

September 2020



**Indian River Chapter MOAA**

**P.O. Box 644047**

**Vero Beach, FL 32964-4047**

***Indian River Chapter***  
***Since 1983***

**NEW MEMBERS WELCOME**

Do you know someone who is a retired or former military officer or widowed spouse of an officer, but not a member of our chapter or MOAA? If so, ask them to join and contact **Carroll Oates** at 954-494-8742.

September 2020



**Warm greetings and wishes to all.**

**By Bob Albrecht**

We have certainly had a unique and challenging six months with the onslaught of the COVID-19 pandemic. I hope this writing finds all members in good health and spirits despite the hardships many have had to endure.

While we have been unable to meet in person as a group and share that special camaraderie, you can rest assured your chapter has been carrying on our mission to NEVER STOP SERVING.

Over this period of time your chapter was awarded a \$5,000 grant by the **MOAA Foundation**. This grant will be used to support the Veterans Helping Veterans program that provides basic home improvements for veterans who cannot afford or are physically unable to complete the work. Chapter member and 2<sup>nd</sup> VP, **Terry Treat** oversees this program with the Veterans Council of Indian River.

This past April our chapter donated \$1000.00 to the **Veterans Council of Indian River County (VCIRC) Upward American Veterans (UAV) Program** to support COVID-19 relief efforts. Moreover, chapter members made additional individual contribution toward the cause.

Additionally, our chapter requested and recently received a special **\$5000.00 grant** from **MOAA National Headquarters** to aid veterans and their families in our community impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

In this regard we again are partnering and collaborating with the **Veterans Council of Indian River County** through the **Upward American Veterans Program**. These COVID relief funds will be used provide emergency living expenses such as rent, utility bills, medical expenses or groceries to honorably discharged US military veterans and their families impacted by COVID-19.

Your chapter has also supported the “**Words from War**” monument project, a monumental sculpture honoring our Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans. The monument will be installed in Riverside Park poised between the Museum of Art and the entrance to Veterans Memorial Island. Our support has included both project management and financial support. Chapter members **Patty Ryan** and **Bruce Cady** are members of the project team creating this monument honoring our Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans.

If you have not visited our Facebook page as of yet, please do so. **Jay Torres** has done an outstanding job in managing the page, which includes articles of interest to our members and the community in general. Please visit and LIKE our page @ircmoaa.org. Share the page with your friends and feel free to make comments.

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September 2020

**2019 OFFICERS AND BOARD**

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LTC Robert Albrecht, Jr. 257-6678

**1st Vice President**

LTC Carroll Oates 954-494-8742

Membership Chair

**2nd Vice President**

MAJ Terry Treat 703-304-4935

Program Chair

**Secretary**

LTC James Blake 561-791-8467

**Legislative Affairs**

LtCol Jay Torres 540-850-5113

**Treasurer**

COL Patricia Ryan 401-369-1280

**Chaplain**

LtCol Eric "Rip" Wieler 794-9719

**Immediate Past President**

LtCol Jim Rannazzisi 703-303-3672

**Editor**

CPT, USA Robert Scheppy 925-1117

**Board of Directors**

Col Carlos Halcomb 696-0094

COL Darryle "Sam" Kouns 978-6543

CAPT Eric Menger 532-6132

LtCol Jay Torres 540-850-5113

Rayma Murray 231-1935

(Surviving Spouse Liaison )

LTJG James Dimarzo 713-9898

LtCol Eric "Rip" Wieler 794-9719

**Public Relations**

COL Mike Di Scipio 217-8112

MAJ Terry Treat 703-304-4935

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Our officers and board members have met via teleconference and videoconference throughout the pandemic to carry on the chapter's mission. Although we have no luncheon meeting scheduled at this time we plan to have a guest speaker for the month of October. To ensure safety of our members this event will be held virtually. Details to follow.

**Warm Regards and Stay Safe,**

**Bob Albrecht**

**President**

**NEVER STOP SERVING**



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**TREASURER'S REPORT**

**By Pat Ryan**

Anyone who asked me to hold onto their luncheon check for the next luncheon, those checks have been destroyed, as they are no longer valid. Thanks!



