

Military Officers Association of America

Green Valley Chapter · Desert Duster Newsletter · January 2018 issue



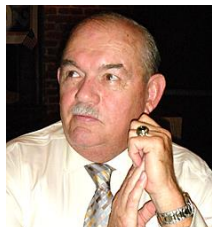
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President's Message



Happy New Year to all of our members from myself and your Board of Directors. We look forward to a very prosperous and successful new year for all.

To start things off, the Board of Directors has filled two important positions that have been plaguing us for the past year. Betty Eby-Deardorff has accepted the position of Auxiliary Liaison, and Col Marianne Rogers Faust has taken the position as Historian.

At the December board meeting, Marianne Cobarrubias, our Newsletter Editor and Webmaster, was presented a framed certificate and a letter of appreciation for her efforts in our communications with you, our "customers". Dick Newman has submitted our efforts for the COL Harris Communication Award for her efforts.

Speaking of upcoming events, we have two important dates to remember in January. There is the 32nd MOWW Massing of the Colors & Service of Remembrance Ceremony at Sahuarita School District Auditorium (13 January at 10 a.m.) presented by the Rio Rico and Sahuarita JROTC Units. Our Chapter Colors will be carried by one of the Sahuarita JROTC students, and we will be remembering one of our Chapter members, David Hinken, Major, USAF (Ret) who passed in 2017.

The second event is the Members Luncheon (23 January at 11:30 a.m.) at the Quail Creek Madera Clubhouse. Lunch will be served at 12:00 - 2:00. A steak and wine salad will be served at \$17.00/person. The Grill bar will be open for drinks. Don Severe has asked for time to thank the members for a surprise trip to Washington, DC as an Honor Flight recipient for WWII and Korean War Vets that your Chapter sponsored. Hope to see everyone there!

Another thing, we will be having a Silent Auction at our March Mix & Mingle membership event on March 22nd. This event will be a Happy Hour style event with finger food and a surprise game (look for clues in the next newsletter!). The reason I'm bringing up the silent auction is that we need any good/new or gently used items that you may not need any more as donations. Contact Joe Longo (509-945-4993) or me (520-777-6141) if you have any item to donate or need help getting items delivered to Joe before the auction. Remember, one person's junk may be another person's treasure.

As per normal, part of our ongoing support for the Fisher House and the VA Hospital, we really need donations of small things for the Vets such as toiletries, soap, socks, books, etc., or even those small calendars flooding your mail boxes at this time year. We will be accepting these items at all the meetings.



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I would like to thank our members for all the awards and many "thank you" letters we have received as a MOAA Chapter, including our Level of Excellence Award which we pinned onto our Banner during the December meeting. Many thanks also for making a needy Veteran's or child's holiday a little brighter.

I exhort you to please get your 2018 dues to Peggy McGee before the end of this month (\$25 Regular, \$15 Auxiliary) as our revised by-laws require our Chapter to drop members from our rolls at the end of January for nonpayment. We will be checking the Post Office Box daily and collecting dues at the members' luncheon on the 23rd.

Check out our website at greenvalleymoaa.org to get your lunch reservation mailed to Barbara Brown at least 2 weeks earlier than January 23rd. The reservation form is also in this newsletter. We look forward to seeing all of you at the first membership meeting of the new year.

As we go into this new year of 2018, I would like to emphasize to every one of our members that this new year will only be as good as we can make it be by having faith in our fellow men and women, our religious beliefs and our country!

May you all have a

Happy New Year!

Jim Knox, LCDR USN (Ret)
2018 Chapter President
Green Valley Chapter, MOAA

Membership Dues: Due by January 31



If you have not yet paid your dues and to save yourself a stamp, consider bringing your dues check (\$25 for military members and \$15 for Auxiliary) payable to GV MOAA to the January 23rd luncheon. Print the form below to help ensure we have the correct contact info for you. Members may also pay their dues using the form below and mailing it to the address provided. If you prefer, you may download and print this form at greenvalleymoaa.org.



Military Officers Association of America

Green Valley, Arizona Chapter · P.O. Box 769 · Green Valley, AZ 85622

2018 CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP DUES

Chapter Dues: (Regular-\$25; Auxiliary-\$15)

Membership Dues \$_____ Make check payable to: Military Officers Association of Green Valley or GV MOAA.

