



DRUMBEAT

Aug 2021

UPCOMING EVENTS



Board Meeting	Aug 18, 2021
Lunch Meeting	No Luncheon
Board Meeting	Sept 15, 2021
Lunch Meeting	Sept 22, 2021
Board Meeting	Oct 13, 2021
Lunch Meeting	Oct 20, 2021
Board Meeting	Nov 10, 2021
Lunch Meeting	Nov 17, 2021

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Clearwater Chapter
MOAA Membership

Total Members

Regular	57
Spouses	31
Surviving Spouses	12
Total	100

President's Message

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE FOR AUGUST 2021 DRUMBEAT

Ladies and Gentlemen;

The Dog Days of summer have fully descended upon us as we move our way through August and September. The ancient Romans called the hottest, most humid days of summer "diēs caniculārēs" or "dog days." The name came about because they associated the hottest days of summer with the star Sirius. Sirius was known as the "Dog Star" because it was the brightest star in the constellation Canis Major (Large Dog). Stay cool as the upcoming days are sure to bring much hot and humid weather to all of us.

As a reminder for all that in December we will be changing our luncheon schedule, as this year we will host the Pearl Harbor celebration as a Chapter. We will conduct the December luncheon on 7 December in honor of this significant event in our Nation's history. We will be joined by members from the St. Petersburg MOAA and Military Order of World Wars. Should be a great turnout so mark your calendars. Our next luncheon is scheduled for 22 September at 1200 hours at the Clearwater Country Club.

Our lineup for speakers when we resume in September is as follows;

September – Homeland Security Representative

October – Deanna Bennet, a member of our chapter and author of four books will speak European immigration.

November – Congressman Gus Bilirakis is scheduled

December – Gary Williams will present on our celebration of Pearl Harbor Day.

January – LTC® Linda Moore a trauma nurse who served in Afghanistan.

We have a great lineup for you when we return from the summer break. Enjoy the summer and see you all in September.

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

Jeff Doll

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CHAPTER NEWS

LUNCHEON NEWS

No August Luncheon

MOAA NEWS

RECALL OF CPAP MACHINES

Philips Respironics announced a voluntary recall for certain CPAP, BiLevel PAP, and mechanical Ventilator Devices due to issues related to deterioration of the sound abatement foam used in these devices. This recall affects CPAP and BiLevel PAP devices manufactured prior to April 26, 2021. VA has distributed approximately 300,000 of these devices to Veterans for home use. An additional 2,000 devices are used within VA in hospital or clinic settings.

VA clinical teams are reviewing patient records to identify those who have received these devices and will work directly with impacted Veterans to repair or replace their equipment.

While there is a potential risk from the deterioration of the sound abatement foam, those risks have to be balanced against the known health risks of untreated sleep apnea. VA clinical experts are working with the FDA and the manufacturer to understand those risks. We expect to issue additional guidance in the coming days.

Veterans with questions can send a secure message to their care team through MyHealthVet.

Frequently Asked Questions

Why are the Philips Respironics CPAP and BiPAP devices being recalled?

The manufacturer has identified a problem with a breakdown of the foam material used for sound reduction in their CPAP and BiPAP devices. Very small particles from the foam could break loose and come through the air hose.

What should Veterans do if they have use Philips Respironics CPAP or BiPAP device?

If you are a Veteran that uses a Philips Respironics CPAP or BiPAP device, continue to use your device as prescribed. You should register your device at <https://www.philipssrcupdate.expertinquiry.com>. Philips Respironics will send you a new device when one is available. This may take several months. If you are concerned about using your current device, call your care team or send them a secure message through MyHealthVet to schedule an appointment.

VA requests that you register your device through the Philips Respironics Patient Portal at:

<https://www.philipssrcupdate.expertinquiry.com> or call 877-907-7508. Philips Respironics will send you a replacement device. This may take several months. Further information will be forthcoming.

MOAA's TRICARE Pharmacy Work Tackles Tier 4 Coverage, Out-of-Stock Concerns

MOAA recognizes one of the most valuable aspects of your military health care benefit is the TRICARE pharmacy program, so protecting the pharmacy benefit is a top priority. Our recent advocacy efforts on Capitol Hill and with the Defense Health Agency (DHA) have focused on securing an appeals process for TRICARE Tier 4 or non-covered drugs.

MOAA also works regularly with Express Scripts, the pharmacy benefits manager for TRICARE, to address beneficiary issues and seek program improvements. One issue we have been busy working is TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery out-of-stocks: Mail order program out-of-stocks mean higher copays and a hassle for beneficiaries who are forced to transfer their out-of-stock prescriptions to a retail pharmacy, at least temporarily, to get their medications filled.

Click on: [Pharmacy](#)

Energy and Commerce Committee Takes on Big Tech

Members of the House Energy and Commerce Committee convene to discuss dealing with the power and influence of Big Tech.

“You’ve broken my trust. Yes, because you’ve failed to promote the battle of ideas and free speech. Yes, because you censor political viewpoints you disagree with. Those polarizing actions matter for democracy. But, do you know what has convinced me Big Tech is a destructive force? It’s how you’ve abused your power to manipulate and harm our children. Your platforms are my biggest fear as a parent. I’m a mom of three school-aged kids. My husband and I are fighting the Big Tech battles in our household every day. It’s a battle for their development, a battle for their mental health, and ultimately, a battle for their safety. I’ve monitored where your algorithms lead them. It’s frightening. I know I’m not alone.” – **Energy and Commerce Committee Republican Leader Cathy McMorris Rodgers**

The rise of Big Tech and social media platforms has coincided with an alarming surge in the number of American teens experiencing mental health issues, such as anxiety and depression:

Between 2011 and 2018 –

- Rates of depression, self-harm, suicides, and suicide attempts exploded among American teens; Rates of teen depression increased by more than 60 percent, with the larger increase among young girls.

