

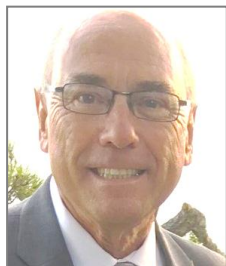
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Green Valley Chapter • DESERT DUSTER NEWSLETTER

September/October 2024 • Fall Issue



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Greetings Green Valley MOAA Chapter!



As I write this, we are now already into August and our summer hiatus is coming to an end.

Barbara and I have one more European Trip to Germany to finish out our summer travels, then

back to Green Valley for autumn. I know many of you are either traveling this month or are still back in your non-Green Valley residences. For our Green Valley MOAA Chapter, It is now time to get ready for September and our next Program Year with more new initiatives to help military families and a new schedule of events for our members to enjoy.

September also means it is time for us to start collecting Chapter dues for 2025. Member dues are \$25/year; Surviving Spouses and Auxiliary Spouses dues are \$15/year.

Our first board meeting will be held at Friend-in-Deed, 0900 hours on Wednesday, September 4, 2024. The other board meetings from October 2024 – May 2025 will be held the 2nd Wednesday of each month, same time/location. All members are always welcome to attend.

IMPORTANT: *Speaking of the board, we always need HELP! We must have a list of our new 2025 board member candidates ready for our November 21st meeting. Some of the current board members have agreed to remain on the board for another year; however, as in all years, there are those who have come to the end of their time on the board. If you would like to be a board member, I would love to talk to you about it.*

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QUICK LINKS

[GV MOAA WEBSITE](#)

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



We're on Facebook: facebook.com/GVMOAA
MOAA.org/takeaction
[MOAA's "Never Stop Serving" Podcasts](#)

[Surviving Spouses webpage](#)

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Even if you would like to just help in one capacity or another as an assistant to a board member that, too, would be greatly appreciated. We need help with grant writing, program administration, our JROTC Scholarship Program, our University of Arizona Veteran Student Grant Program, Legislative Affairs, Finance, Community Outreach, or Fundraising just to name a few. We have an active Surviving Spouse Member on our board, and we can always use additional individuals to help in that area. You don't even have to be a Surviving Spouse to help. We will also need a new Secretary in 2026. AND IT'S NOT JUST MILITARY MEMBERS WHO CAN SERVE. MEMBER SPOUSES ARE ALSO WELCOME TO BE BOARD MEMBERS OR ASSISTANTS! We are always looking for willing participants who want to be involved in helping plan and execute our missions. Please give it your heart-felt consideration. We would love to welcome you to our Board of Directors!

Some Additional Reminders:

- **MOAA's LEGISLATIVE ACTION CENTER:** if you have not already done so, register on the National MOAA website, moaa.org, Advocacy, and send a message to your political representatives to support the various MOAA initiatives which help support all military members, retirees, veterans, and military families. Your voice is important to MOAA's legislative missions.
- **MEMBERSHIP:** Open to active duty, former, retired, Reserve and National Guard commissioned and warrant officers of the uniformed services (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Space Force, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and Public Health Services) and their surviving spouses.
 - a. **There are four types of MOAA Membership:** Basic Membership, Premium Membership, Surviving Spouse of Deceased Member, and Life Membership. 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) and click on WHY JOIN to see the various membership levels explained and the costs for each. (See the Chapter Membership News, page 9, for more information.)

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- **MEETINGS:** We encourage each of our members to attend the luncheon and/or dinner meetings we have. Please look at the schedule on our website for upcoming events. (greenvalleymoaa.org) and click on “News and Events.” The schedule is also on page 20. Our next gathering will be **19 September:** Dinner at La Posada. The reservation form is on page 6 of this newsletter. **We would love to be able to greet each of you there! It's what we love about MOAA. Camaraderie at its best!**



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

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.

VA Needs 2025 Calendars

Peggy McGee

If you have gotten more 2025 calendars in the mail than you and your family members can possibly use, the VA Hospital would be glad to get them. “*What do they do with them?*” you might ask. Whenever a veteran comes in for treatment which will require multiple visits, they give him or her a calendar with all the subsequent dates and times filled in. And some veterans may come for counselling, job assistance, or clothing in addition to medical appointments so that all goes on the calendar. You can help a veteran by donating a calendar or two or more and keeping the excess out of the landfill.

They can also use unopened toiletries if you travelled over the summer and brought home some extra soaps, shampoo and conditioner with you.

