

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Green Valley Chapter · DESERT DUSTER NEWSLETTER

October/November 2022 · Fall Issue



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Welcome back to all our winter residents. We hope you will be able to join us for one or more of our upcoming activities.

Details of our next event, the Mix & Mingle are outlined on page 3 of this newsletter.

The election of officers will take place at our dinner in November. Please see the slate of officers on page 2.

We are always looking for new members to join the Board to share ideas, and to assume leadership positions once you get comfortable with our mission. Please let me know if you have interest in serving on our Board. We meet at Friends in Deed at 9 a.m. on the first Wednesday of the month (September thru May.)

If you have not yet renewed your membership, we hope you will soon. It is renewals that help us maintain our 5-Star Level of Excellence status as well as meeting the needs of the military community. Dues form is on pages 7-8 of this newsletter. Please note that it is a 2-sided form this year. Please provide the info listed on the reverse of the form.

Our Chapter has established a Facebook page. It can be accessed at facebook.com/GVMOAA. Please follow us.

Approximately 15,000 community pharmacies will leave the TRICARE retail pharmacy network on October 24. Many military families who use independent or community pharmacies will soon have to find an alternative source for their prescription medication needs. Nearly 400,000 beneficiaries, or roughly 4% of the TRICARE-eligible population, will be affected by the change. Note that TRICARE for Life is not impacted by these changes. [Click here](#) for more information.

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SCAN OUR QR CODES

[GV MOAA WEBSITE](https://greenvalleymoaa.org)



[GV MOAA member page of GREEN VALLEY/SAHUARITA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE](#)

QR Codes: [What are they & how do I scan a code?](#)

VISIT: [MOAA.org/takeaction](https://moaa.org/takeaction)

[MOAA's "Never Stop Serving" Podcasts](#)

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Your MOAA membership provides several discounts. For more information [click here](#).

The upcoming events for the Chapter are as follows:

November 4: Mix and Mingle, Grill on the Green (5-7 p.m.)

November 15: Dinner, Grill on the Green (5 p.m.)

December 13: Christmas Luncheon with gift give-away, Grill on the Green (11:30 a.m.)

PLEASE NOTE: This is a tentative schedule dependent on the specified venues being able to provide necessary services. We will keep you posted to specifics and/or venue changes.

Looking forward to seeing everyone again this fall. Meanwhile, stay safe, stay healthy, and stay positive.

Elliott Jones 1LT USA (former)
2022-2023 Chapter President
Green Valley Chapter, MOAA

NEVER STOP SERVING



Military Officers Association
of America

GREEN VALLEY
CHAPTER

2023 Slate of Officers

President: **1LT Elliott Jones**

First Vice-President, Membership: **CWO3 Jack Bundy**

Second Vice-President, Programs & Public Relations Officer:
COL Peggy McGee

Secretary: **Maj Gen Jim Whitehead**

Treasurer: **COL Mike Faust**

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

Legislative Affairs: **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**

Director/JROTC Liaison & Historian: **COL Marianne Rogers Faust**

Transition Liaison: **Lt Col Darren Venters**

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MOAA HOSTING A MIX & MINGLE

Peggy McGee, 2nd Vice President/Programs

Our Chapter will be hosting a Mix & Mingle at Grill on the Green, 5800 S Camino Del Sol, on Friday, November 4 from 5-7 p.m. The menu will include Hors D' Oeuvres with a slice of strawberry shortcake for dessert. Cost is \$20. The Chapter is paying the remainder of the cost.

The Mix & Mingle is specially designed to introduce potential new members to the Chapter which is one of the most active in Arizona. Some of the projects the Chapter tackles each year include:

- Awarding at least three scholarships to JROTC cadets from the Sahuarita, Rio Rico and Nogales High Schools.
- Collecting foods for the junior airmen from the 162nd Fighter Wing, AZ Air National Guard.
- Presenting 30 \$50 gift cards for the local commissary to the airmen just prior to Thanksgiving so that they can purchase a turkey and all the trimmings for a traditional holiday feast.
- Supporting the VA hospital and Women Warriors by donating gently used clothing and new socks and underwear for homeless veterans.
- Donating gift cards, hats, gloves, lap blankets, large print and puzzle books for hospitalized veterans at holiday time.
- Knitting hats and scarves for the homeless veterans.
- Organizing a *Toys for Tots* collection.

