



## PMOAA BEACON

Home of the Blue Angels - Pensacola, FL

4 Star Chapter Award – 2002

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<http://www.pmoaa.org>

July 2021



### PRESIDENT'S CORNER

It seems that the threat of Covid-19 is somewhat in the rearview mirror, at least for the present. So, I'm ecstatic to shout from the rooftops that attendance at our monthly chapter meetings has increased more and more over the last several months, almost back to where we were before the virus. The stress and shock of all this momentum and excitement has been too much, so we're taking July off! But don't be disenchanted, because in our Chapter we always take July off.

Actually, for those who haven't had an opportunity to attend recent meetings, we've had excellent dinners and exceptional speakers; which, when it comes right down to it, are two important factors that keep member's interest and attendance up, if just for our chapter's over-all future and strength. In June, we've always had what we term our "Annual Picnic." Well, last month, we decided to introduce a guest speaker into the mix, frankly to increase your interest in attending; it worked! We had more in attendance last month than in the previous month, where more attended than the month before, and the month before that and so on. I was personally a little anxious about skipping July this time, because I want the momentum to continue. At our last Board meeting we briefly discussed the idea of folding back our monthly meetings to "bi-monthly" which, fortunately, didn't gain much ground. We're trying to grow our Chapter, not cut it back. PMOAA is only one in a handful of military-related organizations that provide mechanisms for continual service with those who have experiences, backgrounds and past relationships and certainly some for the greater part of our lives, and yet do not crossover each other. This is, at least for me, one of the best things that this area in NW Florida has to offer; neighbors with history of military service regardless of branch. The old saying goes, "ne'er a stranger you shall meet". As an Army guy, I find myself somewhat jealous of all my Navy friends that meet during social hour and whether having never met or not, can carry on a conversation about VT-19.....and do you remember so and so; all of a sudden they're best friends. It's not like I can run into another Army guy and say, "oh yeah 1<sup>st</sup> Cav C-5-2, did you know..." and get this look of "?????" But, all kidding aside, this

is what makes this community, our other organizations, and this chapter magnificent and what we need to hold on to. I go back to San Francisco every year, because that's where it all began (no smirks please); it was a grand place to grow-up. Two years ago I thought perhaps I would get in touch with the local MOAA Chapter and go to a meeting. I found out that they met at the ICC (Irish Cultural Center) where I spent most of the way crawling out of on St. Patrick's Day. Guess what? The chapter only meets once a year! So, for us - we're meeting every month except July.

In August, **I NEED TO MAKE THIS CLARIFICATION**, we are **meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday, August 19<sup>th</sup>, for our Annual Scholarship Ceremony and dinner** (buy those raffle tickets). This is a very special event. Providing scholarships is a signature program of this Chapter. We get to "do good stuff" and show off what we do every August. This year, with some great effort by BG John Adams and with the support of our Board, we are also adding Pensacola State College to our scholarship program. The way this effectively works is that PMOAA has provided a \$6K fund to the Pensacola State College Foundation (including \$1,000 from Gen. Adams). PSC agrees to use our scholarship program's applicant criteria and submit PSC students they (PSC) feel meet our program's criteria. Our Scholarship Committee Chair, Liz Richbourg, and committee will scrutinize and grade every applicant's merit based on our program's criteria. The challenge is strict for all applicants across the board. We have simply expanded our scholarship program by adding another localized organizational approach.

Please continue to support our Chapter's scholarship program! It's oh so very worthwhile and when you attend in August, you will see what the efforts provide, and make you so proud to know you have helped these folks follow their path toward the future.

Looking forward to seeing you all on August 19<sup>th</sup>.

Warmest always,

*Dean Kirschner*

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## LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

This month we celebrate Independence Day, the Birthday of our Nation, via the Declaration of Independence signed in Philadelphia, PA in early July 1776. May God continue to bless this nation as we aspire to live up to the grand principles laid out in that beautiful document. A government “of the people, by the people, for the people” as President Lincoln said so well at Gettysburg. May all of you enjoy this day of celebrating our freedoms and many blessings secured over the years by the sacrifice and service of men, women, and spouses like yourselves in the Armed Services. May God bless us all.

