

# Military Officers Association of America

Green Valley Chapter · Desert Duster Newsletter · November 2018 issue



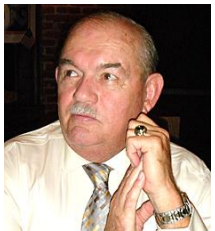
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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



**The time has come for our Chapter's second newsletter for this fall and winter.** We look forward to a very good Holiday season this year. I hope everyone is finally back from the cruising season or just a little cooler part of the country with safe and pleasant journeys. We're glad to see you back in Green Valley. (I should say this is the '**greenest**' I have ever seen in Arizona with weekly rains for over two months... just ask the grass and weeds growing on every available piece of open ground!)

If you see something in this message that looks somewhat familiar it is because several members hinted that they did not receive the last couple of newsletters, or their computer was unhooked during the summer months. I have included several repeat items that may be importance to you. My apologies if I offended anyone. My bad!

Two things: The recent passage of the Federal Military Appropriations and the 2018 Budget has left many retirees on TRICARE/TFL with questions. I would suggest that all of you check out your copy of the latest National MOAA Newsletter on your costs for prescription medication. The costs are going to increase substantially.



Also, according to the latest MOAA Newsletter related to TRICARE/TFL, they are cancelling dental care insurance as of December 31<sup>st</sup> of this year. It is being replaced with a combined dental and vision insurance from FEDEMPLOYEE with a list of 10 different plans to choose from what to choose. But you have to sign up for the new insurance during the Federal Open Enrollment period from mid-November to mid-December. Don't forget or you will not have dental/vision insurance coverage for the next year.

CDR John Chernoski participated in "Storming the Hill" last spring in Washington, DC. John returned from DC too late for us to print his pictures in the last newsletter before summer but you can now find them on our website with both the Honorable Rep. Martha McSally and Rep. Kyrsten Sinema (as I have said before, MOAA is strictly nonpartisan). The pictures can be found via a link to the Photo Gallery in the right Sidebar of the website ([www.greenvalleymoaa.org](http://www.greenvalleymoaa.org)).

During the summer we participated in several events: On Memorial Day, Joe Longo and I placed the wreath (made and donated by Bettie Rundlett) at the Green Valley Mortuary and Cemetery. One of our own, CDR Joel Greenburg (former GV Chapter President), was the guest speaker. Several others from MOAA attended. Pictures on our website may also be found in the Photo Gallery.

At the end of October, John Chernoski and I will have attended the 3-day AZ COC meeting on Oct 31<sup>st</sup> in conjunction with

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the Western Regional Meeting with General Adkins and staff on Nov 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> in Phoenix. We expect to bring home the LOE Award presented by General Adkins, National CEO of MOAA.

Thanks to Peggy McGee who organized the Food for the Troops event at Quail Creek (July 4<sup>th</sup>). Marianne Rogers Faust, Betty Atwater, Dick Newman, and Joe Longo participated along with others. Again, pictures may be found in the website Photo Gallery.

In November, MOAA National is planning a 'courtesy' visit our Chapter. Lt Gen Edward Hanlon USMC (Ret) who will speak on membership and recruiting problems. General Hanlon will be available at the Quail Creek Madera Clubhouse from 3:30 to 4:30 prior to the dinner on the 14<sup>th</sup> of November. He will also meet with your Board of Directors and any interested members from Green Valley or our affiliated Chapters that would be interested. National MOAA will send out an email blast throughout the state inviting interested people to attend and stay to join us for dinner.



Betty and Bob Atwater sell 50/50 tickets during the July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration at the Quail Creek Madera Clubhouse.

With our planned Board of Directors election in November, installation of officers during the December meeting, the Turkeys for Troops event with 162<sup>nd</sup> AZANG, and our Toys-for-Tots program scheduled for the November 14<sup>th</sup> dinner -- I think we will be quite busy and would welcome any help from our members.

On that note, Peggy asked me to include that the Board of Directors has found a person to take over the Treasurer's position, CDR Myra McCune. We hope all of you will meet her during the Board of Directors election. Welcome aboard!

On the bad news side, Elliott Jones, our new Membership Director who joined us last year and many of you know, will be absent for the next several months while he is in the VA hospital. Please contact me or Peggy for his address as I am sure he would welcome any cards and letters you could send to him.

