



SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2024



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

– **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
1-800-234-6622

– **VA**

<https://www.va.gov/>
1-800-6982411
military.com
www.militarycoalition.org

– **Health Care Committee-Survivors**

www.militaryonesource.mil

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About 1 million people with **Uniformed Services Identification** cards are now eligible to renew their ID cards online, rather than visiting an office in person.

Most USID cardholders — including military retirees, reservists, spouses and dependents of U.S. service members — can file their requests online and receive new IDs by mail, defense officials said Jan. 16. The move expands a pilot program that began in February 2023 to allow uniformed sponsors with a common access card to request online renewals of USID cards.

The IDs are used to enter Defense Department facilities and to access benefits like health care. DOD issues about 4.5 million ID cards each year, about 2.5 million of which are USID cards. Of those, around 1 million USIDs are eligible for online renewal.

For now, online renewal is limited to those who live in the United States, but officials are working to expand it to non-U.S. addresses as well. People whose IDs have expired and those seeking their first ID card are also ineligible for online services.

Allowing more beneficiaries to renew their IDs online frees up the pass and ID offices for active duty military and civilian government employees who need to apply for or renew a CAC, officials said.

To request an online renewal, the sponsor must be able to [log into the ID Card Office Online](#) as a CAC holder or have a DOD Self-Service Logon username and password. Make sure to read the instructions on how to set up a DS Logon account when creating a new profile. Sponsors will request the renewal by clicking the “Family ID Cards” tab on the ID Card Office Online landing page.

According to DOD, other requirements include:

- The USID card being renewed must be active, not expired. Children are eligible for online USID renewal if they have an active USID card.
- The sponsor and the cardholder must have email addresses listed in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS). You can [check your data in DEERS](#) to make sure it's up to date.
- The cardholder must have a photo saved in DEERS that was taken within the last 12 years.
- The cardholder must have a current U.S. address in DEERS. Cards can't be mailed to P.O. boxes.

Once the request is processed, a new card will be created and mailed to the



card recipient at the address listed in DEERS. The sponsor and the cardholder will receive an email once the card is shipped, directing the sponsor to acknowledge when they've received the card. Once the sponsor acknowledges receipt, the new USID card will be activated and the old one will be deactivated.

The deactivated card should be returned to the government, to the nearest Real-Time Automated Personnel Identification System (RAPIDS) site, or mailed to: DMDC-DSC, Attn: USID Card Returns, 2102 E. 21st Street N, Wichita, KS 67214.

<https://www.militarytimes.com/pay-benefits/2024/01/19/skip-the-trip-more-military-id-cardholders-can-now-renew-online/>

From the Desk of the Editor



Dave Warren
Editor OC

We are debuting our “new look” for this issue of the bimonthly newsletter, the Officers Call. Although our OC has won awards in the past from National as a communication tool for our membership, the Executive Committee decided that a refresh was in order. You will find this issue to have new graphics, pictures, and embedded hyperlinks throughout included to the Table of Contents so you can quickly go to the section you are interested in in one click. Hopefully not only is the new format easier and more pleasant to read, but also better organized to convey information reports from key members of the Chapter as well as information about local activities that our Chapter is involved in.

Other articles that may be of interest are curated by the editor and hopefully these articles are viewed as not just “filler” but information that may be of interest to the readership. As always if you want to submit an article or write a letter to the Editor or have comment about our new look or content, please forward to editorOC@gmail.com.

With the new format, we are publishing advertising rates for our bimonthly (6 times per year) newsletter. If you or any business, you know would like to advertise in the OC for the year (6 issues) please reach out me.

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

Dave Warren
LTC, USA (Ret)

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.

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President's Note



John Kieffer
MAJ, USA (veteran)
SPA MOAA

I hope everyone had a great summer and I look forward to seeing you again as we resume our monthly luncheons and dinners.