This month's articles include information on the restarting of Honor Flights to D.C., Tricare Disaster Declarations, Best States to retire (we know FL/AL is BEST!), and some Military History books for your summer reading pleasure. Enjoy!

As always, my recommendation is that you subscribe to the MOAA Newsletter which is sent out four times per month via email. You can sign up for the newsletter at [www.moaa.org](http://www.moaa.org). Please let me know how you think I can make this column better for you by sending an email to me at [kpyle1968@gmail.com](mailto:kpyle1968@gmail.com).

Your voice needs to be heard by our Florida Congressional Delegation. Please consider using some or all of the many excellent resources and avenues available to express yourself through MOAA. The Pensacola Chapter of MOAA is a member of the [Florida Council of Chapters, MOAA](#) and an affiliate of the [Military Officers Association of America \(MOAA\)](#) who together are the nation's largest and most influential association of military officers. We are an independent, nonprofit, politically nonpartisan organization. MOAA has several critical legislative issues they are championing. Become an advocate and Take Action NOW! at <http://takeaction.moaa.org/>

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## Honor Flight Set to Restart Trips for WWII, Korean War Vets to Nation's Capital

(Adapted from an article by Oriana Pawlyk on Military.com June 2021)

More than a year after the pandemic forced the Honor Flight Network to halt trips to Washington, D.C., the group is ready to once again fly veterans to the nation's capital to visit memorials and share their stories with fellow vets on August 16. Participants must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 or provide negative test results taken within 72 hours of departure, according to Honor Flight spokeswoman Carol Harlow.

With no trips taking place, Honor Flight had to get creative over the last year to honor veterans across the country through their local chapters. Athletes, journalists, actors and even World War II veteran and former Sen. Bob Dole issued video messages of support through what the organization calls "[Operation Reassurance](#)" to vets who were [awaiting their turn](#) to fly to D.C. but were instead stuck at home.

Honor Flight began drive-by celebration parades for veterans' birthdays; hosted drive-through "salute to veterans" events; and even sponsored a skydiving outing for a vet who turned 100 years old [earlier this year](#).

For Military Appreciation Month this past May, T-Mobile and Helium, a virtual human performance channel, partnered to issue virtual reality goggles and headsets so vets could tour each war memorial and the National Mall from the comfort of their own homes.

"It's been kind of a continuous effort throughout the country to try to do something, to continue to say, 'Thank you,'" said David Smith, chairman of Honor Flight's board of directors, in a recent interview. The Honor Flight Network has more than 125 independent hubs across the country.

"We're working with all the hubs to make sure they understand what the guidelines are," said Smith, who founded the San Diego, California, chapter in 2010. Participants also include "guardians," who travel with veterans to make sure they get safely from place to place. Local hubs have been asked not to take any flights on their own for health and safety reasons.

In 2020, only one flight from St. Louis made it to D.C. in March for a three-day trip before the country began shutting down. During 2019, 22,764 veterans and 18,072 guardians made the trip, with another 42,355 on the waitlist. The majority of them were Vietnam War vets, according to statistics provided by the organization.

World War II vets are usually bumped to the top of the travel list, Smith said. However, they tend to make up 20% or less of each Honor Flight. In 2019, fewer than 2,000 WWII vets made it the trip, compared to 6,135 Korean

War vets and 12,880 Vietnam vets. Trips can take anywhere from five to 200 vets at a time.

One of the longstanding struggles has been to find eligible veterans, he added. The program currently serves veterans from the WWII, Korean War and Vietnam War eras, and terminally ill vets who served in any conflict. "[All our hubs](#) are chomping at the bit to get up and get flying," Smith said, "but one of our biggest issues is ... letting more people know about our flight mission and to find veterans."

## TRICARE and Disaster Declarations: What You Should Know

(Adapted from an article by Kevin Lilley in June 29, 2021 MOAA Newsletter)

TRICARE issued 34 disaster alerts covering all or part of 22 states in the first half of 2021, including 12 alerts in June alone. These notifications, announced [on the TRICARE website](#), mean significant changes to health care benefits for those in the affected states or counties.

