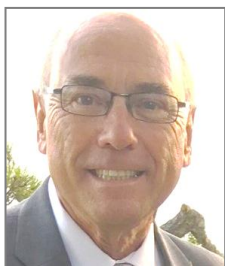


PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



*2025 Greetings, Green Valley
MOAA Chapter!!*



Happy New Year! Can you believe it? 2025!
Seems a big number and a long time!

As I start my second year as President of the Green Valley Chapter, I want to thank the members of the 2024 Board for all their hard work throughout the year. Thanks especially to our retiring members, Elliott Jones, Joe Longo, Jim Rundlett, and Gene Graff for all their hard work and dedication. You are all stars! For those that do not know, Elliott has decided to move back to Chicago. He was such an outstanding asset to the chapter as former 1VP, Membership Chair, President, Immediate Past President and a historical wealth of knowledge for all things MOAA when he was here in Green Valley. He was also one we all could count on... and we did! He and Carin will be missed very much.

This past year we participated in many community events, supported the Green Valley/Sahuarita Chamber of Commerce, written and received grants to help support our charitable initiatives, coordinated and managed our luncheon and dinner events to include our Scholarship Dinner in May, given \$3,000 to military families for TURKEYS FOR TROOPS to three different military units in Tucson, provided our area high school JROTC programs with scholarships, and started a new program of giving Educational Grants to veteran students at the University of Arizona.



(continued, next page)

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QUICK LINKS

[GV MOAA WEBSITE](#)

[GV MOAA member page:](#)
Green Valley/Sahuarita
Chamber of Commerce



[Facebook.com/GVMOAA](#)
[MOAA.org/takeaction](#)
[MOAA's "Never Stop Serving" Podcasts](#)
[Surviving Spouses webpage](#)

We again provided knitted hats and scarves to the VA, food for food banks at the VA and the 162nd Wing, AZ Air National Guard. At our Thanksgiving meeting, we again provided gifts for teens to be distributed by the Santa Rita Fire Department. We even managed to successfully hold a Garage Sale at Quail Creek, which netted a little extra money for the chapter.

Additionally, we welcomed a visitor from National MOAA in Alexandria, VA, CAPT Frank Michael, USN, (Ret), Senior Director of Affiliated Councils and Chapters to our November dinner. Frank provided us with some great MOAA information, and we enjoyed his company on his day and evening with us. After his visit, Frank commented: "You lead an incredible chapter, and I thoroughly enjoyed my time with the board and the membership during your dinner program. Your team takes great advantage of all we have to offer from MOAA. Keep up the great work." And yes, we have worked well together to produce very positive results in 2024. It has been a very successful year of MOAA service to our community.

Now, it is 2025 and we will again start work on our next program year!

Welcome to the new 2025 board! Thanks to each of you on this next board who have already served (in some cases for many years) for again volunteering to help further our initiatives. Most of the board positions will be unchanged. However, Robert Lewis, in addition to being Chaplain, has also agreed to take on the role of Personal Affairs Officer.



And a **BIG** welcome to our newest addition to the board, Lee Staab, COL, USA, (Ret). Lee has agreed to take on the role of 1st VP and Treasurer. He will also officially be our Membership Chair, though out of necessity, I will assume many of those duties during 2025. This means also that our plan will be for Lee to become the new Chapter President in 2026.

And lastly, I once again invite any chapter member to attend any of our board meetings. We meet on the 2nd Wednesday of each month Sep-May at Friends-In-Deed from 0900-1030 hrs. Please come and see how your board operates and how it accomplishes the successful work that makes our chapter one of the best and most respected chapters in Arizona. We welcome your visit and your ideas.

