



OFFICERS CALL



Military Officers Association of America Saint Petersburg Area Chapter



MAY-JUNE 2026



MOAA-Saint Petersburg Area Chapter
PO Box 40353
Saint Petersburg, FL 33743
www.moaastpetearea.com

— DFAS

<https://www.dfas.mil/>
1-888-332-7411

— AARP

<https://www.aarp.org/>
1-888-687-2277

— TAPS

<https://www.taps.org/>
1-800-959-8277

— MOAA

MOAA.org
1-800-234-6622

— VA

<https://www.va.gov/>
1-800-6982411
military.com
www.militarycoalition.org

— Health Care Committee-Survivors

www.militaryonesource.mil

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MOAA Saint Petersburg Chapter Expands Membership Outreach and Community Engagement

—Christina Manley, CPT, USA (Ret)

The MOAA Saint Petersburg (MOAA-SP) Chapter continues to strengthen its commitment to serving military officers, veterans, military families, surviving spouses, and future community leaders throughout Pinellas County. As part of our ongoing membership growth initiative, the chapter recently mailed more than 490 personalized invitation letters to Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) national members residing throughout the Saint Petersburg and greater Pinellas County area.

This outreach effort reflects our dedication to building a stronger local network of military leaders and advocates who are committed to making a positive impact within our community. Each invitation offers eligible MOAA national members a complimentary one-year membership in the MOAA Saint Petersburg Chapter, along with a free luncheon or dinner at one of our chapter meetings. This provides prospective members with an opportunity to meet fellow officers, learn about our programs, and experience firsthand the value of local chapter involvement.

Our chapter encourages military officers, retired officers, active-duty officers, National Guard and Reserve officers, former officers, and surviving spouses to become actively engaged in our mission. Members have opportunities to participate in a wide variety of community outreach initiatives that directly benefit veterans, military families, and youth leadership programs throughout the region.

The MOAA Saint Petersburg Chapter remains proud of its record of service and community involvement. Through the generous support of MOAA National, our chapter has successfully secured multiple Community Outreach Grants that have enabled us to expand programs supporting veterans, military families, homeless veterans, Bay Pines VA initiatives, military family assistance efforts, and local JROTC units.

One of our primary objectives is investing in the next generation of leaders through our support of Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) programs in local high schools. Through scholarships, leadership recognition awards, equipment support, and mentorship opportunities, we continue to encourage civic responsibility, leadership development, and community service among our youth.

As we continue to grow, we are actively seeking additional resources to expand our impact throughout the community. The chapter welcomes support through fundraising events, corporate sponsorships, business partnerships, and community donations. These contributions help fund scholarships, community outreach projects, veteran assistance programs, and military family support initiatives.

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MOAA Saint Petersburg Chapter Expands Membership Outreach and Community Engagement *cont. from pg. 1*

Individuals and organizations interested in supporting the mission of MOAA Saint Petersburg can make contributions through our chapter website or via our convenient Cheddar Up fundraising platform. Every contribution directly supports programs that strengthen our local military and veteran community.

We invite all eligible military officers and surviving spouses living in the Saint Petersburg and Pinellas County area to join us. Together, we can continue advocating for those who serve, supporting those who have served, assisting military families, and developing the future leaders who will strengthen our communities for generations to come. For membership information, upcoming events, volunteer opportunities, sponsorship opportunities, or donation information, please contact the MOAA Saint Petersburg Chapter or visit our chapter website. Together, we serve. Together, we lead. Together, we make a difference.

President's Note



John Rummel

President

St Petersburg
Area Chapter

Honoring Sacrifice and Celebrating 250 Years of America

—John Rummel CDR, USN (Ret)

As we move through the month of June, the reflections of Memorial Day still rest heavily on our hearts. For many, the long weekend has already faded into the rhythm of summer, but for those of us who have served, and for the families who have carried the weight of loss, the meaning endures far beyond a single day. Memorial Day reminds us that the freedoms we enjoy were purchased at a profound cost, paid by men and women who gave everything for the nation they loved. Their sacrifice is not confined to a date on the calendar; it is a legacy we honor throughout the year and it is our duty to ensure their stories are never forgotten.

