

# *Officers Call*

## *2024*

**March-April Issue**

*Military Officers Association of America*  
*Saint Petersburg Area Chapter*



★★★★★  
*One of America's Best....*

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY MOAA®



<https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2024-news-articles/recommended-reads/moaa-at-95-a-leader-in-military-advocacy/>

MOAA turned **95 years strong** on **Feb. 23**, and while we have adapted and evolved over the years, our core mission has remained intact: advocating on behalf of our servicemembers, veterans, family members, and survivors to preserve and protect their earned benefits and support the “people” side of having a strong national defense.

Formed originally as The Retired Officers Association, founder Col. Arthur T. Marix, USMC (Ret), believed the retiree population could provide vital assistance and knowledge to defense leaders and lawmakers and thereby improve life for our entire military (today’s uniformed services) community.

Our association membership expanded 21 years ago when we became the Military Officers Association of America, and we stand tall today with **363,000** members from among the currently serving and previously served/retired communities. MOAA has been on the leading edge every year since our inception in continuously preserving earned benefits, but as we take a moment to celebrate MOAA’s birthday, I want to share some of the major advocacy milestones MOAA’s been a key part of over the years:

- **In the 1940s**, our advocacy mission was not achieved through meetings with Congress. Rather, we influenced laws by providing input and guidance through the Navy chief of the Bureau of Personnel and the Army deputy chief of staff for personnel. The association hired its first lobbyist in 1944, and by the 1950s, the association was working directly with Congress.
- **In the 1950s**, MOAA worked with other organizations to ensure military members were eligible for full Social Security benefits.
- **In the 1960s**, MOAA helped lead the charge in creating what is today the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP).
- **In 1972**, MOAA organized the Council of Military Organizations, a group of legislative representatives of 12 uniformed service-type organizations, both officer and enlisted, meeting monthly to discuss legislative affairs.
- A unified voice was needed again in **1985**, and MOAA joined with 15 other military associations to form The Military Coalition and undo the complete elimination of the cost-of-living allowance (COLA) included in the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985. On Oct. 21, 1986, President Ronald Reagan signed the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act, which exempted military and federal civilian retirees from these cuts and linked their COLA payments to those of Social Security recipients.
- **In the early 1990s**, MOAA launched a series of friend of the court (amicus curiae) legal briefs to the U.S. Supreme Court to assist retiree groups in recovering state taxes illegally imposed on military (and, in some cases, federal civilian) retirees. Collectively, these briefs were instrumental in having the various states refund almost \$900 million to retirees for a cost to MOAA of about \$100,000. <https://www.publicdomainpictures.net/pictures/50000/nahled/happy-birthday-text-clipart.jpg>

**Happy 95th!!!!**

## From the Desk of the Editor



Dave Warren, Editor OC

Welcome to the March-April edition of the St Petersburg Area Chapter Newsletter, **The OC**. I recently took from Larry 'O'Hara, the long serving editor who did a fabulous (and award winning!) as editor of the OC . With the passing of the coveted editor job, I am proud to carry on in publishing this bi-monthly newsletter to the membership. I am proud to continue to serve my colleagues of all services in the dissemination of Chapter information as well as news from MOAA National and the Florida Council of Chapters.

Over time the format, typeface, graphics and pictures will change. My mission is to publish an “easy on the eye” newsletter that is colorful, interesting and one that you all will look forward to with each edition. Of course correct syntax and spelling is paramount so I will endeavor to publish error free copy.

**A newsletter is only as good as the content it receives.** Monthly the editor gets columns and notes for the members of the Board and Executive Committee, however I want to invite any member to submit notes or articles you may think will benefit the membership in general. I always welcome your feedback about this publication as well as comments on the articles you read. Email the editor at [stpetemoaamail@gmail.com](mailto:stpetemoaamail@gmail.com)

So enjoy this edition, be on the lookout for changes in the coming months!

Dave Warren

LTC, USA (Ret)

## President's Note



By: John Kieffer  
MAJ, USA (veteran)  
SPA MOAA

Greetings! Hope everyone is enjoying the warmer weather; and, for those who leave to head north about this time, stay in touch via our virtual community on Facebook and Instagram. Links to both our social media accounts are available on our website. I urge you to join us there, if not already.

I have a little confession to make. For the several years that I have been involved with the chapter, my affiliation in the national MOAA was via their free membership option. Recently, I was made aware of how important a paid membership is to funding MOAA's congressional lobby representing the benefits deserved by our veterans, active duty and retired military, and their dependents. Hence, today I joined MOAA's Premium three year membership. This was only \$140; and, like all paid memberships, it includes a subscription to the *Military Officer* magazine.