As you are aware, MOAA leaders at the national and state level strongly urge that we, as one of the nation's 400 chapters, make it ***JOB ONE*** to reach out and enroll qualified individuals into the MOAA. Ultimately, it's our membership numbers that power our influence to benefit our military community through our advocacy at the local, state and federal levels.

So let's grow our chapter with this challenge: invite just one friend or acquaintance who's qualified to join MOAA to one or more of our remaining 2024 monthly functions. Let's see where that takes us by the end of the year. Think back and recall the camaraderie that you felt being invited to a complimentary lunch and the great feeling you had meeting our members – officers with varied experiences from every service, active duty, retired, veteran plus their spouses and surviving spouses -- that led each of us to join.

And it's a camaraderie with a purpose. Besides grass roots advocacy, we're also engaged in community service throughout the Saint Petersburg community. Through our involvement with five local high school JROTC programs, we recognize and acknowledge future generations of military leaders. Our members network with civic organizations such as the Pinellas Park Chamber of Commerce; the Kiwanis of Seminole Field of Honor veteran flag event; and military leaders such as the OIC of the Army Reserve Medical Management Center at the US Army Reserve Center in Pinellas Park. Important as well is our valued alliances with local veteran and veteran friendly organizations such as the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars and Elks Lodge. Our chapter members are involved with the work of ZSPoP – Veterans ("Zero Suicide Partners of Pinellas"), which hosts informative monthly meet and greet events featuring representatives from an array of agencies working in this critical field. Finally, we staff and supply a donation table at the annual Bay Pines VA's "Stand Down" for needy veterans.

So again, I look forward to seeing all of you at our upcoming luncheons ... and remember: **BRING A FRIEND!** They, as you did at one time, will like what we offer: camaraderie coupled with purpose to never stop serving.

John Kieffer, Major, USA (Former)
President
Saint Petersburg Area Chapter



MOAA continues to champion the issues of the surviving spouse community while providing expert guidance for financial and retirement planning for its members.

Here is the link to the Surviving Spouse Corner:
<https://www.moaa.org/content/about-moaa/meet-our-leaders/surviving-spouse-advisory-committee/surviving-spouse-corner/>

A few current articles:

Engaging Surviving Spouses for Membership Growth
<https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2024-news-articles/member-spotlight/surviving-spouse-corner-engaging-surviving-spouses-for-membership-growth/>

Who Is Best to Serve as an Executor?
<https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2024-news-articles/member-spotlight/surviving-spouse-corner-the-executor-%E2%80%94-who-is-best-to-serve-in-this-role/>

Current Board Officers

President: John Kieffer MAJ USA FMR
1st VP: John Rummel CDR USN Ret.
2nd VP: Dave Warren, LTC, 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.

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	Tina Manley
Personal Affairs	LTC Pauline Mallory COL Tony Clark
ROTC & JROTC	CW5 Tom Hofer
Scholarships	CAPT Pete (Halvor) Gunderson
Surviving Spouses	Fran Chancy
Transition	Vacant
Visitation	Vacant

Your Executive Board for 2024



President
MAJ John Kieffer



1st Vice President
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Secretary
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Chaplain
COL Tony Clark



Veteran Representative
LTC Frances Chancy

Chaplain's Corner



COL Tony Clark
(USA Ret)

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration reminds us that “**September is National Suicide Prevention Month** – a time to remember the lives lost to suicide, acknowledge the millions more who have experienced suicidal thoughts, and the many individuals, families and communities that have been impacted by suicide. It’s also a time to raise awareness about suicide prevention and share messages of hope.”

What do you know about suicide? More specifically, what do you know about yourself, your friends and family, and community resources? Because the more you know, the more effective you can be in preventing suicide.