This year, our remembrance carries added meaning as our nation approaches a historic milestone: the 250th anniversary of the United States of America. In 2026, our country will celebrate two and a half centuries of independence; 250 years of striving, sacrificing, building, and defending the ideals set forth in the Declaration of Independence. It is a moment not only to celebrate our history, but to reflect on the responsibilities we share as citizens and veterans in shaping the next chapter of the American story.

For MOAA, this anniversary is a reminder of the enduring importance of service; service to country, to community, and to one another. Our Chapter continues to embody that spirit through our support of JROTC cadets, our advocacy for military families, and our commitment to the principle that we must “Never Stop Serving”. As we honor the fallen this Memorial Day and look ahead to America’s 250th birthday, let us recommit ourselves to the values that define us: duty, integrity, and a steadfast belief in the promise of this nation.

I encourage each of you to take a moment this month to remember those who never returned home, to reach out to a Gold Star family, and to reflect on the legacy we carry forward. And as we prepare for the celebrations of 2026, let us do so with gratitude for the generations who came before us and with determination to ensure the next 250 years are worthy of their sacrifice.



Award News

MOAA National Visit to St. Petersburg Chapter and Celebrate Seven Grant Awards

—By John Rummel CDR, USN (Ret)

The St. Petersburg Chapter was honored to welcome Ms. Lauren Walters, MOAA's Development Director for Programs, as our guest speaker at the May 15 luncheon. Ms. Walters brought both professional expertise and a personal connection to our community (proud Eckerd College graduate) as she briefed chapter membership on the expanding impact of MOAA Charities and the opportunities available through the Community Outreach Grant (COG) program.

Ms. Walters opened her presentation by outlining the purpose of the COG program, which provides funding to MOAA councils and chapters supporting uniformed service members, veterans, and their families in areas of critical need, including housing, food assistance, employment, behavioral health, family support, financial assistance, legal aid, transportation, and crisis relief. She emphasized that these grants are designed to empower local chapters to meet real needs in their communities.

A Record Year for St. Petersburg: Seven Applications, Seven Awards

Ms. Walters highlighted the exceptional performance of the St. Petersburg Chapter in this year's grant cycle. Our chapter submitted seven applications and all seven were awarded, totaling \$23,000 in funding ... the strongest results nationwide!

Funded programs include:

- Saint Petersburg Chapter Junior Enlisted Financial Hardship Support — Awarded \$4,000
- Military/Veterans Family Community Outreach Cookout — Awarded \$3,500
- Pinellas County Veterans Court Outreach Support — Awarded \$3,500
- VA Homeless Stand Down — Awarded \$3,000
- Boley Centers' Morningside Program — Awarded \$3,000
- JROTC Equipment, Scholarship, and Youth Leadership Support — Awarded \$3,000
- Bay Pines VA Baby Shower Support — Awarded \$3,000

These awards reflect our chapter's strong planning, clear documentation, and alignment with MOAA's mission, all factors Ms. Walters emphasized as essential to successful applications. Now the real work begins. We will need broad membership engagement and support to carry out these grantfunded initiatives and ensure they deliver meaningful, lasting impact within our community.

A Growing National Program

Ms. Walters shared national statistics showing the rapid growth of the COG program. In 2026, MOAA received 89 applications, awarding 73 grants totaling \$191,000, a significant increase from previous years. This growth reflects both rising community needs and the expanding capacity of MOAA Charities to support local initiatives.

A Visit That Reinforced Our Mission

Ms. Walters' visit was more than a briefing. It was a celebration of what our chapter has accomplished and a reminder of the impact we continue to make. Her message was clear: when chapters engage deeply with their communities and submit thoughtful, wellcrafted proposals, MOAA Charities stands ready to support them.

The St. Petersburg Chapter is proud of this year's achievements and grateful for Ms. Walters' leadership, insight, and continued partnership. With seven funded programs now underway, our chapter is wellpositioned to expand its service to veterans, families, and the broader community.