If you have not already done so, here's the link to make that happen: <https://www.moaa.org/content/join-moaa/why-join-moaa/>

I have posted joining as such on our Facebook page. So, if you join as a paid Member or Surviving Spouse, or are already a paid member, add a comment to that post to let us know.

Never Stop Serving!

## Chaplains Corner



COL Tony Clark (USA Ret)

“The waiting is the hardest part.” Tom Petty

I am writing these reflections on Holy Saturday, the day between Good Friday and Easter Sunday. A “threshold day,” an “almost but not quite yet day,” a “hurry up and wait day.”

Jesus had spoken of his death, burial and “rising on the third day,” but it seems the disciples did not quite get it. And who could blame them: they knew of rising again or resurrection for all on the “last day,” but the rising or resurrection of one man before then? Not part of their worldview.

For them, the day after Jesus’ death and burial may have been a day of mourning, perhaps confusion, perhaps anticipation. Some may have been wondering about and waiting for this “rising on the third day” of which Jesus spoke.

Watching. Wondering. Waiting.

For those of us in the Christian tradition, we know the end of the story: “he is risen, he is not here” and we can forget the watching, wondering, and waiting that may have described the disciples that day.

But we all know about waiting and (as Dr. Seuss describes it) “The Waiting Place...

...for people just waiting.

Waiting for a train to go

or a bus to come, or a plane to go

or the phone to ring, or the snow to snow

or waiting around for a Yes or No

or waiting for their hair to grow.

Everyone is just waiting.”

For Dr. Seuss, the waiting place can be a “most useless place,” but for the people of faith, the waiting place (Holy Saturday, the Advent and Lent seasons of preparation, waiting times in life) can be a most USEFUL place.

## Membership Corner



LTC Pauline Mallory, USA Ret

A big thank you to all who continue to support our active duty and retired soldiers, veterans, and surviving spouses through your continued renewal of dues and donations to our five JROTC high schools, Help Our Troops (HOT) which provides support for our local Veterans, the Officer Call newsletter and National MOAA Scholarships.

This year the Chapter is not publishing a paper booklet directory. A printable roster will be sent electronically to your email. This will allow updates to be easily added periodically throughout the next year. Renewal letters will continue to go out through the USPS as usual.

You will notice that all Surviving Spouses are now Life Members. Your Chapter officers agreed.

Just a reminder that dues for SPAC renewal dues for 2024 are overdue. If you have moved out of the area and/or no longer wish to continue in your membership, please let me know.

You may mail your renewal dues to:

St Petersburg Area Chapter  
P.O. Box 8462  
Seminole FL 33775-8462

Military members: \$30.00

Spouse/Surviving Spouse: \$25.00

LTC Pauline Mallory, USA, Ret

Membership Chair

Never Stop Serving

# Meeting Dates 2024

<u>Month</u>	<u>Executive Committee *</u>	<u>General Membership</u>
May	7*	17**
June	4	21***
July	2 (via Zoom)	<i>No Meeting</i>
August	6 (via Zoom)	<i>No Meeting</i>
September	10	20
October	8	18
November	5	15 Annual Mtg
December	3	20 Holiday Social

- ♦ **\*May 7-EC Meet at St Pete Distillery, 6:30 pm (<https://stpetersburgdistillery.com>)**
- ♦ **\*\*Guest Speaker Tami Martin-see Bio next page.**
- ♦ **\*\*\*June 21-Evening event. 5:00-8:00 PM Bayou Club, (FOR GPS USE: 8001 Cumberland Road Seminole Florida 33777)**

**Reservations with final locations and meal selections will be published in your Officers Call.**

**Remember to bring your Officer or Surviving Spouse friends.**

## Bio of May17 Guest Speaker, Tami Martin



Tami Martin received her Expanded Functions Dental Assisting from the Univ. of Florida, she has over 35 years in the dental profession. Throughout her dental career she transitioned into many roles such as dental assistant, office manager, director and administrator.

Through her extensive experience in the dental field, she brings a wealth of knowledge and understanding of the dental needs and challenges the veterans face. Her multifaceted involvement in the dental field and dedication to advocating for veterans' rights can significantly contribute to improving both dental care standards and the lives of those who have served in the military.

Tami is very active in her community and sits on several veteran community partnership boards. Tam's father served in the Army Korean War, Grandfather WWII Army POW, Brother Marine Veteran and son in law Army medically retired.

With her wealth of knowledge and dedication, Tami is well-positioned to make meaningful contributions towards enhancing dental care standards for veterans and positively impacting their overall well-being.