Between 2009 and 2015–

- Emergency room admissions for self-harm among 10- to 14-year-old girls tripled, and suicides substantially increased;
- Teens who used their devices for five or more hours a day were 66 percent more likely to have at least one suicide-related outcome compared to those who used their device for just one, according to one study.

[Click on: Big Tech](#)

What Is ‘Pension Poaching,’ and How Can You Avoid It?

Veterans, especially older veterans, are prime targets for “pension poaching,” where scammers use any number of methods to either swindle targets out of earned benefits or convince them to apply for benefits they haven’t earned ... often after paying fraudulent application fees.

A VA blog post covered the issue last month, while the Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs sent out a warning June 15.

WARNING SIGNS

Steer clear of individuals or organizations with financial or benefits pitches that include:

- Requesting you move money into different accounts or reallocate investments to qualify for a VA pension payment.
- Asking for money to handle your claim – especially upfront – or charging for application forms. While some attorneys or claims agents may receive compensation for help with a pension claim, they must be accredited and the claim must be approved before that fee can be charged.
- Promising “guaranteed eligibility” for a particular benefit, or a lump-sum payment upon approval for a benefit.
- Seeking personal information over the phone, to include credit card or other billing information.
- Offering to send benefits directly to a caregiver’s account.

[Click on: Poaching](#)

MOAA Publications

Get electronic copies of handy and informative MOAA Publications such as:

Personal Finance
Military Benefits
Transition
Survivor Issues
Chapters
Spouse and Family

Click on: [Publications](#)

What Is 'Inflation Risk,' and What Can You Do About It?

When most investors consider risks to their portfolio, they are looking at stock-market fluctuations or other short-term up-and-down moves represented by red text on a news ticker. While these risks can affect your bottom line, at least in the short term, there are other types of risk to understand and manage.

Click on: [Inflation](#)

What's Next for VA's Troubled Electronic Health Records Program?

The VA has finished its 12-week strategic review of the massive Cerner Millennium electronic health record modernization (EHRM) project, VA Secretary Denis McDonough announced June 30. Review completion came just in time for McDonough to answer concerned members of the Senate and House Committees on Veterans' Affairs about VA Office of Inspector General (OIG) and Government Accountability Office (GAO) reports discussing problems surrounding the initial deployment of the Cerner system in the Pacific Northwest nine months ago.

Click on: [Records](#)

Retired Army Officer Frank Kendall Confirmed as Air Force Secretary

The Senate on Monday confirmed President Joe Biden's pick to be the next top civilian to lead the U.S. Air Force.

Despite facing several holds during the confirmation process, senators ultimately voted to confirm Frank Kendall as the service's 26th Air Force secretary. Kendall, 72, will replace John Roth, who is currently the acting Air Force secretary. Barbara Barrett, who served as the fourth female Air Force secretary and succeeded Heather Wilson, was the last person to fill the role with Senate approval.

Click on: [USAF](#)

VA Health Care Facilities Tampa Bay Area

The VA has several facilities in the Tampa Bay area to serve veterans. Here is a list of the facilities and their location, services, hours, etc.

Click on: [VA Facilities](#)

Hurricane Season Is Here

Hurricane season is here. Be sure you and your family are prepared.

Hurricane Safety Checklists

The most important thing you can do as hurricane season approaches is to get yourself, your family and your home prepared. By starting early, you'll avoid the rush at home supply stores, grocery stores and other venues typically crowded and often chaotic when hurricane watches and warnings are issued.

You should stock six basics for your home: water, food, first aid supplies, clothing and bedding, tools and emergency supplies, and special items. Keep the items you would most likely need during an evacuation in an easy-to carry container. Possible containers include a large, covered trash container, a camping backpack, or a duffle bag.

Make your preparations easier by downloading the checklists included with each category and use them as you shop and store your supplies.

[Click on: Food and Water](#) [Click on: First Aid and Nonprescription Drugs](#) [Click on: Tools and Supplies](#)

[Click on: Sanitation and Clothing](#) [Click on: Special Items](#) [Click on: Possessions and Documents](#)

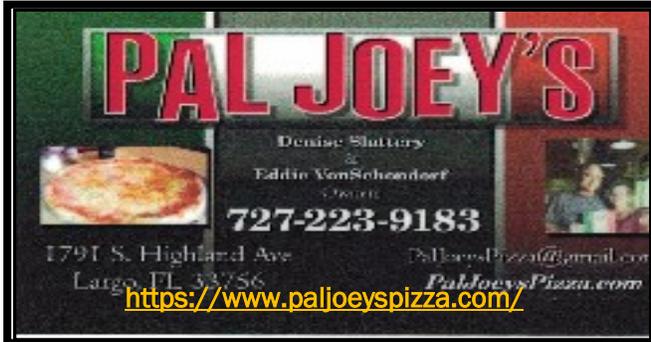
Photos (Courtesy of Dave Mason)



Time to head inside

SALUTING OUR FINE PATRIOTIC ADVERTISERS

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. Please send a testimonial about the establishment to the Drumbeat Editor at jim_souders@hotmail.com to be included in the Drumbeat and show appreciation for their support.



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>



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