(continued, next page)

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Green Valley Chapter • DESERT DUSTER NEWSLETTER

January/March 2025 & Winter Issue



Some additional reminders:

1. **MOAA's LEGISLATIVE ACTION CENTER:** If you have not already done so, please register at the Action Center on the National MOAA website, moaa.org, **Advocacy**, and send a message to your political representatives to support the various MOAA actions which help support all military members, retirees, veterans, and military families. Your voice is important to MOAA's legislative initiatives.
2. **MEMBERSHIP LEVELS:** If you are not already a Life Member of MOAA, please consider becoming one. If you do not wish to become a Life Member and are currently only a basic member, consider becoming a Premium Member to ensure your membership remains active. Go to the MOAA website, moaa.org, click on **WHY JOIN** to see the various membership levels and fees explained.
3. **MOAA VACATIONS:** MOAA Vacations can assist with every cruise line, ship, and tour company in the world, plus airfare and hotels. It is a benefit of MOAA membership and each time you book, your GV Chapter receives money. Go to moaa.org then to **BENEFITS, EXCLUSIVE DISCOUNTS, MOAA VACATIONS**.



Jack Bundy, CW3 USA (Ret)
2024-2025 Chapter President
Green Valley Chapter, MOAA

Become a Life Member!
Never Stop Serving!!

MOAA MISSION The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) is a nonprofit veterans' association dedicated to maintaining a strong national defense and ensuring **our nation keeps its commitments to currently serving, retired, and former** members of the uniformed services and their families and survivors. Membership is open to those who hold or have ever held a warrant or commission in any component of the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Space Force, Coast Guard, Public Health Service, or NOAA and their surviving spouses.



(L-R) The GV MOAA Chapter 2025 Board Members & Officers: Robert Lewis, Darren Venters, Bettie Rundlett, Lee Staab, Nora Durham, Jim Whitehead, Peggy McGee, and Jack Bundy were sworn in by Nicholas Knight, President of the AZ Council of Chapters.

They will officially assume the duties of the office to which they were elected on 1 January 2025.

Learn About the History of Sahuarita

Peggy McGee, 2nd Vice President/Programs & Monica Christiansen



Have you ever heard the rumor that land that is now Quail Creek used to be home for Prisoners of War during WWII? It is not a rumor but a fact. You can learn all about this piece of history and much more at the luncheon on January 16 when the Chapter will be hosting the Santa Cruz Valley Historical Society as they present historic WWII sites in our community.

The luncheon at American Legion Post 66, 1560 W Duval Mine Rd. will feature a Taco Bar with dessert. Cost is \$15. A social period will start at 11:30 with luncheon being offered at noon. There will be a cash bar available. The reservation form is on page 16. Deadline to register is **January 9.**

Oscar Gomez, former Sahuarita School District student, teacher, and Vietnam Veteran, will relate his personal memories interspersed with images and stories shared by his contemporaries.

In December, 1940, the War Department in Washington announced expansion plans for the Tucson Air Base with an investment totaling approximately \$2,211,212. As part of this National Defense Program, focused on the Army Air Corps strategy of sending “heavy bombers of the Flying Fortress type to fields in the interior—hidden from the Pacific Coast by high mountain ranges,” the Sahuarita Gunnery and Bombing Ranges were established.

Long-time Sahuarita residents have many memories associated with these sites that were in use through the early 1970s. Former students remember field trips to the gunnery range, the sounds of weapons firing and even the excitement of drones falling on their playground. Others recall dust trails and road damage from tanks traveling to the Sahuarita sites; repeated warnings to keep humans and livestock from roaming the property; discoveries of unusual artifacts in the surrounding desert; county, city and state level battles over property ownership and water rights; and even the outrage of a secret moonlight burial of \$300,000 worth of contaminated food and supplies from the TUSD cafeteria.

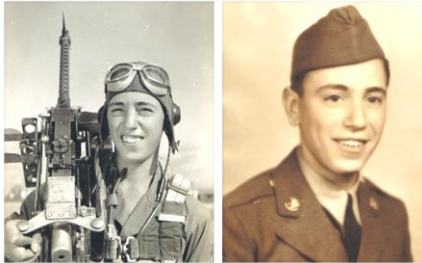
In 1944, local farmers, in cooperation with the Pima County Agricultural Extension Service and the Prisoner of War Program, established Camp Continental on the James B. Bull Farm. This POW work camp, located along the Nogales Highway between Sahuarita and Continental, played a critical role in the Valley economy while many local farm workers were overseas supporting the war efforts. Stories of this endeavor provide a critical war-time component of area history, as well as observations and interactions with the German captives who also lived there.

