

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Fellow Officers, Spouses
and Surviving Spouses,

I am honored to introduce myself
as your new Chapter President.



I am a 1979 graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point, NY. I served in numerous assignments in CONUS and abroad, from 1979 until 2006. I originally hailed from the great state of Kansas.

After a lifetime of service alongside many of you, I continued my career by working for the US government in both Iraq and Afghanistan from 2006 until 2014. Following my return to the States, I served as City Manager in Minot, North Dakota, and County Manager in Grand County, Colorado. Finally, I worked as a private consultant from 2019 until my move to Green Valley. My wife, Wanda, and I love our new lives here in Green Valley, following our 33 moves and 46 years of marriage.

Like most MOAA chapters across our country, Green Valley faces two pressing challenges: a declining and aging membership and a growing shortage of volunteers. Quite simply, we cannot sustain the outstanding programs, advocacy, and camaraderie we all value without fresh energy and broader participation.

I need your help ----- every one of you.

Whether you retired a few years ago or decades ago, your experience, wisdom, and willingness to pitch in, even in small ways, make an enormous difference. Attend a meeting, bring a friend, serve on a committee or the board of directors, join everyone for lunch or a cup of coffee, share an idea (perhaps a war story), or simply stay connected.

(continued, next page)

IN THIS ISSUE

- President's Message
- MOAA Mission
- MOAA Gets a New 2026 Board
- Membership Update
- Surviving Spouses Corner: Making a VA Benefits Compensation Claim
- January Luncheon: Tribal Health Initiatives for Native Americans
- Spring Cocktail Party
- Your Chapter's Financial Status
- JROTC Update
- Massing of Colors Slated for Jan. 16
- New VA Benefit Overpayment Scam Targets Veterans
- Shopping at Fry's Can Help Our S&MA Fund
- Beds for Service Dogs
- MOAA's Secret Santa
- Marianne's Award
- January Luncheon Res. Form
- Spring Cocktail Party Res. Form
- Chapter Membership Dues Form
- Events ~ Calendar Dates
- Why Join MOAA
- 2026 Officers, Directors & Chairs
- Sponsors
- MOAA National News
- Contributors

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

January 2026 ✂ New Year's Issue



Every act of involvement strengthens our chapter and ensures that the next generation of officers enjoys the same support we have cherished.

Together, we can reverse the trend and keep Green Valley one of the strongest MOAA chapters in Arizona and the nation.

I look forward to seeing you soon and working with you side by side.

Lee A. Staab, Colonel, USA, Retired
President, MOAA Green Valley Chapter
leestaab@mac.com • (720) 345-7305

Become a Life Member!

Never Stop Serving our Great Nation!!

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.

MOAA Gets a New 2026 Board of Officers

Peggy McGee, 2nd Vice President/Programs; Public Affairs Officer

Navy Captain Chuck Vaughan, President, Arizona Council of Chapters, swore in the new Board for the Green Valley Chapter at the holiday dinner. Running the organization in 2026 will be COL **Lee Staab**, President and Treasurer; CW3 **Jack Bundy**, Past President, 1st Vice President, Membership Chair, Secretary, President of the Scholarship and Military Assistance Fund; COL **Peggy McGee**, 2nd Vice President, (Programs) & Public Affairs Officer; Maj Gen **Jim Whitehead**, Corporate Sponsor & Outreach; LtCol **Darren Venters**, Legislative Affairs & Transition Liaison; **Nora Durham**, Surviving Spouse Liaison.



Photo: (L-R) Darren Venters, Nora Durham, Jim Whitehead, Peggy McGee, Jack Bundy, and Lee Staab were sworn into the office to which they were elected by CAPT Chuck Vaughan. (Photo by John McGee)

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Jack Bundy, 1st VP/Membership Chair, Immediate Past President, Chairperson of Scholarship & Military Assistance, Secretary

NEW POSITIONS: As we begin 2026, I will no longer be President. Lee Staab will be in that position. My Board Positions will be: Immediate Past President and Chairperson of the Scholarship and Military Assistance Board, 1st VP (again), Membership Chair (again), and Secretary.