Luncheon Guest Speaker
Ms. Lauren Walters,
State Development Director
for MOAA Programs

From the Desk of the Editor



Dave Warren
Editor OC

Welcome

Welcome to the May–June edition of *Officers Call*, the official newsletter of the St. Petersburg Area Chapter of MOAA.

Historic Milestones

The next four weeks include two significant anniversaries. June 14 marks the Army's 251st birthday, and July 4 marks the sesquicentennial of the Declaration of Independence. This issue includes facts and trivia about the Declaration of Independence.

In this Issue-Chapter Activity

This issue highlights several recent chapter accomplishments:

- Awarding \$500 JROTC scholarships and achievement medals to cadets at five local high schools during the past month.
- Receiving seven grants from national MOAA, totaling \$23,000, to support community projects and initiatives in the St. Petersburg area.

These grants are a notable achievement: our chapter led the nation in the number of grants awarded.

Membership Update

We are in the middle of our annual membership drive and have added seven new members so far. We will continue recruiting retired service members, and we are encouraged by the growing participation in our membership luncheons and dinners.

This issue includes details about the June 18 membership dinner, including RSVP information and menu options. I hope to see you there!

May luncheon photos



Current Board Officers

President: CDR John Rummel (USN , Ret) .
1st VP: Col Tony Clark (FLARNG, Ret)
Treasurer: LTC David Warren (USA, Ret)
Secretary: CPT Christina Costelo-Manley (USA, Ret)
Spouse Liaison: LTC Paulina Mallory (USA, Ret)

VA Office of Survivor Assistance

<https://www.va.gov/SURVIVORS/FAQs.asp>

Executive Advisory Board, Term Expires 31 Dec 2027

MAJ Tom Pederson (USAF, Ret)
 LTC Richard Descincki (USA, Ret)
 Mrs. Kathi Patton (Spouse)

Term Expires 31 Dec 2026

Vacant
 Vacant
 Vacant

Contact Information

Committee	Chairperson
Advertising/Website	MAJ John Kieffer
Hospitality & Reservations	Maj Thomas Pederson Mrs. Denise Pederson
Law	Maj Bert Carrier
Legislative	LTC Terry Carr
Membership	CPT Christina Manley
Personal Affairs	LTC Pauline Mallory COL Tony Clark
JROTC	CDR John Rummel
Scholarships	Vacant
Surviving Spouses	LTC Pauline Mallory

Your Executive Board for 2026



President
 CDR John Rummel
 (USN, Ret)



1st Vice President
 Col Tony Clark
 (FLARNG, Ret)



Treasurer
 LTC Dave Warren
 (USA, Ret)



Secretary
 Christina Manley
 CPT, USA (Ret)



Spouse Liaison
 LTC Pauline Mallory
 (USA, Ret)

Hospitality and Reservations



Denise & MAJ Tom
Pederson (USAF, Ret)

Meal Selections for **September 18th** MOAA luncheon meeting at the Bayou Country Club: 11 AM Social; 11:30 Call to Order; 11:45 Meal served.

1. Mediterranean Salmon Salad: Grilled Salmon, grape tomatoes, cucumbers, kalamata olives, pepperoncini, red onion, feta cheese & avocado over spring mix with Greek dressing
2. Philly Cheesesteak: classic Philly cheesesteak with grilled red pepper, grilled onions and provolone cheese served with fries.
3. Chicken Piccata: Sautéed chicken finished in a lemon butter sauce with capers served over angel hair pasta with Caesar Salad

All served with coffee, ice tea, rolls and dessert. Cost is \$35

Make reservations/meal requests by Tuesday, Sept 15th evening to:

Email: mtgfoodstpete@gmail.com Text: 727-688-9908 (Tom Pederson)

MOAA Ladies Luncheons

Every other month the MOAA ladies gather together for wonderful conversation and yummy food. The April luncheon was held April 10 at Bonefish Grill, Tyrone location. There will be no gatherings in the summer. Here are the luncheon dates for the remainder of the year: September 11 and November 13 at noon. The locations will be announced later. I will always send an email reminder prior to the event.

I look forward to our next gathering. See you in September!