If you are unable to get your reservation mailed on time, please contact Peggy McGee at peggy@greenvalleymoaa.org or (520) 207-6188.

Photo: Oscar Gomez when he was on active duty.

WWII POW Survivor to Speak at March Luncheon

Peggy McGee, 2nd Vice President/Programs



Walter Ram who spent two long years in a German prisoner of war camp will be the speaker at our luncheon on Wednesday, March 19 at American Legion Post 66. The event will start with a social period at 11:30 with lunch being served at noon. The menu will include a potato bar followed by dessert for a cost of \$16. A cash bar will be available.

Walter will describe how he managed to survive his time in Stalag 17B, one of the notorious German POW camps during WWII. His seemingly impossible story of determination and will are what kept him going during his ordeal.

Walter Ram left high school to join the Army at the young age of 16. He was stationed with the 158th Infantry Regiment in Fort Sill, Oklahoma. The 158th Infantry Regiment is part of the Arizona Army National Guard.

During Ram's one year in the Infantry, he was transferred from Fort Sill to several other U.S. bases for training. After he was discharged, he returned to high school to get his diploma. But when WWII started only two months later, Ram left high school again to join the Army Air Corps in hopes of becoming a pilot. Since he left school before graduating, he was unable to become a pilot, and instead was trained as a radioman and gunner.

On July 16, 1942 Private Ram graduated from the Army Air Forces Technical School at Scott Field, Illinois and earned his diploma for completing his course for Radio Operators and Mechanics. In the same year, on August 19 Staff Sergeant Ram graduated from the Aerial Gunners Course and was immediately promoted to Tech Sergeant.

In 1943 Ram was assigned to Bassingbourn, England and was on the B-17E, affectionally named Helno-Gal, a four-engine bomber. Boeing developed the B17-E (nicknamed "Flying Fortress") especially for the U.S. Army Air Corps.

During WWI and WWII, it was common for servicemembers to paint and decorate their planes, and the B 17-E was no exception. The co-pilot of the plane wanted to name it "Corky", but everyone else said "Hell no!" and thus, Helno-Gal was born.

(continued, next page)

Helno-Gal was hit by German fighters on Ram's third mission in England. Fortunately, the full crew survived. Twenty-three days later on his sixth mission his B-17F was shot and exploded over Kiel, Germany.

Four of 10 crew members survived. Ram parachuted to safety but was ultimately captured by the Germans and sent to the infamous Stalag 17B, near Krems, Austria.

Today one can find Walter working as a docent on Mondays at the 390th Memorial Museum at the Pima Air & Space Museum.

If you are unable to get your reservation mailed on time, please contact Peggy McGee at peggy@greenvalleymoaa.org or (520) 207-6188. **Deadline is March 11.**

Member Spotlight on Angel Parrish

Peggy McGee, 2nd Vice President/Programs



Angel Parrish grew up mostly in Michigan, leaving there in 1994 to join the Navy on Active Duty. In 2000, she attended college at the University of West Florida. She was commissioned in 2003 and went on active duty with the Army in 2004, going to Germany and Iraq for her next 7 years of active duty. In 2011 she went into the Reserve. With her Bachelors degree in Criminal Justice, Forensic Studies, she naturally found her way to Fort Huachuca where she spent almost 13 years.

Angel earned her Masters in Psychology in 2010 from University of Phoenix and in 2019, a second Masters in Management. She has two children, Katarina and Joshua, and her husband Tim has two children, Deyanara and Graesyn, from a previous marriage. The couple was married in 2018 and lives in Sahuarita.

Angel was the first active-duty member to join the Green Valley Chapter in the 21st century but recently joined the ranks of the retired and reports that she is happy to be moving on to another chapter of her life. She is currently working as an investigative specialist at the Arizona Department of Child Safety in Tucson.

When she is not working, Angel enjoys hiking, running and volunteering with the pups at The Animal League of Green Valley.



Membership Update

Jack Bundy, President and Acting Membership Chair

HAPPY NEW YEAR to all members and associates of the Green Valley Chapter of the Military Officers Association. I hope you are all looking forward to another great program year of helping military families.