Our next membership dinner meeting will be on the 14<sup>th</sup> of November at Quail Creek's Madera Clubhouse. Social time starts at 4:30. Dinner will be served at about 5:15, and a no host bar will be open throughout. The guest speaker will be **Lt Gen Edward Hanlon USMC (Ret)**. This promises to be an interesting presentation. I would implore all of you to see his major presentation so please come at 3:30 to 4:30 (same date and place). His bio is included a bit further down in this newsletter. Please mail your November dinner reservation to Barbara Brown or notify her at least by November 7<sup>th</sup> to secure your reservation. You may find the reservation form on our website at [www.greenvalleymoaa.org](http://www.greenvalleymoaa.org) or for your convenience we also have the form in this newsletter. We look forward to seeing all of you on the 14<sup>th</sup>.



We have a wreath laying ceremony on Veterans Day November 12<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM at the Green Valley Mortuary and Cemetery. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

As per normal, as part of our ongoing support for the Fisher House, the VA Hospital, and the Homeless Veterans, we really need donations of small things for the vets, such as toiletries, soap, socks, books, etc., or even those small calendars that have been flooding your mail boxes. We will be accepting donations (physical and/or monetary) at all the meetings. And remember, there are many female homeless veterans, some of them pregnant, so feminine and baby items are also needed. If you have too many to carry to the meetings please call me (605) 941-0335 or Peggy (520) 207-6188 and we will see that someone picks up the donations at your home or apartment.

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## MEMBERSHIP DUES

I am asking you to please get your 2019 dues in to Peggy in November but no later than December 31st, (\$25 Regular, \$15 Auxiliary). Our revised by-laws require our Chapter to drop you from our roles for nonpayment. If you haven't paid your 2019 dues yet, please do so immediately. We will be checking the Post Office Box daily and collecting dues at the members' meetings now through the end of December.

I would like to thank our members for all the awards, and many 'Thank You' letters we have received as a MOAA Chapter. Many thanks for continuing to make a needy Veteran's or child's day a little brighter!

To all of our members, from me and your Board of Directors, may you have a happy and prosperous Holiday Season. For those of you that didn't make it back for our September meeting, "welcome back" to Green Valley Chapter of MOAA whether it's from vacationing around the world, visiting family and friends in the states, or just enjoying the summer and fall here in Green Valley.



## REMINDER!

The **TOYS FOR TOTS** collections is at the **November 14<sup>th</sup>** meeting! Don't forget the kids! Marines will pick them up the toys that night!

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

**"Never Stop Serving"**

## SUPPORT OUR JROTC CADETS

As we approach the last quarter of 2018, we can look forward to the arrival of the holiday season with Thanksgiving, Christmas and the New Year. Then comes the "not so joyous" reality of tax time. Yet there is a small positive amongst the deluge of forms and the anticipation of sending money to the government. We pay our taxes and the monies "disappear" into a great "black hole". It would be nice if we could see where the monies go or how they are used. We have that opportunity in Arizona with the statute that allows us to contribute to K thru 12 grades in schools for student activities. Those contributions, of up to \$200 for a single tax filer or up to \$400 for joint filings, are equated to tax payments to the Arizona Department of Revenue.

Here is an opportunity for Chapter members to support JROTC programs at Sahuarita, Rio Rico or Nogales high schools by contributing to a school and filing an additional form with the payment of Arizona state income tax using form 322. This is a simple form requiring the name of the school, the amount contributed and the date of the contribution. The mail-in forms and copies of the Arizona Department of Revenue form 322 will be a part of the packet which will be available at the November 14<sup>th</sup> chapter dinner meeting. Some instructions will also be part of the packet.

## One more item...

If you donate, please let Dick Newman know the amount contributed. Why? He will be working on the Level of Excellence report for 2018. The support or funding of JROTC units is a portion of the report. Dick has no interest in identifying individual donors, so you can e-mail Dick at [newman5701@gmail.com](mailto:newman5701@gmail.com) and indicate you are Donald Duck or Mickey Mouse or any name you like. All he wants to do is come up with a **total** of the dollars contributed by Chapter members supporting JROTC programs.

## LT GEN HANLON TO SPEAK AT NOVEMBER 14 MEETING

Lt Gen Edward Hanlon, USMC-Ret, will be the guest speaker at the Chapter meeting slated for November 14. He will provide an update on our MOAA membership model, importance of chapter membership and a general MOAA update.



During his 39-year military career, Lt Gen Hanlon commanded at the battery, company, battalion, and regimental levels. He also commanded the Marine Corps' premier West Coast training facility at Camp Pendleton, CA; served extensively in Europe as the NATO planner and later operations officer for the Fleet Marine Forces Europe in London as well as deputy commander of Striking Forces South in Naples, Italy; was assigned as the chief of staff of Joint Task Force Provide Promise overseeing the U.S. support efforts to U.N. forces in the Balkans; and served in a number of assignments with the Navy, including as fleet Marine officer, Atlantic Fleet, and on the Navy staff as director of Naval Expeditionary Warfare.