**Now and Always  
We'll be There.**

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September 2020

**IRC-MOAA VETERANS IN THE CLASSROOM  
TEAM TO RECORD CLASSES ON YOU-TUBE  
AND TO PROVIDE FREE OF CHARGE AC-  
CESS TO ALL IRC SCHOOLS AND OTHER  
ORGANIZATIONS**

**By Carroll Oates**

Due to the pandemic, it does not look like the Indian River County schools will allow visitors and organizations, such as Veterans in the Classroom, for the near future.

So, the IRC MOAA classroom team has offered to video tape segments of the classes and to provide these segments to the schools and other organizations we support.



**Photo: Carroll Oates and Terry Treat teaching flag etiquette to young students.**

In addition to the K thru 12 grades in the county public and private schools, the MOAA team has given classes to scout troops, American Red Cross, Children's Learning Center, Rotary and Exchange Clubs, Retired Nurses Association, and the IRC Senior Resource Association.

The classes will be professionally taped and edited by **Bruce Cady**, Captain, USMC, an IRC-MOAA member who does this type of promotional work as a profession. The IRC team includes **Patricia Ryan**, COL,

USA Retired, **Carroll Oates**, LTC, USA Retired, **Terry Treat**, MAJ, USA and **Michelle Dale**, President of IRC Gold Star Mothers Association. Ms. Dale is also an honorary member of both IRC MOAA and IRC Veterans Council.

Over the past 5 years, our MOAA team has been part of the Veterans Council's Veterans in the Classroom program and conducts about 30 classes per year with an audience of about 4,000 students.

The classes include subjects, such as Americanism, Patriotism, What It Means to Serve, The Cost of Service, The American Flag, Pledge of Allegiance, the Star-Spangled Banner, Veterans Day, Memorial Day, and Women in the Military.

We also teach Flag Etiquette: folding, carrying, raising, and retiring.

We are proud to offer an alternative to hands on: direct person-to-person alternatives. The taped segments can be called up by teachers in generally 15-minute segments.

It is just another way that IRC-MOAA can continue to serve.

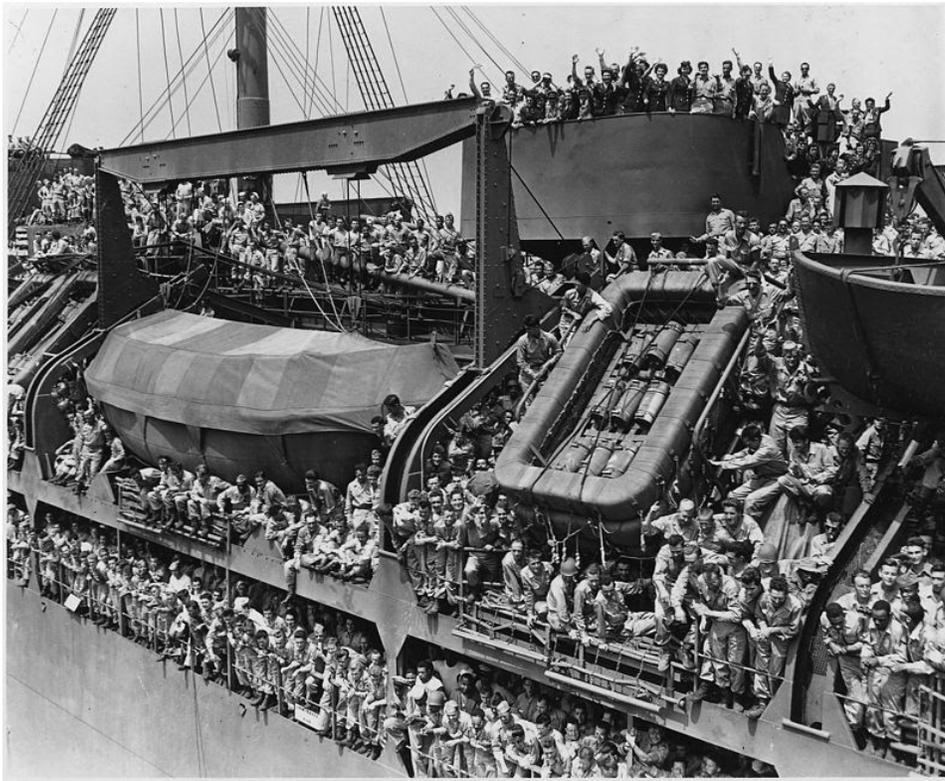
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## 1945: OUR RETURNING MILITARY Submitted by Terry Treat

This story has the most incredible pictures of our returning military I've ever seen. I can't imagine what it took to get these guys home.