Fondly,

Denise Pederson

p3teach@gmail.com (727) 656-4139 Cell



Interesting News

That's not a real soldier: campaign warns troops, families of AI scams

—By Leo Shane III

Consumer advocates are enlisting military families in the war against AI-aided scams.

Officials from [We the Veterans & Military Families](#) are unveiling a series of public service announcements warning troops about “the exploitation of generative artificial intelligence by foreign adversaries and other bad actors” as part of a broader education effort about identity theft and financial attacks.

As computer-generated fraud becomes easier to create and spread quickly, the organizers worry the military community will become an even more attractive target for scammers, given the stable incomes and respected social standings of troops. Instead of waiting to be victimized, members of the military community should be on the front lines of identifying and thwarting the ruses, they argue.

To continue reading click link: <https://www.militarytimes.com/news/pentagon-congress/2025/09/03/thats-not-a-real-soldier-campaign-warns-troops-families-of-ai-scams/>



—A screengrab from the public service video created by [We the Veterans & Military Families](#) about the dangers of scams generated using artificial intelligence. All of the individuals pictured in the shot are computer generated. (Homefront Sentinel project)

Surviving Spouse



LTC Pauline
Mallory,
(USA, Ret)

PREPARING FOR THE LOSS OF A MILITARY SPOUSE

(Source: Surviving Spouse – MOAA)



MOAA has prepared a wonderful publication for all military couples called *PREPARING FOR THE LOSS OF A MILITARY SPOUSE*. This publication has two main goals: to serve as a way to get personal affairs in order and to help survivors through the first steps they need to take after a loved one's death.

It lists many resources available that are beneficial *now and after* the death of a military spouse. Some of the resources included are *Federal Benefits for Veterans, Dependents, Survivors, and Caregivers*; myPay; and *Social Security Survivors Benefits*.

PART 1: SURVIVOR BENEFITS AND TIPS

Along with a comprehensive list of what to expect the survivor benefits will be, there are several tips to consider right now.

TIP: It's a good idea to set up a separate account for your survivor (or executor) to meet living expenses for the first 60-90 days after your death. The amount of time needed to prepare and submit life insurance government benefits claims—and for the payments to start—could leave survivors without adequate funds for living expenses.

TIP: Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) is an optional benefit. Make sure both the servicemember and the survivor are aware of whether the survivor has coverage and what base amount was chosen. The retiree's pay statement should list whether there is coverage as well as the amount.



This publication also contains **A Checklist for Survivors: Immediately After Death, Within A Few Days of Death, As Necessary, and MOAA Membership for Survivors.**

PART 2: GETTING YOUR AFFAIRS IN ORDER

One of the best ways you can take care of your loved ones is by getting your affairs in order and periodically checking to make sure they are updated and modified as needed. Things to consider now:

ADVANCE CARE PLANNING

WILLS

TRUSTS

LETTER OF INSTRUCTION

TIP: Some installation legal assistance officers can provide help with certain aspects of estate planning such as wills, advance directives, and powers of attorney.

The time to start planning is now!

This publication is available to download online free for PREMIUM AND LIFE MOAA members.

As always, please continue to go online and contact your legislators regarding MOAA Advocacy issues, especially those related to surviving spouses and full-time care givers.

SAVE THE DATE: Surviving spouse luncheon on **October 16th** at Lake Seminole Square honoring our surviving spouses!

Did You Know...

Fascinating Facts about the Declaration of Independence

There is something written on the back of the Declaration of Independence, but it isn't a secret map or code. Instead, there are a few handwritten words that say, "Original Declaration of Independence/ dated 4th July 1776". No one knows who wrote this, but it was probably added as a label when the document was rolled up for storage many years ago.

Once the Declaration of Independence had been written and signed, printer John Dunlap was asked to make about 200 copies to be distributed throughout the colonies. Today, the "Dunlap Broad sides" are extremely rare and valuable. In 1989, someone discovered a previously unknown Dunlap Broad side. It was sold for over \$8 million in 2000. There are only 26 known Dunlap Broad sides surviving today.