Lt Gen Hanlon also served as commanding general of the Marine Corps Combat Development Command and deputy commandant for Combat Development and was the U.S. Military Representative to the NATO Military Committee. In this post, he represented the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and was responsible for U.S. policy within the military committee and ensured the interests of the chairman and the U.S. were properly articulated in that body.

After he retired from the Marine Corps in 2007, he became president of Raytheon International Inc. Europe, based in Brussels and had responsibility for Raytheon's International Business Development for Europe and sub-Saharan Africa. He also concentrated on servicing the requirements of NATO, the European Union, and U.S. European Command and its components. He completed his employment with Raytheon in August 2012 and returned to the U.S.

In addition to serving on MOAA's board of directors, Lt Gen Hanlon serves as a member of the California Governor's Military Advisory Council and is on the board of advisors for the San Diego Military Advisory Council. He has also served as Chairman, Council & Chapter Affairs; Investment Committee for MOAA.

Just prior to General Hanlon's talk, the Chapter will be presenting a check for the 162<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Wing, Air National Guard food pantry to Barbara Gavre, Family Readiness Program Manager. Those attending the meeting are asked to consider bringing an unwrapped toy for the annual *Toys for Tots* collection. Toys are needed for infants up to those in their mid-teens.

Cost for the dinner is \$26. Menu Choices are Cordon Bleu, a breast of chicken with ham and imported Swiss cheese filling, breaded with seasoned crumbs; or Stuffed Loin of Pork, filled with spinach, polenta, garlic, and Mozzarella cheese, finished with a Madeira tomato demi-glace. Both entrees include a salad and dessert. Reservations can be made by mailing in the dinner reservation form included in this newsletter or by contacting Barbara Brown at 520-625-8066 by November 7.

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## SPECIAL REQUEST FROM THE VA

An organization just donated 50 new mattress and box springs sets for the homeless veterans moving into housing. They are in desperate need of queen-sized bed frames as well as bed linens. If you have any of needed items or know of anyone who would be willing to donate them, please contact Peggy McGee at [pjmccgee@cox.net](mailto:pjmccgee@cox.net) or (520) 207-6188.



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## November 14, 2018 Reservation Form · Social: 4:30 p.m. · Dinner: 5:15 p.m. Quail Creek Madera Clubhouse

**Please make your reservations by November 7<sup>th</sup>!**

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ places.

Cost: \$\_\_\_\_\_ (\$26 per person)

### Select Entrée choice:

☐

(#1) Cordon Bleu, breast of chicken with ham and imported Swiss cheese filling. Breaded with seasoned bread crumbs

☐

(#2) Stuffed Loin of Pork, filled with spinach, polenta, garlic, and Mozzarella cheese, finished with a Madeira tomato demi-glace

**MEAL INCLUDES:** Spinach Salad: fresh spinach with sliced mushrooms, chopped egg, fresh bacon crumbles and spicy radish sprouts. Ranch dressing and raspberry vinaigrette. Coffee and Iced Tea. Dessert: Warm Apple Cobbler with vanilla bean ice cream.

Check # \_\_\_\_\_  
**Attn: GV MOA Reservation**

**Mail your check and this reservation form to:**  
**MOA of Green Valley, PO Box 1535 · Green Valley, AZ 85622-1535**

\*\*\* **NOTE: NEW PO BOX#** \*\*\*

Rank: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

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

Guest Dinner Choice: #1 or #2

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.**

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## CHAPTER DUES ARE DUE

Please get your 2019 dues to Peggy in November but no later than December 31<sup>st</sup>. Thank you.



Military Officers Association of America  
Green Valley, Arizona Chapter  
P.O. Box 1535  
Green Valley, AZ 85622-1535

## 2019 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 S&MA Fund.

**Dues may be paid at any meeting or mailed to Military Officers Association of  
America, Green Valley, Arizona Chapter, P.O. Box 1535, Green Valley, AZ 85622-1535.**