Our membership is still reasonably strong, but fluctuating, with several members having moved from our area. We now have 78 members in our membership database, which is down a bit from this time last year. Your continued support for our organization helps us work together to accomplish our missions. We all know former military officers who are eligible to join. Hopefully we can work together to recruit more members in 2025. Everyone knows that membership is stronger when we all get to know each other. That can easily happen when we attend at least some of our meetings and functions throughout the year and enjoy the camaraderie of being with others who share like histories and backgrounds. If you have not been attending, please come and renew acquaintances. We hope to see more of you in 2025.

Another way to keep us functioning as a viable charitable organization is to provide support for our Chapter through **DUES PAYMENT**. As I write this at the beginning of December, only 27 of the 78 members we have on our books have paid 2025 dues. To those who have paid, thank you very much. To those who have not yet had a chance to renew, it would be wonderful if you could do so.

You can send in your dues with the [Chapter Membership Application/Renewal Form on our website](#), which is also provided on pages 18-19 of this newsletter. **Or bring a dues check with you to one of our events!** Dues are still **only** \$25 per member and \$15 for a spouse, should you wish to have your spouse registered in our database. If you no longer want to participate in the chapter, please let me know, and I will remove your name from our database.



AND, IF YOU ARE NOT ALREADY, BECOME A MOAA REGULAR OR LIFE MEMBER! Cheers for a great start to 2025! Hope to see you all at one of our events soon!

JROTC Update

Marianne Rogers Faust, Director/JROTC Liaison & President, 501(c)(3) Fund

We recently received good news when we learned that the Army JROTC unit at Rio Rico High School now has a new senior instructor. He is LTC (Ret) Arturo Roque, originally from Puerto Rico where he joined the Puerto Rico National Guard in 1986. During his enlisted service in the Military Police, he served at Fort Carson, Colorado; Fort Clayton, Panama; and Fort Myer, Virginia. In 1997, after reaching the rank of Sergeant First Class, he was selected to attend the Army Reserve Officer Training Course at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs.

After being commissioned as a 2LT, LTC Roque's assignments included various positions such as an Executive Officer, a Chief of Promotions, a Deputy Chief of Staff for G-1 Personnel Plans, and as the J-1, Combined Joint Task Force Troy, (Baghdad, Iraq). He also served as the Liaison Officer to the Secretary of Defense (USMEPCOM), Washington, DC. Additionally, he served as the AG/G-1 officer for US Army Network Enterprise Technology Command, Fort Huachuca, AZ.

LTC Roque's military education included Military Police School, Military Police Investigation School, Airborne and Air Assault Schools, and the Combat Lifesaver Course. He deployed to Egypt, Panama, Guantanamo Bay (Cuba), Suriname (South America), Operation Iraqi Freedom (Kuwait and Iraq), Operation Spartan Shield and Enduring Freedom (Kuwait).

Some of LTC Roque's awards and decorations include a Legion of Merit, two Bronze Star Medals, two Defense Meritorious Service Medals, and three Meritorious Service Medals. He was also awarded one Joint Service Commendation Medal, four Army Commendation Medals, eight Army Achievement Medals, two Army Good Conduct Medals, the National Defense Service Medal with 1 star, the Southwest Asia Medal with 3 stars, and the Humanitarian Service Medal with 3 stars. LTC (Ret) Roque is married to the former Janet N. Jimenez and they live in Vail, AZ. They have four children; Alicia (34), Corey (27), Angel (22), and Rena (19).



Legislative News Update

Darren Venters, Legislative & Transition Director

MOAA needs members' help in getting the Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act ([H.R. 8371](#)) passed in Congress.

A yellow sticky note with the words "IMPORTANT DATES" written in a handwritten style. "IMPORTANT" is in black and "DATES" is in red with a red underline.

The following information comes from MOAA and needs action by **each of you** to ensure the passing of this bill **before the end of 2024**. This bill is of immense importance to all of us who are now and may in the future need long-term care or any of the other VA programs the bill supports.

You may read the complete MOAA article here: <https://bit.ly/DoleActArt>

Bipartisan, MOAA-supported legislation offering comprehensive improvements to veteran and caregiver benefits across the VA – from long-term care to mental health services to employment programs and much more – passed the House on Nov. 18 by a 389-9 vote and heads to the Senate with only a handful of days remaining on the legislative calendar.

The Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act offers a lifeline for all types of VA beneficiaries and has the support of more than 50 organizations. Its movement through the House is thanks to the dedicated efforts of House Veterans' Affairs Committee (HVAC) leaders along with the work of MOAA and partner organizations. Learn more about the array of programs in the omnibus legislation [at this link](#).

Congressman Juan Ciscomani, AZ CD 6, sponsored this bill.

TAKE ACTION: [Ask Your Lawmakers to Support the Dole Act](#)

Thank you for your quick action and continued support of MOAA's legislative priorities!!

Questions about Legislative issues may be directed to Darren Venters at (520) 490-4479.

How to Navigate the Legislative Action Center

Elliott Jones, 1LT (Former), President & Peggy McGee, 2nd Vice President/Programs

Some have written to their Congresspersons using the MOAA.org website but were not officially registered in the Legislative Action Center (LAC) Program. Although the letters got to the appropriate addressee, the Chapter did not get credit for them. Registration with the LAC is a prerequisite for getting “points” for letters for the Level of Excellence award. Former Chapter President Elliott Jones provided the following information which we hope will benefit our newer members as well as those who may not have gotten properly registered.

If you are NOT registered with the "Legislative Action Center"

1. Go to MOAA.org
2. Click on "**Advocacy**"
3. Click on "**Legislative Action Center**"
4. Click on red box in upper right "**Sign Up**"
5. Fill out the information required and submit.

You are now registered with the "Legislative Action Center"

Next:

1. Go to MOAA.org
2. Login to your MOAA account
3. Click on "**Advocacy**"
4. Click on "**Legislative Action Center**"
5. Under "**Active Legislative Campaigns**"
Click on "**Write**" (in a black box) to the right of the issue you want to write about.
6. When you click "**Write**" the next screen will be populated with letters to both of our Senators and to your Representative.
7. Scroll to the bottom and click on "**Submit Selected Letters.**"
8. You are done!



Surviving Spouse Corner

Submitted by Nora Durham, Surviving Spouse Liaison

A Season to be Grateful

Susan Collins, Surviving Spouse Advisory Board



The holidays are filled with special family times that include beautiful memories. These memories can be sweet and make you all warm inside, but they also can cause sad emotions relating to the loss of a loved one.

As the holiday approaches, it can be beneficial to focus effort and energy on what you are grateful for in your “new life” since the loss of a loved one.

I am grateful for:

- The enduring and unwavering support of my family, friends, and community — as a military surviving spouse, these are near and far.
- My good health that allows me to support my family and grandchildren as they grieve and help others as well.
- Being able to enjoy every new day. To be able to walk daily and enjoy meeting people, nature, trails, lakes, the ocean, sunrises, and sunsets.
- Beautiful memories and our legacy that I can pass down to my children and grandchildren.
- The strength and all the beauty life has to offer.
- My resilience to persevere.
- My faith. I look forward to meeting my spouse again.
- All life’s experiences. These experiences, whether they are good or bad, shape us throughout this life. They keep us alive.

For more information about MOAA’s Surviving Spouse program, please [click here](https://greenvalleymoaa.org/moaa-surviving-spouse) or visit the program’s page on our website (greenvalleymoaa.org/moaa-surviving-spouse) for the November 2024 issue of the SSVC Newsletter.

Christmas Came Early for the Fire Department

Peggy McGee, 2nd Vice President/Programs

The MOAA Elves were busy at work trying to make the holidays merrier for teens from low-income families in the local area. For the past several years, the local fire departments have been partnering with the Salvation Army to provide gifts to families and seniors.

According to the Santa Rita Fire Dept., teens are usually the forgotten ones when it comes to holiday gifts when families were strapped for cash, with younger children getting the bulk of the gifts. Being young at heart the MOAA members decided to focus on the teens. At their November meeting members provided basketballs, soccer balls and footballs, helmets and safety equipment for those who have bikes or skateboards, board games, and puzzles to representatives from the Fire Department. Gift cards, grooming products, and jewelry were also donated.