Robert Livingston, one of the members of the committee who wrote the Declaration of Independence, never signed it. He believed that it was too soon to declare independence and therefore refused to sign.

One of the most widely held misconceptions about the Declaration of Independence is that it was signed on July 4, 1776. In fact, independence was formally declared on July 2, 1776, a date that John Adams believed would be "the most memorable epocha in the history of America." On July 4, 1776, Congress approved the final text of the Declaration. It wasn't signed until August 2, 1776.

After Jefferson wrote his first draft of the Declaration, the other members of the Declaration committee and the Continental Congress made 86 changes to Jefferson's draft, including shortening the overall length by more than a fourth.

When writing the first draft of the Declaration, Jefferson primarily drew upon two sources: his own draft of a preamble to the Virginia Constitution and George Mason's draft of Virginia's Declaration of Rights.

On December 13, 1952, the Declaration of Independence (along with the Constitution and Bill of Rights) was formally delivered to the National Archives in Washington, D.C., where it has remained since then.

The two youngest signers of the Declaration of Independence were both from South Carolina. Thomas Lynch, Jr. and Edward Rutledge of South Carolina were both born in 1749 and were only 26 when they signed the Declaration. Most of the other signers were in their 40s and 50s.

Thomas Jefferson and John Adams both died on July 4, 1826, the 50th anniversary of the vote to approve the Declaration of Independence.

Nine of the signers of the Declaration died before the American Revolution ended in 1783.

The oldest signer of the Declaration was Benjamin Franklin, who was born in 1706 and was therefore already 70 at the time of the Declaration.

The only signer of the Declaration of Independence to survive beyond the 50th anniversary of the signing was Charles Carroll of Maryland. Carroll died in 1832 when he was 95 years old.

The copy of the Declaration of Independence that is housed at the National Archives is not the draft that was approved by the Continental Congress on July 4, 1776. Instead, it is a formal copy that the Continental Congress hired someone to make for them after the text was approved. This formal copy was probably made by Timothy Matlack, an assistant to the Secretary of Congress. This copy was signed on August 2, 1776.

The first public reading of the Declaration took place on July 8, 1776, in Philadelphia.

Source: <https://www.constitutionfacts.com/us-declaration-of-independence/fascinating-facts/>

Legislative Update

Adapted from The MOAA Newsletter of June 4, 2026
Edited by COL Tony Clark (FLARNG, Ret)

MOAA and other veterans service organizations (VSOs) have warned lawmakers for years about the growing threat posed by unaccredited, for-profit companies charging veterans thousands of dollars for assistance filing VA disability claims — a service accredited VSO representatives, attorneys, and claims agents often provide at no cost. Multiple court decisions and state enforcement actions have validated those concerns in recent months. That is why MOAA proudly supports the Stopping Abuse, Fraud, and Exploitation by Governing Unaccredited Representatives Defrauding (SAFEGUARD) Veterans Act (H.R. 9105 | S. 4646), bipartisan legislation introduced in both chambers in June that would strengthen enforcement against companies unlawfully charging veterans for claims assistance while operating outside VA's accreditation system.

[TAKE ACTION: [Ask Your Lawmakers to Protect Veterans From Predatory Claims Companies](#)]

The legislation builds upon MOAA's [long-standing support for the GUARD VA Benefits Act](#), which would restore meaningful criminal penalties against individuals and organizations that unlawfully charge veterans for assistance with VA claims. Together, these measures represent a comprehensive effort to protect veterans, preserve the integrity of the VA claims process, and ensure veterans receive assistance from qualified, accountable representatives.

Examples of Bad Actors

Recent events demonstrate why congressional action is urgently needed.

In May, a [federal judge ruled](#) that Veterans Guardian VA Claim Consulting acted as an unaccredited agent while preparing and presenting veterans' disability claims and charging contingency fees for those services. The court found Veterans Guardian gathered evidence, reviewed records, identified potential claims, completed VA forms, assembled claim packets, and instructed veterans on submitting those claims — activities the court concluded constituted the preparation and presentation of VA disability claims under federal law. The judge further determined Veterans Guardian was not accredited by the VA and therefore violated federal law by charging veterans for those services.