Please invite your officer friends to join us at the Mix & Mingle and urge them to then join our Chapter. In addition to commissioned and warrant officers, officers in the Public Health Service and the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration are eligible for MOAA membership as are spouses of deceased officers.

You can find the reservation form on page 4 of this newsletter. If you are just returning to Green Valley from your summer travels and can't mail in your reservation on time, please contact Peggy McGee at peggy@greenvalleymoaa.org or 520-207-6188 **no later than October 28 to secure a spot for you and your guests.**

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NOVEMBER MIX & MINGLE RESERVATION FORM

(This reservation form may also be found on the [GreenValleyMOAA.org](https://www.greenvalleymoaa.org) website)

4 November 2022 · 5-7 PM

Grill on the Green · 5800 S. Camino Del Sol, Green Valley

Please make your reservations by OCTOBER 28th

Reserve _____ places

Cost: \$_____ (\$20 per person)

DETAILS:

The menu will include Hors D' Oeuvres with a slice of strawberry shortcake for dessert.

The **Mix & Mingle event** is to give members an opportunity to socialize as well as recruit new members. Please invite your officer friends (active, reserve, National Guard or former) and spouses of deceased officers to join us for an evening of fun.

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) _____

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 by 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.

MEMBERSHIP AND 2023 CHAPTER DUES

Jack Bundy, 1st Vice President/Membership



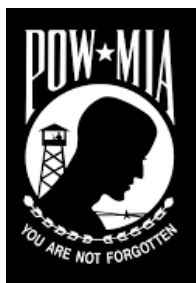
Happy Fall, 2022. It is good to get back in the swing of things after the summer break with several luncheons and dinners on our schedule from now until the end of the year, to include our Mix and Mingle on November 4th where we hope to see everybody and their guests. Our Chapter remains strong with seven new members joining us in 2022 thus far. If you know of eligible former or retired officers, invite them to join and bring them along to our Mix and Mingle. We are always looking to expand our membership with great military folks. We currently have 62 retired members, 7 former officers, and 9 surviving spouses, for a total of 78 members. Unfortunately, five of our members passed away in 2022. We will miss all of them and hope to bring support and comfort to their spouses through our Surviving Spouse Program, led by our Surviving Spouse Liaison, Nora Durham.

Now that we are getting closer to 2023, it is time to start collecting 2023 dues. For all of you who have recently joined our Chapter in the last couple of months, the dues you paid when you joined were applied to 2023, so you need not worry about further dues payments until 2024. For all the rest of us old timers, you can start sending in 2023 dues at any time between now and December 31. Dues are \$25 per military member, and \$15 for spouses, if you wish to register your spouse in our group of spouse/auxiliary persons. We have revised our membership form to give members an opportunity to see where our Chapter might need help and let them decide what talents they are willing to share with the Chapter. **It's a 2-sided form now so don't forget to complete the reverse of the form** that can be found on pages 7-8 of this newsletter.



NJROTC PREPARING FOR ANNUAL MILITARY INSPECTION

Peggy McGee, 2nd Vice President/Programs



The Naval JROTC unit will be undergoing its Annual Military Inspection (AMI) on Wednesday, October 19 on the parade grounds at Sahuarita High School, 350 W. Sahuarita Rd. Gates will open at 10:30. A POW/MIA Missing Man Chair Dedication will take place at 10:45. The Pass In Review Parade will start at 11. CDR Thomas Garcia, USN (Ret), the NJROTC Area 11 Program Manager, will be the Inspecting Officer.

Attending the AMI will bring back memories of when we went through our inspections in the military. And more importantly, it will show the cadets that they have the support of the local community in their efforts.

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WHAT DO WE DO WITH YOUR DUES?

Peggy McGee, 2nd Vice President/Programs

Some people have asked “*Just what does the Chapter do with the \$25 I send them each year?*”

And here is the answer: We get assessed annual dues from the Arizona Council of Chapters.



