



# DRUMBEAT

January 2024



## President's Message for January

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Happy 2024 to all of you and I hope everyone had a great Holiday season and reconnected with friends and family. I always find this time of year to be a contemplative time when we ask deeper questions. So, in that spirit I offer the following. I never get asked this question, why do we have the Calendar that we do? So, I thought I would share an answer: The Gregorian calendar is the calendar used in most parts of the world. It went into effect in October 1582 following the papal bull *Inter gravissimas* issued by Pope Gregory XIII, which introduced it as a modification of, and replacement for, the Julian calendar. The principal change was to space leap years differently so as to make the average calendar year 365.2425 days long, more closely approximating the 365.2422-day 'tropical' or 'solar' year that is determined by the Earth's revolution around the Sun. Well, I share this just in case you wanted to know.

We will resume our normal fourth Wednesday Luncheons on 24 January at Clearwater Country Club. We have Mr. Joseph Vars the Historian of the Bellview Inn who will join us as our guest speaker for this venue. Joseph will provide a history of the building with a focus on the period during which the U.S. Army Air Corp leased the complex and housed pilots for training in preparation for deployment in World War II. Hope to see you on 24 January.

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

Jeff Doll

**Please remember to silence your mobile phones during our luncheons and lower the volume if left on vibrate to avoid disturbing those around you..**

Board Meeting	Jan 17 2024
Lunch Meeting	Jan 24
Board Meeting	Feb 21
Lunch Meeting	Feb 28
Board Meeting	Mar 20
Lunch Meeting	Mar 27
Board Meeting	Apr 17
Lunch Meeting	Apr 24

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### Clearwater Chapter Membership

Total Members	53
Regular	30
Spouses	15
Surviving Spouses	8

**Reduced by 29 for failure to pay 2023 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](#)**

## Chapter News

### Chapter Dues Payments Result In Dropping From Chapter Roster

29 persons were removed from Chapter roster for failure to pay 2023 Chapter dues. Those removed may be reinstated by paying dues which remain \$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.

#### Dave Apt COL USA Ret Served As Point of Contact For:

#### The Home Depot Foundation Partners with Warrior Outreach to Gift Bikes to Veteran Families This Holiday Season

**WHAT:** The Home Depot Foundation is partnering with Warrior Outreach to donate nearly 300 bikes to families of Veterans Past, Present and First responders this holiday season.

Team Depot, The Home Depot's associate volunteer force, assembled 37 bikes and provided the to children of active-duty military, veterans MacDill Airforce base area.

Giving back to veterans is personal to The Home Depot, as more than 35,000 of the company's associates are veterans or military spouses. Since 2011, The Home Depot Foundation has invested more than \$500 million in veteran causes and helped renovate and enhance more than 60,000 veteran homes and facilities. The Foundation has pledged to invest \$750 million in veteran causes by 2030.

#### Volunteer projects will include:

Distribute bikes to military and first responder families

WHO: Spokespeople available for interviews include:

- \* Marshal Dunn Team Depot Captain,
- \* Sam Rhodes, Warrior Outreach [Onsite Contact: 706-505-0708]

**WHERE: Seminole Florida Home Depot**

**WHEN: Wednesday, December 20 from 11-3 PM**

- \* The bikes will be distributed during this time period each night from 12/11 until 12/14 but the 13th is expected to be the largest distribution effort.

CONTACT: For more information, please contact Hope Jensen at [hope\\_jensen@homedepot.com](mailto:hope_jensen@homedepot.com) or 404-372-1831.

See Photos on page 7

#### Here's How You Can Help MOAA Protect TRICARE and TRICARE For Life

"...MOAA needs your help to protect the TRICARE benefit. We must be poised to fight threats to TRICARE, but only about 20,000 of MOAA's 360,000 members are registered advocates in our Legislative Action Center, which allows you to send pre-written letters to your members of Congress with just a couple of clicks..."

Click on: [Protect TRICARE](#)

### Chapter News (Continued)

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**

**Jan 19, 2024.** Cancellations must be in **NLT 12:00 Jan 22, 2024.** **Note: 2024 Chapter dues are due (\$20 for members and \$15 for spouses and may be paid at the luncheon by cash or check (dues checks must be separate from luncheon checks))**

Please have checks ready before arrival!

**Hot:** House Salad, Turkey, Mashed Potatoes/Gravy, Cranberry Sauce, Green Beans Almandine,

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 w/Ranch Dressing, Chef's Choice of Dessert

Meals will be accompanied with rolls & butter

Beverage Station will be available throughout the meal

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

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

### January Luncheon Speaker



Joey graduated from USF St. Pete has a master's degree program in something called Florida Studies, a natural fit for Joey. There he studies the geography, geology, ecology, music, culture, and — especially — the history of Florida.

Joey is the resident Florida historian of the Belleview Inn in Belleair, the first in its 112-year history.

The Belleview is Tampa Bay's oldest hotel. It was built as a railroad-accessible resort establishing the snowbird lifestyle in Florida. Over the years, the Belleview had many owners and notable guests, including country leaders, industry magnates, celebrities, royalty, and their staff as characters in a century of stories.

After a 2015 demolition to the original hotel, only the main lobby and the rooms above still stand to tell its story — and, of course, Joey.

