

Military Officers Association of America

Green Valley Chapter · Desert Duster Newsletter · Winter Issue: January 2022



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



In my last official address as President of the Green Valley Chapter, I sincerely wish to thank the entire Membership for their support and cooperation during these past three years.

I especially wish to thank my fellow Board of Directors members, who without their selfless efforts, our Green Valley Chapter would not have continued with our success in attaining 5-star LOE status these past 3 years.



Thanks to all of you for honoring me with the privilege of representing you as President of the Green Valley Chapter. Rest assured that the incoming Board of Directors will continue to make our Membership proud.

My final request is to ask those who have not paid 2022 dues to renew by the end of the year. As long as the renewal form found on page 6 of this newsletter is postmarked by December 31, it will be considered as paid in 2021.

It is the renewals of our members that help us retain our 5-Star Level of Excellence status.

Sincerely,

Joseph Longo 1st LT USA (Former)
2019-2021 Chapter President
Green Valley Chapter, MOAA



The new leadership team was sworn in by John McGee at the December 15th holiday luncheon. (L-R) Elliott Jones, Dick Kosnick, Jack Bundy, Peggy McGee, Mike Faust, Marianne Rogers Faust, James Whitehead, Nora Durham, James Rundlett, Robert Lewis, and Joe Longo. Not pictured are Darren Venters and Marianne Cobarrubias. (Photo by Betty Atwater)

Message from Elliott as He Prepares to Assume Presidency



I look forward to leading our Chapter in 2022. I appreciate the trust our members and board have in me with my election to Chapter President. The new year will come with its challenges. However with continued support of our board and general membership I am confident that we will be successful. As a Chapter we will continue to serve the Veteran Community here in Green Valley and Sahuarita.

I want to welcome our new Board of Officers and Directors, many of whom re-upped for another term though a couple of them have moved to a different position.

Serving you on the Board will be:

First Vice-President and Membership, **CW3 Jack Bundy**

Second Vice-President, Programs and Public Relations, **COL Peggy McGee**

Secretary, **Maj. Gen. James Whitehead, Jr.**

Treasurer, **COL Mike Faust**

Immediate Past President and President, 501(c)(3), **1LT Joe Longo**

Directors include:

Legislative and Transition Liaison, **Lt Col Darren Venters**

ESGR Representative, **Lt Col Dick Kosnick**

Surviving Spouse Liaison, **Nora Durham**

Director, Personal Affairs, **CWO3 James Rundlett**

Chaplain, **CWO3 Robert Lewis**

JROTC Liaison and Chapter Historian, **COL Marianne Rogers Faust**

Webmaster/Newsletter, **Marianne Cobarrubias**

I also want to thank **1LT Joe Longo** for his leadership and support in leading our Chapter over the past three years.



Elliott Jones
1LT USA (former)



Forgiven But Unable to Forget

Jack Bundy, 1st Vice President/Membership; Peggy McGee, 2nd Vice President



Our Chapter will open 2022 with a luncheon at Dominick's American Grill, 77 E. Paseo De Golf in Green Valley on January 18 at 11:30 a.m. The reservation form with the luncheon menu can be found on page 4 of this newsletter.

Deadline to sign up for the luncheon is January 11.



The featured speaker will be **Chris Arundell** who will talk about the Japanese Invasion of The Philippines on December 8, 1941. Chris, now a year-round Green Valley resident, says his experience is something that he has forgiven but unable to forget. He will describe in its simplest terms, how he, his parents, younger brother and several thousand American and Allied civilians endured three years and two months of imprisonment at the hands of the Japanese Imperial Army in the Philippine Islands during World War II.

Chris was born in Manila to an English father and American mother (Philip and Gwen Arundell). Following their liberation from Santo Tomas prison camp by General Douglas MacArthur and the American Forces led by the 1st Cavalry Division (Flying Column), Chris and his family were repatriated, initially, to the U.S., and then on to England, where he grew up and was educated. While in England, Chris lived in a number of counties: Buckinghamshire, Devonshire, Cornwall, Gloucestershire, Middlesex, and Cheshire. He still has a brother living in London and a cousin in Cornwall.

In 1960, Chris returned to the U.S. to work under a trainee management program with an English company. He spent his working career in the U.S. in both the San Francisco Bay Area and in the Seattle/Bellevue areas of Washington, working in the maritime industry in ocean liner shipping, maritime insurance/risk management, and admiralty law. He spent many years as the Director for Risk Management for Holland America Cruise Lines.