Photo: MOAA members and Santa Rita Fire Dept firefighters show some of the gifts donated for teens in the area. (Photo by John McGee)

Behind the Scenes Collector

Peggy McGee, 2nd Vice President/Programs



Long-time member CDR Irene Silverman, USN (Ret) always seems to remember that one of the Chapter's missions is to help homeless veterans. This year she once again energized her neighbors as the holidays approached, asking them to donate toiletries for homeless veterans served by the VA Hospital. After a slow start to the collection effort, her friends in Quail Creek's Unit 24 donated 45 pounds of travel sized toiletries. And several calendars too. Recalling her days as a Logistics Officer, Irene even packed the items by category which will make things easier for the VA.

Canned Goods Drive Made VA Happy

Peggy McGee, 2nd Vice President/Programs

Your Chapter was busy trying to give homeless veterans a reason to give thanks on Thanksgiving. Your Chapter sponsored its first ever collection of non-perishable foods for homeless veterans on November 16. This turned out to be one of the easiest projects we ever attempted. Why easy? There were just four members, Jack Bundy, Mike and Marianne Faust, and Peggy McGee who volunteered their driveways for the 2-hour collection period. And they didn't even have to be home. They just provided a box into which Quail Creek residents could put their donations.

And donate they did. We collected not only foods but also cleaning, paper and hygiene products and lots of dental products. When we delivered the items to the VA on the 18th, they had recruited enough helpers to unload the two cars that were full of donations. No work for MOAA!

The Chapter used the monetary donations to purchase hardy stews, beans, sardines and soups with flip top openings for those veterans who live on the streets and in tunnels.



Photo: Peggy McGee, front row, presented a check to Monica Oxford, Chief, Center for Development and Civic Engagement, to be used to further support the homeless veterans program. MOAA members (with MOAA caps) Mike Faust and Marianne Rogers Faust, who collected groceries at their house, are in the back row.

Chaplain's Corner

Robert D. Lewis, Chapter Chaplain

A number of years ago I purchased a Nativity Scene, I believe it was from Costco.

Each year I look forward to placing it on my great room mantel. My television is below the mantel, so when watching TV, you can't help but see the Nativity. The Nativity scene comes with the usual Magi figures, donkey, camel and other animals. Mary and Joseph, along with the baby Jesus, figurines are neatly spaced under a simple straw roof building. It is painted and actually very well done. I put a small light above the building roof to represent the Star over the manger. As the mantel is a focal point of the room, when you walk in, you can't help but see the Nativity (light). I guess I want the focus on the Nativity so I can stay focused on the true meaning of Christmas...the birth of Jesus.

It also reminds me that 33 years later God gave us the greatest gift of all...everlasting life to believers. A gift, that when received, He will never take back.

So, as we look for that special gift (treasure) for family and friends, please remember that the best gift of Christmas is Jesus.

May your Holidays and the New Year bring a resolve to make every day count as we embrace the opportunities God has given us. Treasure the time we have and use each day to choose love, hope and compassion.



Corporate Sponsors

Peggy McGee, 2nd Vice President/Programs

We are pleased to announce that Rob Sanchez, V.I.P. Mortgage, Inc., and Lisa Larkin, The Valley Team, RE/MAX, have both decided to re-up as Corporate Sponsors for another year. Rob's \$2500 donation will be used for scholarships for high school JROTC cadets while Lisa's will help fund Military Assistance projects. Lisa has also announced that she will donate 25% of her gross commission for any referrals that come to her through the Chapter.

We are grateful to both of them for their continued generous support for the Green Valley MOAA Chapter.

MOAA Donated 60 Turkeys for the Troops

Peggy McGee, 2nd Vice President/Programs

This year's annual *Turkey's for the Troops* project got its official start at Quail Creek's 4th of July flag raising ceremony when Chapter members sold 50-50 raffle tickets and collected donations for its annual collection. The positive response that day coupled with generous approval of a grant request submitted by Ken Cottrill enabled the Chapter to donate 20 \$50 gift cards each to three different Air Force units. The cards for the Davis-Monthan commissary were presented just in time for the junior airmen to buy a turkey and all the trimmings needed for a festive Thanksgiving meal.