Bring all items to the dinner on September 19 or the Mix & Mingle on October 17. If you won't be at the meetings and still want to help, you may drop off calendars and toiletries at the McGee's, 1908 E Longspur Place, the first right after the Quail Creek waterfall.



Prices Keep Going Up, Up, Up

Peggy McGee, 2nd Vice President/Programs



If you have had anything to eat recently, be that at a restaurant, fast food joint or even at home, we don't have to tell you that prices still seem to be increasing, if not for everything, at least for some food items. This reality has now hit home for our meals at La Posada where we have enjoyed \$20 hearty meals for the past couple of years.

Unfortunately, La Posada has increased its prices significantly. A meal that we paid \$20 for in the spring is now \$33. And unlike in the past, La Posada is now charging a service fee (AKA tip amount) and a room rental fee which is a flat fee whether we have 10 people in attendance or 50.

These fees are typical of the amounts we have been charged at Grill on the Green, Desert Diamond Casino, and other restaurants we have checked out. The good news is that the price of cocktails has not increased.

We are committed to La Posada for the remainder of the year but will be exploring other options for 2025. If you are aware of other venues in your communities that have a private room and can seat at least 40 people, please let us know at peggy@greenvalleymoaa.org. A meeting hall in your HOA which would allow us to hire a caterer might be another option.

We thank you for your understanding and support as we investigate other places to hold our meetings.



Second Chance Tucson is Focus for September Dinner

Marianne Rogers Faust, Director/JROTC Liaison
Peggy McGee, 2nd Vice President/Programs

After our long summer break from social events, the Chapter will have four meetings between September and December 2024. The events will be held in the El Dorado Room in the La Perla Building on the La Posada campus.

Veronica Torres will be the guest speaker at our September 19 dinner. After being incarcerated for several years, Veronica now represents the organization, **Second Chance Tucson** (SCT), which is a coalition of non-profit, faith-based, governmental, law enforcement agencies, and employers. Their focus is on reducing recidivism and increasing community awareness about reentry, with an emphasis on employment. They do this through a combination of community education, volunteerism, and employment outreach.

Second Chance Tucson was inspired by former Tucson Mayor Jonathan Rothschild and US Magistrate Judge Charles Pyle. It began as an idea the Mayor and Judge had to hold a reentry forum in 2014 to celebrate the anniversary of the signing of the Second Chance Act - federal legislation that funds reentry programs - and has grown from there.

Veronica will be accompanied by one of the founders of SCT, Retired US Magistrate Judge Charles Pyle.

The group hosts Forums to help raise awareness about reentry, and the challenges returning citizens face. The focus is on why it is important to our entire community that returning citizens are successful. The cost of the dinner will be \$43 and will have three dinner choices, Chicken Cordon Bleu, Grilled Mahi Mahi, or Vegan Salisbury Steak. The reservation form is on page 6. Deadline to sign up will be September 11.

SECOND CHANCE TUCSON

successful strategies for community reintegration

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SEPTEMBER DINNER RESERVATION FORM

Reservation form may also be found on the GreenValleyMOAA.org website

19 September 2024 • 4:00 – 6:00 PM

La Posada Campus (Green Valley) • La Perla Bldg. ► El Dorado Room

Please make your reservations by SEPTEMBER 11.

Reserve _____ places

Cost: \$_____ (\$43 per person)

MENU CHOICES:

- #1 Chicken Cordon Bleu, Cream Sauce
- #2 Grilled Mahi Mahi, Pineapple Relish
- #3 Vegan Salisbury Steak, Brown Gravy

Indicate menu choice (#) next to your name, below.

All entrees accompany Mashed Potatoes and Vegetable Medley. 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 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.

Member Spotlight: Tom and Audrey Garnella

Peggy McGee, 2nd Vice President/Programs



We welcome our newest members, 1LT Tom and Audrey Garnella. In true patriotic fashion, they joined the Chapter on Independence Day. Tom served in the Army from 1968-1971. After completing the Infantry OCS at Ft Benning, GA, Tom was assigned to the Medical Service Corps where he was assigned to admin positions. He also served a tour in Vietnam.

Tom graduated from San Fernando Valley State College with a B.A. in Elementary Education and earned his M.A. in Educational Administration and Social Science from California State University in Northridge. He earned a Ed. D. from the University of Southern California in 1981. An educator and

Public School District Administrator, other than his time in the Army, Tom spent his entire career in academia in roles as teacher, Assistant Principal, Assistant Superintendent, Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent for Business Services in three different school districts in CA.

Outside of the classroom Tom enjoys golf and music. He was also very active in American Legion Post 53 in Hemet, CA. Over the years, he also donated 26 gallons of blood.