After a state of emergency has been declared in a given area, TRICARE may respond by changing prescription-refill rules, waiving the need for a doctor's referral to receive covered care, or issuing other emergency-related benefits. These benefits could be limited to a single metropolitan area, as with the [recent Florida building collapse](#), or take up a large swath of the nation – an August 2020 emergency declaration in the wake of severe Gulf Coast storms covered six whole states and dozens of Texas counties.

The most common disaster declaration allows for **emergency refills** for prescription medication. Beneficiaries in these disaster areas can receive a refill by taking their prescription bottle to any TRICARE retail network pharmacy; find one [using this locator](#), or by calling (877) 363-1303.

TRICARE may also issue **blanket waivers** during a disaster, with many beneficiaries unable to see their primary care physician under such circumstances. In these cases, those in affected areas can visit any TRICARE-authorized provider without a referral, and go to any TRICARE-authorized hospital or medical facility without a referral.

## Finance Website Ranks Best, Worst States for Military Retirees

(Adapted from an article by Jim Absher on Military.com in June 2021)

A career in the military hones certain skill sets and talents, but where are the best places to take those talents once you're out of the military? To coin a phrase from real estate, it's all about location, location, location. In that

spirit, [wallethub.com](#) compiled a list of the best places for veterans and military retirees to settle down to after leaving the military.

Their study rated each state on three different criteria that are important to veterans:

1. Economic environment - Factors such as state tax on military pension, projected job growth, housing affordability, cost-of-living, quality of public university system.
2. Quality of life - Factors such as number of military installations, arts, entertainment & recreation opportunities, average population age, number of homeless veterans, weather and climate.
3. Health care - Including number of VA health facilities, number of hospitals, physicians and mental health counselors per capita, availability of veterans treatment courts.

Based on a combination of ratings for those criteria, here are the best states to move to after leaving the military:

- 10: New Hampshire
- 9: Missouri
- 8: Wyoming
- 7: [Maryland](#)
- 6: Alabama
- 5: Alaska
- 4: South Dakota
- 3: [Florida](#)
- 2: South Carolina
- 1: [Virginia](#)

For more details, as well as rankings of the worst states to move to after leaving the military, see the article [2021 Best and Worst States for Military Retirees](#).

## Does the Budget Threaten a Key TRICARE Improvement?

(Adapted from an article by Karen Ruedisueli in June 8, 2021 issue of MOAA Newsletter)

The [DoD budget request](#), released as part of the [administration's budget proposal](#) to Congress on May 28, includes some limited details on TRICARE utilization trends. MOAA is concerned the budget narrative related to civilian urgent care use may indicate a potential threat to referral-free urgent care for TRICARE Prime beneficiaries.

The request cites rising private-sector urgent care utilization as a factor in the department's TRICARE cost increases. This could serve as an early warning sign toward targeting referral-free urgent care in future cost savings efforts; such a move would represent a significant step backward for beneficiaries' access to timely, appropriate care.

## Urgent Care: A History

For many years, beneficiaries on TRICARE Prime were required to obtain a referral prior to visiting a civilian urgent care facility. This posed a problem for many military families because the need for urgent care sometimes arose when primary care managers (PCMs) who make TRICARE referrals and/or military treatment facility (MTF) staff were unavailable or inaccessible: Evenings, weekends, holidays, or when the family was traveling or PCSing, for example.

Also, military hospitals and clinics across the direct care system varied in their willingness to refer families to urgent care when MTF acute care appointments were fully booked (and therefore unavailable). For many military families in a variety of circumstances, emergency department (ED) care became their only option – even for non-emergency medical issues such as an ear infection or strep throat.

This led to inconvenience and frustration for both military families and ED clinicians. It meant families sometimes had to seek care in the ED when a venue with lower cost to DoD would have been more appropriate. It also meant that some families delayed or deferred necessary care or paid out of pocket to be seen at a civilian urgent care facility.