As the hotel's historian, Joey curates the historical paintings around the original lobby. This includes the History Room, a small museum in the hotel with relics and documents telling the building's story.

"In the months after I started learning about the building, I realized that all the works that have been done on this building were contradicting each other," he says. "So as I set out to try and set the record straight and make sense of what it was... That's where a lot of the scholarly work started to come in."

## MOAA News

### Preventing Veteran Suicide

“first aid” training is available from The Fire Watch, Florida’s commitment to ending Veteran suicide. The training is available online and covers three major points: The importance of suicide prevention in the Veteran community, How to recognize warning signs of a Veteran in crisis, and How to direct a Veteran in crisis to either 9-8-8 or the Veteran Crisis Line.

By completing The Fire Watch training, you and your fellow MOAA chapter members will be able to SAVE a Veteran’s life by knowing the Signs of suicidal thinking, Asking the most important question of all — “Are you thinking of killing yourself?”, Validating the Veteran’s experience, and Encouraging treatment and Expediting help.

You can be the light in a Veteran’s darkness. Contact The Fire Watch today at

(<https://www.thefirewatch.org/>) .

### Here Are Your 2024 Medicare Part B Rates

After falling in 2023, the standard Medicare Part B monthly premium will increase by \$9.80 in 2024, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) announced Oct. 12.

**Click on: [2024 Rates](#)**

### Survey: Most Would Support a Relative Serving as an Officer, But Not Enlisting

Most Americans would discourage a young person close to them from enlisting in the military, but a wide majority would encourage them to join as an officer, according to a new Rand Corp. study published this week.

The study found that 54.4% of respondents would dissuade a 17-year-old relative from joining the military as an enlisted service member, though nearly two-thirds of Americans would encourage them to go the officer route, either through a service academy or the Reserve Officer Training Corps, also known as ROTC.

**Click on: [No to Enlisting](#)**

### Crackdown on Stolen Valor by Businesses Set to Become Law

The sweeping defense policy bill poised to pass Congress this week seeks to crack down on stolen valor among businesses by making it harder for some of them to win federal contracts intended for veterans.

The compromise National Defense Authorization Act, or NDAA, includes an amendment that would stipulate that small businesses that self-certify as being service disabled and veteran owned could not count toward the government's target for how much contracting goes to such businesses.

The goal is to disincentivize stolen valor by motivating federal officials to award contracts to businesses that are formally certified as being veteran owned.

**Click on: [Stolen Valor](#)**





Clearwater High School JROTC Honor Guard



Mike Mattia COL USA Ret, Jeff Doll BG USA Ret & Dave Apt COL USA Ret



Chapter member Steve Hodges LTC USA Ret (2nd from right) and MOWW members



Jeff Doll BG USA Ret presents Certificate of Appreciation to Frank T. Coughlin Capt. USN Ret





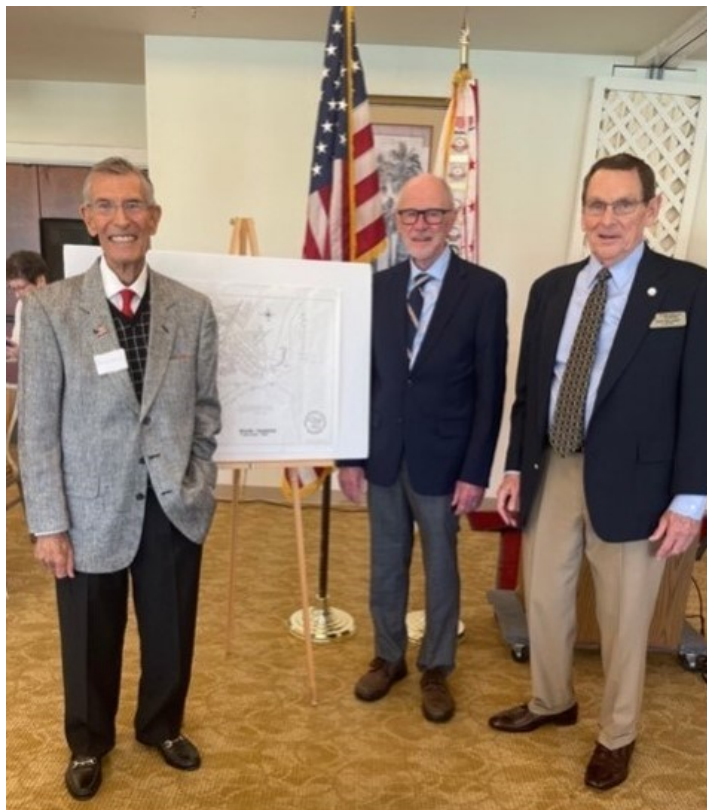
Steve Hodges LTC USA Ret presents Toast to the Flag



Nate Crawford COL USAF Ret with the Invocation



Pat Hughes & Jane Belson who make our luncheons happen



Alfred Ferris, Frank Coughlin CAPT USN Ret & Gary Williams Former LT USN



Warrior Outreach and Home Depot Team Up to Support Children of Service Members serving at MacDill AFB!  
Dave Apt COL USA Ret (center) Natasha Whitehead, Team Home Depot District 13 Captain (right) and Marshal Dunn, Team Leader, Home Depot Seminole (left).





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](http://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](http://www.MOAAFL.org/Membership.aspx)

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