Tami's role as the Dental Outreach Coordinator with the Wounded Veterans Relief Fund demonstrates her continued commitment to advocating for and supporting disabled and wounded veterans, particularly those who may not qualify for dental care through the VA system.

The organization's mission to provide 100% free dental care to veterans who do not qualify for VA dental services fills a crucial gap in support for those who have served their country. By focusing on veterans with service-connected disability ratings of 30-90%, the Critical Dental Assistance Program targets individuals who often face significant challenges in accessing essential dental care.

Tami's position allows her to directly engage with veterans, understand their specific dental needs, and facilitate access to the services provided by the Wounded Veterans Relief Fund. Her experience in the dental profession, coupled with her deep understanding of veterans' needs and challenges, uniquely qualifies her to serve in this role and make a meaningful impact on the lives of wounded and disabled veterans.

Through her work with the organization, Tami plays a vital role in ensuring that veterans receive the dental care they require to maintain their oral health and overall well-being. Her dedication to this cause undoubtedly has a positive and lasting effect on the veterans she serves and their families.



## Photos from the March meeting....



## Hospitality and Reservations



**Denise & Maj Tom Pederson**

Here are the meal selections for May 17th Luncheon at the Bayou Country Club:

1. Grilled Chicken over Villager Salad: Mixed greens, mandarin oranges, craisins, strawberries, pecans, and raspberry vinaigrette
2. Mediterranean Salmon Salad: Grilled salmon, grape tomatoes, cucumbers, kalamata olives, pepperoncini, red onion, feta cheese & avocado over spring mix with Greek dressing
3. Bayou Club Wrap: Turkey, ham, bacon, lettuce, tomato, mixes cheese, in a wheat wrap served with fresh fruit
4. Vegan Bowl

All selections are served with assorted rolls, butter, dessert, coffee and iced tea.

Cost remains \$25 per meal.

**RSVP Tom Pederson. Email: [mtgfoodstpete@gmail.com](mailto:mtgfoodstpete@gmail.com) or Text: 727-688-9908**

## Personal Affairs Corner



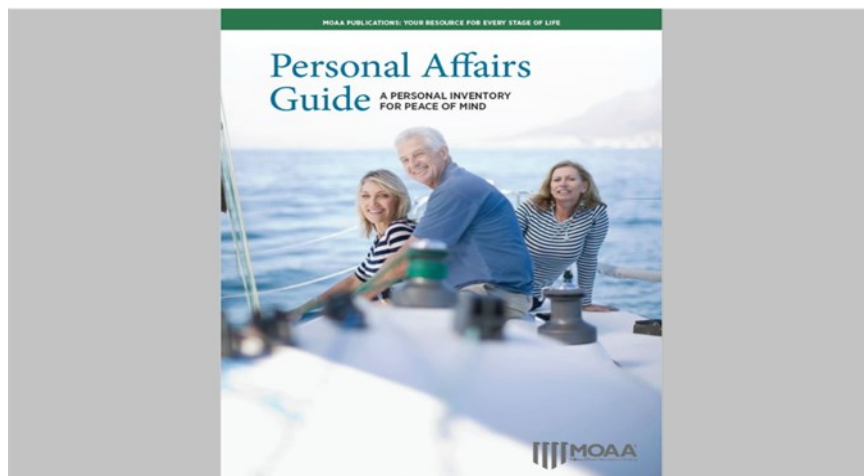
LTC Pauline Mallory, USA Ret  
Personal Affairs Chair

It's the start of the New Year and time to make sure all your affairs are in order. MOAA has created this workbook to assist you in gathering all of your family's crucial information - from investments to legal documents, insurance policies, and more. You can complete a downloadable guide to save as a digital record on your computer or as a hard-copy file to place with your other important documents. For our PREMIUM and LIFE Members, benefits and financial counseling with MOAA staff experts will complement the process of completing this workbook.

PREMIUM and LIFE MOAA Member Price: [FREE download](#)

Not a member? [Join as PREMIUM or LIFE member today.](#)

BASIC members, [upgrade](#) to get your FREE copy.



## **Current Board Officers**

President: John Kieffer MAJ USA FMR  
1st VP: John Rummel CDR USN Ret.  
2nd VP: Larry O'Hara MAJ USA Ret.  
Treasurer: Brian Rau LTC USA Ret.  
Secretary: Tina Manley  
Spouse Liaison: Marty Brown

VA Office of Survivor Assistance

<https://www.va.gov/SURVIVORS/FAQs.asp>

## **Executive Advisory Board,**

### **Term Expires 31 DEC 25**

Peter Gunderson CAPT USN Ret.