Since May 2016, referral-free urgent care has provided a critical relief valve when acute primary care isn’t available or accessible, particularly in the direct care system. A June 2018 DoD report to Congress ([PDF download](#)) found while private sector urgent care volume rose 13% from FY 2016 to FY 2017, much costlier ED encounter volume fell 6% during the same time period. According to beneficiary surveys, 92% of urgent care pilot participants were satisfied with the increased access to care under the pilot. The report also documented the positive impact of the [TRICARE Nurse Advice Line](#) in directing beneficiaries to the appropriate care setting.

The former urgent care referral requirement led to suppressed demand for acute care that was not visible to the military health system. It is not surprising that readily available urgent care has led to increased demand for acute care that used to be deferred or delayed.

## What’s Next

MOAA understands the importance of utilizing direct care system capacity when available and ensuring military families get the right care in the right setting. We look forward to working with the Defense Health Agency to fully understand private sector urgent care and ED utilization rates and trends.

## Your Military History Summer Reading List

(Adapted from an article by Col. William D. Bushnell, USMC (Ret) in MOAA Newsletter June, 2021)

The latest additions to MOAA’s [Military Professional Reading List](#) cover a civil war giant, an often-overlooked part of World War II’s European theater, and centuries’ worth of the Crusades. [Order these books through AmazonSmile](#) via the links below using MOAA’s Scholarship Fund or The MOAA Foundation as your shopping beneficiary.

- [American General: The Life and Times of William Tecumseh Sherman](#)

**By John S.D. Eisenhower. NAL Caliber, 2014. ISBN 978-0-451-47135-2.**

Acclaimed historian Eisenhower (1922-2013), author of 14 books on military history, has written the most comprehensive and revealing biography yet of Civil War General Sherman (1820-1891). Eisenhower covers Sherman’s life, especially his military career in the U.S. Army during the Civil War. He shows that Sherman was loyal to Grant, was not a political general, distrusted politicians and journalists, was a master of maneuver and the indirect approach whenever possible, and was devoted to his troops who affectionately called him “Uncle Billy.” Eisenhower brilliantly describes Sherman’s battles and campaigns, notably his “March to the Sea” through Georgia in 1864. Excellent, exciting reading, and a tribute to a superb officer.

- [The Free Sea: The American Fight for Freedom of Navigation](#)

**By James Kraska and Raul Pedrozo. Naval Institute Press, 2018. ISBN 978-1-68247-116-6.**

The authors are both retired Naval officers, legal experts on international law, and professors at the Naval War College. This is a marvelous, cautionary history of America’s constant struggle to exercise and promote freedom of navigation in the world’s international waterways. They use case studies to illustrate their position, historical examples from the Barbary wars, the world wars, and more contemporary examples like the Gulf of Tonkin, USS *Pueblo*, S.S. *Mayaguez*, and the Black Sea “Bumping Incident” in 1988. Best is the chapter covering the challenges of protecting those rights in the face of deliberate Chinese violations and circumvention of international law and even World Court decisions.

- [Between Giants: The Battle for the Baltics in World War II](#)

**By Prit Buttar. Osprey, 2013. ISBN 978-1-78096-163-7.**

British historian Buttar has written a multivolume history of World War I on the Eastern Front, as well as numerous books on World War II’s Eastern Front. This meticulously

researched history covers the German invasion of Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia, as well as the devastating Russian attacks in 1944 to oust the Germans and claim the three Baltic states as its own.

- [Lincoln's Code: The Laws of War in American History](#)  
By John Fabian Witt. Free Press, 2021. ISBN 978-1-4165-6983-1.

Witt is a Yale law professor and award-winning author who presents a fascinating history of the United States’ role in creating substantive laws of war during the American Civil War -- laws that eventually became the European model and were adopted by the Hague Convention in 1899. Witt focuses on President Lincoln’s efforts to codify a set of laws in 1862, a set of 157 articles covering everything from martial law, protections of persons and property, prisoners, spies, hostages, partisans, flags of truce, parole, insurrection, and capitulation. Lincoln’s Code “served as tools of practical moral judgment in moments of extreme pressure,” protections for combatants and noncombatants alike, and are the framework for today’s Laws of War.