Previously gift cards had only been given to the 162nd Wing, AZ Air National Guard, but this year because of the generous grant, two Reserve units, the 943d Rescue Group and 924th Fighter Group were also recipients of gift cards.

Photo: Lt Col Paul A. Brighton, Deputy Commander, 943d Rescue Group expressed his appreciation to Chapter member Darren Venters, Director, Legislative Affairs and Transition. (Photo by Peggy McGee)

VA Needs More Calendars

The VA is asking for more wall and pocket-sized calendars as well as planners so if you have any you can spare, please bring them to the meeting on January 16. They may also be dropped at 1908 E Longspur Place in Quail Creek. If you happen to get any travel-sized toiletries during your holiday travels, the VA would be happy to receive them too.



MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Green Valley Chapter • DESERT DUSTER NEWSLETTER

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JANUARY LUNCHEON RESERVATION FORM

Reservation form may also be found on the [GreenValleyMOAA.org website](https://GreenValleyMOAA.org)

January 16, 2025 • Social 11:30am – Luncheon 12noon

American Legion Post 66, 1560 W Duval Mine Rd

Please make your reservations by JANUARY 9.

Reserve _____ places

Cost: \$_____ (\$15 per person)

Featured for lunch will be a Taco Bar with dessert. A cash bar will be available.

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 at (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.



MARCH LUNCHEON RESERVATION FORM

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

March 19, 2025 • Social 11:30am – Luncheon 12noon

American Legion Post 66, 1560 W Duval Mine Rd

Please make your reservations by March 11

Reserve _____ places

Cost: \$_____ (\$16 per person)

Featured for lunch will be a Potato Bar followed by dessert. A cash bar will be available.

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: ☐

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MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Green Valley Chapter • DESERT DUSTER NEWSLETTER

January/March 2025 ✍ Winter Issue



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

2025 Chapter Membership/Renew Dues

Chapter Dues: (Military-\$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.

Please write a separate 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)

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Green Valley Chapter • DESERT DUSTER NEWSLETTER

January/March 2025 & Winter Issue



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

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

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EVENTS ~ CALENDAR DATES

January 16: Luncheon, American Legion Post 66
March 19: Luncheon, American Legion Post 66
May (1st week, TBD): Dinner, American Legion Post 66
September 18: TBD
October 16: Mix & Mingle, TBD
November 20: Dinner, TBD
December 11: TBD

The Board of Directors meetings are the second 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.

Check the Chapter website for Calendar updates:

greenvalleymoaa.org/news-events

2025 Chapter Dues Campaign continues!

WHY JOIN MOAA

MOAA's greatest mission is to improve the lives of those who serve and their families. Membership is open to active duty, former, retired, and National Guard and Reserve commissioned and warrant officers of the uniformed services and their surviving spouses.

2025 OFFICERS, DIRECTORS & CHAIRS

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Webmaster/Newsletter Editor: Marianne Cobarrubias
Phone numbers are 520 area code unless otherwise indicated

SPONSORS

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

A vertical rectangular advertisement with a patriotic theme. The top half features a large, stylized American flag with red and white stripes and a blue field with white stars. Below the flag, the text "WITH GRATITUDE" is written in large, white, serif capital letters. Underneath, "★ For Your Service ★" is written in a smaller, white, serif font. Below that, "We Proudly Sponsor MOAA" is written in a white, sans-serif font, followed by "Thank You" in a larger, white, serif font. At the bottom, there is a white rectangular box containing a small portrait of Lisa Larkin Esq., her name, title, contact information, and the RE/MAX logo. Below this box, a row of logos for various organizations is displayed, including the Green Valley Sahuarita Chamber of Commerce, SRES, and I.R.E.S.