Audrey was raised in Rapid City and Hermosa, SD and then her family of five moved to Ontario, CA when she was 14. From a rural elementary school in SD, she graduated from 8th grade with one other student. She reported that transitioning to a high school with 400 students produced some anxiety. She married young, had three children and eventually lived in San Jacinto, CA, as a single mother, working as a Secretary in public school districts.

Tom, who had no children, and Audrey married on Valentine's Day, 1999. They subsequently moved to Hemet, CA where they enjoyed dancing, playing Hand 'n Foot cards with friends, volunteering with non-profit groups, travelling with their local Corvette as well as RV clubs, and supporting various organizations.

Both Tom and Audrey were involved with the Hemet Community Concert Association which annually produced five classical music concerts with world-class artists. They volunteered many years with them, Tom being Treasurer, then Concert Manager and finally, President. Audrey was Secretary for a couple years.

In October 2023 they sold their home in the citrus heights area of east Hemet and bought a down-sized/right-sized home in Green Valley where they are enjoying the relaxed pace, meeting wonderful friends, joining a couple GVR clubs, ceramics, photography, attending church, playing cards, and music, music, music.

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Time is Running Out to Purchase Jim Click Raffle Tickets

Peggy McGee

For the past few years, we have been selling the Jim Click raffle tickets to raise funds for scholarships but so far this year, sales have been painfully slow. In case you are not familiar with the Jim Click program, here are some details.

Mr. Click is a very successful car salesman in Tucson. Since 2003, Jim Click, Jr. has sponsored 13 raffles for charities in the Greater Tucson area. Each year he donates a vehicle as the grand prize. An organization must be approved by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) non-profit to participate. Our Scholarship and Military Assistance (S&MA) fund definitely qualifies. Jim Click determines the selling price of the tickets. This year it is \$25 each or five for \$100. He also limits the number of tickets sold to 100,000.

Why is this so attractive to the charities with a \$25 price tag you may ask? Not a penny goes to Mr. Click but rather remains with the charity that sells the tickets.

This year the prizes include a fully loaded 2024 Jeep Wrangler Rubicon 4xe plug-in hybrid; two first-class round-trip tickets to anywhere commercial airplanes fly; or \$5000 cash. For the past couple of years there has been a winner the Green Valley area but so far no one from MOAA has won. Maybe this will be our year!

It looks like we will be able to offer up to four \$2,500 scholarships to graduating JROTC cadets from Sahuarita, Walden Grove, Rio Rico and Nogales High Schools in the current school year. It would be great if our Jim Click ticket sales could fund at least one scholarship.

Tickets will be available for purchase at our Sept. 19 dinner and Oct. 17 Mix & Mingle. Please bring some cash or your checkbook to support our efforts. Not yet back from your summer travels but would like to help the scholarship program? Contact Peggy (see above). Drawing will be held on Dec. 12.

Get your tickets from Peggy McGee
(peggy@greenvalleymoaa.org or 520-207-6188)
between now and December 7.
Checks payable to MOAA S&MA Fund.

THE JIM CLICK
MILLIONS
FOR TUCSON
RAFFLE

WIN ONE OF
THREE
GREAT PRIZES!

2024

GRAND PRIZE
NEW 2024 JEEP WRANGLER
RUBICON 4xe PLUG-IN HYBRID

2ND PRIZE
TWO ROUND-TRIP, FIRST CLASS
AIRLINE TICKETS TO ANYWHERE
IN THE WORLD!

3RD PRIZE
\$5,000 CASH!

TICKET PRICE
\$25 EACH OR 5 FOR \$100

Raffle benefiting Tucson charities
100% of funds raised stays here.

The Jim Click Automotive Team is presenting a NEW 2024 Jeep Wrangler Rubicon 4xe to the entire community to be used as the featured prize in our ongoing effort to raise millions of dollars for non-profit organizations in Southern Arizona. With your \$25 contribution you could win this stunning vehicle or one of two other great prizes! The best part is that 100% of your contribution will support Southern Arizona charities that keep all the proceeds from the maximum 120,000 tickets which will be sold. The drawing will be held on December 12, 2024. Entries must be received by December 8, 2024 at Raffle Headquarters.

