud – where the scammer impersonates the victim to collect payments – cost beneficiaries more than \$95 million from 2017 through 2021, according to an AARP post.

Click on: [Avoiding Fraud](#)

Veterans' Emergency Room Bills Could Get Repaid by VA Thanks to Change

Veterans who received care at non-VA emergency rooms since 2010 could now get some of their out-of-pocket costs reimbursed years later, even if their claims were previously denied.

The VA is finalizing a new rule, published Feb. 22 and taking effect April 24, that would cover those past costs and reimburse veterans going forward.

Click on: [Emergency Room](#)

Here's How Veterans Can Access Their VA Claims Decision Letter Online

An update to VA.gov allows veterans to access their full disability benefit claim decision letters digitally, skipping the call to a VA representative and the wait for a paper copy to arrive in the mail. **NOTE:** Drumbeat Editor was unable to access the site when attempting to test the system.

Click on: [Online](#)

Lawmakers Eye Caps on Attorney Fees for Camp Lejeune Suits

Congress will likely pass legislation this year to limit attorney's fees for certain veterans benefits work to protect vets from being bilked by unscrupulous attorneys, according to Sen. Jon Tester, D-Mont., chairman of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee. While veterans technically don't have to pay anything to file a claim, some lawyers say they can simplify the complicated process and make sure claims aren't rejected - services that can cost thousands of dollars.

Click on: [Fee Scams](#)

5th Annual Golf Tournament Sponsored by:

Clearwater Chapters of the Military Order of the World Wars, Military Officers Association of America and the Pinellas County Schools JROTC Units

GOLF TOURNAMENT
SATURDAY APRIL 22, 2023

4-Person Scramble Format
Registration Starts at Noon -

1:30 pm Shotgun Start

\$85 Per Golfer

**BBQ Meal Included &
 Awards Ceremony/Prizes**



**Bardmoor Golf &
 Tennis Club**

**8001 Cumberland Drive
 Largo, FL 33770**

WIN PRIZES!

- 1st & 2nd Place Winning Teams
- Longest Drive (Men & Women)
- Longest "Senior Drive" (Men & Woman)
- Closest to Pin (Men & Women)
- Hole In One Contest
- Raffle Prizes (6 additional tickets \$5)
- Player "Goodie Bag", includes (1) free
- raffle ticket for prize drawings!

Tournament Proceeds Benefit:

Boca Ciega High School Army JROTC
 Clearwater High School Marines JROTC
 Dunedin High School Navy JROTC
 Gibbs High School Army JROTC
 Hollins High School Army JROTC
 Northeast High School Army JROTC
 Pinellas Park High School Coast Guard JROTC
 Military Order of the World Wars, MOWW
 Military Officers Association of America, MOAA

\$20 "HONOR PACKAGE"

(1 Mulligan, 1 Raffle Ticket, Putting Contest, Longest Drive, closest to the Pin Contest)

See reverse side of flyer for sponsorship opportunities

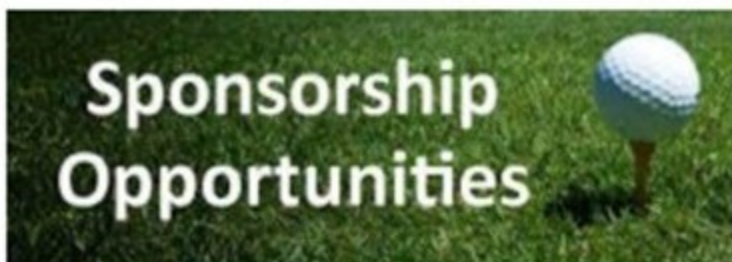
Cut & return golf registration/sponsorship form to the address below

GOLF REGISTRATION & EVENT SPONSORSHIP FORM

Player Name(s) _____ Cell Phone _____ Email Address _____

\$_____ SPONSORSHIP \$_____ PLAYERS @ \$85 pp \$_____ TOTAL

Make check payable and mail to: MOWW Clearwater Chapter, ICO: LTC Steve Hodges USA (Ret), 4556 Great Lakes Dr. So, Clearwater, FL 33762. For additional information call: Steve Hodges @ (727) 709-2612, Email: shodges41@gmail.com EIN # 23-7368566, 501(c)3 Non-Profit Organization



HEROES SPONSOR - \$1,000

Foursome + 4 "Honor" packages, company name on golf carts,
Hole sign & Sponsor recognition at lunch/awards ceremony

FREEDOM SPONSOR - \$500

Foursome + 4 "Honor" packages, Hole Sign recognition

MEDALIST SPONSOR - \$400

Foursome + Hole Sign recognition

\$200 Longest Drive Sponsor
\$200 Closest to the Pin Sponsor
\$200 Putting Contest Sponsor
\$100 Hole Sign Sponsor