We now have 2 generations who never entered the military, who have no idea how fortunate they are to live in a free country. A country who is not speaking German because of the sacrifices these young men and women made so we are a free country. I say this to my own children and grandchildren who have no idea how patriotic us old timers feel and will never forget.



This is one email with proof of history you'll probably never see in our children's school books today. Share it please, a picture is worth 1,000 words. Remember what Eisenhower said at the end of the war, "Take pictures of the dead Holocaust Jewish people, a generation or two from now will never believe it happened"!!!!

Returning the troops home after WWII was a daunting task.... The *Magic Carpet* that flew everyone home.

In 1939, there were 334,000 servicemen, not counting the Coast Guard.

In 1945, there were over 12 million, including the Coast Guard. At the end of the war, over 8 million of these men and women were scattered overseas in Europe, the Pacific and Asia. Shipping them out wasn't a particular problem but getting them home was a massive logistical headache.

**Army Chief of Staff General George C. Marshall** established committees to address the issue in 1943.

When Germany fell in May 1945, the US Navy was still busy fighting in the Pacific and couldn't assist. The job of transporting 3 million men home fell to the Army and the Merchant Marine.

300 Victory and Liberty cargo ships were converted to troop transports for the task.

During the war, 148,000 troops crossed the Atlantic west to east each month; the rush home ramped this up to 435,000 a month over 14 months.

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In October 1945, with the war in Asia also over, the Navy started chipping in, converting all available vessels to transport duty. On smaller ships like destroyers, capable of carrying perhaps 300 men, soldiers were told to hang their hammocks in whatever nook and cranny they could find.



Carriers were particularly useful, as their large open hangar decks could house 3,000 or more troops in relative comfort, with bunks, sometimes in stacks of five welded or bolted in place.



**Photo: Released POWs await transport home from The Far East.**

The Navy wasn't picky, though: cruisers, battleships, hospital ships, even LSTs (Landing Ship, Tank) were packed full of men yearning for home.

Two British ocean liners under American control, the *RMS Queen Mary* and *Queen Elizabeth*, had al

ready served as troop transports before and continued to do so during the operation, each capable of carrying up to 15,000 people at a time, though their normal, peacetime capacity was less than 2,200.

29 ships were dedicated to transporting war brides: women married to American soldiers during the war.

The Japanese surrender in August 1945 came none too soon, but it put an extra burden on *Operation Magic Carpet*. The war in Asia had been expected to go well into 1946 and the Navy and the War Shipping Administration were hard-pressed to bring home all the soldiers who now had to get home earlier than anticipated. The transports carrying them also had to collect POWs from recently liberated Japanese camps, many of whom suffered from malnutrition and illness.

The time to get home depended a lot on the circumstances. *USS Lake Champlain*, a brand new *Essex*-class carrier that arrived too late for the war, could cross the Atlantic and take 3,300 troops home a little under 4 days and 8 hours.

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### Indian River Chapter Awarded 5 STAR LEVEL OF EXCELLENCE AWARD

Every year the Military Officers Association of America recognizes the very best of their 400 affiliates with Levels of Excellence awards. The highest award is the Five-Star rating. The 2020 Level of Excellence awards have been announced. This award is based on the 2019 calendar year programs and events. The Indian River Chapter once again received the Five-Star award. The Five-Star rating is MOAA's way of recognizing our chapter's work and was awarded to 115 of the very best chapters in the country. Of course, we could not do any of this without our dedicated members who make this all possible. So, on behalf of the officers and over 1200 chapter members, a very special "THANK YOU" to all those members that made this possible.

NEVER STOP SERVING



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Meanwhile, troops going home from Australia or India would sometimes spend months on slower vessels. There was enormous pressure on the operation to bring home as many men as possible by Christmas 1945.

Therefore, a sub-operation, *Operation Santa Claus*, was dedicated to the purpose.

Due to storms at sea and an overabundance of soldiers eligible for return home, however, Santa Claus could only return a fraction in time and still not quite home but at least to American soil.