For campaign and ticket information, contact the Millions for Tucson Raffle Management Team at 520.342.5210 or at: jimclickraffle@russellpublic.com

*Restrictions apply. Please see Millions for Tucson Raffle Rules | millionsfortucson.org | Raffle Management Headquarters: 1826 E. Ft. Lowell, Suite 102, Tucson, AZ

(Flyer credit: John McGee)

Chapter Membership News

Elliott Jones, Immediate Past President/Membership



Our Chapter membership has grown to a total of 89 members. Additionally, we have 31 registered auxiliary spouses. We need your help to continue the support we provide for the military community here in southern Arizona. Additionally, if you have friends or neighbors who would qualify for membership in our Chapter, please encourage them to join.

Membership is open to active duty, former, retired, Reserve and National Guard commissioned and warrant officers of the uniformed services (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Space Force, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and Public Health Services) and their surviving spouses.

DUE\$ FOR 2025

You can mail your dues payment, along with the membership form: [Membership Information . Application and Renewal Form](#) found on our MOAA Green Valley website: greenvalleymoaa.org to Green Valley MOAA, P.O. Box 1535, Green Valley, AZ 85622-1535 or bring your dues to one of our upcoming events. The two-page Membership renewal form can also be found on pages 18-19 of this newsletter.

Dues amounts have not changed. They are still \$25 per military member and \$15 for a spouse, should you wish to register your spouse.



***We welcome your support
for our Chapter!***

Join the MOAA Hunger Walk Team

Peggy McGee



Here's a great way to get in your 10,000 steps on September 14. Just join the Green Valley MOAA Hunger Walk Team to support the Green Valley/Amado Food Bank.

The event will start at 8 a.m. at Historic Canoa Ranch. Cost is \$25 per person.

Entrants get a t-shirt and we are told the Longhorn Grill Food Truck will be providing complimentary breakfast burritos to entrants.

If you get there around 7:30, you can take part in some of the fun activities to include line dancing to limber up.

Wear your MOAA shirt and/or MOAA cap, if you have one.

Dogs on a leash can walk, too, at no charge.

To register, go to:
communityfoodbank.org/event

If you join the team, please let us know at peggy@greenvalleymoaa.org.

SAVE THE DATE

Hunger Walk 2024

Saturday, September 14, 2024
Historic Canoa Ranch



Registration open!

(520) 525-6744
communityfoodbank.org/HungerWalk

Register today! 

 **COMMUNITY FOOD BANK**
OF SOUTHERN ARIZONA
#HungerWalk2024   

Legislative Updates: Dates to Know as Congress Nears Key NDAA, Budget Deadlines

Darren Venters, Legislative Affairs/Transition Liaison

A yellow rectangular graphic with a slight drop shadow. Inside, the words "IMPORTANT" and "DATES" are written in a red, hand-drawn, sans-serif font. "DATES" is underlined with a red line.

IMPORTANT
DATES

Find out what is next for your lawmakers and learn how you can have influence for MOAA's top legislative priorities.

There's been no shortage of political news in recent days, but the vast majority of coverage has steered clear of the lawmaking process – a process which will, for better or worse, set the course of service-earned benefits, fair pay for those in uniform, and a host of other MOAA priorities, regardless of the latest headlines.

Here is a look at some key dates as the congressional calendar moves forward. Remember: The best way to ensure you can make your voice heard in Washington is to register with MOAA's [Legislative Action Center](#), where you'll find pre-written messages about top MOAA issues to send to your legislators, contact information to reach out to lawmakers' offices, and a [recap of MOAA's key areas of concern](#) for this election year.

Aug. 1: The last day both the House and Senate were to be in session before leaving for a five-week recess. In the coming days, MOAA will make additional resources available to members seeking to reach out to their lawmakers during this break, which many House and Senate members will use to connect with constituents.

Sep. 9: Both the House and Senate return to work for a three-week stint. This period represents the last chance for Congress to pass a budget before the end of the fiscal year – a key duty of lawmakers, one that they've [failed to accomplish](#) (with rare exceptions) for [several decades](#).

Sep. 27: The end of the three-week working period. Both chambers will adjourn until after the election.

Sep. 30: The end of the current fiscal year.

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Nov. 5: [Election Day](#). Don't forget to vote.

Nov. 12: Both the House and Senate return for a "[lame-duck](#)" session. Despite the name, this session may prove critical to the advancement of the FY 2025 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), must-pass legislation which contains [many key MOAA priorities](#). After the 2022 midterm elections, for instance, that year's NDAA saw dozens of legislative actions during the lame-duck session, eventually moving to the president's desk and [becoming law before year's end](#).

Nov. 21: The last day both chambers are in session prior to the Thanksgiving holiday.

Dec. 2: The Senate begins its three-week, year-end session; the House starts the following day.

Jan. 3, 2025: Start of the 119th Congress.