Arial Know yourself – Most of us know when our physical health is out of balance; we experience pain, a nagging cough, or other physical symptoms. But do we have a good sense of when our mental and emotional health is out of balance? It’s been said that “mental health is health” and just like our cholesterol and blood pressure numbers, we need to have a sense

of baseline for our mental and emotional health. For me, I know certain relational behaviors - like withdrawal or isolation - are signs that I need to sort out what might be the root cause. Most times, I can sort that out during a good walk; other times I need the perspective of a friend or professional. We keep ourselves safe from suicide when we know ourselves, recognize a mental or emotional imbalance, and seek help when needed.

Know your friends and family - Have you ever noticed when a friend, coworker, or family member seemed “out of sorts?” Just as we need to recognize when we are out of sorts, we need that same recognition for those around us. The National Institute of Mental Health, for example, lists some of the signs that someone is thinking about suicide.

Talking about:

- Wanting to die
- Great guilt or shame
- Being a burden to others

Feeling:

- Empty, hopeless, trapped, or having no reason to live
- Extremely sad, more anxious, agitated, or full of rage
- Unbearable emotional or physical pain

Changing behavior, such as:

- Making a plan or researching ways to die
- Withdrawing from friends, saying goodbye, giving away important items, or making a will
- Taking dangerous risks such as driving extremely fast
- Displaying extreme mood swings
- Eating or sleeping more or less
- Using drugs or alcohol more often

Yes, some of these signs or signals are very overt, while others are very subtle. The takeaway, however, is about our connections and relationships with our family and friends so that we can see when they may need some help.

Know your community resources – When it comes to the possibility of suicide, the most important numbers you can remember are **988**: the 988 Lifeline, “a national network of local crisis centers that provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week in the United States.” For Veterans, option 1 connects us with Veteran focused operators and counselors. You can call for yourself, call with someone in crisis, or call to get advice to help someone in crisis. This may be a national number, but it connects callers with local resources.

Another valuable community resource available to us is **The Fire Watch**, a Florida-based program designed to reduce and end Veteran suicides. And best of all, this training (a few hours of videos) is available **FREE OF CHARGE** and can equip you to prevent a suicide: <https://www.thefirewatch.org/watch-standers>.

Know yourself, know your family and friends, know your community resources. Be a “know it all” and be ready to prevent suicide in our community.

Meeting Dates 2024

Month	Executive Committee*	General Membership
September	10	20
October	8	18
November	5	15 Annual Meeting
December	3	20 Holiday Social

Note: All dates are subject to change due to venue availability or other matters beyond the control of the Executive Council.

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

Remember to bring your Officer or Surviving Spouse friends.

Hospitality and Reservations



Denise & Maj Tom Pederson

Here are the meal selections for **September 20th** Luncheon at the Bayou Country Club
Guest Speaker **COL Wayne McKenney, USAF, Retired**

1. Mediterranean Salmon Salad: Grilled salmon, grape tomatoes, cucumbers, kalamata olives, pepperoncini, red onion, feta cheese & avocado over spring mix with Greek dressing
3. Grilled chicken sandwich with provolone and a side of coleslaw
2. Steak Bowl: Char-grilled skirt steak with wild rice, tomato, avocado, carrot, red onion, and chimichurri
4. Vegan Bowl

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

All served with coffee, ice tea, and rolls

Dessert is ice cream topped with chocolate syrup.

Cost: \$25 per meal.

Meal Selections for **October 18th** MOAA Luncheon meeting at the Bayou Country Club

Guest Speaker: **TBA**

1. Grilled Salmon Caesar Salad: Romaine lettuce, parmesan cheese, croutons and Caesar dressing
2. Bayou Club Wrap: Turkey, ham, bacon, lettuce, tomato, mixes cheese, in a wheat wrap served with fresh fruit
3. Grilled Chicken over Villager Salad: Mixed greens, mandarin oranges, raisins, strawberries, pecans, and raspberry vinaigrette
4. Vegan Bowl

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

All served with coffee, ice tea, and rolls

Dessert is ice cream topped with chocolate syrup.

Cost: \$25 per meal.

Reservations/meal requests: Email: mtgfoodstpete@gmail.com or Text: 727-688-9908 (Tom Pederson)

In the news...