## Candidates for MOAA Chapter Board 2019

<b>Joe Longo, 1LT USAR (former)</b>	<b>- Chapter President</b>
<b>Elliott Jones, 1LT USAR (former)</b>	<b>- 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President</b>
<b>Peggy McGee, COL USA (ret)</b>	<b>- 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President</b>
<b>Position Open</b>	<b>- Secretary</b>
<b>Myra McCune, CDR, USN (ret)</b>	<b>- Treasurer</b>
<b>Marianne Rogers Faust, Col USAF (ret)</b>	<b>- JROTC Coordinator</b>
<b>Jim Rundlett, CWO3 USCG (ret)</b>	<b>- Personal Affairs Officer</b>
<b>Dick Kosnick Lt Col USAF (ret)</b>	<b>- ESGR Representative</b>
<b>John Chernoski CDR USN (ret)</b>	<b>- Legislative Affairs Officer</b>
<b>Jim Knox LCDR USN (ret)</b>	<b>- President, 501(c)(3) Fund</b>
<b>Kelly Galvin CPT USA (ret)</b>	<b>- Transition Officer</b>
<b>Peggy McGee, COL USA (ret)</b>	<b>- Public Relations Officer</b>
<b>Marianne Rogers Faust, Col USAF (ret)</b>	<b>- Historian</b>
<b>Linda Kosnick</b>	<b>- Chaplain</b>
<b>Betty Eby-Deardorff</b>	<b>- Surviving Spouse Liaison</b>

Election will be held at the November 14<sup>th</sup> dinner meeting. Additional candidates may be added to the proposed list of chapter officers prior to the election. Board members will be sworn in at the December 10<sup>th</sup> dinner meeting.



## ACTIVITIES TO HONOR VETERANS COMING UP

As Veterans' Day approaches, there will be several activities in the local area to honor veterans.

**November 3:** The GVR Tennis Club is sponsoring a no-cost tennis tournament on Saturday, November 3 from 1:30-3 p.m. at the West Center tennis courts. To sign up to play tennis, you must pick up a registration form from the West Center Tennis Ramada and turn in the completed form by **October 29**. Non-GVR veterans will be paired with the tennis club veterans for a friendly doubles competition. A program of patriotic music will follow the competition. Hopefully you will stand up and sing when your service song is played. Not a tennis player? You can go and watch and join in some of the festivities that will include music, a BBQ, raffles and a Silent Auction to raise funds to support veterans' activities in the area to include Honor Flight.

**November 8: Power Pack Attack** basketball game between students and faculty from Sahuarita and Walden Grove High Schools to be held at the Sahuarita High School gym starting at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$3 for active and retired military and seniors over 65; \$5 for those under 65; \$20.00 for families. The half-time entertainment will feature a tribute to all veterans and active duty personnel. Funds raised during this event will help the Sahuarita Educational Enrichment Foundation (SEEF) continue to offer teacher mini-grants, teacher assistance toward National Board Certification and summer enrichment activities for students. Tickets may be purchased at the door. There will also be a Food Truck starting at 5 p.m.

**November 9:** The Continental School's ceremony will take place at 8:15 a.m. at the school's flagpole located just behind the district office at 1991 E. Whitehouse Canyon Rd. No charge.

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SAHUARITA EDUCATIONAL  
ENRICHMENT FOUNDATION  
Keeping Kids First

4th Annual

**POWER PACK  
ATTACK**

SHS & WGHS Students vs SUSD Staff  
In an  
Epic Basketball Game Honoring our Military

Thursday, November 8, 2018

5:00 PM Food Trucks  
6:00 PM Game  
Sahuarita High School Gym

**COST:**

- \$5 adults
- \$3 students, seniors 65+, and active/retired military with ID
- \$20 for a family of 6 or more



(Cash and Credit Cards accepted)

Tickets available at the door

**Half-time tribute to the military.**

All proceeds benefit teacher mini-grants for classroom resources, special educational projects and other educational enrichment programs.

This event is neither sanctioned or sponsored by the Sahuarita School District. It is provided as a community service.