While the case is not fully resolved, the ruling represents one of the clearest judicial findings to date that companies cannot simply rebrand themselves as "consultants" while performing functions reserved for accredited representatives.

A Federal Fix

Companies frequently advertise assistance with VA disability claims, charge contingency-based fees tied to a veteran's increased benefits, and operate outside the accreditation framework Congress established to protect veterans and their families. Unlike accredited representatives, these firms are not subject to VA oversight, training requirements, ethics standards, or fee reasonableness reviews.

The SAFEGUARD Veterans Act would help close those gaps.

Most importantly, legislation reinforces a principle MOAA has long championed: Veterans deserve trustworthy, qualified representation when navigating the benefits they earned through service.

The vast majority of accredited VSOs, claims agents, and attorneys serve veterans honorably and professionally. The accreditation system exists to ensure veterans receive competent assistance and to provide accountability when representatives fail to meet established standards. Allowing unaccredited actors to operate outside that system undermines those protections and puts veterans at risk.

MOAA strongly supports the SAFEGUARD Veterans Act and the GUARD VA Benefits Act, and we will continue working with lawmakers, VSOs, and coalition partners to pass this legislation. Please join us by contacting your elected officials and urging them to [support and cosponsor these bills](#) to protect veterans from fraud, abuse, and exploitation.



Legislative Action Center Card



TAKE ACTION!

GROUND ZERO

Open your browser and go to www.moaa.org

STEP 1

Click Log In and enter your MOAA username and password ***IF this is your first time, you must enter correct address that is displayed in the box that is shown.***

STEP 2

From the top menu, click Advocacy

STEP 3

Select Legislative Action Center from the dropdown

STEP 4

Browse the list and choose a campaign you support ***IF responding to a "Take Action" Alert, the campaign will appear on screen.**

STEP 5

Review the pre-written message and personalize if desired

STEP 6

Click Send to submit your message to Congress

STEP 7

Look for the confirmation screen – your action is complete

***IMPORTANT: Make sure cookies are enabled in your browser or the site may not load properly.**

NEVER STOP SERVING

Dates to Remember

JUNE

PTSD Awareness Month

June 6 D-Day

June 12 Women's Veterans Day

June 14 Army Birthday

June 14 Flag Day

June 8-14 National Flag Week

June 19 Juneteenth

June 21 Father's Day

June 23 Coast Guard Auxiliary Birthday

June 27 PTSD Awareness Day

JULY

July 1 Canada Day

July 4 Independence Day (US)



July 11 World Population Day

July 14 Bastille Day (France)

July 24 International Self-Care Day

July 25 National Hire a Veteran Day

July 26 - Parents' Day (US)

JROTC - Awards and Scholarships

MOAA St. Petersburg Chapter Honors Outstanding JROTC Cadets

—By CDR John Rummel, (USN, Ret)

The St. Petersburg Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) proudly recognized exceptional cadets from five area high schools (Boca Ciega, Admiral Farragut Academy, Northeast, Hollins, and Gibbs) through the presentation of MOAA Scholarships and MOAA Medals. These awards highlight the Chapter's commitment to supporting youth leadership, academic excellence, and the development of future military and community leaders. Additionally, our annual recognition of these future leaders reflects MOAA's enduring mission to "Never Stop Serving" by investing in the next generation of cadets who exemplify integrity, discipline, and service to others.

The MOAA Scholarship is a \$500 award presented to a graduating senior who has demonstrated exceptional academic achievement, leadership within their JROTC unit, and a commitment to the values of service and citizenship. This scholarship supports the cadet's transition into college, vocational training, or military service, and reflects MOAA's dedication to investing in the next generation of leaders.

The MOAA Medal is awarded to JROTC cadets who demonstrate exceptional leadership potential, strong moral character, academic dedication, and a commitment to the ideals of citizenship and service. Recipients are selected by their instructors as cadets who consistently lead by example, uphold the highest standards of conduct, and inspire their peers through professionalism, initiative, and integrity. The medal reflects MOAA's mission to recognize and encourage the development of future military and community leaders.

