

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Greetings to all!

We have now moved into the summer hiatus months at our Chapter where we have no gatherings and our board does not meet. I hope all of you have great summer plans and will have some fun.



We closed out our Program Year on May 7th with an excellent awards dinner at the American Legion Post 66. Our Chapter awarded three \$2500 JROTC Scholarships to graduating cadets from the JROTC Programs at Nogales, Walden Grove, and Sahuarita High Schools. We hope that each of these JROTC cadets will have promising academic careers as they enter universities this fall. We also awarded three veteran students at the University of Arizona \$1,000 educational grants to help each with money toward their studies at the university. This is the second year we have provided these grants, and we are all very pleased that we can help these deserving veteran students. We hope to be able to expand this program next year.

As we look at the summer, our MOAA chapter will again have a table out in front of the Madera Clubhouse at Quail Creek for the Independence Day Celebration on July 4th. We will have this year's Jim Click Raffle giveaway car on display in front of our table, and we will be selling both Jim Click and 50-50 raffle tickets as well as collecting donations for the Food for Troops program.

[[MORE INFO: Jim Click Raffle](#)]

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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](#)

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Green Valley Chapter • DESERT DUSTER NEWSLETTER

June 2025 ✍ Summer Issue



So, come say hello to us on July 4th. Admire the vehicle. Donate some food. Buy some raffle tickets. Watch the parade. Honor our great country. We hope to see all of you there.

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

Become a Life Member!
We 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.

Chaplain's Corner -- Traveler's Prayer

Robert D. Lewis, CWO3 USA (Ret), Chapter Chaplain



With most of our members traveling this summer, I offer the following pray for you:

O God, our Heavenly Father, whose glory fills the whole creation... preserve those who travel; surround them with your loving care; protect them from every danger; and bring them in safety to their journey's end. Amen.

Darren Venters Wins National Award from MOAA

Peggy McGee, 2nd Vice President/Programs



It was a first for our Chapter when Lt. Col. Darren Venters, USAF (Ret), was selected for the annual Colonel Steve Strobridge Legislative Advocacy Award. This award recognizes individuals who have demonstrated superior leadership and service at the Council or Chapter level, advocating for issues of great importance to the military and veteran community. In addition to keeping Green Valley Chapter members informed and engaged, Darren has been actively involved in advocacy issues at the federal, state, county, and even local levels. He has made an enormous difference for countless military members, veterans, families, and survivors. He spends countless hours each week keeping abreast of legislative issues in Arizona as well as nationally.

The Affiliated Council and Chapter Team will be reaching out to Darren to coordinate the presentation of a crystal memento in recognition of his achievement.

VA Needs

Peggy McGee, 2nd Vice President/Programs



Summer is here and that means homeless veterans once again need hats and sunscreen. Hats can be used but should be washed before being donated.

And if you are travelling and happen to be staying in a hotel that still provides travel sized toiletries, please bring home unopened bottles and soaps if you can.

Items may be turned in at the MOAA table at Quail Creek's Madera Clubhouse on July 4 or left in the courtyard at 1908 Longspur Place at any time.

MOAA Awards Scholarships and Grants

Peggy McGee, 2nd Vice President/Programs



There was excitement in the air when the Chapter gathered at American Legion Post 66 to award scholarships and grants to JROTC cadets and seasoned veterans enrolled at the University of Arizona. Thanks to our corporate sponsors and our members who generously supported the Scholarship & Military Assistance (S&MA) Fund as well as those who purchased Jim Click raffle tickets throughout the year, our Chapter was able to award three \$2500 scholarships to graduating JROTC cadets from local high schools and three \$1000 grants.



Cadet Ismael Cheang, Jr., will use his scholarship when he enters the University of Arizona (UA) in the fall to study Mechanical Engineering. Cheang, a Colonel in the Air Force JROTC at Nogales High School, plans to join the ROTC in college and eventually join the Air Force.



Mitchell Reis, Sahuarita High School, will also be attending UA where he will tackle a double major in Management Information Systems and Finance.

Calan Shoals, Walden Grove High School, has been accepted by Grand Canyon University where he will study law with the ultimate goal of becoming a civil attorney. ➡



Both are cadets in the Naval JROTC Program at Sahuarita High School.

