



U.S. PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE MILITARY ASSOCIATION

January 2019



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Email: UMA@uspto.gov

The USPTO Military Association (UMA) is a USPTO affinity group and 501(c)(3) non-profit charity whose mission is to ***provide fellowship, mentorship, and support*** for military Veterans working at the USPTO, and to help educate others on the important contributions that Veterans have made—and continue to make—to the workforce and our nation. Membership is open to everyone and **prior military service is not required**. Contact the UMA for more information at uma@uspto.gov.

Welcome to our newest member Alexander Levy!

President’s Message. Dear UMA Family, serving as the President for 2018 was an eye opening experience and indeed a pleasure. I hope that we (the entire 2018 board) met your expectations and provided events and programs that reflected the UMA mission and spirit. As we move into 2019, there are new challenges we will face as well as new events that we are planning. As always, we need your support in order to continue the upward growth of the UMA. Please give what you can; volunteering 30 minutes makes a big difference. Please read the Scuttlebutt newsletter as it will contain important dates and other UMA related notes. Thanks in advance for your continued support.

Sincerely

Collin, UMA President 2018, 2019

Introducing the 2019 Board of Directors!

Officers

- President: Collin Nole
- Vice President: Danny “Roman” Gray
- Treasurer: Nasir Ahmed
- Secretary: Robin Hylton
- Representatives-at-large

- Olivia Wise
- Cevilla Randal
- Dorene Matheis
- Jill Leyden
- Michael Arguello
- Anhtuan Nguyen
- James Miller (Texas Regional Office)
- Fritzgerald Butac (Silicon Valley Regional Office)
- Mark Radtke (Denver Regional Office)



Serve Our Willing Warriors- (SOWW)

On Dec 8th, 2018 UMA hosted a “Chips for Charity event” at which over 65 people attended. We raised the targeted amount of \$2500.00 which was earmarked for SOWW. Serve Our Willing Warriors is a publicly funded, community-supported, nonprofit providing encouragement and support for our Nation’s Warriors through non-medical programs and services that positively affect their recovery. The exhausting routine of surgeries, procedures, and therapies takes a heavy toll on the Warriors as well as their family members. For many, the challenges of Post Traumatic Stress and Traumatic Brain Injury compounds the situation.

Our primary goal is to reinforce the mental, emotional, and spiritual well-being of everyone affected to strengthen them in their journey. Our programs include retreat stays, educational and therapeutic activities, and linking the Warriors to a network of organizations and individuals who can advise, support, or guide their transition back to civilian life.

The UMA donation will cover the costs associated with a one-week stay at the Retreat for a Warrior, including their family and friends. The sponsorship provides the opportunity for a much-needed break during their lengthy recovery process. The objective of this home-away-from-home experience is that each Warrior and family member returns to their recovery process feeling refreshed and inspired.

UMA board members will be visiting the SOWW retreat in Haymarket Va. on 2nd March 11-12 noon to present the donation and tour the facility. Address: 16013 Waterfall Rd. Haymarket, VA 20169 If you would like to attend, please RSVP via email to UMA@USPTO.GOV Subject: SOWW – I am going. Please plan to arrive a few minutes early. LETS SHOW THEM SOME UMA LOVE.

Calendar of Events:

- February
 - February 5 – Membership Drive
 - February 12 – Membership Drive
 - February 19 – Membership Drive
 - February 26 – Membership Drive

2019 UMA MEMBERSHIP DRIVE:

The UMA is sponsoring a Membership Drive on Tuesdays throughout the month of February. We will have an informational table set up in the

Madison Cafe hallway (11am – 1pm) to promote the UMA and sign up new members. If you have 30 minutes to spare, please sign up. Please click [here](#) to sign up. Your time is greatly appreciated as we help educate employees about the UMA and welcome new members to the UMA family.

Tuesdays: UMA Coffee break. Join us for coffee every Tuesday from 9:30 –10 a.m. ET, in the cafeteria seating area closest to the Madison West

Building.

Veterans Keepsake Project. The Veterans Keepsake Project is now online. [Click here](#) to view a web page that contains all of the images in the exhibit and the accompanying text.



The exhibit is sponsored by the UMA in partnership with the OCCO.

UMA Happy Hour. Join UMA members for a happy hour the third Wednesday of every month, from 4 – 6 p.m. ET at Foster's Grille. The UMA will provide appetizers and drinks for current members and any new members who sign up the event. For more information, [contact Michael Arguello](#).