We have to provide an annual report for the Arizona Corporation Commission and have to pay to remain in good standing. We pay for the website and website domain fees. We need stamps for some of our communications to include postage for the newsletter for those who do not have an email account.

When we have external speakers for our events, the Chapter pays for their meals and also provides a MOAA coin to express our appreciation. We absorb some of the cost of the annual Mix & Mingle, rent a post office box, have printing costs, purchase name tags for new members (if you lose your name tag, you have to reimburse the Chapter for a new one).

We have to pay for our liability insurance and pay a stipend to Friends in Deed for the use of a room for our monthly Board meetings.

If our Board members have to travel for MOAA HQ or State meetings, we reimburse them for their travel expenses. We pay our newsletter editor whose efforts have garnered some awards from MOAA HQ.

When members in good standing (meaning that they are current with the dues) pass away, we make a donation to the charity of their choice. Their survivors tell us what it is.

Our webmaster, though not eligible for membership, donates all her time and talents to keep the website up-to-date and has recently developed a Facebook page for us. Visit us at facebook.com/GVMOAA and then “LIKE” our page and our posts on Facebook.

And finally, at holiday time, which is just around the corner, we buy the gifts that Santa distributes at our holiday event.

We definitely do not squander the funds we receive for dues. The money we spend for charitable endeavors does not come from dues but rather from donations and grants—and the 50-50 raffle at each of our events.

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**. (See Dues Form, next page)

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

2023 Chapter Membership/Renew Dues

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:_____ (Status) _____ 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.

SEE REVERSE SIDE (next page)

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Congratulations on becoming a member of the second oldest of the nine MOAA Arizona Chapters. The MOAA is recognized as the most respected and influential professional military association in America. The Vision Statement "NEVER STOP SERVING" provides a focus for the entire MOAA organization.

To help us better understand how you would prefer to contribute to our Chapter, please complete the following questions.

Previous work and/or volunteer experience _____

Description of training, leadership and knowledge that may be pertinent _____

PLACE A CHECK NEXT TO YOUR DESIRED CHAPTER AREAS OF PARTICIPATION:

- ☐ Fundraising or Assistant
- ☐ Public Relations or Assistant
- ☐ Scheduling & managing Chapter events or Assistant
- ☐ Grant writing or Assistant
- ☐ Chapter secretary or assistant
- ☐ Chapter Treasurer or assistant
- ☐ Community Partner Programs committee member
- ☐ Historian
- ☐ Chapter Liaison to military units
- ☐ Chapter Liaison to JROTC units
- ☐ Chapter Liaison to Green Valley Chamber of Commerce or Assistant

RETURN THIS NEW MEMBER QUESTIONNAIRE WITH YOUR CHAPTER APPLICATION/RENEWAL FORM.

Welcome Aboard

CHAPTER HAS ITS FIRST REPRESENTATIVE ON THE SURVIVING SPOUSE ADVISORY COUNCIL

Peggy McGee, 2nd Vice President/Programs



Nora Durham, the Chapter's Surviving Spouse Liaison, was recently appointed to the Surviving Spouse Advisory Council (SSAC) by Lt Gen Dana T Atkins, MOAA's President and CEO. Her appointment

letter said her job will be to "assist the MOAA President in fulfilling oversight responsibilities for MOAA's surviving spouse programs and resources for surviving spouses within councils, chapters, and satellites, and throughout the MOAA leadership."

The spouses on the Council make recommendations to the MOAA leadership on MOAA policies regarding surviving spouse and advocacy issues and surviving spouse membership. Nora will serve a four-year term.

The SSAC was established in 2004 as the Auxiliary Member Advisory Committee to report to and advise the MOAA president about issues that are important to the surviving spouses of MOAA members. Its main goal is to represent not only survivors but also military spouses about issues that impact them.

The SSAC has had numerous major accomplishments, including:

- Creating and designing the *Survivor's Planning Guide: A Handbook for One of Life's Toughest Assignments*.
- Starting in 2018, the Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter. The chapter currently meets via phone on the third Tuesday of each month and has grown from 10 members to 160 members from 33 states.
- Assisting with the 2019 passage of the bill that eliminated the Survivor Benefit Plan-Dependency and Indemnity Compensation offset. This effort took 40 years to accomplish.
- Developing and producing the Surviving Spouse Liaison Training program that is held several times each year in conjunction with the regional chapter leadership training.