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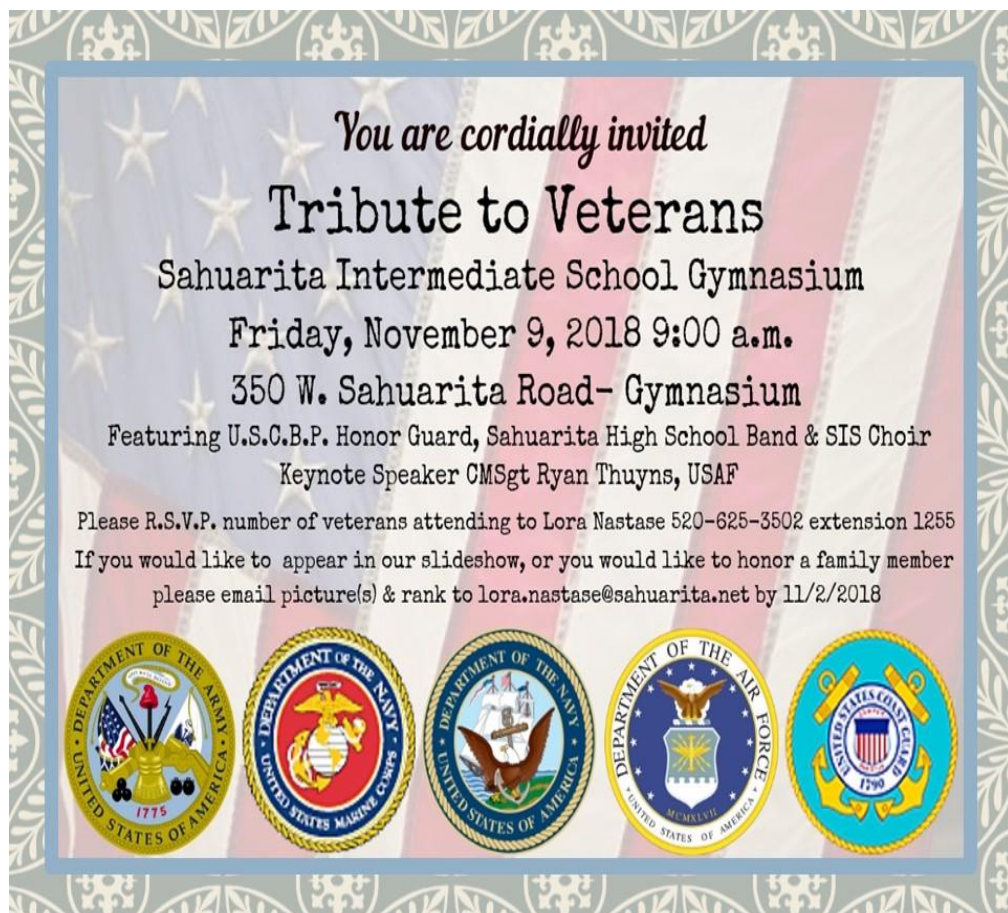
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**November 9:** Sahuarita Intermediate School (SIS) will present a Tribute to Veterans at 9:00 a.m. in the SIS Gym, 350 W Sahuarita Rd. All U.S military personnel, veterans, and the local community are invited. No charge.

**November 12:** Wreath laying ceremony at 9:30 a.m. at the Green Valley Mortuary and Cemetery, 18751 S La Canada Drive, Sahuarita. This is a great opportunity to pay tribute to all veterans, both living and deceased. MSGT Jeff King, USMC (Ret), Naval Science Instructor, Sahuarita, NJROTC, will be the speaker. No charge.

Check the local papers for meal specials and sales. However you spend Veterans Day, please pause to remember the sacrifices made by our military, both living and dead.



## HELP NEEDED FOR RECRUITING NEW MEMBERS

Our Chapter wants to increase its membership so is asking current members to invite friends and neighbors to join our ranks. Besides military officers, members of the Public Health Service are also eligible to join. Members can be active duty, Reserve, National Guard, retired and former. Interested officers can attend a meeting before deciding on whether to join the Chapter.

The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) is the nation's largest and most influential association of military officers. MOAA's voice speaks for a strong national defense and presents the interests of military officers at every stage of their careers to members of the Senate and Congress.

At the Chapter meetings, speakers on a wide variety of topics provide information pertinent to members. Meetings are held between September and May and include both luncheon and dinner events.

The next meeting will be held in Quail Creek's Crystal Ballroom 3 on Wednesday, November 14, starting with a social period at 4:30 p.m. with dinner being served at 5:15. Lt Gen Edward Hanlon, USMC-Ret, who is currently serving on MOAA's Board of Directors, will be the guest speaker.

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There is also a Spousal Auxiliary. This group sponsors one fund raiser each year to support a cause important to veterans, e.g., Fisher House where family members are provided a place to stay while the military member is being treated at the Tucson VA Hospital. Some members of the Auxiliary have formed Knit Wits. These members knit lap blankets for hospitalized veterans and blankets for expectant moms and their babies who are registered with the VA's homeless program.

Please make it one of your goals for the new year to recruit at least one new member. For more information on the Chapter and its activities, please visit [www.greenvalleymoaa.org](http://www.greenvalleymoaa.org).

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## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: Two Patriots Meet Later in Life

The newest members of our Chapter, Jeff and Myra McCune, are both retired from the U.S. Navy. And they both had unique careers before fate—or actually the 9/11 attack—brought them together.

### JEFF'S STORY

A college dean once told Jeff, "Son, college is not for everyone." Seeing how it was 1972 and the "war" in Vietnam was going on, and being a farm kid from Kansas who had never seen the ocean, Jeff quickly made the decision to join the U.S. Navy. His recruiter, who was also his cousin, told him that he should become a corpsman as all they do is work in hospitals, and that he should become a reservist instead of going regular Navy. Jeff says both of those two statements turned out to be the best advice he ever received.