During the legislative period outlined above, lawmakers will consider not only the NDAA, but the [12 appropriations bills](#) needed to keep the federal government funded, along with a host of other legislative priorities, to include key [omnibus veterans benefits legislation](#). As MOAA's advocacy team continues its work on the Hill, your grassroots advocacy during this period will help send our message to key lawmakers, many of whom will be paying special attention during their reelection campaigns.

Keep up with opportunities to make your voice heard at [MOAA's Advocacy News page](#).

Your TRICARE Guide to Overseas Travel

Planning a trip overseas? Whether you are traveling for work or leisure, it is a good idea to know how your TRICARE plan works outside the United States.

Here are key things to know before getting health care in another country. Read the link [Your TRICARE Guide to Overseas Travel > TRICARE Newsroom > TRICARE News](#)

Don't forget to keep your family's information up to date in [DEERS](#).

Check out MOAA's Financial Calculators [MOAA - Calculators](#).

Get customized reports, detailed data, and clear graphics to help plan your financial future.

JROTC News

Marianne Rogers Faust, Director/JROTC Liaison

Many of the Naval JROTC cadets from Sahuarita and Walden Grove High Schools were busy this summer. In early June, several male cadets participated in the Boys State competition at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff. And several female cadets took part in the Girls State competition at the University of Arizona in Tucson. These competitions help participants learn more about our government from the township to state level. Several cadets also attended the Naval JROTC Leadership Academy at McGregor Range, NM, which is part of Fort Bliss, TX (photo).



And many cadets participated in the Raider Camp at Mt. Lemmon. Then in July, several cadets attended the Military Order of the World Wars (MOWW) Arizona Leadership Academy at Papago ANG Base, AZ. Both Sahuarita and Walden Grove High Schools started classes on August 5th.

The cadets at Rio Rico High School started classes on August 7th, but they did not have any Army JROTC activities during the summer. As many of you know, their senior instructor, LTC St. Clair, retired in May at the end of the last academic year. MSG Moore and the school administrators are hoping for a replacement to arrive sometime soon.

The Air Force JROTC program at Nogales High School also does not have a senior instructor, but SMSgt Harvey has agreed to stay on for one more year. That is great news for that program and we sincerely hope that another instructor will be hired soon.

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Chaplain's Corner

Robert D. Lewis, Chapter Chaplain



With Labor Day soon to be in our rear-view mirror, the fall and winter months bring a new season for your Chapter's activities. First, we are always looking for members to inquire about Board positions as well as become assistants to Board Members that need some help. I encourage you to reach out to any Board Member to see how you can support the leadership team.

Second, we have lists on our website, greenvalleymoaa.org, where you will find the 2024/2025 Board meetings and member luncheons/dinners. Members are invited to attend the Board Meetings and encouraged to attend the luncheons/dinners. And don't forget the Mix & Mingle cocktail party on October 17. See reservation form on page 17.

Third, every other year National MOAA requests an opportunity to attend one of our events. This has a positive impact on our overall Chapter status. This year we will welcome the National MOAA Representative to our dinner on November 21 at La Posada. It is especially important for the Chapter that as many members as possible attend this dinner. Please add to your calendar now to keep this date available.

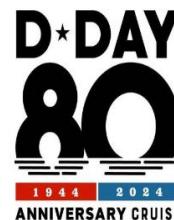
I hope everyone has registered to vote. As a military member you have more than earned the right to vote. I ask you to continue to stand up for liberty and vote!

May the Lord watch over you, bless you and give you His peace.

A Trip to Remember – the 80th Anniversary of D-Day

Nora Durham, Surviving Spouse Advisory Council/Surviving Spouse Liaison

I began my life around the military. My daddy was in the United States Marine Corps. My granddaddy--along with his 42-foot fishing boat, the Ranger--was in the Coast Guard. My Uncle Jesse was in the Army. And, my late husband, Tom was a United States Marine Corps Naval Aviator with two tours in Vietnam. As for me, I worked as a Civil Servant for the Department of Defense (DOD) for 38 years and then retired in 2004.



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On June 6, 2024, I had the pleasure and honor of being present on the beach in Normandy, France, to commemorate the 80th anniversary of D-Day. We were there to pay homage to all of our military who paid the ultimate price that fateful day and to recognize all who fought so hard.

I was able to experience this memorable event as a passenger on a MOAA Signature Cruise, traveling on the Seine River from Paris to Normandy. This cruise, organized by MOAA Vacations, was designed specifically for MOAA members, family, and friends. The attention to detail, from food to sights, set this MOAA cruise apart from other cruises I have taken.