Chris is very proud, as well, to have served in the U.S. Air Force Reserve (1961-67) as a Staff Sergeant attached to the 349th Troop Carrier Wing at Hamilton Air Force Base outside San Francisco. His service includes having been called up for a brief stint on active duty during the Cuban Missile Crisis.

Chris and his wife of 42 years, Ginny, started coming to Green Valley as snowbirds in 2016, becoming year-round residents in 2018. He and Ginny met in San Francisco. They have one son, Rennie Arundell.

If you miss the January 11 luncheon RSVP deadline and still want to go, please contact Peggy McGee, peggy@greenvalleymoaa.org or (520) 207-6188 to see if there is still room at the restaurant.

Military Officers Association of America

Green Valley Chapter · Desert Duster Newsletter · Winter Issue: January 2022



January 18, 2022 · Social 11:30AM Luncheon 12NOON

Dominick's American Grill · 77 E. Paseo de Golf, Green Valley

Please make your reservations by TUESDAY, JAN. 11th

Reserve _____ places

Cost: \$_____ (\$22 per person)

MENU SELECTIONS:

#1 Steak salad featuring mixed greens, grilled filet mignon, bleu cheese, red onions, grape tomatoes

#2 Alabama Chicken with roasted chicken shredded and glazed in Alabama vinegar BBQ sauce, topped with lettuce, tomatoes, pickled onions on a brioche bun

#3 Parmesan sandwich with meatballs smothered in marinara sauce, topped with mozzarella cheese and baked in a hoagie roll.

#4 Eggplant version of the Parmesan sandwich is also available for vegetarians.

Sandwiches are served with a choice of fries, soup or salad. Choice of non-alcoholic beverage.

Check # _____
Attn: GV MOAA Reservation

Mail check and reservation form to:

MOAA of Green Valley · PO Box 1535 · Green Valley, AZ 85622-1535

Rank: _____ Name: (please print) _____

Indicate Menu Selection (#1, #2, #3, #4)

Member/Guest name: _____

Member/Guest name: _____

Member/Guest name: _____

Member/Guest name: _____

If you require a ride to the meeting, program or event 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 (leave a message if no answer):** Peggy McGee 520-207-6188 or email:

peggy@greenvalleymoaa.org. **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.

January HAPPENINGS

Peggy McGee, 2nd Vice President/Programs

Toiletries & Calendars Needed



If you finally travelled over the holidays and brought home some unopened toiletries from your hotel stays and you don't think you will

need them in the near future, please bring them to the January luncheon. Both the VA Hospital and Women Warriors can use them for the homeless veterans they are assisting.

The VA is still collecting 2022 calendars so if you have received more than you can possibly use, rather than putting them in your recycle bin, please bring them to the meeting. We will gladly deliver them to the VA.

Mark Your Calendars: MOD Pizza Day is Coming!



On Monday, January 17, MOD Pizza, 18767 S Nogales Highway, Suite 105, Sahuarita, will be donating 20% of the day's proceeds

to our Chapter for everyone who **mentions the Green Valley MOAA Scholarship Fund when placing an order.**

You can choose to eat in the restaurant, pickup takeout or enjoy home delivery orders. The link to our pizza day will be coming soon via email. The same link will be provided on our website's Sidebar (right margin) as we've done in the past.

What an easy way to support our Chapter's scholarship program for JROTC students. The donation period is for any orders placed between 10:30 a.m. and 10 p.m. on the 17th.

Toys For Tots

Robert Lewis, Chaplain



This year our MOAA Chapter teamed with the Quail Creek Semper Fi Club (QCSFC) to support the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve **Toys for Tots** Program. The program provides new toys to needy families with children from 1 to 12 years of age in the greater Tucson area.



Robert Lewis photo

Elliott Jones, president of Military Officers Association of America, Green Valley Chapter; Col. Steve Sanford USMC (Ret.), president of the Quail Creek Semper Fi Club CWO3; and Robert Lewis US Army (Ret.) Toys for Tots coordinator.

Our Chapter kicked off the drive with a toy collection at their November monthly members' dinner. Besides collecting toys, they also collected over \$400 in cash donations.

The QCSFC also placed collection boxes in Quail Creek's Madera Clubhouse and the toy donations were extraordinary. Along with the MOAA donations, over six large moving boxes were filled to the top with a wide variety of toys.

Thanks to all who contributed. Your donations are providing life changing remembrances for these children.