PLEASE PROVIDE THE INFORMATION BELOW:

Name: _____ New _____ Renewal _____

Rank: _____ Branch of Service: _____ National # _____ Auxiliary _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip _____

DOB _____ (Month/Day/Year)

Phone: () _____ E-Mail: _____

Scholarship & Military Assistance Fund \$_____ Donation

Make check payable to: Green Valley MOAA Scholarship and Military Assistance Fund or GV MOAA Scholarship or GV MOAA Military Assistance. **Dues may be paid at any meeting or mailed to Military Officers Association of America, Green Valley, Arizona Chapter · P.O. Box 769 · Green Valley, AZ 85622.**

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January Luncheon Meeting Reservation Form

Mail your check and this reservation form to the address below.

JANUARY 23, 2018 · Social: 11:30 a.m. · Luncheon: 12:00-2:00 p.m.
Quail Creek Madera Clubhouse

Please make your reservations by January 16th!

Please reserve ____ places for me for lunch.

Cost: \$ _____ (\$17 per person)

Entrée:

Steak and Wine Salad

The Grill Bar will be open for drinks.

Check # _____

Attn: Lunch Reservation

Mail your check and this reservation form to:

MOA of Green Valley, PO Box 769 · Green Valley, AZ 85622

Rank: _____ Name: (please print) _____

I am bringing guest(s) whose name(s) is/are:

GUEST 1 _____

GUEST 2 _____

GUEST 3 _____

GUEST 4 _____

If you require a ride to the dinner, please check here: ☐

✂ ----- CUT HERE -----

If you cannot get your reservation and check mailed timely, or if you have made a reservation and find you cannot attend PLEASE CALL BARBARA BROWN. Your chapter is charged for all ordered meals even if they aren't served. Please bring a check or exact cash amount to the meeting. Thank you, Barbara Brown 625-8066.

Hearing Aid Assist Device at Quail Creek ⇨ If you are a member with Hearing Aids who still has difficulty hearing the speakers at the meal-plated meetings, Quail Creek does offer a Hearing Aid Assist Loop device. The Hearing Aid Assist is a loop system in the meeting room and can be turned on and individuals would wear a device around their neck which helps amplify the sound through their hearing aids.

In order for this assist device to work the individual must have a Hearing Aid or Cochlear Implants with TeleCoil (T-Coil) capability. This device only works with hearing aids with this capability and will not work on individuals with no hearing aid at all.

If you or a guest would like to utilize this service at Quail Creek for future meetings, I ask that you notify us in advance so we can have it available for you. You can notify us by writing your request on your meeting reservation form, or contact Barbara Brown **625-8066 or barbara.brown3@cox.net.**

January Program Speaker



Diana S. Kellermeyer is the Chief of Blind Rehabilitation Service and the Southwestern Blind Rehabilitation Center (SWBRC) at the Southern Arizona VA Health Care System in Tucson. The SWBRC is one of only thirteen inpatient blind rehabilitation centers in the VA system of care.

As one of the largest centers, SWBRC is a 31-bed, comprehensive inpatient blind rehabilitation program, providing individualized rehabilitation for veterans with visual impairment. The program mission is to provide training and opportunity for enhancing the quality of life for visually impaired veterans, so they may successfully and independently reintegrate back into their home and community. Ms. Kellermeyer provides leadership and direction over a large and diverse group of blind rehabilitation and health care professionals. The SWBRC annually provides residency and internship training for 20+

Allied Health Trainees representing Optometry, Psychology, Social Work and Blind Rehabilitation.

Ms. Kellermeyer has extensive experience working with VA Central Office and other VA blind rehabilitation centers, serving as a consultant on improving delivery of care, program success and preparation for successful accreditation through the Commission on the Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF). She designed the curriculum for the national blind rehabilitation executive mentoring program, and serves as primary mentor for newly appointed blind rehabilitation chiefs in the VA system of care. She is frequently asked to give presentations at the National Blind Rehabilitation Service conference.

In 2016, Ms. Kellermeyer was invited to attend the National Blinded Veterans Association award ceremony, during which the SWBRC was recognized as the premiere center of excellence, the first and only award of its kind.

MOWW Massing of the Colors & Service Remembrance Ceremony: Jan. 13th

The MOWW Annual Massing of the Colors originally began as a solemn ceremony in honor and reverence of our Nation's war dead in the early 1900s. Known initially as *Decoration Day*, the event focused upon remembering all those who had perished in battle and honoring their personal sacrifice by promoting the preservation of national patriotism in their stead.