I had not realized how much I missed the military camaraderie until I was shoulder-to-shoulder with the elite of the elite. There were approximately 200 retired military, spouses, surviving spouses and their guests on this cruise. Military service was our common thread. For example: the war stories that were as fresh as the day they happened; the acronyms the DOD personnel used to confuse the enemy; and hearing over and over, "where did you serve?" when meeting someone for the first time.

The visit to the beaches of Normandy, without a doubt, was cathartic for many of us. A quiet reverence overcame our group just knowing we stood where the carnage took place 80 years ago. Beautiful monuments have been erected to pay homage to the military that fought there and their memory. One was engraved with the following message: "To the memory of the heroic dead of the 90th Infantry Division U.S. Army 6 June 1944 - 9 May 1945."

Back on board the ship we shared our thoughts about our D-Day Commemoration experience with our old and new friends. To cap it off in a style for which our military is famous, we had an impactful ceremony on the upper deck spearheaded by the MOAA Chair of the Board of Directors, Gen. Gary L North USAF (Ret). His focus was on those who gave their lives for peace. He honored their memory with the eloquence of his heartfelt words. The ceremony ended with Taps and then we each tossed a white rose in the Seine. Those 200 white roses floating in the water signified the deep connections we have with our fallen military. It was a trip and experience that I will remember forever!!

I have already signed up for the MOAA Cruise for a Cause 2025: Burgundy and Provence, Lyon to Arles, September 14-21, 2025. Proceeds from this cruise support the uniformed services and veteran communities through the MOAA Foundation. I have three friends who will accompany me! I am sure there will be many more trips in the future. I hope you will join me!

If you book a trip through MOAA Vacations, they will send the Chapter a check that represents a small percentage of your booking costs. To book a trip, please contact Jon Brenneman (jon@moaavac.com) or Mike Tyrell, (mike@moaavac.com). They can also be reached at 913-660-0121 or 800-211-5107.

Food for the Troops: 2024 Another Success

Peggy McGee

The annual *Food for the Troops* Collection on Independence Day showed once again how the Quail Creek residents appreciate the sacrifices made by military personnel. Their donations of non-perishable foods and paper products helped fill the empty shelves in the 162nd Wing, AZ Air National Guard's pantry.



Empty shelves

Then... full shelves!



Quail Creek resident, Bob Smith, was the lucky winner of the 50-50 raffle. The money raised from this raffle goes towards your Chapter's *Turkeys for the Troops* program. With the money from direct donations, coupled with proceeds from the raffle, the Chapter will be able to provide gift cards for the Davis-Monthan commissary to enable the junior enlisted troops to buy a turkey and all the trimmings needed for a festive Thanksgiving dinner.

Many also purchased Jim Click raffle tickets in hopes of winning a fully loaded 2024 Jeep Wrangler Rubicon 4xe plug-in hybrid; two first-class round-trip tickets to anywhere commercial airplanes fly; or \$5000 cash. The money raised from this raffle helps fund the \$2500 scholarships awarded to cadets from the JROTC programs at the local high schools as well as \$1000 stipends for veterans enrolled in the University of Arizona.



(Before and after photos of the 162nd Wing pantry.)

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MIX & MINGLE RESERVATION FORM

Reservation form may also be found on the GreenValleyMOAA.org website

17 October 2024 • 4:00 – 6:00 PM

La Posada Campus (Green Valley) • La Perla Bldg. ► El Dorado Room

Please make your reservations by October 9.

Reserve _____ places

Cost: \$_____ (\$25 per person)

MENU CHOICES: (there will be no individual meals at the Mix & Mingle Cocktail Party)

This event will feature hors d'oeuvres.

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 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.

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

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

2024 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

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR for these dates!

19 September: Dinner, La Posada

17 October: Cocktail Party, La Posada

21 November: Dinner, La Posada

12 December: Holiday Dinner, La Posada

2025 Chapter Dues Campaign begins!

The Board of Directors meetings are the first 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

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.

2024 OFFICERS, DIRECTORS & CHAIRS



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MOAA • GREEN VALLEY CHAPTER • 2024 Officers & Board Members			Webmaster/Newsletter Editor: Marianne Cobarrubias <small>Phone numbers are 520 area code unless otherwise indicated</small>		

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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 blue stars on a dark blue background. The text "WITH GRATITUDE" is prominently displayed in large, white, serif capital letters. Below it, "★ For Your Service ★" is written in a smaller font, followed by "We Proudly Sponsor MOAA" and "Thank You" in white. The bottom section is a white-bordered box containing a photo of Lisa Larkin Esq., her contact information, and the RE/MAX Professionals logo. At the very bottom, a row of logos includes the Equal Housing Opportunity logo, the MLS logo, the Green Valley Sahuarita Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center logo, the SRES logo, the SEMAX Hall of Fame logo, and the I.R.E.S. logo.