(Photos: Green Valley News, and Peggy McGee)



Military Officers Association of America

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

2022 CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP DUES

This Membership Dues Form may also be found on the [GreenValleyMOAA.org](https://www.GreenValleyMOAA.org) website

Chapter Dues: (Regular-\$25; Spouses-\$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 # _____

Spouse/Partner _____

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.

In Memoriam



Longtime Chapter member **LTC Alois Richard Moll** died in November at age 91. He served a carpenter apprenticeship. With his father they built banks, clinics, schools, churches and warehouses. In 1972 he built, owned and managed nine HUD subsidized apartments. LTC Moll spent 32 years in the Army National Guard.

A widower, he often wore his dress blues to holiday dinners, proud that they still fit after all the years.

A memorial service will be held at the Evangelical Free Church, 1393 W Mission Twin Buttes Rd, Green Valley, at 11 a.m. on January 15.



Chaplain's Corner

Robert Lewis, Chaplain



I really love the Christmas holidays. The Christmas season for me starts with Advent (the Latin word Adventus, meaning the coming or arrival). Advent is the season in which Christians around the world celebrate the First Advent, Jesus' birth, and also anticipate the Second Advent, Christ's return.

Advent begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas, which is the Sunday closest to November 30th. The themes of Advent traditionally are hope, peace, joy and love.

Jesus said, "Draw close to me and I will draw close to you." During the Advent season, let's consider the themes, reflect on the positives in our lives, and the true meaning for the season...and draw closer to Him.

Jesus, coming into this world as a baby, to experience the same experiences we do, manifests the love as well as the understanding He has for us. From the lowly Shepherds in the fields to the three kings, all came humbly to see the savior of the world. Let us be as humble as the wise men in seeking the true meaning for the season.



From generation to generation we have cultivated our own Christmas traditions of family and the joy of sharing gifts. Let us continue our traditions to include Hope, Peace, Joy and Love.



Merry
Christmas!!

Nogales High School JROTC Happenings

Marianne Rogers Faust, Director/JROTC Liaison



Our last newsletter included information about some of the activities that were ongoing at the Army JROTC unit at Rio Rico High School. This month, we want to share a brief summary of some of the activities of the Air Force JROTC unit at Nogales High School.

Since school began on August 4, the cadets have participated in several Civil Air Patrol flights out of Nogales Airport. So far, 26 cadets have had the opportunity for a one-hour orientation flight. Additionally, several cadets have participated in Kitty Hawk Air Society (KHAS) events. This is the academic honor society of Air Force JROTC. Its purpose is to promote high academic standards and achievement, school and community service, self-confidence, and initiative. KHAS also develops leadership abilities, recognizes academic excellence, and furthers knowledge of the Air Force role in aerospace. Some cadets also participated in a JROTC Leadership and Academic Bowl that enhances the values of citizenship, leadership, academic competition, and college opportunity. The unit has also performed at many Color Guard and Flag Detail events. These are just a few of the activities of this busy unit.

As we approach the end of the year, there is still time to make a contribution to our chapter's Scholarships & Military Assistance Fund. Checks should be made payable to **MOAA S&MA Fund**. Every dollar helps us be able to continue awarding scholarships to dedicated young people who will be the leaders of tomorrow. Please consider donating and thanks for all you do!



2021 Ended with a Holiday Dinner



Members gathered at Grill on the Green for a traditional turkey or ham holiday dinner, served with pumpkin pie for dessert. The evening saw the election of officers for 2022. **Joe Longo** stepped down as Chapter President and became President of the Scholarship and Military Assistance Fund. **Elliott Jones** moved into the President's seat when Joe presented him with the gavel.

As one of his last presentations Joe recognized **Marianne Cobarrubias**, our Webmaster and Newsletter Editor, for her work in making our Chapter shine in the eyes of MOAA National. It was because of her efforts and creativity that the Chapter received a 5-star Communications award for 2020. He also presented her with a card signed by Board members and a gift card for JoAnn Fabrics so she can continue her passion for quilting when she allows herself a break from her webmaster duties.



Holiday gifts on the table

The highlight of the evening was the gift giving from the Chapter to the members who have so generously supported the Chapter throughout the year. **Diane Longo** outdid herself with shopping and meticulously wrapping 34 gifts. Each attendee received a raffle ticket and when their number was called, they selected a gift.