Massing of the Colors event program is a signature patriotic ceremony held to rededicate our faith in the United States, and to present our support to the National Colors and the Servicemen and Servicewomen those Colors represent.

The MOWW co-hosted event with the local Sahuarita Unified School District and Sahuarita HS Navy JROTC program is intended to draw local and surrounding community interest, as we celebrate and highlight our diverse patriotic heritage, remember fellow veterans and take the opportunity to celebrate our national legacy representative of our enduring unified and universal acceptance of all cultures, creeds, faiths and way of life.

The event theme for this year is **"Today's Youth – Tomorrow's Leaders"** – highlighting the vital importance entrusted to us all in securing a brighter and promising future for all our youth, through our continued investment helping to encourage, mentor and inspire tomorrow's leaders.

Event: MOWW: 32nd Annual Santa Cruz Valley Chapter Massing of the Colors (MOC) and Service of Remembrance (SOR) Ceremonial Event in Sahuarita.

Date: Saturday, January 13, 2018 (Martin Luther King observance weekend)

Time: 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon

Location: Sahuarita Unified School District Auditorium Complex

The flyer with additional information may be found on the next page.

The Military Order of the World Wars



SANTA CRUZ VALLEY CHAPTER AZ – 193, GREEN VALLEY, AZ

Invites one and all to join us in celebrating the 32nd annual
Massing of the Colors & Service of Remembrance Event



When: Saturday, 13 January 2018

Where: Sahuarita HS Auditorium Complex (350 W. Sahuarita Rd.)

Time: 10:00 AM until 12:00 noon

Speaker: Honorable Tom Murphy

Featuring: Live Entertainment and JROTC Demonstration Teams

Attire: Guest informal casual (event photos to be taken)

This signature MOWW event is free and open to the general public. All interested guests and contributing / participating organizations, regardless of "military" or "non-military" affiliation are welcome. We are grateful and encourage all local community service organizations to get involved and be represented with your organizational Honor / Color Guard contingent and/or have your organizational flags / banners displayed or simply have everyone join us in attendance, to show your community solidarity support for all our fellow veterans and local community service and youth leadership and development community program participants. We also encourage as many local area residents, family and friends of our beloved veterans (whether they previously served or continue to serve currently) to attend this most celebrative and solemn respectful ceremonial and special event program venue that honors and brings together in celebration all who love and cherish our great nation, those who serve her and those who are inspired by her and may choose to serve her in the foreseeable future.

NOTE: Doors will be open beginning at 9:00 AM to the general public. For further information or to answer any questions please contact the Chapter commander, at (520) 780-7107, (520) 288-4507 or email us at: marlon.ruiz@earthlink.net at the earliest opportunity to secure your place for this annual MOWW signature event. Participating organizations in the event program should arrive no later than between 8:00 to 9:00 AM, the morning of the event.

Empty Bowls Offer More Than Soup: Feb. 10th

The 12th Annual Empty Bowls fundraiser event will be held on Saturday, February 10th at Valley Presbyterian Church, 2800 South Camino del Sol in Green Valley. There will be three seatings: 11:00 a.m., noon and 1:00 p.m. This event features soups prepared by several restaurants in the local area. All proceeds are used to provide assistance for the many Valley Assistance Services (VAS) programs offered for seniors and low-income families in the local area throughout the year.

Tickets for the soup and bread luncheon meal are \$20 in advance or \$25 at the door. Student tickets for those 17 and under are available for \$5. All tickets are cash or check payable to *Valley Assistance Services*. In addition to enjoying a delicious bowl of soup, those purchasing tickets will be able to choose from the many ceramic bowls that have been lovingly crafted by local ceramics club members to take home with them. Tickets can be purchased at VAS (3950 S. Camino del Heroe), Nancy Pantz, Chamber of Commerce, and Caylee Cakes. On Mondays from 9 – Noon, tickets can also be purchased at Posada Java. A new selection of bowls will be offered at each seating so no need to fret if you can't be there at 11:00 a.m. Questions should be directed to Chris Erickson at 625-5966.



Cindy Day is busy producing a bowl for the annual Empty Bowls fund-raising event.