After serving two years of active duty on two of the Navy's finest carriers, he was given his final evaluation that said in part that, "this member is not recommended for advancement, reenlistment, or any program that the Navy currently has or will have in the future. Needless to say, Jeff admits he wasn't the perfect sailor! He politely saluted as he departed the ship and headed back to the University of Kansas, where he received his undergraduate degree. He took a job with the Boeing Company in Human Resources and retired from that job after 28 years. While at Boeing, he received his MBA from Wichita State, and completed his Juris Doctorate from The Presidents College of Law. He also remained in the Navy Reserve and was commissioned as an Ensign in the Medical Service Corps in 1982.

On September 11, 2001, like most in the military, Jeff's life style changed. He was called back to active duty, and basically stayed on active duty until his retirement in 2010. During his active duty time, Jeff spent time at the hospital in Kuwait as the Medical Administrator. It was during this time that he met one of the nurses, who was also single, and as their kids told them both, the desert heat must have affected their thinking. Within one week of returning to the States, Jeff and Myra were married. From there he went to Germany and became the patient movement officer for the hospital at Landstuhl. After that, he went to the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery where he was the Deputy Chief for Reserve Medical Affairs, the position from which he retired. Amazing how a kid from Kansas who was not recommended to stay in the Navy ended up with a 32-year Navy career and achieved the rank of Captain, U. S. Navy, retired.

Now that he is retired from both his civilian and military careers, Jeff spends his time building Koi fish ponds and playing with model trains. He also enjoys singing and playing musical instruments. For the past 13 years he has joined the Navy cycling team riding across Iowa. Together Jeff and Myra have 5 children and 9 grandchildren. They also love to travel.

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## MYRA'S STORY

Myra's military story began to develop when one of her commercial loan customers shared that she was starting nursing school in the fall of 1991. Her customer inspired her to do the same. So, with the support of her first husband and 11-year-old daughter Myra made a major career change. She had been a military dependent her whole life. Her dad retired from the military and she was a Navy spouse. In college, the second time around, she was older and hung around military nursing students who were closer to her age. After a Navy Recruiter spoke at her college, Myra applied and was accepted into a Navy program that paid for her to finish her Bachelor of Nursing Degree. She later used the GI Bill and received her Masters of Human Resource Development and then went on to complete a Masters in Nursing. Myra's civilian career included being a professor of Nursing at several universities and doing contract work for the Air Force as a Nurse Practitioner. She recently completed her last assignment with the Air Force in Japan.

Myra loved her military career and had the opportunity to serve on three Navy ships (USS Harlan County, USS Enterprise and the USS Constitution). She became an operating room nurse, deployed to Haiti and was the Officer-in-Charge of a 35-member medical group sent to Panama. She retired in 2013 as a Commander and Nurse Practitioner. She had a colorful and enjoyable 21-year career.

Myra enjoys cycling, swimming and is willing to volunteer now that she is retired. She also plans to help Jeff in their train room to create landscapes and back drops for their train sets. Perhaps hiking and bird watching are in her future as well.

The couple learned about MOAA recently. Jeff is a lifetime member of the ROA and they inquired about military groups at Quail Creek when they moved here last year. The McCune's are happy they joined our Chapter and we are so glad they made that decision.



With winter and the holidays right around the corner, we will be having our annual collection of **TOYS FOR TOTS** donations at our meeting on November 14<sup>th</sup>.

Toys for Tots provides gifts for infants up to age 12 and gift cards for teenagers. Some of the things that are on the children's wish list include bikes, dolls, any kind of wheeled toys, Lego sets, board and card games. Although we often think about toddlers, preschoolers and elementary school aged children at holiday time, please don't forget the young teens. A *Santa tip*: teenage girls like makeup, nail polish, lotions. If you make a check donation, Marine Corps Reservists use the cash to buy gift cards for teenage needs/wants.

You may place your donations (unwrapped) on a table in the Quail Creek Madera ballroom at our November 14<sup>th</sup> dinner meeting. Santa's helpers (the local chapter of the Marine Corps League), will arrive toward the end of the meeting with a truck to collect the gifts for delivery to the Reservists.

You may place checks made payable to MOAA S&MA Fund in the designated box on the table. The Chapter will then write a check to Toys for Tots and you will receive a written acknowledgement for tax purposes.

Thank you for support in past years and in this one to make the holiday a little brighter for needy children, of which there are many in our area.