(or) Make a donation to enhance citizenship through JROTC
 Check payable to: **MOWW CLEARWATER CHAPTER**
 501(c)3 Veterans Organization EIN 23-7368566

PLEASE CHECK BELOW YOUR LEVEL OF EVENT SPONSORSHIP

- ____ **HEROES SPONSOR - \$1,000** (Name) _____
- ____ **FREEDOM SPONSOR - \$500** (Name) _____
- ____ **LONGEST DRIVE SPONSOR - \$200** (Name) _____
- ____ **CLOSEST TO THE PIN - \$200** (Name) _____
- ____ **HOLE SIGN SPONSOR - \$100** (Attach sign information)
- ____ **\$20 "HONOR" PACKAGE** _____ # of packages
- ____ **A DONATION - \$** _____

Thank you
FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Photos



Mark Musick MAJ GEN USAF Ret weaves a fascinating tale of the secret life of reclusive genius Howard Hughes .



Audience is hanging on every word of the presentation



Chapter President Jeff Doll BG USA Ret presents Certificate of Appreciation to speaker Mark Musick MAG GEN USAF Ret for his fascinating tale of the secret life of Howard Hughes

SALUTING OUR FINE PATRIOTIC ADVERTISERS <https://stores.perkinsrestaurants.com/us/fl/clearwater/2626-gulf-to-bay-blvd.html> Clearwater Perkins Restaurant welcomes you to come and enjoy a meal, open 24-7. Perkins Restaurant is located at 2626 Gulf-to-Bay Blvd, Clearwater, FL-PH-727-799-2019. Stop by for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Wine and beer available upon request You are encouraged to patronize our patriotic advertisers and to be sure to mention you are an MOAA member. Please bring a copy of the advertisement and show it to the manager. Also encourage your friends and family to patronize them and to let them know you suggested it to be included in the Drumbeat and show appreciation for their support. Please note ALL links (advertisers with links in color and others) are "Hot" and will take you to



Clearwater Perkins Restaurant welcomes you to come and enjoy a meal, open 24-7. Perkins Restaurant is located at 2626 Gulf-to-Bay Blvd, Clearwater, FL-PH-727-799-2019. Stop by for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Wine and beer available upon request



<https://stores.perkinsrestaurants.com/us/fl/clearwater/2626-gulf-to-bay-blvd.html>



Former, Active, Retired Military Officers, Warrant Officers & Surviving Spouses

JOIN A FLORIDA CHAPTER

- Advocacy from the National to the State and Local levels
- Philanthropy and Community Service
- Comradery with a Purpose

NEVER STOP SERVING

Find a chapter at www.MOAAFL.org/Membership.aspx

MOAA Chapters: Where the rubber meets the road!

As Military Officers, our shared experience of service forms a bond like no other. And while MOAA is based in Washington, D.C., the heart and soul of our organization lies in local communities served by local chapters, where members pledge to "Never Stop Serving".

MOAA chapters unite active duty, former, and retired officers and warrant officers from every branch of service, including the National Guard and Reserve, as well as their spouses. Membership in a chapter provides an opportunity to connect with fellow officers, networking, grassroots advocacy, community service, philanthropy, and much more.

Connect with other, like minded officers committed to keeping our military strong and ensuring promises made to veterans are kept. There are 39 MOAA Chapters in Florida. Join a Florida MOAA Chapter now by visiting our website at: www.MOAAFL.org/Membership.aspx



Standing with you at every stage.

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MOAA Florida Council of Chapters (FCoC) 46th Annual Convention, May 19th-21st At the Renaissance Hotel & Convention Center World Golf Village in St. Augustine, FL



Come join us at the gathering of Florida MOAA Members in Florida's Oldest City, St. Augustine, from Friday, May 19th through Sunday, May 21st. There are low hotel rates available for MOAA members before, during, and after the Convention. The Convention promises to be a fun and memorable event at the Renaissance Hotel and Convention Center at the World Golf Village, just off I-95 in St. Augustine. There is a Golf Tournament on Friday on one of the world-class courses and tours of the Old City. On Saturday there is a bourbon tasting event and a Military Ball! MOAA President and CEO, Lt. Gen. B.K. Kelly is the guest speaker. There will also be a memorial service for MOAA members in Florida that we lost in 2022, Surviving Spouse and Legislative Affairs updates by MOAA representatives. We are hearing there will be Pirates too with lots of other things to see and do!

Reservations are now open and can be made on the MOAA Florida Council website at www.MOAAFL.org/Convention.aspx?ConvYear=2023

Photo Courtesy of Ted Pappas



MOAA

Military Officers Association *of* America

One Powerful Voice.®

www.clearwatermoaa.org

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Safety Harbor, FL 34695