Photo: Jeff Krueger

Therapeutic Riding of Tucson Will Benefit From Luncheon: Feb. 27th

The Auxiliary will be sponsoring a fundraising luncheon on Tuesday, February 27th at noon in the Madera Clubhouse Ballroom. Doors will open for a period of socializing at 11:30 a.m.

The Auxiliary's goal is to raise funds for the *Heroes on Horses* program sponsored by Therapeutic Riding of Tucson (TROT), an organization that provides horse riding experiences for youth and adults. The TROT representative, Becky Noel, will describe the special programs for veterans suffering from physical injuries as well as post-traumatic stress disorder. One of the many goals of the program is to reintegrate the service member into a calm, peaceful social environment. This goal is accomplished by enabling the service member or veteran to ride in a private or group session with a horse and instructor. Over time, the veterans' confidence and ability to trust increases and they find empowerment in being in control of their equine partners. The *Heroes on Horses* program never charges veterans for TROT services but rather they rely on donations to keep the program viable. Thus, it is the veterans' program for which the Auxiliary is raising funds.



Lunch will feature a baked potato bar with chili or broccoli and cheese toppings plus all the fixings, accompanied by salad and dessert. The cost for the luncheon will be \$20. Anyone interested in learning about TROT and its amazing programs is invited to attend whether or not they are a member of MOAA.

The group also plans to have a 50/50 raffle at the luncheon to raise additional funds for TROT.

To make your luncheon reservation, please contact Betty Atwater at 520-399-3261. You can pay for your reservation at the January 23rd luncheon. Checks should be made payable to GV MOAA S&MA Fund. Deadline to make reservations is February 19th.

More information on the *Heroes on Horses* program: trotarizona.org/who-we-help/veterans. Flyer and reservation form may be found on the next page.



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Green Valley Chapter · greenvalleymoaa.org



Therapeutic Riding contributes positively to the cognitive, physical, emotional, and social well-being to all riders.



trotarizona.org

Program speaker will describe the special programs for Veterans suffering from physical injuries and post-traumatic stress disorder.

The luncheon is open to the general public. You do not need to be a member of MOAA.

MOAA AUXILIARY LUNCHEON

benefits

"Heroes on Horses"

a program sponsored by
Therapeutic Riding of Tucson (TROT)

February 27 · 12:00pm

DOORS OPEN AT 11:30^{am}

Cost \$20 Includes baked potato bar, salad & dessert

🐾 Madera Clubhouse Ballroom 🐾

Quail Creek Country Club

2055 E. Quail Crossing Blvd., Green Valley AZ

A 50/50 raffle will be available to raise additional funds for TROT.



Send your \$20 check (payable to MOAA S&MA Fund) and this form to: Betty Atwater at 2740 East Ponce Court, Green Valley, AZ 85614. Questions? Call: 520-399-3261. **PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY.** Thank you.

(*required)

NAME* _____

PHONE* () _____

AREA CODE

EMAIL* _____

MOAA
Auxiliary
Luncheon
"Heroes on Horses"
February 27, 2018



Get To Know Your Members: Major Robert Tomb

Major Robert Tomb enlisted in the Army Airborne in 1954. His motivation? To get the GI Bill. He went to basic training at Fort Dix, NJ just three days after graduating from high school in Summit, NJ. While at Fort Dix, Bob was recruited to go to the 77th Special Forces at the Psychological Warfare Center at Fort Bragg, NC. After separation from active duty, he entered college and graduated from Oklahoma State University in 1961 as a 2nd Lt through the AFROTC program. He graduated from pilot training at Del Rio, TX in 1963 and became an instructor pilot, flight examiner and test pilot (FCF) in fighters and trainers.

While in Alaska in 1967 he had a flame out and ejected in 55 knot winds that caused chute to go over a tree and his back to impact with the tree. Ouch! Thirty-five years later an MRI determined that he suffered a broken vertebra from that event.

Bob was stationed at Phu Cat, Vietnam from 1969-1970, where he flew the F4 Phantom in close air support for in-country missions, and missions in Laos. He also worked at the TACC in Saigon. After Vietnam he had various assignments including Colorado Springs and Duluth, MN. He retired in 1979.

His medals include the Bronze Star, Distinguished Flying Cross with 2 OLC, 13 Air medals, Meritorious Service Medal, PACAF Outstanding Airmanship Award, Command Pilot, Jump Wings, and another badge he will not admit to having. He had a second career in real estate as a developer, broker, instructor and then as a Certified Appraiser in Wyoming. In 2016 Jeanne and Bob came to Quail Creek to visit Jeanne's brother and wound up buying a house across the street from him.