MEMBERSHIP

We have just about finished our “rightsizing” effort in getting our membership numbers corrected so that we are reporting accurate numbers instead of inflated ones to the National MOAA Organization. Heretofore, we have been leaving members on the roster, some of whom we have not heard from in years and who have not paid dues in years. Those members have been removed from our Chapter Roster. We now have a group of members who have already paid 2026 dues, have actively participated in some dinners/luncheons, and/or have clearly indicated they want to remain members and pay 2026 dues. The only problem which remains is that some who have indicated they wish to remain members have still not paid dues. So, at this point, it is still somewhat unclear what our numbers are going to be when all is said and done. However, what we are now reporting is reasonably accurate. **If you have not paid dues for 2026 and want to still be counted in our membership numbers, please send in your dues as soon as you can.**

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP DATA: **TOTAL MEMBERSHIP = 52**

- BREAKDOWN OF MEMBERSHIP:
 - 9 FORMER
 - 37 RETIRED
 - 7 SURVIVING SPOUSES
- BREAKDOWN OF PERCENTAGE WHO HAVE PAID 2026 DUES:
 - FORMER: 75%
 - RETIRED: 76%
 - SURVIVING SPOUSES: 100%
- We also have 21 registered auxiliary spouses who have paid.

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Green Valley Chapter • DESERT DUSTER NEWSLETTER

January 2026 ✎ New Year's Issue



We cannot operate if we do not have dues payments. Please send in your dues ASAP if you have not done so already.

SEND Application and Renewal Form [found on our MOAA Green Valley site: greenvalleymoaa.org] to **Green Valley MOAA, P.O. Box 1535, Green Valley, AZ 85622-1535**, **bring your dues to our next event in January**, or **drop your dues off at one of the following three addresses in Quail Creek if that would be easier:** Lee Staab, 1859 N Pommel Road • Peggy McGee, 1908 E Longspur • Jack Bundy, 1341 N Goldeneye Way. The application form can be found on pp. 17-18.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

MOAA LIFE MEMBERSHIP IN MOAA NATIONAL

If you are not already a Life Member of MOAA, please consider becoming one. Instead of writing an annual check to MOAA to renew your membership, make a one-time payment. This guarantees membership benefits for you and your surviving spouse and protects you from any future dues increases. PLEASE CONSIDER THIS IMPORTANT STEP IN YOUR MOAA MEMBERSHIP!

AND LASTLY, A BIT OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT AND CHAIRPERSON OF THE S&MA COMMITTEE

For those of you who do not already know, we have two Boards within our MOAA Chapter, our regular board which you do know about, and our other S&MA board which makes decisions on which the type of projects we will support and how much funding to apply to each as we continue our mission of support to the military community in Southern Arizona.

The Immediate Past President chairs that separate board which is made up of selected regular board members who make the necessary project and funding decisions recommended by the regular board.

SURVIVING SPOUSES CORNER:

Making a VA Benefits Compensation Claim

Nora Durham, Surviving Spouses Liaison

I have been a surviving spouse for 24 years. My husband, a 33-year veteran of the Marine Corps and a naval aviator, died in 2001 from heart disease. He was never a member of MOAA. I became acquainted with MOAA in 2019 during a visit to Washington, D.C. It was a chance meeting during [Advocacy in Action](#), at which time some in the group learned I was the widow of a Marine Corps officer. I was led to the registration booth and immediately became a MOAA member. I learned there are approximately 47,000 surviving spouse members of MOAA — representing about 12% of the association's members. I'm now a proud Life member.

This brief encounter started a journey for me to be as active as possible. I became my local chapter's surviving spouse liaison and then a member of the Surviving Spouse Advisory Council (SSAC).

[FREE MOAA WEBINAR: [Understanding Your VA Benefits](#)]

Through my involvement with MOAA, I learned about [VA Dependency and Indemnity Compensation \(DIC\)](#). As my husband served in Vietnam and was exposed to Agent Orange, it was determined his exposure subsequently caused the heart disease that contributed to his death. This qualified me to receive this benefit. With the help of a local veterans service officer (VSO) and the [VA Office of Survivor Assistance](#), I will receive this tax-free monthly compensation for the rest of my life.

Suppose you are the surviving spouse, child, or parent of a servicemember who died in the line of duty, or the survivor of a veteran who died from a service-related injury or illness. In that case, you might be eligible to receive this tax-free monetary benefit. [Visit the VA's website to learn more.](#)

For additional information and support, contact a local VSO if one is available in your community. Not all VSOs are as helpful as others, but I finally found mine.