Current members of the council represent all services and several states and bring a broad swath of experience. Each member was nominated by her chapter and then thoroughly vetted and selected by members of the SSAC.

Congratulations, Nora. We know you will make a positive impact on the Council.

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The CHAPLAIN'S Corner

Robert D. Lewis, Chaplain

With summer coming to a close it is refreshing that our monsoon rains, that are greatly appreciated, continue. The early morning cool temperatures provide a nice feeling of the approach of fall. I enjoy reading my morning devotions while taking in the pleasant temperatures outdoors.

With Christmas decorations already for sale in some large stores, I wonder what happened to Thanksgiving? Both holidays provide an opportunity to be blessed by God.

First, Thanksgiving provides an opportunity to be blessed with family. Second, Christmas reflects a time to be blessed by Jesus's birth.

It also is the time where our MOAA meetings start for the fall and winter seasons. Please consider coming to our meetings where we can enjoy each other and continue service to our community and country.

I recently conducted a wedding ceremony. Part of my ceremony includes the Blessing that is found in the first Chapter of Genesis where God blesses humanity. Some consider this blessing as the Old Testament's Lord Prayer.

So, as we begin the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons, the return of our monthly MOAA meetings and winter residents, and the fellowship all provide, I offer you this most powerful blessing:

Now may the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord make His face to shine upon you and give you His peace. May He continue to bless you and our Chapter.



MARK YOUR 2022 CALENDARS

4 November – Mix & Mingle 5-7 Location: Grill on the Green

15 November – Membership Dinner (election of new officers & Toys for Tots collection) 5-7:30 Location: Grill on the Green

14 December – Holiday Luncheon (with gift give-away; installation of new officers) 11:30-2 Location: Grill on the Green

The Board of Directors meetings are 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 are no Board meetings in June, July or August.

RETURN OF C-53D AIRCRAFT TO EUROPE (November Program)

Peggy McGee, 2nd Vice President/Programs



COL Tim Tarris, USAF (Ret), was part of a crew that returned a C-53D aircraft to Europe for the 75th Anniversary of D-Day and the 70th Anniversary of the Berlin Airlift. He will relive that historic event at the Chapter dinner on November 15 at Grill on the Green, 5800 S Camino Del Sol. The meal for the event will be a traditional turkey dinner with all the trimmings and pumpkin pie for dessert. Gluten-free and vegetarian meals are available upon request. Cost for the meal will be \$32.

The C-53D *Skytrooper* was nicknamed the D-Day Doll. During WWII, Douglas made over 16,000 of the DC-3 type aircraft, 380 of which were C-53s. During the 75th anniversary of D-Day, there were DC-3s, C-47s, C-53s and a C-49 participating in the ceremonies. Of these, 17 were from the US and 10 from European countries. They all flew together for the occasion. Some of those that jumped during the anniversary reenactment also jumped on the original D-Day. COL Tarris will be bringing literature and models of the C-53 to the dinner.

Tim will speak about the background of the aircraft and the journey itself and why it was historically important. He will show a video of the aircraft being prepared for the journey in 2018-2019, highlights of the trip including stops in Normandy, Germany and France and the return home.



In 1973, Tim was commissioned as an Air Force 2nd Lieutenant. He attended Undergraduate Pilot Training at Williams AFB, Arizona graduating in 1974 as a Distinguished Graduate. He was assigned to fly the F-111D at Cannon AFB, New Mexico.

In 1981 he joined the Ohio Air National Guard (ANG) in Toledo and later the Arizona ANG in Tucson. While there, he was an instructor for A-7D Corsair II and the F-16A/C Fighting Falcon aircraft. In 2000, as Director of Operations for the State of Arizona, he flew the KC-135 Tanker in Phoenix. He retired as a Colonel with 30 years' service in 2003.

