



# DRUMBEAT

March, 2024



## President's Message for March

Ladies and Gentlemen:

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
Board Meeting	Jun 19, 2024
Lunch Meeting	N/A

From the first signs of [Spring](#) to the start of [Daylight Saving Time](#), March is a month full of new beginnings. As the third month of the year, Mother Nature begins to show off her colors in [lively blooms](#). And what better way to welcome the new season than to celebrate every single occasion possible, right? With [St. Patrick's Day](#) (March 17) and [Easter](#) (yep, it falls on March 31 this year), it's a month for major holidays and gatherings.

Speaking of new beginnings, just when I think we can't beat the last keynote speaker in our series, I am proven wrong. In February we had a surprise speaker from the Tampa Bay History Center, and I am confident if you were present, you will attest to just how great Rodney Kite-Powell was. Rodney is the Chief Historian at the Center and his 1920's period history of the Tampa area was first class.

Come on out for our March Luncheon as a long time MOAA Sun Coast Chapter member will join us and provide a historical portrait of a one of a kind Soldier, a Medal of Honor recipient, you don't want to miss this. Speaking a one of kind things, Robin Ainsworth, CPT (Ret) US Public Health Service joined our chapter. Robin is the first USPHS officer we have had in our long history. **(79 Years)** Welcome Robin to our chapter.

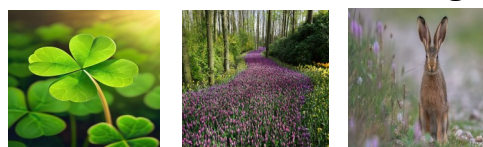
Also, our annual JROTC Golf Tournament fund raiser is scheduled for Saturday May 18, 2024, at the Clearwater Country Club. For those of you who want to participate the sign-up is in this edition of the newsletter, and if you want to make a financial contribution those instructions are included also.

Lastly, we still have a few members who have not paid our chapter dues for 2024. If you have not taken care of this important task please consider doing so, we all thank you for your prompt action. **Mail your checks to Jane Belson at 1824 Northwood Dr, Clearwater, FL 33764-2462.** Dues are \$20 per year and \$15 for spouse members.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 27 March at the Clearwater Country Club, I hope to see you all at the luncheon.

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

Jeff Doll



### Contents of our latest Newsletter.



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### Clearwater Chapter Membership

Total Members	60
Regular	35
Spouses	17
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

On March 20th Representative Anna-Paulina Luna was the guest speaker at Clearwater MOWW Chapter's luncheon, an event attended by 9 members of the Clearwater MOAA Chapter. Rep. Luna, an Air Force veteran, described a number of actions she has taken on behalf of veterans and active duty members during her first term in office.



J.J. Coyne, newly installed Commander of the Clearwater MOWW Chapter, and MOAA Clearwater Chapter member, presenting Rep. Anna-Paulina Luna with a Certificate of Appreciation



Rep. Luna showing the impressive Challenge Coins she presented to chapter officers.



Rep. Luna presenting Challenge Coins to MOAA President Jeff Doll, MOWW Commander J.J. Coyne, MOAA members Steve Hodges & Richard Gouin as well as past MOWW Commanders.



Five Star Award Medallion and Certificate awarded to Clearwater Chapter for the third Consecutive year.



Chapter President Jeff Doll and member June Schnepf displaying the pinning of the five star medallion on the Chapter Flag streamer. June was given the honor of conducting the pinning as she is the oldest member of our chapter.



Guest Speaker Rodney Kite-Powell providing a presentation of the 1920's Tampa Bay area. Rodney is the Chief Historian at the Tampa Bay History Center.



Chapter Vice-President Gary Williams and the newest chapter member Robin Ainsworth.

## MOWW Clearwater Chapter's Luncheon Notice

MOWW's next luncheon will be taking place at our Clearwater Country Club on March 27, 2024.