To prepare for opening a VA claim for disability or other benefits compensation, applicants must possess the following documents:

- Military discharge (DD Form 214) — original or certified copy is best
- Other military service information (branch, dates of service, Reserve or National Guard service dates, etc.)
- Medical records (military and/or civilian) if available, and if applying for a service-connected disability, contact information for civilian medical providers who treated the veteran for military-related illnesses or injuries (i.e., doctors, specialists, hospitals, etc.)
- Bank deposit information (i.e., voided check) — the VA will automatically deposit into this account if benefits are awarded

If the above documents are not available, veterans or surviving kin can request them online at www.archives.gov/veterans.

[RELATED: [Do You Know Where Your Military Paperwork Lives?](#)]

For additional information and support, review [news articles, publications, and resources](#) related to survivor benefits at MOAA.org, as well as VA.gov.



January Luncheon: Tribal Health Initiatives for Native Americans

Peggy McGee, 2nd Vice President/Programs; Public Affairs Officer

Terri “Moon” Boswell, Administrative Officer, VHA Office of Tribal Health, will kick off our Chapter’s program Year with a luncheon on Wednesday, January 21, at Taco Giro, 77 E Paseo de Golf in Green Valley. Doors will open at 11:30 and lunch will be served at noon.



Ms. Boswell joined the VHA Deputy Under Secretary for Health, Office of Tribal Health (OTH), on September 10, 2023. She came out of retirement to join the OTH Staff to fulfill their Mission of Connecting Healthcare and Culture through Partnership, Respect and Understanding. Moon is a citizen of the Potawatomi Nation and participates regularly in traditional ceremonies. She has more than 20 years of federal service as HR Director, DOD (Navy), VA and IHS.

Moon raised a daughter and two stepsons while living in Alaska. They remain there to this day. She currently resides in Tucson.

The cost for the luncheon will be \$30. Deadline for reservations will be **January 14**. The reservation form with the menu options is on page 15. Photo: Terri Moon Boswell

Spring Cocktail Party

Peggy McGee, 2nd Vice President/Programs; Public Affairs Officer

To welcome spring, the Chapter Board will be organizing an outdoor cocktail party at the Pickleball Ramada at Quail Creek on Thursday, 19 March from 4-6 p.m. There will be finger foods, wine, beer, soft drinks and water. Dress will be very casual. There might even be a game or two.

Besides being an opportunity for the members to “mix & mingle,” we also ask you to bring a guest or two who will be eligible to join the Chapter. As you may have read, we lost several members in 2025 so we want to increase our membership.

That helps us increase our chances of being selected for another 5-Star *Level of Excellence* Award.

Cost will be \$15 for members and no charge for guests.

But you must sign up in advance to include the number of guests you will be bringing to ensure we don’t run out of food.

Reservation form is on page 16.



Your Chapter's Financial Status

Lee Staab, President and Treasurer



Dear Fellow Officers, Spouses and Surviving Spouses,

As your Chapter President, I want to keep you fully informed about where we stand financially and what that means for 2026. Transparency has always been a hallmark of our chapter, and I intend to continue that tradition.

Current Fund Balances (as of 1 December 2025)

Scholarship and Military Assistance Fund: ~ \$13,000

General Operating Fund: ~ \$3,000

These balances reflect years of prudent management and, most importantly, your generous personal contributions. The Scholarship & Military Assistance Fund remains our pride – it is the primary source for the scholarships we award to JROTC cadets and veterans. It is also used for the emergency assistance we provide to veterans and military families in need. The General Fund covers chapter operations, meeting expenses, newsletters, and community outreach.

Looking Ahead to 2026

Corporate and community donations, which have supplemented our funds in the past, will be very limited next year. Several long-term sponsors have reduced or paused their support due to their own budget constraints. That means we will rely almost entirely on member dues, donations, and on our internal fundraising events that we can organize and support.

The good news: We start 2026 in solid shape because of YOU. The not-so-good news: If we want to maintain our current level of scholarships and continue helping veterans and families in crisis, we will need renewed and increased support and participation from everyone able to help.

Your past generosity and assistance have built these funds, and your continued support will determine what we can accomplish in the year ahead. Every dollar given to either fund stays right here in Green Valley and Tucson and directly benefits our military family – whether it's a deserving veteran college student or a veteran or military family facing unexpected hardship.

On behalf of the Board and every recipient who has been helped by this chapter, thank you – truly – for everything you have contributed to MOAA national and to our local programs.

Together we have made a real difference, and together we will keep the Green Valley Chapter strong.