Admiral Farragut Academy

- ☐ Cadet Leah VanArsdale — MOAA Scholarship
- ☐ Cadet Jean Valerio — MOAA Medal
- ☐ Cadet Ruben Williams — MOAA Medal

Boca Ciega High School

- ☐ Cadet Aralyn Jacques — MOAA Scholarship
- ☐ Cadet Ollie Flounary — MOAA Medal

Gibbs High School

- ☐ Cadet Krysta Jenkins — MOAA Scholarship
- ☐ Cadet Xsora Boykins — MOAA Medal

Hollins High School

- ☐ Cadet Madison Ward — MOAA Scholarship
- ☐ Cadet Benton Stuart — MOAA Medal

Northeast High School

- ☐ Cadet Kristina Sytsevich — MOAA Scholarship
- ☐ Cadet Hannah Palek — MOAA Medal

A Commitment to Future Leaders

The MOAA St. Petersburg Chapter remains deeply committed to supporting local JROTC programs and recognizing cadets who demonstrate excellence in leadership, academics, and service. These awardees represent the future of military and civic leadership, and their achievements reflect the strength of the instructors, schools, and community partners who guide them.

Please reach out to your shopping sources and ask them if they would like to advertise. The price per size is available on the web site.

This is a direct add to over 150 military officers and spouses.

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JROTC - Awards and Scholarships

Gibbs High School Scholarship JROTC winner



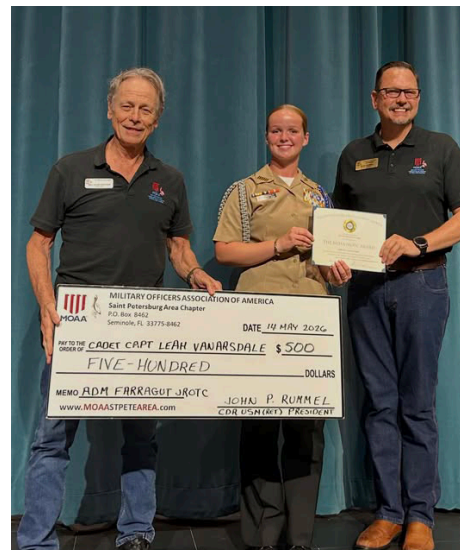
Hollins High School JROTC Award and Scholarship



The Boca Ciega High School Award and Scholarship



Admiral Farragut Academy JROTC Awards and Scholarship



JROTC - Awards and Scholarships

Boca Ciega JROTC Cadets Embark on Leadership Journey with My Compass Program

—CDR John Rummel (USN, Ret)

The MOAA St. Petersburg Chapter is proud to highlight the participation of six Boca Ciega High School JROTC cadets and their Senior Army Instructor, COL (ret) Jay Jackson, USA, in the inaugural JROTC Compass Program at My Warrior's Place. The weekend-long leadership immersion brought together young cadets from across the Tampa region for a transformative experience rooted in resilience, teamwork, and personal growth.

A Program Built to Shape Tomorrow's Leaders

The Compass Program, created and hosted by My Warrior's Place, a nonprofit dedicated to healing and supporting veterans, first responders, and Gold Star families. The Compass Program extends that same spirit of service to the next generation. Designed for cadets ages 16–18, the program blends classroom instruction with hands-on, scenario-based learning to strengthen:

- Leadership and decision-making
- Communication and conflict resolution
- Team cohesion and trust-building
- Emotional resilience and self-awareness

Through guided workshops, outdoor challenges, and peer-led discussions, cadets learn to navigate adversity with confidence and integrity; skills essential for both military and civilian futures.

Boca Ciega Cadets Lead from the Front

Boca Ciega's cadets embraced the Compass Program with enthusiasm, professionalism, and a willingness to push beyond their comfort zones. Under COL Jackson's mentorship, they participated in:

- Team leadership lanes requiring rapid planning and coordinated execution
- Group problem-solving challenges emphasizing communication under pressure
- Reflection sessions focused on character, purpose, and service
- Outdoor activities that reinforced trust, adaptability, and camaraderie

Their performance reflected the strong foundation of Boca Ciega's JROTC program and the dedication of its instructors. Cadets returned with renewed confidence, strengthened leadership skills, and a deeper understanding of what it means to serve others.