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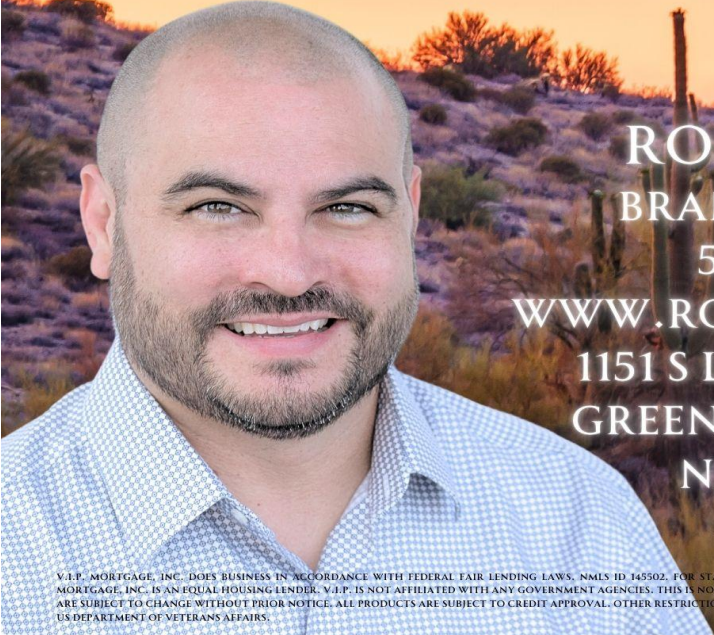
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MOAA National News

VA Cemeteries in 3 States Now Offering 'Green' Burials

Patricia Kime

[Department of Veterans Affairs](#) cemeteries in three states will now have specified sections for "green burials," giving veterans the chance to lessen the environmental impact of their interments.

The pilot program, which started this fall at the National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona in Phoenix; Pikes Peak National Cemetery in Colorado Springs, Colorado; and Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell, Florida, will provide an additional burial option at VA cemeteries, acting Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs Ronald Walters said in a recent news release.

According to Walters, the pilot will help the VA gather information and define procedures for expansion to more cemeteries.

"This pilot reflects our commitment to understand and address the emerging burial preferences of veterans and their loved ones," Walters said in the release.

[MOAA MEMBER EXCLUSIVE: [Your Guide to Military Burials](#)]

For a burial to be considered "green" by the VA, the body may be cremated or buried, but preparations must be free of chemicals or embalming fluids and the urn or casket must be biodegradable or securely wrapped in a biodegradable shroud.

The National Cemeteries Preservation and Protection Act of 2022 allowed the VA to establish sections of the graveyards for green burials. The National Cemetery Administration has always accepted naturally prepared remains or those in biodegradable containers for burial in national cemeteries, but the pilot will let veterans and their families select a final resting place tailored for their wishes.

The legislation also gave the VA the authority to decide what types of markers should be used to delineate the graves in these sections, as most green burial cemeteries do not feature upright headstones.

The VA manages 155 cemeteries nationwide and funds an additional 121 state, territorial and tribal veterans cemeteries. More than 4 million veterans are buried at national cemeteries, according to the department.

"Green" or natural burials are nearly as old as humankind, with prehistoric cultures burying their dead without preservation techniques. Embalming and other forms of preservation became popular only in the 19th and 20th centuries, and in the U.S. after the Civil War, according to the website for Serenity Ridge, the state of Maryland's first natural cemetery, which opened last year.

The House Veterans Affairs Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs subcommittee held a hearing Nov. 13 on the VA's plans to provide 95% of the nation's veterans access to a national, state or tribal veterans burial site within 75 miles of their homes.

In addition to managing its own cemeteries, the department provides grants to state, territorial and tribal entities that operate cemeteries for the purpose of burying veterans.

Rep. Morgan McGarvey, a Kentucky Democrat, praised the VA for what he called "innovative" practices such as its online database that honors America's veterans, known as the [Veterans Legacy Memorial](#), and the Green Burial Initiative.

"I think these are great examples of an innovative response approach to honoring our fallen veterans. I'm a big believer in innovation in the VA ... I love what you guys are doing," McGarvey said.

He noted, however, that some cemeteries, including one in his district, that contain veterans' remains, should be eligible for grant funds to help maintain the plots of those already interred across the U.S. "When we think about our veterans, honoring our veterans, honoring the men and women who served us, it's so important that they all rest in dignity and power," McGarvey said.



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The **Desert Duster Newsletter** is published by the members of the [Green Valley Chapter](#) of the [Military Officers Association of America](#) (MOAA). The newsletters are sent electronically to Chapter members and posted on our website's [News and Events page](#) (in a downloadable PDF format).

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*May you find peace and joy
in the New Year!*