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Associate Broker/ Team Leader
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*Waived \$300 no lender fee available for VA loans that have a triggered RESPA app date as of January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023 at 11:59pm EST. This offer does not extend to Housing Finance Agency loans. "Triggered RESPA" in accordance with Regulation X, is defined as lender receipt of all six pieces of information received in a secure format: applicant name, property address, home value, loan amount, income and ZIP. Not all borrowers will be approved. Borrower's interest rate will depend upon the specific characteristics of borrower's loan transaction, credit profile and other criteria. Offer not available from any d/b/a or operations that do not operate under the Guaranteed Rate name. Restrictions apply. Guaranteed Rate, Inc. has no affiliation with the US Department of Housing and Urban Development, the US Department of Veterans Affairs, the US Department of Agriculture or any other government agency. United Service Organizations, Inc. (USO) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization (EIN/Tax ID: 13-1804941) and not part of the Department of Defense (DoD). Using funds from a Cash-out Refinance to consolidate debt may result in the debt taking longer to pay off as it will be combined with borrower's mortgage principle amount and will be paid off over the full loan term. Contact Guaranteed Rate for more information.

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MOAA National News

Retirees, Veterans May See Only a Small Cost-of-Living Benefit Boost Next Year

Recipients of [Social Security](#) checks and veterans benefits payouts could see a [cost-of-living adjustment](#) of less than 3% in 2025, the lowest mark since before the COVID-19 pandemic, according to an independent watchdog group.

Officials from [the Senior Citizens League](#) — an affiliate of TREA: The Enlisted Association — last week announced their latest projection for Social Security COLA rates for the upcoming year, estimating the figure will be less than 2.6%.

[UPDATED MONTHLY: [MOAA's COLA Watch](#)]

In a statement, the group said that figure is “substantially lower” than the [3.2% adjustment that was implemented at the start of 2024](#). The cost-of-living adjustment rate hasn’t been below 3% since early 2020, when it was down to 1.3%.

Social Security officials typically announce their cost-of-living calculations for the coming calendar year in early October.

In recent years, estimates unveiled by the Senior Citizens League’s in late summer have come within a percentage point of the official adjustment mark

The Social Security announcement is of particular interest to veterans because Congress [annually ties the increase in veterans payouts to the Social Security Administration’s calculations](#).

[RELATED: [COLA Crunch Time: How the Adjustment Will Take Shape in the Coming Weeks](#)]

About 5 million veterans and 2 million military retirees receive benefits checks each month through the Department of Veterans Affairs. The COLA-increase would apply to payouts for disability compensation, clothing allowances, and dependency and indemnity benefits, as well as some other Veterans Affairs assistance programs.

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For a veteran receiving \$1,500 a month in disability payouts, a cost-of-living adjustment of 2.6% would mean an extra \$39 each month. In 2023, that figure soared to 8.7%, or about \$130 a month for that same veteran.

Social Security officials calculate the annual cost-of-living adjustment based on the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers. If those laborers don't see a rise in their annual salaries, federal planners can determine that no adjustment is needed.

However, Senior Citizens League officials said the government's "failure to return inflation to pre-pandemic levels" has put additional pressure on seniors and veterans benefits recipients, making the size of the adjustment crucial for many the financial health of many households.

74 Senators Back a Plan to Help Combat-Injured Vets. Why Won't They Vote on It?

In today's polarized political climate, it's extraordinary to see members of Congress find common ground on anything. So, it's disheartening when a plan supported by *more than 75% of lawmakers* that would undo a longtime injustice faced by combat-injured veterans could go without a floor vote for the second straight year.

[TAKE ACTION: [Ask Your Senators to Support the Major Richard Star Act](#)]

This procedural decision could derail the progress made by the wildly popular Major Richard Star Act, a bill supported by [74](#) senators and [327](#) House members (counting original sponsors) including the speaker of the House and the Senate majority leader. The bill corrects an oversight from the 2004 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) which docks the retirement pay of combat-injured veterans to save money in the DoD personnel account.

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This [updated information paper](#) answers all the questions about the bill except the one you should ask your senators, and their staffers, as they campaign in their home states this month: *Does it sound right to you that we are saving money in the DoD personnel account on the backs of our combat-injured veterans?*

What Can We Do?