## HOMELESS AND HOSPITALIZED VETERANS CAN USE OUR HELP

With colder weather just around the corner, plus check your closets and drawers to see if you have any winter weight hats, gloves, scarves, jackets, sweaters/sweatshirts for both men and women that you aren't using much. All sizes are needed but for men, especially small and medium. Items must be clean and not in need of repair. New underwear and socks are always needed as are unopened toiletries, dental and hygiene items.



The hospitalized veterans like books, playing cards, small games. With the holidays just ahead of us, please consider sharing some of those Christmas cards and calendars that keep flooding your mailbox. You will make a veteran's day with these items that might otherwise wind up in the landfill.

Women Warriors (homeless female veterans) would appreciate feminine hygiene items and bras and purses—gently used OK.

If you had a Halloween party and have left over paper plates, cups, napkins, plastic utensils, they can be used in the walk-in homeless office.

One of our elves will deliver everything to the VA hospital after the meeting.

## KNIT WITS TO THE RESCUE

When Women Warriors founder Karen Kuciver spoke at our September meeting she mentioned that one of the homeless veterans was 7 months pregnant. That got the Knit Wits busy making afghans for both mother and baby. And for the little girl, they sewed burp cloths and fleece blankets, and knitted car seat/carriage sized blankets.

And to add a special touch for the new mom, they put together a gift bag containing perfumed lotions, hand cream, lip balm, shampoo and other grooming items. The Chapter, with a little help from the White Elephant, provided a dozen outfits to take the baby into the winter months. And to be a bit on the practical side, the Chapter also purchased diapers and wipes, items a mother cannot have enough of.

Judy Knox, who is working in California, made a crib sized fleece blanket in pink, perfect for the little girl.



Thanks to all who helped make the Veteran ready for her baby's arrival.

If you like to knit or sew and would like to help the Knit Wits with their projects, please contact Donna Lou Hetler at (520) 399-3550. Yarn is provided.

## 2018 EVENTS SCHEDULE

**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". Highlights: MOAA Jeopardy, & Silent Auction. Hors d'oeuvres. Quail Creek Clubhouse. No Host Bar.

**May 1** JROTC Scholarship Dinner; Quail Creek Clubhouse. Details: Social 4:30pm · Dinner 5:15pm

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

**September 18** Luncheon; Quail Creek Clubhouse. Details: Social 11:30am · Lunch 12:00pm

**October 31** Fall AZCOC Meeting in Phoenix, AZ. Lt General Atkins to present LOE Awards

**November 2-3** Western Regional Meeting, Phoenix

**November 14** 4:30pm Social; 5:15pm Dinner Meeting: Quail Creek Clubhouse.

**December 10** Holiday Dinner: Quail Creek Clubhouse. Save the Date!

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 AND 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

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**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

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**Director/JROTC Liaison:**  
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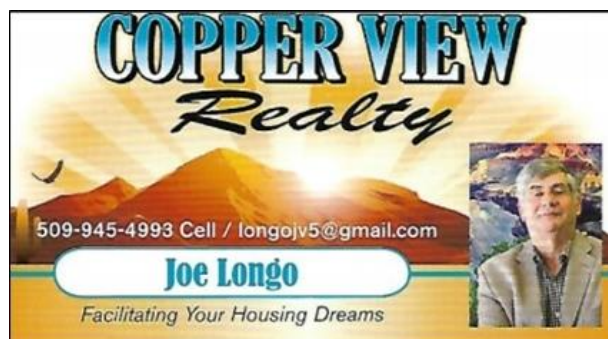
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CPT Kelly Galvin, USA, (Ret) 520-393-0037

**Public Relations Officer:**  
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**Webmaster/Newsletter Editor:**  
Marianne Cobarrubias, [webmaster@greenvalleymoaa.org](mailto:webmaster@greenvalleymoaa.org)

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Photos and video clips may be accessed in the Photo Gallery via a link in the website sidebar:

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## ARCHIVED NEWSLETTERS

Looking for back issues of the chapter's newsletter?  
Go to the News & Events page on the website:

[greenvalleymoaa.org/news-events](http://greenvalleymoaa.org/news-events)

## FROM NATIONAL MOAA

### HERE'S HOW SERVICE RELIEF AGENCIES STEP UP TO PROVIDE DISASTER AID

Servicemembers, retirees, veterans, and military family members forced from their homes during Hurricane Florence may return to flooding, broken windows, and fallen trees.

Along with [resources available to all](#) of those in the storm's path, current and former military members may benefit from branch-specific aid programs, some of which are expanding to assist in the storm's aftermath. A quick breakdown, including eligibility rules, is below; those seeking assistance also can contact a Red Cross emergency communication specialist at 877-272-7337.