Awarding \$1000 scholarship to recent graduate of Boca Ciega High School, JROTC Captain Ambria Campbell. Ms. Campbell will be attending Embry–Riddle Aeronautical University. Upon graduating, she looks forward to being commissioned as an officer in the US Air Force. All the very best to Ms Campbell in her college studies and future military career.

Photo taken at Boca Ciega HS (l-r): JROTC Senior Instructor COL Jay Jackson USA, Ret.; Ms. Ambria Campbell; MOAA - St Pete Area Chapter President John Kieffer; Boca Ciega Principal Jennifer Gil. — with [Tom Shoupe](#) and 25 others.

To our Army members...

Echoes from the past: News from 1966

In the September 1966 issue of the Retired Army Personnel Bulletin, front page news announced, “several hundred retirees have taken advantage of the Army’s two recall programs for enlisted personnel possessing hard-skill MOSs.”

At the time, engineers, medical, ordnance, and signal fields were the most sought-after occupational fields.

Dated April 30, 1965, Army Regulation 601-250, opened the door for enlisted retirees to re-enlist voluntarily if they were found qualified. The second program, initiated on April 1, 1966, invited selected retirees to return to active duty with one-grade promotion. These programs provided opportunities for non-disabled, noncommissioned officer retirees under 50 years of age, who were on active duty less than 27 years, and met health and MOS requirements, to apply for recall.

As a result of AR 601-250, both programs were met with success, as more than 3,000 retirees had submitted recall applications from May – July 1966.

ALARACT 017-2024 was published in March 2024, specifically for those professionals in the Army who work in the policy realm. This type of messaging is commonly used as a way for the Army to communicate with its Soldiers and Army civilians. To be clear: ALARACT 017-2024 is not policy, rather it is just amplification of the existing policy that has been in effect for several years, used for retaining talent for required authorized regular Army vacancies by providing instruction on where and how to find retiree recall positions and how to apply for those positions.

Army Regulation 601-10, (Management and Recall to Active Duty of Retired Soldiers of the Army in support of mobilization and peacetime operations) restricts types of assignments, and similar to nearly 60 years ago, Retirees must meet the qualifications as set forth in ALARACT 017-2024 and be accepted. Pursuant to Executive Order 13814, dated March 6, 2018, each branch of military service is authorized up to 1,000 retirees to return to active duty. For the Army, the number has averaged around 100. Occupational fields are a bit harder to pin down, as the needs of the Army are fairly diverse. For more information and to read ALARACT 017-2024, visit <https://armypubs.army.mil/>.

The more things change, the more they stay the same...

Source: <https://soldierforlife.army.mil/Documents/echoes/latest.pdf>

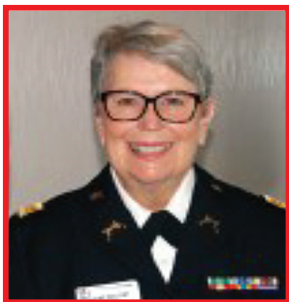


—Soldiers moving through rough terrain searching for Viet Cong near Tuy Hoa, during Operation Harrison in 1966. Credit Robert C. Lafoon/U.S. Army, via National Archives.



—President Lyndon B. Johnson awards the Distinguished Service Cross to First Lieutenant Marty A. Hammer, 26 October 1966. Picture from History / Bridgeman Images.

Membership Corner



LTC Pauline Mallory
USA Ret

Why Participate in Your Local Chapter?

At the national level, MOAA members continue serving their communities by participating in critical federal advocacy campaigns for all military personnel and spouses.

As a local SPAC-MOAA Chapter member, you can take that service, and the sense of camaraderie brought on by shared experiences, to another level. Take advantage of the opportunity to engage with your community; to meet, collaborate, and socialize with fellow servicemembers and spouses; and to work toward state and local reform on military issues outside the national scope.