Knit Wits Help Homeless Moms-To-Be

All it took was one email from the chapter liaison with the VA to Donna Lou Hetler, Chair of the Knit Wits to get the ball rolling. The VA had informed us that there were five homeless veterans who were expecting babies in the next few months. Initially it was believed the babies were due in the spring but as it turned out two girls were due the first week in January. Even the holidays didn't stop the ladies from responding from the depths of their hearts. Besides Donna Lou, the Knit Wits include Linda Linker, Ruth Link, Sharon Rychener, Polly Casey and non-MOAA member Donna Herrera.



Throughout the year the group gets together to knit lap and large blankets for hospitalized veterans and other veteran groups. But mentioning homeless moms-to-be to the ladies really tugged at their heart strings.

Not only did they donate blankets for the babies but also full-sized afghans in a stained-glass pattern for the moms. And then to make it extra special and allow the new mom to pamper herself, they added body lotions and some other personal sized grooming items lovingly wrapped in nylon netting and tied with a festive bow. Besides some costume jewelry for the Moms, another member provided diapers, wipes, baby shampoo, clothing and laundry baskets. The White Elephant has also donated car seats for those with vehicles.

The Knit Wits' kindness will give hope to these babies who are coming into the world with very few material benefits.

Knit Wits Knitting

2017 was a productive year for Green Valley MOAA Knit Wits. The six members knit hats, scarves, baby blankets, and afghans for several service organizations to keep active military, veterans, and their families warm this winter. A special thanks to Donna Lou Hetler, Lynda Linker, Donna Herrera, Ruth Link, Sharon Rychener and Polly Casey who are the dedicated knitters.

This year the group provided:

- 50 HATS –for the Black Hand MI Battalion at Fort Huachuca for troops as they deploy.
- 49 SCARVES AND 3 HATS – sent to Operation Gratitude which ships Christmas packages to service personnel overseas.
- 5 ADULT AFGHANS, 5 BABY AFGHANS and PERSONAL CARE ITEMS for five pregnant homeless vets in the Tucson area.
- 12 AFGHANS – VA hospital for local veterans.

A special thanks to our MOAA chapter for providing funding for twice a year shopping sprees to Tucson for yarn! The Knit Wits welcome new members, both knitters and crocheters. We meet twice a month. If interested, contact Donna Lou Hetler at 520-399-3550.

Tax Time is Approaching

There will be no major changes for taxes for Tax Year 2017 but if you really don't enjoy tackling your own return, consider the AARP Tax preparation service provided at several locations in the local area. And you cannot beat the price—there is no charge. AARP volunteers have completed their required training and passed their IRS certification tests and are ready to help taxpayers get their returns filed. Because they receive no training on tax requirements for other states, they cannot prepare state returns other than for Arizona.

The program is designed primarily for those 55 and older and low to moderate income families but there is no formal upper income limit. However, volunteers have not been trained and certified to prepare returns for those with rental properties, businesses with inventories, trusts or extremely complicated returns.

Because it generally takes a minimum of one hour to prepare a return, no new returns are started within one hour of the scheduled closing time. This year's tax returns will be prepared between February 2 and April 16 at the following locations/times:

La Posada's Recreation Building, 501 La Posada Circle, Wednesdays, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., the Episcopal Church of St. Francis-In-The-Valley, 600 S. La Canada, Mondays from 1-6 p.m. and Fridays from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and at the West Center on Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Appointments can be made for the West Center by calling 520-300-6407. The other two sites operate on a walk-in basis only.

The sites tend to be busiest in March when people have received all their broker statements so consider bringing a book, phone, or I-Pad. All sites have Wi-Fi.

Please remember that if you have given to an organization that helps the working poor (e.g., the Food Bank, Salvation Army in AZ) or to a public school, you can claim the AZ tax credit up to specified limits even if you do not itemize. If you are giving to a public high school, you might want to designate your donation to support the JROTC program. For schools and working poor charities, you may make a donation up to April 17 and still take the credit for your 2017 AZ tax return.