Christina Manley CPT USA Ret.

Richard Dusincki LTC USA Ret.

### **Term Expires 31 DEC 24**

Tom Pederson Maj USAF Ret.

Anthony Clark COL USA Ret.

Monroe King CAPT USN Ret.

# Your Executive Board for 2024



President  
MAJ John Kieffer



1st Vice President  
CDR John Rummel



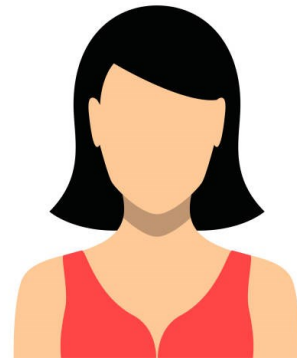
2nd Vice President  
MAJ Larry O'Hara



Secretary  
Tina Manley



Treasurer  
LTC Brian Rau



Spouse Liaison  
Marty Brown

## Executive Council Contributors



Hospitality & Reservations  
Denise & Maj Tom Pederson



Chaplain  
COL Tony Clark



Veteran Representative  
LTC Frances Chancy

# Contact Information

Committee	Chairperson
Advertising	MAJ John Kieffer
Awards	Pete Gunderson
Bylaws & Policy Book	MAJ Larry O'Hara
Help our Troops & VA Volunteer Service	LTC Fran Chancey
Hospitality & Reservations	Maj Thomas Pederson Mrs. Denise Pederson
Law	Maj Bert Carrier
Legislative	CW5 Tom Hofer
Membership	LTC Pauline Mallory
Personal Affairs	LTC Pauline Mallory COL Tony Clark
ROTC & JROTC	CW5 Tom Hofer
Scholarships	CAPT Pete (Halvor) Gunderson
Surviving Spouses	Marty Brown
Transition	Vacant
Visitation	Vacant

The chapter's 2024 directory contains phone #, email addresses

## Did You Know? MOAA Has Podcasts!

### Check these out for your next “listen”



MOAA has a vast selection of Podcasts for your listening entertainment and education. Listed below are just a few.

Check out MOAA’s website at [MOAA.org](http://MOAA.org)

BORNE THE BATTLE – weekly podcast from the Dept of VA

<https://blogs.va.gov/VAntage/va-podcast/network/borne-the-battle>

ECHOES OF THE VIETNAM WAR – spotlights, veterans, their families, and others affected

[www.vvmf.org.Echoes](http://www.vvmf.org/Echoes)

JACKO PODCAST – hosted by retired Navy SEAL officer

<https://jockpodcast.com/all-episodes>

MENTORS FOR MILITARY – focuses on stories behind real-life military experiences

<https://mentorsformilitary.com>

NATIONAL DEFENSE – features analysis news on military trends

[www.nationaldefensemagazine.org/podcasts](http://www.nationaldefensemagazine.org/podcasts)

SERVICE ON CELLULOID – debates on historical merit depictions of military films

[www.nationalww2museum.org/war/podcasts/service-celluloid-podcast#episodes](http://www.nationalww2museum.org/war/podcasts/service-celluloid-podcast#episodes)

SOFREP RADIO – podcasts hosted by former military operators

<https://sofrep.com/sofrep-radio>

TEAM NEVER QUIT – hosted by Navy SEAL Marcus Luttrell, author of *Lone Survivor*

<https://teamneverquit.com/podcast>

VETERANS CHRONICLES – stories of American heroes in their own words

[www.americanveteranscenter.org/avc-media/radio/veterans-chronicles](http://www.americanveteranscenter.org/avc-media/radio/veterans-chronicles)

YOUR NEXT MISSION – support for transitioning service members, spouses and families

<https://yournextmission.org>

WAR ON THE ROCKS – “National Security. For Insiders. By Insiders.”

<https://warontherocks.com>

WOMEN OF THE MILITARY/AIRMAN TO MOM – interviews of women veterans and those who are currently serving in the military

[www.airmantomom.com](http://www.airmantomom.com)

**Visit your Chapter's Web page and social media accounts (Facebook and Instagram) on a regular basis.**

**Don't forget the Florida Council and National sites. chapter web and social media accounts!**

## **National**

**<https://www.moaa.org/>**

For general and Legislation Action Information.

**Note: MOAA is an independent, nonprofit, politically nonpartisan organization!**

## **State**

**<https://flmoaa.org/>**

For Florida specific information about Florida Council of Chapters

## **Local**

**<https://www.moastpetearea.com/>**

For membership eligibility and membership application as well as other chapter related information.