JROTC UPDATE

Peggy McGee, 2nd Vice President/Programs; Public Affairs Officer

Both the Army and Navy JROTC units stayed busy as they settled into the new school year.

A Military Order of the World Wars' Massing of the Colors Ceremony was held for the Tucson Women's Club. The Color Guard group was called on four times to support community events in November. The Army JROTC also conducted a POW/MIA ceremony. Perhaps their biggest event was marching in the Veterans Day Parade in Nogales.

The annual Army–Navy football game between Sahuarita and Tombstone High Schools in mid-December was everything tradition demands—tough, intense, and hard-fought. After battling to the final whistle, the Navy team showed grit and composure, earning the win in overtime. Senior instructor CDR Brad Roberson said he was proud of the discipline, teamwork, and heart shown by the cadets. A great game that honored the tradition on both sides.

On December 16, a couple Christmas Elves from the high school went to Sahuarita Middle School to give the 8th grade NJROTC cadets their Christmas bags.

The Naval JROTC also did their share of Color Guard duty during November.



Massing of Colors Slated for January 16

Peggy McGee, 2nd Vice President/Programs; Public Affairs Officer

The Sahuarita Naval JROTC will be participating in the Military Order of the World Wars *Massing of the Colors* ceremony on Friday, 16 January at 10 a.m. in the Sahuarita Unified School District Auditorium, 350 W Sahuarita Road. The event that lasts about 90 minutes pays tribute to veterans whether in active military service, retired, reserve or National Guard. This event also honors those who serve the Nation in law enforcement, first responders, and firefighters.

Parking and admission are free.

Photo: Members of the Competition Color Guard will be among the participants in the solemn program. (Photo by Brad Roberson)

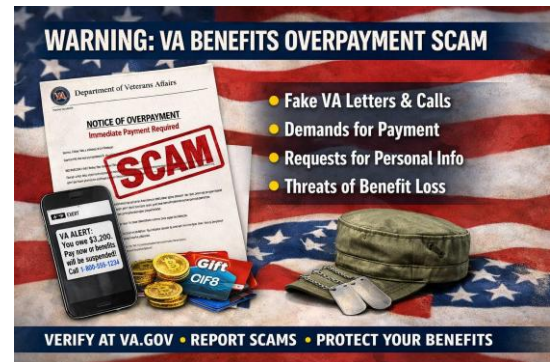


New VA Benefit Overpayment Scam is Targeting Veterans

Darren Venters, Legislative Affairs/Transition Liaison

What This Fraud Looks Like and What To Do When It Shows Up

Veterans, surviving spouses, and family members who receive benefits are being targeted by a growing scam that mimics legitimate Department of Veterans Affairs debt notices. The scheme centers on false claims of VA benefits overpayments and uses realistic looking documents, emails, and text messages to pressure recipients into sending money or disclosing personal information.



The VA has confirmed this activity and issued a public warning. The fraud is not subtle. It relies on urgency, confusion, and the reasonable assumption that government benefits systems are complex and sometimes make mistakes.

How the Scam Works

Scammers pose as VA officials and contact beneficiaries claiming that a benefits overpayment has occurred. The communication often appears legitimate at first glance.

Common features include:

- **Fake VA letterheads and logos** that closely resemble official correspondence
- **Spoofed phone numbers or email addresses** that look like they originate from VA offices
- **Claims that you owe money immediately** due to an alleged overpayment
- **Pressure tactics**, including warnings about benefit suspension or legal action
- **Requests for payment outside VA systems**, such as wire transfers, cryptocurrency, gift cards, or prepaid debit cards
- **Requests for sensitive information**, including VA login credentials, banking details, or Social Security numbers

Each of these elements is designed to push the recipient into acting before verifying the claim.

What Legitimate VA Overpayment Notices Actually Look Like

Overpayments do happen. They usually result from changes in income, dependency status, incarceration reporting, or retroactive eligibility adjustments. When that occurs, the VA follows a defined process.

Legitimate overpayment notices:

- Appear in your **official VA.gov account**
- Are issued through the **VA Debt Management Center**
- Include clear explanations of the debt and your rights
- Provide structured options to dispute, request a waiver, or set up repayment plans

Never require immediate payment through third parties

If a debt is real, it will be visible when you log into VA.gov. There are no exceptions to this.