Strengthening the Bond Between MOAA and Future Leaders

The Compass Program represents a natural extension of MOAA's mission to support the uniformed services community. By investing in JROTC cadets, My Warrior's Place is helping shape the character and capability of these future leaders who may one day wear the cloth of our country.

Our Chapter looks forward to welcoming COL Jackson to the June membership dinner, where he will share insights and experiences from this inaugural My Compass event.

Continuing the Partnership

My Warrior's Place continues to expand its outreach to veterans, families, first responders, and now JROTC units. MOAA members can support this vital mission through donations, volunteerism, or by helping raise awareness of the organization's life-changing programs. To learn more, visit www.mywarriorsplace.org.



April luncheon photos



May Executive Committee Meeting





Our Mission: The Raymond James National Veterans Inclusion Network (Valor) supports all branches of the military, military spouses, first responders, and their families, aiming to foster camaraderie, networking, and community involvement. We partner with local and national nonprofits across the country to collaborate, support, promote, and amplify each other and fellow veterans/ first responders.

Recruiting & Retention

Valor recognizes the sacrifices that military members, veterans, spouses and their families make for our nation, and our priority is to make Raymond James their employer of choice. Applicants with a military background and military spouses can send their resume to be reviewed by a team that understands the nuances of a military resume. **Scan here** to email us!



Community Outreach & Engagement



Valor aims to support the veteran community nationwide through national and local outreach programs. We partner with local veteran organizations across the country to collaborate, support, promote, and amplify each other and fellow veterans in their communities and nationwide. **Scan here** and learn more about our nonprofit partners.

Annual Golf Tournament

Our annual Golf tourney fundraiser supports veteran/ first responder nonprofits in their commitment and mission to help our community and give back to those who have already given so much. Proceeds of this tourney are directly donated to numerous non-profits. **Scan here** to learn about **#GolfToGiveBack**



Military Spouse Network



Valor's Military Spouse Network supports and connects military spouses within Raymond James. This network also supports recruitment of military spouses looking to transition into a corporate career. The program focuses primarily on three key areas - professional development, recruitment, and support. **Scan here** to connect with us.

RAYMOND JAMES

Helpful Links and Contacts

National

<https://www.moaa.org/>

For general and Legislation Action Information.

Note: MOAA is an independent, nonprofit, politically nonpartisan organization!

State

<https://flmoaa.org/>

For Florida specific information about Florida Council of Chapters

Surviving Spouse Advisory Council

Surviving Spouse Virtual chapter: mssvc02@gmail.com

SSAC Chair and Board Member: virginiagailjoyce@gmail.com

Local

<https://www.moaa.stpetearea.com/>

For membership eligibility and membership application as well as other chapter related information.

Instagram:

https://www.instagram.com/moaa_st_pete_area/

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/925278824641972>



Visit your Chapter's Web page and social media accounts (Facebook and Instagram) on a regular basis. Don't forget the Florida Council and National sites. chapter web and social media accounts!

MOAA 2026 Calendar

2026 Meetings and Luncheons

	Executive Committee Mtg*	Membership Luncheon**	Ladies Luncheon***
July	1	N/A	N/A
August	5	N/A	XX
September	2	18	N/A
October	7	16	9
November	4	20	N/A
December	2	18	13

*EC meets the 1st Tuesday of each month at the Bayou Club, Private Dining Room, 1830 hrs.

<https://www.bayouclubgolf.com/>

**Monthly Luncheons are held on the 3rd Friday each month at the Bayou Club, Banquet Room, 1100 hrs. social, 1130 lunch.

***Ladies Luncheons are held the 2nd Thursday every other month. Place/Time TBA

Always check with the [Chapter Facebook page](#) for update times/dates/location!!

(<https://www.facebook.com/groups/925278824641972>) or website (<https://www.moaastpetearea.com/>) for location or time changes.



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