



# DRUMBEAT

February, 2024



## President's Message for February

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Welcome to February. Time flies when you're having fun, but I think in our case it should be time flies when we get old! If you missed the January luncheon you missed a fantastic start to the new year. The speaker, Joey Vars, from The Belleview Inn, gave a great talk on the history of The Belleview Hotel. He is one of the very best historical speakers we have had. If you have not visited what is now The Belleview Inn to take the tour and soak in some of the building's fabled history, I highly recommend doing so.

As we move into February we have several Chapter changes. First, our good friend and long-time editor of our Drumbeat, Jim Souders has decided he needs to move on. Jim did an outstanding job for an extended period and when you see him again please thank him for his service to the Chapter and his leadership on the Board.

In place of Jim as Editor one of our Spouse members, Diane Wall, has stepped up as the new Editor. She is a stickler for proper English so I am sure I will see many corrections to my monthly President's messages. Welcome Diane to her new position when you see her at our next luncheon. I know I am personally very happy to have her join our Board.

Another new addition is Dwight McEntire, a longtime Chapter member, will serve as our Chaplain. We have not had an official Chaplain for many years, so this addition is very positive for our future. We also obtained two new members. JJ Coyne, Commander of the MOWW Chapter has joined us, along with Tom Broderick and his lovely wife, Jeanne. Please offer these new members a warm welcome.

Also of note, we attained 100% payment of Chapter dues at our January luncheon. This is a first for us and I thank every member for your kind and timely payment.

Coming up in February our guest speaker will be Brad Massey, Ph.D., who is the Saunder Foundation Curator of Public History. He will be providing a presentation on the 1920s history of the Tampa Bay area. This should prove to be very interesting and informative. That meeting will be on Wednesday 28 February at the Clearwater Country Club, and I hope to see you all there.

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

JEFF DOLL

Board Meeting	Feb. 21, 2024
Lunch Meeting	Feb. 28, 2024
Board Meeting	Mar. 20, 2024
Lunch Meeting	Mar. 27, 2024
Board Meeting	Apr. 17, 2024
Lunch Meeting	Apr. 24, 2024
Board Meeting	May 15, 2024
Lunch Meeting	May 22, 2024

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### Clearwater Chapter Membership

Total Members	53
Regular	30
Spouses	15
Surviving Spouses	8

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

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 checkin starts at 11:15, Program at Noon. If reservation is not made online, then call Jane Belson at 727-535-9151—NLT than 12:00 Feb 23, 2024. Cancellations must be in NLT 12:00 Feb., 26, 2024. Please have \$22. meal checks ready before arrival.

Meal Selections:

**Hot:** House salad. Baked Ham with pineapple sauce, roasted red potatoes and mixed vegetables.

**Cold:** Soup d' jour, Country club salad –grilled chicken over mixed greens with walnuts, mandarin oranges and dried cranberries.

Dessert: Chef's choice

**EXCELLENT SPEAKERS WHOSE PRESENTATIONS HAVE COVERED A BROAD RANGE OF VERY INTERESTING TOPICS AT RECENT CLEARWATER CHAPTER LUNCHEONS. HERE ARE SEVERAL EXAMPLES:**



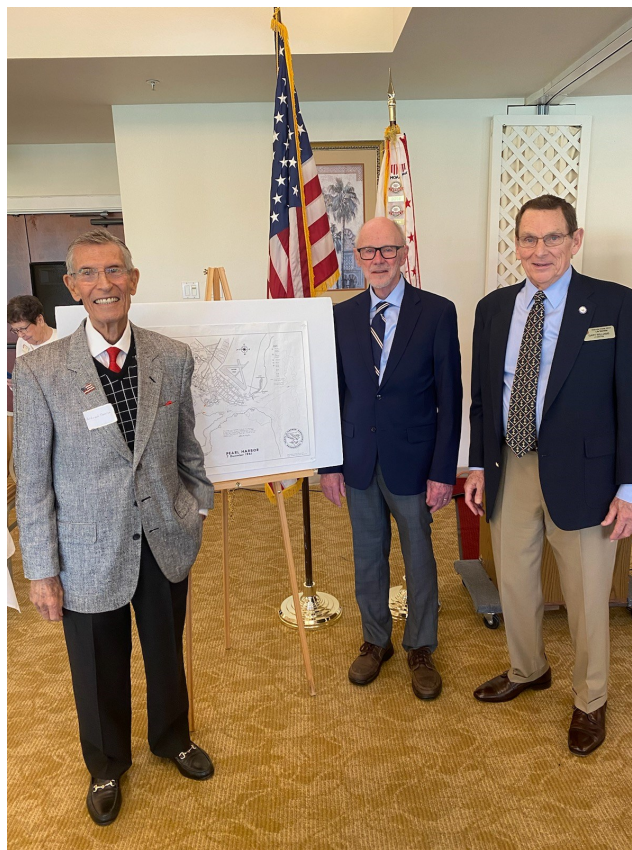
Joey Vars, Historian—The Fabled History of the Belleaire Hotel, now The Belleview Inn