LTC Pauline Mallory, USA, Ret
Membership Chair
Never Stop Serving

IMPORTANT DATES IN SEPTEMBER

Patriot Day - Sept. 11
POW/MIA Recognition Day - Sept. 15
Air Force Birthday - Sept. 18
Gold Star Mother's and Family's Day - Sept. 24

IMPORTANT DATES IN OCTOBER

U.S. Navy (USN) Birthday - Oct. 13
Military World Games - TBD
Day of the Deployed - Oct. 26
Navy Day - Oct. 27

A day to remember...

Patriot Day in the USA 2024 - September 11

Patriot Day is a United States national observance that honors the memory of those who were killed in the September 11 attacks. It was first observed in 2002, after the proclamation by President George W. Bush.

On September 11, 2001 al-Qaeda launched a series of coordinated terrorist attacks upon the United States, killing almost 3,000 people. In the immediate aftermath of the tragic events, President proclaimed September 14, 2001 as a National Day of Prayer and Remembrance for the Victims of the Terrorist Attacks on September 11, 2001. A year later, September 11 was made a national day of mourning referred to as Patriot Day. This observance has been proclaimed annually since 2002.

In 2009, President Barack Obama rededicated it as Patriot Day and National Day of Service and Remembrance. It is not a public holiday therefore government offices, educational institutions and businesses do not close on this day. On Patriot Day, the national flag is flown at half-mast on all United States government buildings and establishments. Individuals are also encouraged to display flags on their homes.



A moment of silence is traditionally observed at 8:46 AM. Many organizations and establishments hold memorial ceremonies to honor the victims of 9/11.

History of the Event

Patriot Day was established in the wake of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, which remain one of the most significant events in American history. The attacks resulted in the deaths of 2,977 innocent people and the injury of thousands more. In the aftermath, the United States experienced a surge of patriotism, unity, and a commitment to defending freedom. The day was officially designated as Patriot Day by Congress in 2001, and every year since, Americans have observed September 11th as a day of remembrance and reflection. It is a time to honor the victims, support those who continue to suffer from the effects of the attacks, and reaffirm the values of resilience and unity that define the nation.

To read more click the link: <https://www.awareness-days.com/awareness-days-calendar/patriot-day-in-the-usa-2024/>

Wow!

Chapter Challenge Coins

1.5" diameter — \$20 each or 5 for \$60
Available to purchase at all chapter events

**MUST HAVE FOR ALL CHAPTER MEMBERS.
DON'T LEAVE HOME WITH IT!!!!**

(You may be challenged to produce the coin at Chapter Events!)



Helpful Links and Contacts

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/

Facebook:

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



Surviving Spouse Advisory Council

Surviving Spouse Virtual chapter:
mssvc02@gmail.com

SSAC Chair and Board Member:
viriniagailjoyce@gmail.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!**

In Remembrance...



Mrs. Evelyn Hamilton (97 years young), an extraordinary member of the St Petersburg Area Chapter, passed away on 3 September 2024. She was our 50/50 "saleslady" and made all feel welcomed when they came to our luncheon meetings. Her quick wit and wonderful sense of humor made us laugh. She served on the executive Advisory Board over the years and was a member of the Military Officers' Wives' Club where she served as the Bridge Chairwoman. She was an avid Bridge player until the end! She will be truly missed.



St. Petersburg Area Chapter
 PO Box 8462, Seminole, FL 33735-8462



Personal Data	Applicant	Spouse
Last Name		Last Name
First Name		First Name
Middle Initial		Middle Initial
Nickname		Nickname
DOB (dd/mm/yyyy)		DOB (dd/mm/yyyy) May use 2050 as the year
Phone		Phone
Email		Email

Address

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Snow Bird 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

Membership is open to Active Duty, Former, Retired, National Guard and Reserve, Commissioned and Warrant Officers of the Uniformed Services and their Sur-viving 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!

Send check payable to SPA MOAA to the above PO address