You can find the reservation form for this dinner on page 12. If you can't mail in your reservation in a timely manner, please contact Peggy McGee at peggy@greenvalleymoaa.org or 520-207-6188 no later than November 7th to secure a spot for you and your guests.

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NOVEMBER DINNER RESERVATION FORM

(This reservation form may also be found on the [GreenValleyMOAA.org website](https://www.greenvalleymoaa.org))

15 November 2022 · Social time 5 PM · Dinner 5:30 PM

Grill on the Green · 5800 S. Camino Del Sol, Green Valley

Please make your reservations by NOVEMBER 7th

Reserve _____ places

Cost: \$_____ (\$32 per person)

MENU:

The meal for the event will be a traditional turkey dinner with all the trimmings and pumpkin pie for dessert. Gluten-free and vegetarian meals are available upon request. Iced tea and water included.

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) _____

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 by 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.

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JROTC FALL UPDATE

Marianne Rogers Faust, Director/JROTC Liaison

All three JROTC programs in our area are busy and involved in many activities. Our update this time will start at Nogales High School where 147 cadets are enrolled in the Air Force JROTC unit. Over 100 of those cadets are signed up to participate in Civil Air Patrol (CAP) flights this academic year. So far, 16 cadets have flown. The entire unit is studying Astronomy this year and they received ten telescopes from CAP to complement their Astronomy class. And most of the cadets will take a field trip to the University of Arizona Flandrau Planetarium soon. Additionally, their Color Guard and Drill Team are preparing to participate in competitions later this year.



The Naval JROTC unit has an enrollment of 161 cadets this year from Sahuarita High School, Walden Grove High School, Sahuarita Middle School, charter and home schools. (Note: There are no home-schooled cadets in the Army or Air Force JROTC programs.) Recently, the Secretary of the Navy designated Sahuarita NJROTC as a 2021-2022 Distinguished Unit with Academic Honors. And this competition season is off to a busy start. They hosted an Area 11 Marksmanship Qualifier competition recently and their Precision Shooting Team is preparing for regional competition next spring. The Armed and Unarmed Drill teams are ready to compete against other Arizona NJROTC teams very soon. Additionally, the Academic Team will compete in a "Brain Brawl" next month at Apollo High School in Glendale, AZ. And the unit's Annual Military Inspection will be held in October. (See article on page 5 for details.)

The Army JROTC unit at Rio Rico High School currently has 136 cadets. Several members recently participated in a marksmanship event that was held at Sahuarita High School. Two of those cadets placed 2nd and 4th in that competition. Many cadets are preparing for the "First Raider" competition that will be held soon at Sahuarita High School. Their next marksmanship match will be at Flowing Wells High School in October. Also, many cadets will participate in an Orienteering Meet on October 15th at Santa Fe Ranch.

The instructors of all the units tell us that the cadets are very glad to be actively involved with JROTC again!

VA HOSPITAL WOMEN WARRIOR NEEDS

Peggy McGee, 2nd Vice President/Programs

Here are some items both organizations that help veterans can use:

- Travel and full-size shampoo, conditioner, hand cream, soap
- Toothbrushes, paste, floss
- Reading glasses
- 2023 calendars in both wall and pocket size
- Hats & scarves for both men & women—handmade or purchased both works well
- New underwear (small & medium for men; large and XL for women are especially needed) and warm socks



Please bring items to the Mix & Mingle on November 4 or the dinner on November 15.

WHEN PETS ARE FAMILY

Peggy McGee, 2nd Vice President/Programs



Many of the homeless veterans served by Tucson's VA hospital have pets. For the ones living on the streets, the pet of choice is a dog. For many of these veterans, their pet is the only "family" they have. Oftentimes the vet shares his food with the dog.

As we get ready to celebrate Thanksgiving and give thanks for all the blessings we have received, please remember these pets and grab a bag or can of dog food on your next shopping trip. **You may bring donations to the Mix & Mingle on November 4 or the dinner on November 15.**

The veterans and their dogs will thank you.

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YOU CAN BECOME SANTA'S HELPERS

Peggy McGee, 2nd Vice President/Programs

"Is that Santa over there?" asked the wide-eyed child. "No, those are the MOAA elves helping Santa gather toys for needy children in the local area" came the reply.