- [Crusaders: The Epic History of the Wars for the Holy Lands](#)  
By Dan Jones. Viking, 2019. ISBN 978-0-525-42831-2.

Best-selling author and historian Jones ([The Templars](#)) tells the exciting and grim history of the Crusades, from the 11th century to the fall of Constantinople in 1453. As he relates, “the Crusades were among the bloodiest and most horrifying periods in history.” He presents the religious, economic, political, military, and imperial justifications for the many wars between Christians and Muslims, as well as graphic descriptions of battles, campaigns, and atrocities, along with revealing the nature and motivations of popes, kings, rulers, and battle field leaders. This is a nice accompaniment to [Islamic Imperialism: A History](#) by Efrain Karsh (Yale University Press, 2006).

**Compiled and Edited by Captain Ken Pyle, USN (Ret)**



**There will be no July dinner meeting. Have a**



**wonderful summer and we will see you at the Scholarship Awards Banquet on August 19 at the Pensacola Yacht Club. See next month’s Beacon for details.**

### 2021 PMOAA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

It is with great pride and pleasure that I report our PMOAA members are forward thinking people. We have joined in partnership with the Pensacola State College Scholarship Foundation. This partnership will help us locate and sponsor more military connected students. We are a small but powerful chapter.

**PLEASE NOTE: UPDATE YOUR CALENDAR...August 19th the annual Scholarship Awards Dinner Meeting will be held at Pensacola Yacht Club. RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE TO ATTEND.**

**Raffle Tickets:** Please mail them in as soon as possible. The more \$\$\$\$\$ we receive the more \$2,000 scholarships can be awarded. **We never stop serving.**

Questions? Call **Mrs. Elizabeth Richbourg**  
**Scholarship Chair**  
**850-206-0986**

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**SCHOLARSHIP DONATION FORM**

Please accept my/our gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to support the PMOAA Scholarship Fund.

This gift is being made in honor of, or in memory of:

Donor Information:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email

Please send an acknowledgement to:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone

Your gift is tax deductible to the extent allowable by law. Mail your donation payable to:

**PMOAA Scholarship, P.O. Box 17728  
Pensacola, FL 32501**

Thank you for your support!

## PMOAA BOARD OF DIRECTOR’S MEETING

29 June 2021

The monthly Board of Directors meeting of the Pensacola Chapter of MOAA was held at the Pensacola Yacht Club and via a ZOOM conference call on June 29, 2021. The meeting was called to order at 1704. In attendance were the following individuals: CAPT Dean Kirschner, RADM Joan Engel, LT Ken Martin, LCDR Raymond Judd, COL Walter Sawyer, LCDR Trumin Brown, MAJ Molly Werner, LtCol Robert Nelson, Mrs. Elizabeth Richbourg (Scholarship Chair) and Col Joseph Kinego. LCDR John Mills was excused. Attending via ZOOM was Mrs. Jean Booton (BEACON Editor).

**Minutes from May 25, 2021 BOD meeting:** The minutes from the previous month’s board meeting were read. A motion was made by Col Kinego, seconded by LCDR Brown, to approve the minutes. The minutes were accepted and approved by the board.

**Treasurer Report:** LCDR Brown gave the Treasurer Report. These balances were accurate as of June 22, 2021. The balance of the checking account was \$4,866.29. The balance of the savings account was \$13,168.06. The balance for the Anna Johnson fund was not read as statements are sent out quarterly. The Treasurer Report was accepted, with corrections, and approved by the board.

**Agenda:** The first item on the agenda was a question posed by LtCol Robert Nelson. He started out asking “Why our website did not accept PayPal payments for Dinners, Dues or Donations?” The answer was that our website is so out of date that we cannot even bring it up to current security standards. He then suggested that for about the same amount we are paying to “maintain” our current website, there is a company that could assist us in getting our website to be secure and provide us with the ability for people to pay PMOAA directly for services, through the website, vice having everything be paid for by check.