Happy New Year! May everyone stay healthy and safe throughout 2022. (Photos by Betty Atwater, Marianne Cobarrubias)

Knit Wits Updates

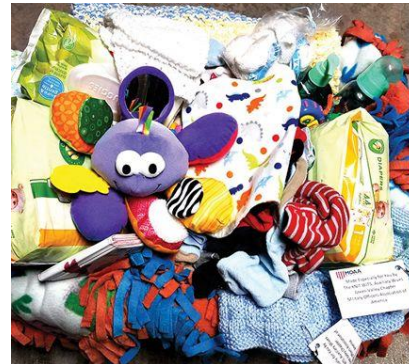
Donna Lou Hetler

The pandemic curtailed outlets for handmade goods. Many organizations have not had the volunteers returning to manage the inventory. The VA hospital still is not accepting new items, working down the items they have on hand. The same is true for Fort Huachuca.

This reduction in needs coincided with the Knit Wits own personal and family health issues, so the number of items we made was also down.

The Knit Wits did send 34 hats and 32 scarves to Operation Gratitude for distribution in Christmas packages. The few other items, such as afghans and baby items, were distributed to either Linus Project for hospitalized children or Gospel Rescue Mission for Christmas gifts.

We will continue to monitor the outlets, and of course, continue to knit. Members include Donna Lou Hetler, Lynda Linker, Sharon Rychener, Ruth Link, Donna Herrera, and Patricia Tinney.



Jan. 15, 2019--Baskets made by Knit Wits for delivery to a very special baby due in January and his Mom. Photo by Peggy McGee

2022 Officers, Directors & Chairs

(Area code is 520 unless otherwise indicated)

President: 1LT Elliott Jones USA (Fmr)
(847) 366-6466

First Vice-President and Membership:
CW3 Jack Bundy USA (Ret) (951) 760-8706

Second Vice-President and Programs:
COL Peggy McGee, USAR (Ret) 207-6188

Secretary: Maj. Gen. James Whitehead, Jr., USAF
(Ret) 475-8033

Treasurer: COL Mike Faust, USAF (Ret)
(210) 240-8730

Immediate Past President, President, 501(c)(3):
LT Joseph Longo, USA (Fmr) (509) 945-4993

Legislative Affairs:
Lt Col Darren Venters, USAF (Ret) 490-4470

ESGR Representative:
Lt Col Dick Kosnick, USAF (Ret) 867-8999

Surviving Spouse
Liaison: Nora Durham
(714) 232-9277

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

Chaplain: Robert Lewis, CWO3 USA (Ret) 481-6994

Director/JROTC Liaison:
COL Marianne Rogers Faust, USAF (Ret)
(210) 861-9440

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

Transition Liaison:
Lt Col Darren Venters, USAF (Ret) 490-4470

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

Webmaster/Newsletter:
Marianne Cobarrubias, webmaster@greenvalleymoaa.org



MARK YOUR 2022 CALENDARS

18 January – Luncheon Meeting
11:30-1:30 Location: Dominick's

14 March – Surviving Spouse program. Dinner
5-7:30 Location: TBA

2 May – Dinner 5-7:30 Scholarship Awards
Location: TBA

21 September – Luncheon 11:30-1:30
Location: TBA

15 November – Dinner (possibly Mix & Mingle) 5-7:30
Location: TBA

8 December – Holiday Dinner 5-7:30 Location: TBA

The Board of Directors meeting is the 1st Wednesday of each month 9-10:30am 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.


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

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MOAA NATIONAL NEWS

MOAA National Dues Are Increasing Effective 1 January 2022



MOAA has announced that their annual dues are going to increase soon. Please note that Chapter dues, still only \$25/year, are separate from National dues and the amounts do not combine. All Chapter members have at least Basic membership but many are life members. Once one is a Life member, the costs don't go up. The more members who are Life members, the more "points" we get for the Level of Excellence award.

Premium member dues will be increasing as follows ⇒

1 year: \$59 (increase of \$11)

2 years: \$100 (increase of \$18)

3 years: \$132 (increase of \$24)

Life member dues are also increasing for new Life members – but at a significantly less percentage than Premium (annual dues).

This means Life Membership will be even a better deal starting in 2022.

Example: A Life member will start saving money two full years sooner over paying Annual dues.

We encourage all annual members to renew their national MOAA membership for 1, 2, or 3 years or upgrade to Life Membership before the end of 2021.

All Basic members can upgrade to either Premium (Annual) or Life membership.

Go to MOAA.org and click on *Why Join* to pay dues online.