Your Chapter will once again be supporting the [Toys for Tots program](#) to help bring some holiday cheer to children who might otherwise not find any gifts under the tree, especially in these financially trying times.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO DONATE?

You are asked to bring unwrapped toys appropriate for boys and girls from infant through age 12 to the MOAA dinner on November 15. While the younger children prefer toys, the pre-teens like gift cards for fast food restaurants, Walmart, Target. Some pre-teen girls like make-up and nail polish too.



Those wishing to avoid a trip to a shopping mall may make checks payable to [GV MOAA Scholarship and Military Assistance Fund or MOAA S&MA Fund](#). Then one check will be given to *Toys for Tots* from the Chapter to allow them to purchase items for which the need is greatest. Your Chapter will send you an acknowledgement of your donation for tax purposes for monetary donations. For cash donations, please put the money in an envelope with your name on it so we will know whom to thank.

If you are unable to attend the November 15 dinner at Grill on the Green but would still like to help, please contact our Chaplain, Robert Lewis at 520-481-6994 to arrange for drop-off or mail your donation to Green Valley MOAA, P.O Box 1535, Green Valley AZ 85622-1535.

Thanks for your support for the less fortunate children in our area.

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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:
CDR John Chernoski, USN (Ret) 625-3909

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



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

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REALTOR®

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CELL (520) 481-6997
EMAIL justinel@longrealty.com
WEB justinel.longrealty.com
275 W Continental Rd, #101 Green Valley, AZ 85622

Robert D. Lewis, DBA

Licensed Ordained Minister
National Association of Christian Ministers
520-481-6994

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WEB: thecalling1.godaddysites.com

Jim & Kathie Rusk Love You

A young wife on her own... two small children... a husband facing the unknowns of his Vietnam tour. "Love you."

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MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Green Valley Chapter · DESERT DUSTER NEWSLETTER

October/November 2022 · Fall Issue



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J R O T C S R O L O C E H T F O G N I S S A M
F K T S T O T R O F S Y O T U J Q N P K M H S
C P H R U Q W G G X Q G R E E N V A L L E Y H
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M H I I Q M S R O T C E R I D D R A O B V Y B
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G J R C U X O Z H A R R I S A W A R D S N D X
Y F I X G D E S E R T D U S T E R N R S C I H

Find the following words in the puzzle.

Words are hidden ↑ ↓ → ← and ↘

ARIZONA CHAPTERS
AZ COC
BOARD DIRECTORS
CHAPTER AWARDS
DESERT DUSTER
ELLIOTT JONES
FOOD FOR TROOPS
GREEN VALLEY

HARRIS AWARD
HONOR FLIGHT
JROTC
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS
LOE AWARD
MASSING OF THE COLORS
MEMBERSHIP
MILITARY

MILITARY OFFICERS
MOAA
SCHOLARSHIP
SURVIVING SPOUSES
TAKE ACTION
TOYS FOR TOTS
TURKEYS FOR TROOPS
WOMEN WARRIORS



MOAA NATIONAL NEWS

‘Tens of Thousands’ More Veterans Became Eligible for VA Care Starting Oct. 1

Thousands more veterans will be eligible for Veterans Affairs health care beginning Saturday [under a law passed Aug. 10](#) that expanded benefits for former service members sickened by environmental exposures.

According to VA officials, "tens of thousands" of veterans became eligible to enroll in VA health care starting Oct. 1. The largest group to be eligible are post-9/11 veterans who meet certain criteria and hadn't previously enrolled. They will have a one-year window to sign up, according to the law.

VA Secretary Denis McDonough told reporters during a meeting of the Defense Writers Group in Washington, D.C., on Monday that the VA has hired additional staff to handle claims and increased demand for health care for veterans.

"Saturday, we started an open enrollment period at [the Veterans Health Administration] for health benefits. That's an important moment for us," McDonough said.

To be eligible, veterans would need to have served on active duty in a combat theater after the 1991 Persian Gulf War, served against a hostile force after Nov. 11, 1998, or were discharged or released from active duty from Sept. 11, 2001, to Oct. 1, 2013.