Col. Guy Roberts, USMC Ret'd.— NATO's nuclear weapons capabilities & policy



Anthea Onufrak, V.P. of the S.S. American Victory Museum – Described this major piece of WWII history located on the Tampa Bay waterfront



Capt. Frank T. Coughlin, USN Retired - Described the heroic actions of Donald Ross, the first recipient of the Medal of Honor during WWII



Clete Belsom, Tampa Bay History Museum - Told the fascinating story of how the cigar industry made its way to Ybor City, and the impact its growth had on producing the City of Tampa of today



Capt. J.T. McGilley, USCG—Described operations at USCG Air Station Clearwater, the Coast Guard’s largest and busiest Air Station



Author Mark Musik—Described his book, *Boxes*, which tells the amazing story of the secret life of Howard Hughes after his supposed death in 1976



Vinnie Luisi, Dunedin Historical Museum Director—Related the complete history of Donald Roebling's Alligator/LVT, which was designed & built in Dunedin and played a key role in the war in the Pacific

## MOAA News

### MOWW Clearwater Chapter's Luncheon Notice

MOWW's next luncheon will be taking place at our Clearwater Country Club on February 20, 2024. All of our members are invited to attend the event which will feature **Representative Anna Paulina Luna** as the guest speaker. Social gathering will be at 11:30 and lunch will be served at noon. The menu options are:

HOT Caesar Salad, Chicken Parmesan with Angel Hair Pasta

COLD Soup, Par 3 Salad (Baby Greens with Tuna, Chicken & Egg Salads)

DESSERT – Apple Cobbler

The price is \$25 per person and you must RSVP to Col. BK Smith NLT Monday February 12<sup>th</sup> at [SmithBK@comcast.net](mailto:SmithBK@comcast.net)

Here's our chance to question our representative about our local topics.

### MOAA TAMPA CHAPTER'S 3<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL GALA

The Tampa MOAA Chapter is hosting their principle fundraising event on March 8, 2024, and members of our chapter are invited. The location is a Private Country Club in Tampa and includes: Cocktail Hour; Plated Dinner; Music; Silent Auction; Raffle; Art Show & Sale; Chapter Awards Presentation and Military Fellowship.

The attire is formal, the cost is \$150 per person, and reservations must be made by February 26<sup>th</sup>.

Purchase tickets at <https://www.moaa.org/annual-gala>.

-MOAA Members have access to Everplans Premium at exclusive discounts, starting at 30% off for BASIC members.

#### WATCH OUR WEBINARS:

Want a look at the full Everplans platform? [Watch here.](#)

Want to learn how Everplans can assist with your military-to-civilian transition? [Watch here.](#)

## SAVE WITH EVERPLANS

Click on one of the links below to access your Everplans benefit; if you're not already logged into MOAA.org, you'll be prompted for your username and password. All members have access to this benefit, but your discount depends on your membership type.

*Note: Be sure to click on the link that corresponds to your member type – otherwise you may be asked to upgrade your membership, even if an upgrade isn't necessary. Unsure about your member details, have questions or problems with logging in, or seeking information about a membership upgrade? Contact MOAA's Member Support Center at [msc@moaa.org](mailto:msc@moaa.org) or (800) 234-6622.*

Click on: [Everplans](#)

### Honor Flight

Honor Flight will resume beginning April 16, 2024. They are in search of a Social Media Volunteer to join their incredible team. If you are interested in volunteering with the organization, please send your resume to [info@honorflightwcf.org](mailto:info@honorflightwcf.org).

# MOAA Urges DoD to Authorize Immediate Increase in Family Separation Pay

By: Cory Titus



A sailor assigned to the Virginia-class fast-attack submarine USS Washington (SSN-787) embraces his family during the boat's homecoming at Naval Station Norfolk, Va., on Dec. 15, 2023. (Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Camet's ron Stoner/Navy)

A MOAA-backed provision authorizing the first increase in Family Separation Allowance (FSA) in more than 20 years became law as part of annual defense authorization legislation, but DoD has yet to enact the pay boost.

[Click to view Article](#)



# What a Major DoD Health Care Shift Could Mean for Your TRICARE Benefit

By: Karen Ruedisueli

JANUARY 30, 2024

A sailor visits a Navy physician at Naval Branch Health Clinic Kings Bay's Military Medicine Clinic in 2021. (Photo by Deidre Smith/Navy)



DoD plans to stabilize its health care system with better staffing at military treatment facilities (MTFs), a move addressing a long-term MOAA priority to secure access to quality care for servicemembers and their retirees, along with their families and survivors. [Click here to view](#)



MOAA members Richard Gouin, Diane Wall, Gary Williams Steve Hodges & Dave Mason welcome Clearwater MOAA's newest member, J.J. Coyne (in white) at the January 24th luncheon. J.J. is the new President of MOWW Clearwater.



J.J. Coyne, Richard Gouin, Steve Hodges & Dave Mason

Our Patriotic Advertisers

**SALUTING OUR FINE PATRIOTIC ADVERTISERS—You are encouraged to patronize our patriotic advertisers and 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 let management know that their support of MOAA is appreciated. Please note ALL links (advertisers with links in color and others) are “Hot” and will take you to the site.**



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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