Here are the new numbers for 2022:

60-64	\$740
65-69	\$662
70-74	\$574
75-79	\$476
80-84	\$370
85-89	\$266
90-94	\$171
95-99	\$104
100 and over	FREE

The vast majority of revenue allowing MOAA national to advocate for military, veterans and their families – and us - comes from the dues of its paid members. It is simple: more paid members means more and sustained advocacy by MOAA!

Pay Raise, TRICARE Changes, and More: What Made the Cut in This Year's NDAA

With the distant sounds of sabers rattling from the borders of Ukraine and the Taiwan strait, the Senate passed the FY 2022 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) on Dec. 15 by an 88-11 vote. The importance of a strong national defense to deter conflict is notable by the increased appropriations despite the end of 20 years of war in Afghanistan.

(continued through page 14)

[The bill](#), which passed the House 363-70 on Dec. 7 and is en route to the president's desk for signature, authorizes \$768.2 billion – 5% increase from last year, keeping pace with inflation – and is \$25.1 billion more than requested by the president. Rising inflation, competing economic priorities, and a pandemic that continues to create new uncertainties and fears will make MOAA advocacy for our uniformed community more challenging in the coming years.

This NDAA did not follow the regular congressional process, where amendments are offered and voted on in each chamber before the bill proceeds to a joint conference committee and a final up-or-down vote in the House and Senate. This year, the Senate ran out of time and chose to accept the House-negotiated version to avoid a vote on amendments.

Negotiations occurred behind closed doors, unlike in previous years, leaving less opportunity for organizations like MOAA to influence lawmakers during the decision-making process. However, much of what is in the NDAA is supported by MOAA and The Military Coalition (TMC), a group of organizations representing nearly 5.5 million members of the greater uniformed services community.

What's in the Bill?

Pay raise: A 2.7% raise for servicemembers keeps pace with the Employment Cost Index (ECI), but does not address the 2.6% gap behind ECI from previous years. The House Rules Committee asked the House Armed Services Committee to look for further increases in the next NDAA, given concerns over junior enlisted family financial problems.

Basic Needs Allowance (BNA): A version of the MOAA-supported BNA is included, but it is not the proposed automatic payment for junior military families falling within a band of the poverty line. The bill's version places a bureaucratic burden on servicemembers and their families who often want to avoid the stigma of seeking help and the risk of losing a security clearance or damaging a career. It also does not address the use of the basic housing allowance when computing eligibility, a move which significantly reduces who may apply for support. More advocacy will be needed next year to support vulnerable families as [some experts seek to cut personnel costs](#).

Enhanced parental leave: Primary and secondary caregivers for the birth, adoption, or long-term foster placement of a child will be authorized up to 12 weeks of paid parental leave. This is a significant increase for Navy and Marine Corps secondary caregivers, who currently only have two weeks of parental leave.

New leave category for bereavement: Servicemembers will have access to two weeks of bereavement leave following the death of an immediate family member. Those who have less than 30 days of leave will be provided the two weeks at no charge; those with a balance of over 30 days will be charged only to the point that their leave balance remains at 30 days.

Child care: This NDAA authorizes an expansion of the in-home child care pilot program, which is currently only available in five locations. Additional locations have not yet been identified. Additionally, the bill requires DoD to conduct safety inspections at all child development centers and develop a 10-year facility improvement plan for these centers.

Impact Aid: Federal Impact Aid provides financial assistance to local school districts that have lost property tax revenue due to the presence of tax-exempt federal property. This bill authorizes \$50 million in DoD Impact Aid to assist local educational agencies. An additional \$10 million is authorized to support local educational agencies with higher concentrations of military children with severe disabilities.

Military spouse employment: A pilot program designed to provide direct hire authority for spouses of uniformed servicemembers at OCONUS locations supports First Lady Jill Biden's [Joining Forces](#) initiatives to make "the federal government the employer of choice" for military spouses. The bill also includes language to develop a pilot program to establish employment fellowship opportunities for military spouses.

National Guard and Reserve special pay parity: The NDAA eliminates disparities of incentive pays for hazardous duties and aviators. Servicemembers performing these duties have historically earned pay at a rate of 1/30th of their active duty counterparts. However, the implementation of this is delayed until a report is submitted and Congress and the secretary of defense certifies the change won't cause a detrimental effect on the force structure. MOAA will continue to follow this closely to ensure this disparity is finally closed.