#### ARMY EMERGENCY RELIEF

**What:** Since its founding, Army Emergency Relief has provided more than \$2 billion in loans and grant for soldiers and retirees. On average, the organization pays about \$1,700 for a servicemember requesting financial assistance. Although there are guidelines for filing loans and grants, the organization tries to go beyond them to help people, said Lt. Gen. Raymond Mason, USA (Ret), director of Army Emergency Relief.

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"We always look at exceptions," Mason said. "If it's the right thing to do, we're going to do it."

**Aid available:** No-interest loans and grants.

**Eligibility:** Active duty, retirees, medically retired soldiers, surviving spouses and children, family members with military identification cards, and Reserve and National Guard soldiers and their families when the soldier is mobilized for 30 days or more. However, AER is waiving the 30-day requirement for Reserve and National Guard soldiers during Hurricane Florence, as well as other hurricanes that could follow.

**Online:** [www.aerhq.org](http://www.aerhq.org), or on [Facebook](#). Donate at [www.aerhq.org/Donate](http://www.aerhq.org/Donate).

## **NAVY-MARINE CORPS RELIEF SOCIETY**

**What:** For more than 100 years, the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society has been assisting sailors, Marines and their families during times of natural disaster and personal crisis.

Capt. Shelley Marshall, USN (Ret), communications officer for the society, said she anticipates people will apply for loans for home repairs and covering deductibles for insurance policies.

**Aid available:** Interest-free loans and grants.

**Eligibility:** Active duty, retiree, family members with military identification cards, surviving spouses, reservists on extended active duty of 30 days or more.

**Online:** Visit the agency's [disaster relief page](#), or connect via [Facebook](#). Donate [here](#).

## **AIR FORCE AID SOCIETY**

**What:** The society has been around longer than the Air Force, having been formed in 1942. It provided more than \$15 million in direct aid in 2017 for emergency financial need as well as educational and community programs.

**Aid available:** Interest-free loans and grants. The Standard Assistance program covers multiple financial needs, while the Falcon Loan offers up to \$1,000 in no-interest cash for short-term financial help.

**Eligibility:** Standard Assistance is available to active-duty and retired members and their families; spouses and dependent-age children of airmen who died on active duty or in retired status; and some Guard and Reserve members. The Falcon Loan is available to active-duty members and some Guard and Reserve personnel who've been activated under Title 10 orders.

**Contact:** [www.afas.org](http://www.afas.org) or via [Facebook](#). Click [here](#) for where to go for assistance, or [here](#) to donate to hurricane relief efforts.

## **COAST GUARD MUTUAL ASSISTANCE**

**What:** The agency, founded in 1924, has provided more than \$187 million in aid, including more than \$2.5 million to Coast Guard members in the aftermath of Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria.

**Aid available:** Disaster-related aid comes via interest-free loans, which may be converted into grants (in whole or in part).

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**Eligibility:** Active-duty and retired members; reservists “while serving on extended active duty,” per the website; active Coast Guard Auxiliary members; civilian employees; attached Public Health Service members and military chaplains (regardless of branch); and immediate family members of the above. Surviving family members may be eligible under certain circumstances.

**Contact:** <https://cgmahq.org/> or via [Facebook](#). Click [here](#) for an Application for Disaster Assistance, [here](#) to find contact information for your local representative, or [here](#) to donate.

## MOAA’S COLA PREDICTION: HOW MUCH YOUR RETIRED PAY WILL GO UP ON JAN. 1

With the fiscal year ending, we will soon know the final Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for retired pay and social security benefits. **Our prediction for the final COLA is 2.8 percent.**

In other words, starting Jan. 1, 2019, you would see an increase of roughly \$28 for every \$1,000 of retired pay you receive. (Active duty pay is [calculated differently](#))

The August 2018 CPI is 246.336, 2.8 percent above the FY 2018 COLA baseline. Consumer Price Index (CPI) growth has slowed in the past couple of months, but has still shown the highest year-over-year growth in years. The largest contributing factors to this year’s growth have been energy commodities, shelter (housing), and transportation services. Food prices, particularly away from homes, had a modest impact on CPI as well.

The CPI for September 2018 (the final month of the fiscal year) is scheduled to be released on Oct. 11, at which point we can confirm the final COLA.

The weighting of each consumer category is calculated in accordance with a two-year-long survey that looked at family purchasing data through approximately 24,000 weekly diaries and 48,000 quarterly interviews.

Measured price changes on food products, clothing, housings costs, medical services, and other groupings determine the annual COLA. The calculation is made by comparing the average CPI from July through September of the current year to the average for the same months of the year prior.

### CONTRIBUTORS

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