The nation's transportation network was overloaded, trains heading west from the East Coast were on average 6 hours behind schedule and trains heading east from the West Coast were twice that late.



Photo: Troops stacked up, but glad to be going home.

The *USS Saratoga* transported home a total of 29,204 servicemen during *Operation Magic Carpet*, more than any other ship. Many freshly discharged men found themselves stuck in separation centers but faced an outpouring of love and friendliness from the locals. Many townsfolk took in freshly arrived troops and invited them to Christmas dinner in their homes.

Still others gave their train tickets to soldiers and still others organized quick parties at local train stations for men on layover.

A Los Angeles taxi driver took six soldiers all the way to Chicago; another took another carload of men to Manhattan, the Bronx, Pittsburgh, Long Island, Buffalo and New Hampshire. *Neither of the drivers accepted a fare beyond the cost of gas.*

All in all, though, the Christmas deadline proved untenable. The last 29 troop transports, carrying some 200,000 men from the China-India-Burma theater, arrived to America in April 1946, bringing *Operation Magic Carpet* to an end, though an additional 127,000 soldiers still took until September to return home and finally lay down the burden of war.

GOD BLESS THE GREAT GENERATION and the Generations that have served this Great Nation since WWII!

*A Veteran-whether active duty, retired, served one hitch, or reservist is someone who, at one point in his or her life, wrote a blank check made payable to "The Government of the United States of America", for an amount of "up to and including their life." That is honor, and there are too many people in this country who no longer understand it -Author unknown.*



September 2020

## Nomination of Next Year's Leadership Team

By **Jim Rannazzisi**

Would you like to lend your expertise to our Chapter by becoming an Officer or a Director on our Board?

Here's the current leadership team:

<https://moafl.org/Chapters/IRCMOAA/Leadership.aspx>

The elected Officers (President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer) are all completing their two-year term. The seven Directors are completing their one-year term. Those elected at our annual meeting in December shall take office at the first regular or special meeting in the calendar year following election.

Here's an excerpt from our bylaws which governs this process:

ARTICLE IX - COMMITTEES...Section 3. The Board of Directors shall activate a nominating committee at least 75 days before the annual meeting to nominate candidates for elective Officers and Directors. The Board of Directors shall request the most recent Past President available for the assignment, to select four additional members, preferably from different service and not currently holding elective or appointive office, and to call the initial meeting at which a chairman shall be selected by the committee members. The committee shall notify the Secretary, in writing, at least 45 days before the date of the annual meeting of the names of the candidates it proposes.

Accordingly, **Immediate Past President Jim Rannazzisi** is forming a Nominating Committee. The committee intends to conduct most of their business via Zoom meetings or conference calls.

If you would like to serve on this committee please contact Jim at 703-303-2672 or [jimrazz@aol.com](mailto:jimrazz@aol.com).

We are looking for Navy, Marine Corps, Army and Surviving Spouse representation on the committee.

The Nominating Committee intends to contact all current Chapter Officers and Directors about their intentions to continue serving another term.

To date, two of our current leaders do not wish to be considered as a candidate for their current position. **President Bob Albrecht** will be moving on to become Immediate Past President and **Secretary Jim Blake** is not going to be available to serve in that capacity next year. There may be other vacancies.

If you are not on the current Chapter leadership team and wish to be considered for a position, please contact **Jim Rannazzisi**.

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## CLAY SHOOT

### Veterans Council of Indian River County Clay Shoot Tournament

By **Bob Albrecht and Carroll Oates**

On **Saturday, November 7, 2020** the Veterans Council of Indian River County will be hosting our **First Clay Shoot Tournament** in support of veteran programs.

Our chapter has been invited to participate and partner with the Veterans Council of Indian River County by becoming a sponsor or participant of this year's event. Your participation will help raise funds necessary to support veterans in our beautiful community.

If interested please visit Veterans Council of Indian River County website at [www.HelpIRCVets.org](http://www.HelpIRCVets.org) for more information and registration forms. Should you have any questions or require additional information please feel free to get in touch with Jim Romanek or Cynthia Ryan at (772) 410-5820 or email: [jim@veteranscouncilirc.org](mailto:jim@veteranscouncilirc.org) or [cynthia@veteranscouncilirc.org](mailto:cynthia@veteranscouncilirc.org).