In addition to the scholarships, the Chapter awarded three \$1000 grants to veterans currently enrolled in undergraduate studies at UA. The grants may be used to support their studies—e.g., computers, supplies not covered by the GI bill, transportation.

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The veterans included:



Andrew Haight, who retired from the Air Force after spending 20 years on active duty, is pursuing a degree in Applied Biotechnology with a minor in Chemistry. His goal is to cultivate new yeast strains for brewing beer in a more energy efficient manner with fewer contaminants. He ultimately wants to establish his own brewery and taproom, designed with a veteran-centered theme with veteran-focused events and initiatives.



Kathy Nunez spent 8 years in the Marine Corps where she worked in the Public Affairs specialty. She completed her studies for a nursing degree in 2025 so will use the money to pay for additional courses in Advanced Cardiovascular and Advanced Pediatric Life Support. She plans to work as an RN for a couple years and then return to school to pursue a Nurse Practitioner doctorate.



Alexander Furste served 5 years in the Air Force and is currently a Political Science major with a concentration in International Relations. He is also enrolled in the ROTC program and looks forward to being commissioned in the USAF after he graduates in 2026. He hopes to be selected for pilot training after he completes his academic studies.

Blaze Smith, Director, VETS & ROTC Programs at UA, told those at the dinner how much the veterans appreciate the grants to help ease the financial burden of attending college.

(Photos) All awardees are shown with CW3 (Ret) Jack Bundy, Chapter President; Maj Gen (Ret) Jim Whitehead, Community Sponsor/Outreach Coordinator, and COL (Ret) Marianne Rogers Faust, JROTC Liaison & President, S&MA Fund.

A letter from one of the JROTC cadets thanking our Chapter for the scholarship is on page 6.

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We received the letter below from Naval JROTC Cadet Mitchell Reis expressing his appreciation for the scholarship and what winning it means to him.

22 May 2025

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

Dear Green Valley MOAA Members,

Thank you for the generous scholarship gift and hosting my parents and I at the scholarship dinner. As I said in my remarks that night, it is truly humbling to know that you have shown this much interest in my educational efforts.

I have been accepted at the University of Arizona this fall and will pursue a Business Management Degree in Eller College with an emphasis in Finance and additionally hope to pursue Management Information Systems.

Thank you again for your investment in my education.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mitchell Reis". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'M' and 'R'.

Mitchell Reis

Food for the Troops Collection Slated for July 1-4

Peggy McGee, 2nd Vice President/Programs

The Chapter will be collecting non-perishable foods as well as hygiene, paper, and cleaning products for the troops at the 162nd Wing, AZ Air National Guard. The annual *Food for the Troops* collection helps the young airmen when their funds run low at the end of the month as well as their families if they are deployed overseas. The troops continue to enjoy all types of Chef-Boy-R-Dee products, granola bars, pasta and sauces, tuna, and canned meats. Many have young children so dried fruit, cereal, fruit juices would also be appreciated.

Collection baskets will be available in the lobby of the Madera Clubhouse, 2055 E Quail Crossing Blvd., from July 1-4. MOAA volunteers will be in front of the clubhouse on July 4 between 7:15 and 9 a.m. to accept donations.



If it's too hot to shop but you still want to help, checks payable to MOAA S&MA Fund may be mailed to Green Valley MOAA, P.O. Box 1535, Green Valley, AZ 85622-1535 or mailed to or dropped off at 1908 E Longspur Place, 4th house up from the Quail Creek waterfall.

On July 4, right before and after the flag raising ceremony that will be conducted by the Naval JROTC cadets in front of the Clubhouse, we'll be selling 50-50 raffle tickets to support our *Turkeys for the Troops* program at Thanksgiving time. One does not have to be present to win the 50-50 raffle for which the winning name will be drawn in the afternoon on July 4. The 50-50 raffle tickets are 6 for \$5, 14 for \$10 or 30 for \$20. Bring address labels to prevent writer's cramp!

We will also be selling Jim Click raffle tickets for \$25 each or 5 for \$100. The money raised from this raffle is used to support scholarships for JROTC cadets and grants for veterans attending the University of Arizona. The 1st place prize, a 2025 Kia Carnival Hybrid SX Prestige, will be on display. The winning names for the vehicle, first class airline tickets for two to anywhere in the world commercial airlines fly and \$5000 cash will be drawn on December 11. [[MORE INFO](#)]

On Independence Day, please support the troops who are presently serving.