The Board of Directors agreed to have Mrs. Jean Booton and LCDR Trumin Brown contact Non-Profit Dynamics to ascertain whether, or not, the switch to Non-Profit Dynamics hosting the website could be better than what we have now.

The next item on the agenda was an After Action Report by LCDR Ray Judd about the picnic on June 17<sup>th</sup>. There were 43 individuals that made reservations for the picnic, yet 49 people showed up. Luckily the picnic was a buffet dinner, which allowed the extra people to be absorbed

into the count easily. If this was a “per plate” dinner, then the members that made reservations beforehand would have had to sacrifice their meals to feed those that showed without a reservation. That is not fair to the members who previously made a reservation. Now to be fair, there could be a flaw in the website that causes reservations to not get reported. Yet, on the website and at the bottom of every menu for that month’s meeting, there is an email and a phone number for the point of contact. **IF**, you made the reservation by the system and have not received a confirmation reply by the next day via email, please contact the point of contact. If you are bringing guests, please email the point of contact with the pertinent information. Otherwise, those individuals will not be served.

The third item on the agenda was an update on the recruiting and membership of the chapter. Although the chapter did not gain any new members, the chapter did not lose any members since the last meeting.

The fourth item on the agenda was a report on the status of the annual scholarship program by Mrs. Elizabeth Richbourg. The Sheriff’s department endowment has been finally awarded. The scholarship fund only received \$1,000 vice the requested amount.

The yearly raffle tickets have been mailed out and the deadline for the donations and the signed portion of the tickets to be mailed to PMOAA is July 17.

PMOAA and PSC have begun a partnership in establishing a PSC SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION. This will run in conjunction with our own scholarship program. The initial amount that we have put into this FOUNDATION was \$6,000.

The PMOAA scholarship program has received a total number of eight applications. The scholarship committee is waiting on the submission of the applications from the PSC FOUNDATION, which will arrive July 17, 2021. Once those applications are received, the scoring of the applicants can begin.

There has been a change in the date for the SCHOLARSHIP DINNER. Instead of being held on the first Thursday of August, the date for the dinner has been pushed back until **AUGUST 19, 2021**. This is because of a scheduling conflict with the Pensacola Yacht Club.

### **Honorary Life Member:**

Col Kinego reported that seven members have been added to this membership category. Notification letters have been mailed.

**New Items:** There will be no member meeting during July.

It was decided that all dinners from now on will be in the buffet format. This is due in part because of reservation problems and the Pensacola Yacht Club having a lack of servers and cooks.

Beacon input is due NLT COB on Thursday, 1 July. The next board meeting will be held on Tuesday August 24, 2021 at the PYC.

The next dinner will be the **Scholarship Dinner on August 19, 2021**. The menu is not known at this time but CAPT Dean Kirschner is trying to add a carving station to the mix.

A motion was made by LCDR Brown, seconded by Col Kinego, to adjourn the meeting at 1820. Motion carried.

**Respectfully Submitted  
Ken Martin, PMOAA Chapter Secretary**

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### ROWWA

Greetings Ladies,

Welcome again to our 50th Anniversary Year!

Although we are all still dealing with the uncertainties of COVID-19, we are all encouraged by the current distribution of the vaccine in Northwest Florida.

As you may already know, May was the last meeting for our 50 Anniversary Year. We do not meet in the summer months of June, July and August. We look forward to you all joining us again for lunch on Thursday, 9 September 2021. Venue to be announced at a later time.

Eligibility for membership in ROWWA: Wives and Widows of Retired Military Officers and Retired Women Officers.

Guests are welcome.

Annual Dues \$15.

Contact for any questions, membership information and Directory update:

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**Very Respectfully submitted by,  
Molly Werner, Membership Chairman, ROWWA  
for ROWWA Publicity Chairman Ruth Nichols**



**Annual June Picnic Buffet Dinner  
(Pictures courtesy Jean Booton and Iva Prosser)**



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