### **Instagram:**

**[https://www.instagram.com/moaa\\_st\\_pete\\_area/](https://www.instagram.com/moaa_st_pete_area/)**

### **Face Book:**

**<https://www.facebook.com/groups/925278824641972>**





# St Petersburg Area Chapter

PO Box 8462

Seminole, FL 33735-8462

Personal Data	Applicant		Spouse
Last name		Last name	
First name		First name	
Middle Init.		Middle Init.	
Nickname		Nickname	
DOB (dd/mm/yyyy)		DOB (dd/mm/yyyy)	May use 2050 as the year

	Applicant	Spouse
Phone		
E-mail		

Address					If snow bird	
Street	City	State	Zip+4	From month	To month	

Military Data		Status	Applicant
Rank or Spouse	Service	Active, Former or Retired	MOAA #

Membership Dues				
Member	Spouse	Member Name tag	Spouse Name tag	Total Amount Sent
\$30.00	\$25.00	\$10.00	\$10.00	

Local Life Dues for Member or Spouse				
Age	under 55	56 to 70	71 to 90	over 90
Cost	\$425.00	\$375.00	\$300.00	Free

Send check payable to SPA MOAA to the above PO address

Membership is open to Active Duty, Former, Retired, National Guard and Reserve, Commissioned and Warrant Officers of the Uniformed Services and their Surviving Spouses. Per chapter bylaws, all chapter members must be members of MOAA (national). If not a national member please call 1-800-234-6622 to speak to a service representative or visit MOAA.org to join. **Note: MOAA is an independent, nonprofit, politically non-partisan organization!**

Note: By joining, you authorize the use of your image in official MOAA publications!



# HELPFUL LINKS AND CONTACTS

## **DFAS**

<https://www.dfas.mil/>

1 888 332-7411

## **AARP**

<https://www.aarp.org/>

1 888 687 2277

## **ELIZABETH DOLE FOUNDATION**

<https://www.elizabethdolefoundation.org/>

## **TAPS**

<https://www.taps.org/>

1 800 959 8277

## **MOAA**

[Moaa.org](http://Moaa.org)

1 800 234 6622

## **SURVIVING SPOUSE ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Surviving Spouse Virtual chapter:

[mssvc02@gmail.com](mailto:mssvc02@gmail.com)

SSAC Chair and Board Member:

[viriniagailjoyce@gmail.com](mailto:viriniagailjoyce@gmail.com)

## **VA**

<https://www.va.gov/>

1 800 698 2411

[MILITARY.COM](http://MILITARY.COM)

[WWW.MILITARYCOALITION.ORG](http://WWW.MILITARYCOALITION.ORG)

## **Health Care Committee-Survivors**

[WWW.MILITARYONESOURCE.MIL](http://WWW.MILITARYONESOURCE.MIL)

**MUST HAVE FOR ALL CHAPTER MEMBERS. DON'T LEAVE HOME WITH IT!!!! (You may be challenged to produce the coin at Chapter Events!!???)**

## Chapter Challenge Coins



1.5" diameter ... \$20 / 5 for \$60  
Available for purchase at all chapter events

# Salute to Scholars Applications Available!

To apply, visit  
[www.jacksoninaction83.org](http://www.jacksoninaction83.org)

Applications open to:  
**Military Dependents Graduating High School**  
**Veterans of the Armed Services**  
**Spouses of Active Duty or Military Veterans**

**Application Deadline:**  
**April 30 | 5pm EST**



**Applicants should be located in  
Tampa Bay or Colorado Springs.**

The Jackson in Action 83 Foundation is currently accepting applications from military dependents, veterans, and military spouses for our Salute to Scholars program. There are two separate applications and types of scholarships available:

**HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES:** Graduating high school seniors who are dependents of an active duty, retired, or deceased member of the military are eligible for scholarship awards to be used toward their secondary education. The scholarship application is open to graduating seniors at any Hillsborough, Pinellas, or Pasco County high school in Tampa Bay.

**VETERANS AND MILITARY SPOUSES:** Application is open to veterans and retired military members who need to finish a degree, complete a continuing education course, or achieve a certificate/complete a certification course in order to keep or obtain a job in the civilian workforce, as well as all military spouses, including active duty, retired, and veteran status.

Application deadline: April 30, 2024 at 5pm

For more information about criteria and requirements, visit our website: <http://www.jacksoninaction83.org/salute-to-scholars-applications/>



**valor**  
Veterans  
Inclusion Network

# Sponsors

Please reach out to your shopping sources and ask them if they would like to advertise. The price per size is available on the web site. This is a direct add to over 150 military officers and spouses.



***Please patronize our sponsors!***