Retiree Newsletters:

- Army Echoes. [Click here.](#)
- Navy Shift Colors. [Click here.](#)
- Air Force Afterburner. [Click here.](#)
- Marine Corps Semper Fidelis. [Click here.](#)
- Coast Guard Evening Colors. [Click here.](#)

Shop at the Exchanges online! Honorably discharged Veterans can now shop on all online exchanges. [Click here to get verified.](#)

Replacement Medals and Awards: Did you know that the military services may provide replacement medals at no cost? [Click here for more information.](#)

Cold War Recognition Certificate: If you served in the military or worked for the U.S. Government at any time during the Cold War era, Sept. 2, 1945 through Dec. 26, 1991, then you are eligible for the Cold War Recognition Certificate. [Click here for more information.](#)

DD-214s are now online. The National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) now has a [website](#) for

Veterans to gain access to their DD-214s online.
Alternate website is [here](#).

VA Disability Claim Assistance. Need help filing a claim? [Click here to search for Accredited Attorneys, Claims Agents, or Veterans Service Organizations \(VSO\) Representatives.](#)

Pro Bono Resources for Veterans. The American Bar Association a great with listings for pro bono resources. [Click here for more information.](#)

State Veteran's Benefits. Everyone knows about the federal benefits available to veterans, but did you know many states also offer great benefits to their veterans? [Click here to find out about your state.](#)

Vet Tix. Vet Tix is a charity that provides tickets to all branches of currently-serving Military and Veterans. Vet Tix secures tickets to sporting events, concerts, performing arts, educational and family activities across the nation. VetTixers request tickets to events that interest them, then pay a small delivery fee to receive their free tickets. [Click here for more information.](#)

Veteran Resources: Below are some resources that are available for Veterans. This is not an exhaustive list but we hope it will help provide a resource to help you.

- Veterans Crisis Line 1-800-273-8255 – press 1
- [US Department of Veterans Affairs - Alexandria Clinic](#)
- [Employee Assistance Program](#) - It's free and confidential to help employees cope with problems that negatively affect their emotional well-being or their work performance or conduct. These problems may be marital, family, legal, or financial and may include substance abuse, emotional difficulties, health or behavioral issues, or child and elder care issues. The EAP provides assessment, counseling, referral, training and consultation to USPTO employees and their family members.
- [NAMI-Northern VA](#) - Where individuals living with a mental health condition, family members, youth and the Northern Virginia community find education, support and HOPE!
- [National Center for PTS](#) - The National Center for PTSD is dedicated to research and education on trauma and PTSD. We work to assure that the latest research findings help those exposed to trauma. Link for Veterans - <https://www.ptsd.va.gov/public/index.asp>
- [Loudoun Therapeutic Riding](#) which sponsors free horse-assisted activities and therapies for wounded military and veterans.
- [Mighty Oaks Warrior Programs](#) which assists our nations' military Warriors and families struggling with Post Traumatic Stress; Serve Our Willing Warriors which provides a "home away from home" environment for our Nations wounded, ill and injured Warriors currently residing at military hospitals in the DC area.
- [Semper K9](#) which seeks to enhance the quality of life for wounded, critically-ill and injured members of the U.S. Armed Forces and their families by providing them assistance dogs.
- [Make the Connection](#) – Effects of Traumatic Brain Injury
- [Top 10 Charities that Support Veterans](#) from CNBC
- [Charity Watch](#) is also a good resource. You may search "Veterans" in the search box for a listing of Veteran-related charities that could help you.

Did You Know? The USS Arizona Memorial at Pearl Harbor is built over the remains of the sunken battleship USS Arizona, the final resting place for many of the 1,177 crewmen killed on December 7, 1941 when their ship was bombed by the Japanese Naval Forces. This loss of life represents over half of the Americans killed during the worst naval disaster in American history.

Do You Know a Speaker? We are always looking for amazing guest speakers to come in and meet with us. If you know someone who may be a great speaker, let us know!



Have a story you want to share? Family members you want to note being deployed? Any special announcements to share (retirement, births, career achievements, etc.)? If you have an event, charity or community service you would like to share with other UMA members – let us know? This is YOUR Scuttlebutt. So please let us know how we may help communicate what's going on in YOUR world.

UMA memberships is open to USPTO employees, contractors and general public. Prior military service is not required. If you know someone interested in joining, please visit our [website](#) for the membership forms.

The Scuttlebutt may include stories, links and references not directly connected to the USPTO Military Association, but which may be of interest to our Veteran community. If you have questions or comments about anything appearing (or not) in the UMA Scuttlebutt, please contact us at uma@uspto.gov.