Some additional groups of Vietnam veterans and Gulf War vets are also eligible to enroll under certain circumstances.

Vietnam-era veterans will be eligible for care if they served any time in:

- Vietnam from Jan. 9, 1962, to May 7, 1975
- Thailand at a U.S. or Royal Thai base from Jan. 9, 1962, to June 30, 1976
- Laos from Dec. 1, 1965, to Sept. 30, 1969
- Guam or American Samoa -- or their territorial waters -- from Jan. 9, 1962, to July 31, 1980
- Johnston Atoll, or a ship that called there, from Jan. 1, 1972, to Sept. 30, 1977

And any veterans who served after the Persian Gulf war and earned an expeditionary medal, a campaign-specific medal or another combat theater award, or a veteran who engaged in combat against a hostile force on or after Nov. 11, 1998, also became eligible beginning Oct. 1.

"I highly encourage these Veterans to apply now for the health care they've earned and deserve," McDonough said Wednesday in a press release. "This expansion will bring generations of new Veterans into VA health care, and increase the health care benefits of many more, which will result in the one outcome that matters most: better health outcomes for veterans."

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The Sgt. First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics, or PACT Act, named for an Ohio National Guard soldier who died of lung cancer in 2020 at age 39, [broadened health care services and disability compensation to an estimated 1 million veterans](#) thought to be exposed to chemicals, pollution and other exposures during their military service.

In addition to health care expansion, [the law designated 23 illnesses as presumed to be related to exposure to burn pits](#) used in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere as part of the Global War on Terrorism, and it added two conditions -- hypertension and monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance -- for Vietnam veterans.

The designation allows veterans with the illnesses to receive disability benefits more expeditiously since they aren't required to prove that their disease is service connected, a process that can be drawn out and that entails extensive documentation and medical assessments.

The [Department of Veterans Affairs established a web page to keep former service members informed of their benefits under the PACT Act and is encouraging them to apply](#) for benefits and care by going to the site or calling VA at 1-800-MYVA411, or 1-800-698-2411.

Under the law, veterans can get screened for toxic exposures as well -- meeting with a health provider to determine whether they were exposed or have any health conditions related to the exposure.

The VA began a pilot program for these short screenings, finding that 37.4% of the 13,380 veterans screened at 12 medical centers had exposure concerns.

"These results will help VA make toxic exposure screenings available to all veterans in early November ... and make sure that VA provides all toxic-exposed veterans with the care they need and benefits they deserve," VA officials said in a statement.

According to the VA, the department set an all-time record for disability compensation claims filed online, and more than 70,000 PACT Act-related claims have been filed to date.

The legislation is expected to cost roughly \$277 billion through 2031.

Here's Why Your Medicare Part B Costs May Drop in 2023

Medicare beneficiaries who saw a double-digit-percentage increase in their Part B premiums for 2022 are in line for relief next year, according to a recent statement from the head of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

High expected costs connected to Aduhelm, a new Alzheimer's drug, played a part in a 14.5% jump in premiums from 2021 to 2022 for most Part B users; [an HHS statement](#) issued May 27 calls those expectations "an overestimate" and says "the reduction in premium costs attributable to Aduhelm will be incorporated into Medicare premiums for 2023 to lower Part B premiums paid by Medicare beneficiaries."

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Discussions of a potential rate cut took place [as early as January](#). At the time, HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra said changes could come later in the year; in the recent statement, he made clear the 2022 rates would remain in place.

“We had hoped to achieve this sooner, but CMS [Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services] explains that the options to accomplish this would not be feasible,” Becerra said in the statement, referencing [a CMS report](#) on the issue.

Medicare officially announced in April its decision to cover Aduhelm only in cases where the patient participates in an official clinical trial. This will significantly reduce the number of Medicare beneficiaries eligible for the drug, which [reportedly had been priced as high as \\$56,000 for a year’s worth of treatments](#) – a figure that’s since been cut in half.

Neither HHS nor CMS provided any indications of an expected Part B premium for 2023, nor did they clarify whether any planned rate reduction would equate to a lower premium or simply a lower-than-expected increase, given recent inflation trends.



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