Photo: The 162nd's food locker before and after the 2024 Food for the Troops collection.

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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)

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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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EVENTS ~ CALENDAR DATES

January 16: Luncheon, American Legion Post 66
March 19: Luncheon, American Legion Post 66
May 7: Dinner, American Legion Post 66
September 18: Dinner, American Legion Post 66
October 16: Mix & Mingle, American Legion Post 66
November 20: Dinner, La Posada
December 11: Dinner, Desert Diamond Casino

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:

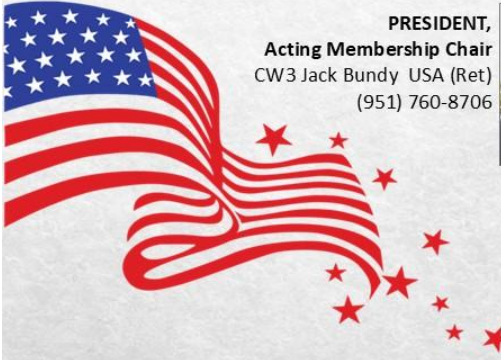











greenvalleymoaa.org/news-events

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

 PRESIDENT, Acting Membership Chair CW3 Jack Bundy USA (Ret) (951) 760-8706		1st Vice-President & Treasurer COL Lee Staab USA (Ret) (720) 345-7305		2nd Vice-President, Programs, Public Relations COL Peggy McGee USAR (Ret) 207-6188	
		Secretary Bettie Rundlett (509) 389-1696		JROTC Liaison Director & President, 501(c)(3) Fund COL Marianne Rogers Faust USAF (Ret) (210) 861-9440	
Legislative Affairs, Transition Liaison Lt Col Darren Venters USAF (Ret) 490-4470		Community/Sponsor Outreach Maj. Gen. James Whitehead, Jr. USAF (Ret) 475-8033		Historian COL Mike Faust USAF (Ret) (210) 861-9440	
Surviving Spouse Liaison Nora Durham (719) 232-9277		Chaplain, Personal Affairs Director CWO3 Robert Lewis USA (Ret) 481-6994		Grant Writer/ Coordinator VACANT	

MOAA • GREEN VALLEY CHAPTER • 2025 Officers & Board Members

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

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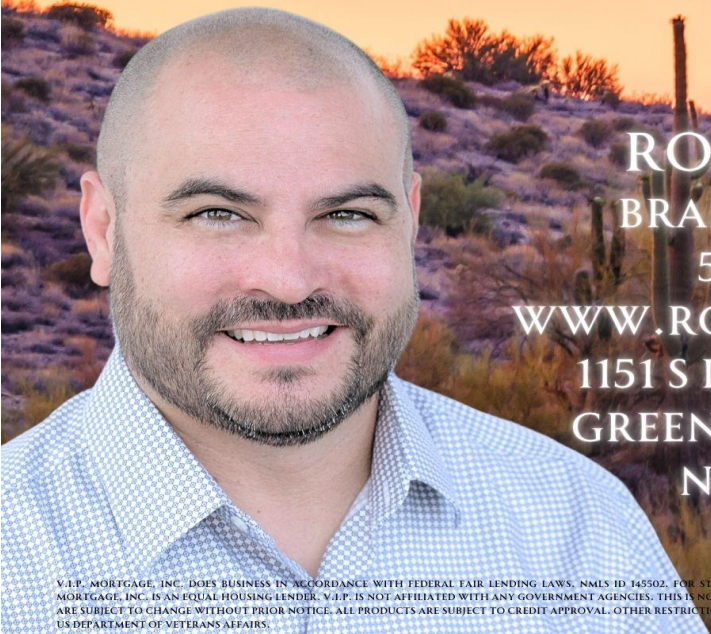
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2025 MOAA Signature Group Burgundy & Provence River Cruise September 14-21, 2025

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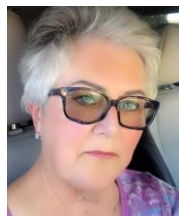
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