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 Pat Hughes at 727-733-5084 – NLT than 12:00 March 22, 2024. Cancellations must be in NLT 12:00 March 25, 2024. Please have \$22. meal checks ready before arrival.

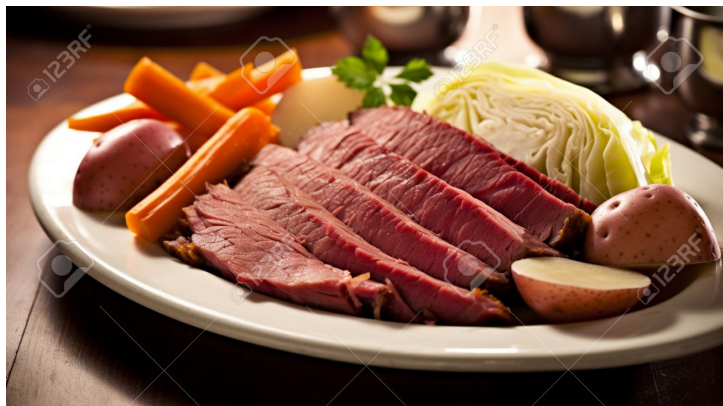
**NOTE: - Pat Hughes will handle the March Luncheon Reservations as Jane Belson will be out of town.**

### MENU:

Beer Cheese Soup for both Entrees

**Hot:** Corn Beef & cabbage, potatoes & carrots (mustard on the table.) Chef's Choice of Dessert

**Cold:** Chef Salad: (Julienne strips of ham, turkey, salami and Swiss cheese, served on a bed of mixed greens, with tomato and hard boiled egg, with Italian dressing). Chef's Choice of Dessert



6<sup>th</sup>

**Annual Golf Tournament Sponsored by:**

**Clearwater Chapters of the Military Order of the World Wars, Military Officers Association of America and the Pinellas County Schools JROTC Units**

## GOLF TOURNAMENT

4-Person Scramble Format: Registration Starts at **SATURDAY MAY 18, 2024 8:00 AM**  
Shotgun Start \$85 Per Golfer

**\$20 "HONOR PACKAGE"**

(1 Mulligan, 1 Raffle Ticket, Putting Contest, Longest Drive, closest to the Pin Contest)

### WIN PRIZES!

- 1st & 2nd Place Winning Teams
- Longest Drive (Men & Women)
- Longest "Senior Drive" (Men & Woman)
- Closest to Pin (Men & Women)
- Hole In One Contest
- Raffle Prizes (6 additional tickets \$5)
- Player "Goodie Bag", includes (1) free raffle ticket for prize drawings!

**Tournament Proceeds Benefit:**

- Boca Ciega High School Army JROTC
- Clearwater High School Marines JROTC
- Dunedin High School Navy JROTC
- Gibbs High School Army JROTC
- Hollins High School Army JROTC
- Northeast High School Army JROTC
- Pinellas Park High School Coast Guard JROTC
- St. Petersburg High School Air Force JROTC
- Military Order of the World Wars, MOWW
- Military Officers Association of America, MOAA

Cut & return golf registration/sponsorship form to the address below

**GOLF REGISTRATION & EVENT SPONSORSHIP FORM**

Player Name(s)	Cell Phone	Email Address

\$\_\_\_\_\_ SPONSORSHIP      \$\_\_\_\_\_ PLAYERS @ \$85 pp      \$\_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL

*Make check payable and mail to: MOWW Clearwater Chapter, ICO: LTC Steve Hodges USA (Ret), 4556 Great Lakes Dr. So, Clearwater, Fl. 33762. For additional information call: Steve Hodges @ (727) 709-2612, Email: shodges41@gmail.com*