Temporary one-year halt to military medical billet cuts: This NDAA requires a Government Accountability Office (GAO) evaluation on the DoD analyses used to support any reduction or realignment of military medical manning. DoD is also required to report to Congress on the number of uniformed and civilian personnel assigned to a military treatment facility (MTF) as of Oct. 1, 2019, and a comparable accounting as of Sept. 30, 2022. If the number in 2022 is less than the number in 2019, DoD must provide a full explanation for the reduction to demonstrate compliance with past provisions halting medical billet cuts.

Support for mental health appointment scheduling: Consistent with recommendations from the [DoD Inspector General's report on mental health access](#), this provision requires a minimum one-year pilot to provide direct assistance to beneficiaries with mental health appointment scheduling for both direct and purchased care components of the military health system.

Autism care demonstration program: The bill requires DoD to enter into an agreement with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to conduct an analysis on the effectiveness of the [TRICARE Autism Care Demonstration](#). MOAA believes this is the appropriate next step to help evaluate the significant changes recently implemented to the demonstration.

Suicide prevention: This NDAA seeks to improve the ability for those in uniform to seek mental health support; [580 servicemembers died by suicide](#) in 2020, and the numbers continue to increase each year. The bill includes a self-initiated process enabling a servicemember to request a mental health evaluation by asking for one from a commanding officer or supervisor. Although treatment and access to care is important, Congress and DoD still must tackle the harder problem of improving the quality of life for servicemembers and their families to address the issue using a more complete, effective approach.

Improvement to the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) to address sexual harassment and assault: Sexual harassment will become a punishable offense in the UCMJ as DoD seeks to implement the findings of the Independent Review Commission on Sexual Harassment and Assault. Adding sexual harassment as a punishable offense, creating specialized military prosecutors, and placing decision authority to refer a case to courts-martial with a military prosecutor are good provisions only if DoD can properly resource the manpower for legal and investigative functions.

Afghanistan study: The bill requires a study on the war in Afghanistan. MOAA will track the progress of this study, which will review the whole-of-government role in this 20-year conflict, to include its tragic end.

Arlington National Cemetery (ANC) changes: A House Armed Services Committee (HASC) [report on the NDAA](#) expresses the committee's concerns regarding proposed eligibility changes and "directed the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit a report to congressional defense committees no later than March 1, 2022, on potential locations of the next national cemetery."

What's Not in the Bill?

More forceful ANC language: A [halt to ANC eligibility changes](#) with a directive to designate the next national cemetery that will afford full military honors was not included in the bill, though it was proposed as a Senate amendment. This issue will require continued advocacy as the HASC report is pending.

Concurrent receipt: Language from the Major Richard Star Act was not included in the NDAA. It would support over 48,000 combat-injured military retirees with concurrent receipt of medical retired pay and VA disability. These combat-injured (and often seriously disabled) retirees currently are subject to an offset where their medical retirement pay is reduced for every dollar of VA disability received. Retired pay is for completed years of service paid by DoD, while disability compensation is for lifelong injury paid by the VA: Two different payments for two different purposes. To reduce retirement pay because of a disability is an injustice. Support for the Star Act is bipartisan and has grown to 54 Senate co-sponsors and 148 House co-sponsors; the bill has very good potential to reach a tipping point next year. The Star Act is part of MOAA's incremental strategy to achieve concurrent receipt for all retirees.

Women for Selective Service: A provision requiring women to register for the Selective Service was omitted from the final NDAA although the language was in both House and Senate versions. The final report from the National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service recommended [women should register for Selective Service](#). Although MOAA remains committed to protecting the all-volunteer force and not returning to the draft, the report highlighted many important recruiting challenges. For example, the commission estimated 70% of 18-to-26-year-olds in the U.S. cannot meet the physical and psychological standards for service and provided important perspective to sustain and improve benefits for the all-volunteer force. This issue likely will return as a problem Congress cannot avoid.

TRICARE Young Adult (TYA): Ensuring military kids have the same health care protections as their civilian peers as they transition to adulthood remains a priority for MOAA. Direct spending impacts were the main barrier to getting this bill in the NDAA, and MOAA will not support a solution that raises fees on other beneficiaries. We will continue our efforts to achieve a TYA parity fix next year.

HAPPY★NEW★YEAR

GV MOAA News contributors this issue:

Betty Atwater, Jack Bundy, Donna Lou Hetler, Elliott Jones, Robert Lewis,
Joe Longo, Peggy McGee, and Marianne Rogers Faust