Please be sure to bring:

- Picture ID for taxpayer and spouse
- Social Security cards for each family member

(continued next page)

- Proof of income to include all W-2 and 1099 forms
- Documentation for deductible expenses
- Form 1095-A if healthcare insurance was purchased through the national "Marketplace" or a state exchange. If you are on Medicare, you are completely covered.
- Prior year's tax returns
- Voided check for direct deposit or debit. Deposit slips are not accepted.
- Both spouses (preferred) or power of attorney, if married filing jointly. Because Arizona is a community property state, the volunteers cannot prepare married filing separately returns.

December Holiday Dinner Photos



Photos capturing the holiday dinner were taken by Betty Atwater.

Access the photo album from the Photo Gallery to view additional photos taken that evening:

greenvalleymoaa.org/photos-events.

The installation of the 2018 Board of Directors took place at the holiday dinner. Left to right, front row: Eugene Friesen, Marianne Rogers Faust, Betty Eby-Deardorff, Peggy McGee, Bettie Rundlett. Back row: James Rundlett, Tom Contreras, Joe Longo, Jim Knox, John Chernoski.

✧ Happy Birthday! ✧

JANUARY

Patsy Johnston
CPT Robert Marben
CDR Irene Silverman
MAJ William Bracco Jr.
Maj Larry Nielsen
LtCol John McGee

FEBRUARY

Lt Col Robert Little Jr.
Carolyn J. Walters
MAJGEN John Dolny
LTC John Danner
1LT Barry Nelson

Betty Atwater
CDR Bruce Summers
COL Lee Cornelison
LCDR Glenn Lundell
Julie Hazelton

MARCH

Barbara Brown
Arlis Lundell
CAPT James R. Lynch
CWO4 Daniel R. Cady
CAPT Tom J. Contreras
CW4 Robert R. Ozier
Col Donald N. Anderson
LTC Richard H. Johnston

2018 Events Schedule

Additional dates for 2018 will be added to this list soon.
Check the website for updates: greenvalleymoaa.org.

January 13 10:00am MOWW Massing of the Colors & Service Remembrance; Sahuarita High School Auditorium

January 23 12:00-2:00pm Luncheon Meeting; Diana S. Kellermeyer, the Chief of Blind Rehabilitation Service and the Southwestern Blind Rehabilitation Center (SWBRC) at the Tucson VA; Quail Creek Clubhouse.

February 27 12:00pm Auxiliary Luncheon to Benefit TROT; Quail Creek Clubhouse.

March 22 4:30pm-6:30pm "Mix & Mingle", Hors d'oeuvres. Quail Creek Clubhouse. No Host Bar.

May 1 JROTC Scholarship Dinner; Quail Creek Clubhouse. Details: TBA

June 2 Spring AZCOC Meeting · Luke Chapter in Phoenix, AZ

October 1-4 Fall AZCOC Meeting in Phoenix, AZ. Lt General Atkins to present LOE Awards (date may change)

Board Meetings

The Board of Directors meeting is the 1st Wednesday of each month 8:30-10:00 a.m. at the Friends in Deed Building, Green Valley.

Members are welcomed to attend... join us!

There will be no Board meetings in June, July or August.

2018 Officers, Directors & Chairs

President: LCDR James Knox, USN (Ret) 605-941-0335

First Vice-President and Membership:
1LT Joseph Longo USA (Fmr) 509-645-4993

Second Vice-President:
CAPT Tom Contreras, USN (Ret) 520-207-8941

Secretary: Mrs. Bettie Rundlett 509-389-1696

Treasurer: COL Peggy McGee, USA (Ret) 520-207-6188

Immediate Past President, President, 501(c)(3):
1LT Richard Newman, USAR (Fmr) 520-399-3550

National MOAA Board Member, Past President, ESGR and Legislative Affairs:
CDR John Chernoski, USN, (Ret) 520-625-3909

Director, Auxiliary Affairs: Betty Eby-Deardorff 520-625-3545

Director, Personal Affairs:
CWO3 James Rundlett, USCG (Ret) 509-389-4286

Past President & Chaplain:
COL Eugene Friesen, USA (Ret) 520-625-4231

Director/JROTC Liaison:
CAPT Tom Contreras, USN (Ret) 520-207-8941

Historian: COL Marianne Rogers Faust, USAF (Ret) 210-861-9440

Transition Liaison:
CPT Kelly Galvin, USA, (Ret) 520-393-0037

Public Relations Officer:
COL Peggy McGee, USA (Ret) 520-207-6188

Webmaster/Newsletter Editor:
Marianne Cobarrubias, gvmoaa@gmail.com

Military Officers Association of America

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Sponsors

A special "thank you" to our sponsors who support MOAA of Green Valley with a sponsor ad.