It is an election year, and members of Congress want your vote. This makes your voice as a voter important on the campaign trail.

Be sure to attend town halls and rallies. Ask your senators not only to support the Major Richard Star Act, but to allow for a vote on the act to be included as an amendment to the FY 2025 NDAA. Ask your House members to support the Star Act in any way they can as the final NDAA takes shape.

[RELATED: [Wounded Warriors Meet With Legislators, Seek Senate Action on Star Act](#)]

In addition to attending these events, please activate your network and take these actions:

- Visit [MOAA.org/StarAct](https://moaa.org/StarAct) and send our updated message to your senators. It's a two-part request: Support our efforts to ensure the Star Act amendment receives a floor vote, and vote in favor of the amendment once it reaches the floor. As we've seen in the House NDAA proceedings, prior support and/or sponsorship for the bill does not always translate into meaningful action – this election year, constituents need to send a message to their senators that words aren't enough.
- **Reach out to your senators' offices** via MOAA's toll-free line to the U.S. Capitol switchboard – 866-272-MOAA (6622). Ask to speak with the military legislative assistant. Use [these talking points](#), or refer to [MOAA's Star Act issue paper](#) for additional materials.
- **Share all of the above** materials with your personal and professional networks – you don't need to be a MOAA member to send messages through the Legislative Action Center or to use our switchboard.

What the 2026 Military Pay Raise May Look Like ... and Why It Might Not Be Enough

Recently released salary figures point to a smaller raise for those in uniform in 2026 than in recent years, and while these numbers remain a key compensation guideline, MOAA is rallying support for major changes to the DoD pay table to ensure junior servicemembers can keep up with rising costs.

The Employment Cost Index (ECI) for private industry wages and salaries reached 4.1% for the three-month period ending in June, according to figures released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics [on July 31](#). Last year, that figure sat at 4.6%. If the figure remains lower than last year's entering September, it could result in a lower DoD pay raise, as the September figures, by statute, are used to compute future increases.

[TAKE ACTION: [Ask Your Lawmakers to Support MOAA's Summer Advocacy Campaign, Including a Junior Enlisted Pay Raise](#)]

The military pay raise has matched ECI every year for nearly a decade. It's a lagging indicator – the 5.2% raise servicemembers received in 2024 matches the September 2022 ECI, for example, and the proposed 4.5% raise for the coming year matches the September 2023 ECI.

While MOAA has worked to ensure uniformed services pay keeps up with this indicator – [after falling below it for three years](#) in the mid-2010s – it's become clear that for junior servicemembers, this increase isn't enough.

Pay for junior servicemembers (E-1 through E-4) has declined relative to E-5 pay since the start of the all-volunteer force, according to the [House Armed Services Committee Quality of Life Panel Report](#), thanks to a number of years where this cohort received either smaller-than-average raises or no pay boost at all.

To help these servicemembers and their families stay afloat – and to address ongoing recruitment and retention challenges – the panel recommended a 15% pay raise on top of the proposed 4.5% servicewide hike, and that recommendation was included in the House version of the FY 2025 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). The plan also includes a [13% overall hike for E-5s](#).

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The Senate's NDAA draft included a smaller increase of 5.5% for junior enlisted members (E-1 to E-3).

"The answer is probably somewhere in the middle," said Lt. Gen. Brian T. Kelly, MOAA's president and CEO, when reviewing this and [other MOAA Summer Advocacy in Action priorities](#), "But we're really supportive of them recognizing that this group of people ... needs a reset."

Beyond the ECI

Kelly called the increase "a once-in-a-generation" adjustment – one that's critical not just to the budgets of junior enlisted members and their families, but to the future of the all-volunteer force.

As Rep. Don Bacon (R-Neb.) – chairman of the Quality of Life Panel, retired Air Force brigadier general, and MOAA member – put it in [a recent press call](#), "If you don't take care of your people first, our military is going to fail. And we can't let that happen."

Any proposed adjustment would allow junior members to better address an array of financial pressures, whether unique to military service (PCS moves, military spouse unemployment concerns) or common to all in their age range (inflation, competitive rental markets). And this generational fix would be secured in future years by a reset to the pay table – one where the value of their pay would be ensured both by keeping future raises on pace with ECI and avoiding past mistakes that weakened this cohort's compensation when compared with fellow servicemembers.

Ask your lawmakers to [support this pay boost today](#), as well as other key MOAA priorities including a restored Basic Allowance for Housing and ongoing work on behalf of combat-injured service members. This election year, your voice will help MOAA make a difference.

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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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