**EIN # 23-7368566, 501(c)3 Non-Profit Organization (?)**



**HEROES SPONSOR - \$1,000**

**Foursome + 4 "Honor" packages, company name on golf carts, Hole sign & Sponsor recognition at lunch/awards ceremony**

**FREEDOM SPONSOR - \$500**

**Foursome + 4 "Honor" packages, Hole Sign recognition**

**MEDALIST SPONSOR - \$400**

**Foursome + Hole Sign recognition**

**\$200 Longest Drive Sponsor**

**\$200 Closest to the Pin Sponsor**

**\$200 Putting Contest Sponsor**

**\$100 Hole Sign Sponsor**

**(or) Make a donation to enhance citizenship through JROTC Check payable to: MOWW CLEARWATER CHAPTER**

**501(c)3 Veterans Organization EIN 23-7368566 (?)**

**PLEASE CHECK BELOW YOUR LEVEL OF EVENT SPONSORSHIP**

- \_\_\_\_\_ **HEROES SPONSOR - \$1,000 (Name) \_\_\_\_\_**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **FREEDOM SPONSOR - \$500 (Name) \_\_\_\_\_**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **LONGEST DRIVE SPONSOR - \$200 (Name) \_\_\_\_\_**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **CLOSEST TO THE PIN - \$200 (Name) \_\_\_\_\_**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **HOLE SIGN SPONSOR - \$100 (Attach sign information) \_\_\_\_\_**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **\$20 "HONOR" PACKAGE \_\_\_\_\_ # of packages**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **A DONATION - \$ \_\_\_\_\_**



The City of Port St. Lucie invites you to the

# Iraq and Afghanistan War Memorial of Florida

## Monument Dedication Ceremony



*In honor of Floridians  
who served in our nation's wars in Iraq and  
Afghanistan,  
and those who made the ultimate sacrifice.*

**Saturday, April 20, 2024 • 12 p.m.**

**Veterans Memorial Park**

**2100 SE Vetrans Memorial  
Parkway Port St. Lucie, FL**



RSVP to Councilman Pickett or Christina at 772-871-5159 or email [cflores@cityofpsl.com](mailto:cflores@cityofpsl.com)

# Combat-Injured Veterans Need Our Help NOW – Here's How to Join the Fight

By: Mark Belinsky

FEBRUARY 20, 2024



Bipartisan legislation designed to end an unfair pay offset for tens of thousands of combat-injured veterans has earned overwhelming support in the last two sessions of Congress. But for the 118th Congress to include the Major Richard Star Act (H.R. 1282/S. 344) in the next National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) – a move which would send a clear message of support to the all-volunteer force – advocates must overcome cost concerns.

[Click here to view article](#)



# Scams Cost Veterans, Military Retirees \$350 Million in 2023



Veterans reported \$350 million in total fraud losses to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) in 2023, up nearly \$60 million from the previous year's \$292

[Click here to view article](#)

# VA Recognized for Improving Surgical Care for Frail Veterans

**By: René Campos**

**FEBRUARY 28, 2024**



A recent VA initiative targeting the care of fragile veterans considering surgery received a national innovation award for patient safety – one of several examples of the department’s work to care for a rapidly aging patient population.

[Click here to view article](#)

# Planned Expansion of Agent Orange Benefits Will Cover Stateside Exposures



Editor's note: This article by Patricia Kime originally appeared on [Military.com](https://www.military.com), a leading source of news for the military and veteran community.

The [Department of Veterans Affairs](https://www.va.gov) plans to expand eligibility for Agent Orange disability benefits to Vietnam-era veterans who served at 129 locations [in the U.S. during specific time frames, as well as parts of Canada and India](#), officials announced Friday.

[Click here to view article](#)

## Our Patriotic Advertisers

**SALUTING OUR FINE PATRIOTIC ADVERTISERS—You are encouraged to patronize our patriotic advertisers and be sure to mention you are a 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)



**MOAA**®

Military Officers Association of America

ONE POWERFUL VOICE

[www.clearwatermoaa.org](http://www.clearwatermoaa.org)

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