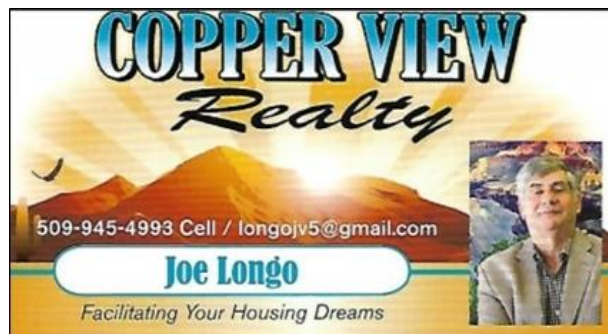


Photo Gallery

Photos and video clips may be accessed via a link in the sidebar to the Photo Gallery at greenvalleymoaa.org.

Archived Newsletters

Looking for back issues of the chapter's newsletter? Go to the News & Events page on the website: greenvalleymoaa.org/news-events.

FROM NATIONAL MOAA

Putting the FY2018 All Together

President Donald Trump signed the FY 2018 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) in a ceremony in the White House. The final bill authorizes a defense budget of \$700 billion for DoD. Total authorized funding in the legislation calls for \$634 billion in the base budget with an additional \$66 billion approved in Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) funding.

Congress approved the legislation in November, but congressional leadership did not send the bill on to the president until December in hopes Congress would be able to reach consensus and vote to raise the defense spending caps imposed by the Budget Control Act of 2011, which the FY 2018 NDAA exceeds, and pass a defense appropriations bill.

This still remains an issue even though the president has signed the NDAA. His signing serves to put further pressure on Congress to pass a defense budget, but Congress needs to act now if the NDAA is to serve its intended purpose.

Instead of passing a budget, Congress has, at this point, passed a continuing resolution (CR) to fund the government only through Dec. 22 and is in the process of negotiating another CR that basically "kicks the can" down the road into January or February.

This state of play does nothing to serve the nation and the troops and their families. Further, stopgap strategies do not allow DoD to manage their readiness requirements or plan ahead for the next mission in this challenging and dynamic security environment.

Congress' most important responsibility under the Constitution is to provide for the common defense of the nation - with that in mind, the nation needs Congress to pass a defense budget that fully funds the FY 2018 NDAA.

Doing so will enable the necessary programs that support both the troops and readiness. However, without a budget, support again will be marginalized, leaving our nation short of the requirements called for in the NDAA.

MOAA has put out recent calls to action and supporting ["On Watch" columns](http://www.moaa.org/Content/Take-Action/Take-Action-Landing.aspx#On-Watch) (www.moaa.org/Content/Take-Action/Take-Action-Landing.aspx#On-Watch) to our membership asking them to contact their congressional representatives to urge them to pass a defense budget, not a CR. We need you to [do this again, before another CR is passed](http://takeaction.moaa.org/moaa/app/write-a-letter?0&engagementId=421593) (<http://takeaction.moaa.org/moaa/app/write-a-letter?0&engagementId=421593>).

5 key policy decisions in the FY 2018 NDAA that affect you - but won't happen without a budget:

A 2.4-percent active duty pay raise: This pay raise, equal to the Employment Cost Index (ECI), helps keep troops' pay competitive with private-sector wages. The administration originally requested a 2.1-percent raise - MOAA influenced Congress through a very effective and successful campaign to fully support the higher pay increase. This is the highest pay increase for troops since 2010. Even with this pay increase, a 2.6-percent pay gap remains because of capped pay raises in FYs 2014, 2015, and 2016. **MOAA is focused on maintaining active duty military pay at the ECI and eliminating this pay gap over the next few years.**

Unchanged Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) calculation: The Senate tried for the second year in a row to tweak the calculation for BAH in a way that would have negatively impacted servicemembers, particularly dual military families. BAH is a component of each individual servicemember's earned compensation, so **MOAA worked this issue hard with Congress to maintain the calculation as it currently is in law and will continue to do so on behalf of troops and their families.**

TRICARE: Despite yearlong efforts to prevent TRICARE fee increases, the final NDAA included progressive year-over-year increases in pharmacy copayments. Beneficiaries will see steady increases in their cost shares across all medication tiers, which will save DoD more than \$2.1 billion by 2022 and fund improvements in military readiness and the Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance (SSIA). Most of the increases will be through the retail pharmacy sector, but **beneficiaries still can obtain medications at military pharmacies for free.** The new fees will include mail-order generic prescriptions as well. By 2026, costs are projected to top off at \$14 for a 30-day supply of a generic medication at a retail pharmacy and a 90-day supply by mail. Further, a 30-day supply of a non-generic medication at a retail pharmacy will be \$48, and a 90-day supply by mail will hit \$44.

Additionally, outside of the NDAA provision, the Defense Health Agency has introduced a new TRICARE fee structure that will be applied to the new TRICARE Select option. Increased fees also will apply to the existing TRICARE Prime option. Beneficiaries can view these changes at <https://tricare.mil/About/Changes/Costs>. These changes to the TRICARE fees and program options will take effect Jan. 1, 2018.

More troops authorized: The FY 2018 NDAA authorizes an additional 20,000 troops - much needed by the services in the current and projected national security environment. The Army will increase by 7,500, the Navy by 4,000, the Marine Corps by 1,000, and the Air Force by approximately 4,100. Reserve forces across-the-board will grow by about 3,400. **MOAA strongly supported in our advocacy efforts on the Hill these much-needed increases by DoD.**

Lessens the "widows tax": Congress included a provision in the FY 2018 NDAA that provides a permanent extension to the SSIA. Without congressional action, 67,000 military survivors would lose \$2,100 in 2018 if the allowance expired in May, as it was set to, and over \$3,700 a year after that. By extending the SSIA and indexing future increases to COLA, Congress shows it is making a good-faith effort to address the widows' tax. **Next year, MOAA will go back to Congress and ask it increase SSIA above COLA to further reduce the widows' tax.**

MOAA follows the NDAA throughout the year as the main vehicle for many of our legislative priorities. If you're interested in other provisions in the bill, you can [view the conference report summary here](https://rules.house.gov/sites/republicans.rules.house.gov/files/115/PDF/HR%202810%20%5BCR%5D/FY18%20NDAA%20Fact%20Sheet.pdf) (<https://rules.house.gov/sites/republicans.rules.house.gov/files/115/PDF/HR%202810%20%5BCR%5D/FY18%20NDAA%20Fact%20Sheet.pdf>).

Avoiding Online Information Overload

As easy as it is to access information these days with your smartphone, tablet, or personal computer, it's equally easy to get swamped by it. Here are 10 tips for dealing with the glut of information:

- Periodically reevaluate your information sources to determine whether there are valuable new ones you should add and outmoded ones you should drop.
- Filter the info-wheat from the info-chaff. With email, for instance, you can set up filters to automatically direct important messages into folders where they'll get your immediate attention.
- Consider setting aside one or two times a day to check for new email messages rather than feeling compelled to check every few minutes. If people need to get in touch with you in a hurry, they can call, text, or stop by.
- If you're searching for information on the web, save time by learning the advanced search procedures.
- Don't forward joke or other irrelevant messages to those who might not have the time for them. Cc your own messages thoughtfully.
- Keep your email messages to one screen when possible, and use an informative subject line. Use other technologies instead of email, such as the telephone, when you expect a lot of back-and-forths - it will be a lot quicker.
- Selectively respond to email, and match the length of your response to how eager you are to converse. A short, polite response indicates you've received the other person's message but need to move on.
- If you're involved in creating web pages, try to keep each page to a screen or two, and put the most important information up front. Break up pages with informative subheads so readers can get the gist of what you're saying with a quick scan.
- When creating business documents, use executive summaries when possible. Choose clear, concise language to communicate, not bureaucratese to impress and confound.
- Avoid time-wasting temptations. Surfing the web can be both valuable and the ultimate information time sink, with ever more intriguing but ever less relevant links beckoning you on.

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Please submit all newsletter items by midnight on MARCH 3rd to: gvmooa@gmail.com. Thank you!

CONTRIBUTORS

Betty Atwater · Barbara Brown · Tom Contreras
James Knox · Peggy McGee · Richard Newman

Editor: Marianne Cobarrubias

VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

greenvalleymoaa.org

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