What To Do If You Receive One of These Messages

If you receive a letter, email, or text claiming you owe money to the VA, take these steps immediately:

Log into your VA.gov account

Check whether any debt is listed. If no debt appears, the communication is fraudulent.

Use only official VA channels

If a debt does exist, handle it directly through VA.gov or by contacting the VA Debt Management Center at **1-800-827-0648**.

Do not send money through nonstandard methods

The VA does not collect debts through wire transfers, cryptocurrency, gift cards, or peer to peer payment apps.

Never share login credentials or sensitive information

The VA will not ask for passwords, authentication codes, or banking information through unsolicited contact.

Avoid clicking unknown links or attachments

Many scam messages contain malicious links designed to steal data or install malware.

Do not pay anyone claiming they can fix your VA debt for a fee

VA debt assistance is available at no cost. Any demand for upfront payment is a red flag.

How To Report VA Overpayment Scams

If you suspect a scam:

Contact the VA directly at 1-800-827-1000

Report fraud to the Federal Trade Commission

Use **VSAFE.gov** or call **(833) 38V-SAFE** for additional reporting options. Patterns matter. Reports help investigators identify active campaigns and disrupt future scams.



Why This Matters

This scam succeeds because it borrows credibility from real administrative processes. Veterans are not careless for taking these messages seriously. They are responding to systems they earned through service.

Fraud prevention is not just about individual awareness. It is also about clear communication, consistent verification tools, and peer level information sharing. Veterans talking to other veterans remains one of the most effective countermeasures.

Bottom Line

If a message about a VA overpayment creates urgency, asks for unusual payment methods, or requests personal information, pause. Verify through VA.gov. If it is real, it will be there. If it is not, report it.

Staying cautious protects your benefits, your identity, and other veterans who may be targeted next.

Shopping at Fry's Can Help Our S&MA Fund

Peggy McGee, 2nd Vice President/Programs; Public Affairs Officer



Here's a painless way to support the Chapter's Scholarship and Military Assistance (S&MA) Program. If you shop at Fry's, you can link your VIP Awards Card to our Chapter, and the company will automatically make a deposit into our S&MA Account. And no, it won't impact your ability to earn points for gasoline purchases. Even purchase of adult beverages qualify for the Community Awards program.

If you have been donating to another charity, you can change your desired charity preference, but the money cannot be divided between two charities.

Just follow this link [frysfood.com/i/community/community-rewards] and in a flash, you can get your account set up to help our Scholarship & Military Assistance Fund.

Beds for Service Dogs

Peggy McGee, 2nd Vice President/Programs; Public Affairs Officer



Traditionally Chapter members were given gifts from the Chapter at holiday time, an activity that became more labor intensive and expensive over the years. And many members commented that they already had more than enough holiday decorations or other decor than they needed. The Board recommended to the members who wholeheartedly approved the idea that instead of buying gifts for them, we could donate something to veterans.

We learned that the VA works with blind veterans to get them guide dogs to make their lives easier. The veterans then go through a resident program in which they learn skills necessary to compensate for their loss of vision with their dog at their side. In the evenings, the veterans return to their apartments with the service dog. Dogs being dogs often tried to get into bed with their veteran. It was our Chapter to the rescue when they shopped for large dog beds with washable covers for the veterans.

In addition to four dog beds, the Chapter purchased a Netflix subscription which the VA will use to train veterans how to access a program that describes the scenes as well as hear the dialogue for TV shows and movies. A special thanks to Lisa Larkin whose generosity helped fund the purchase.

Photo: One of the service dogs testing his new bed.

MOAA's Secret Santa

Peggy McGee, 2nd Vice President/Programs; Public Affairs Officer

CDR Irene Silverman has been a Chapter member for several years, but I don't recall ever seeing her at a meeting. She is definitely a behind the scenes supporter of the Chapter's projects to help homeless and hospitalized veterans. Throughout the year, she occasionally donates toiletries for the homeless. But at Christmas time she goes all out to make life a little more pleasant for the homeless veterans. In true military style, she recruits her neighbors at Quail Creek to support her efforts to gather needed items.



Irene, a retired logistics officer, is used to keeping detailed records by counting or weighing items. Her Santa collection results were no exception. This year her efforts netted: 50 pairs boxer briefs, 6 hats, 5 scarves, 8 pr gloves, 13 lbs. of soaps and body wash, 6 lbs. of toothbrushes/toothpaste (including a box of 100 toothbrushes), 3 lbs. dental hygiene (floss, etc.), 2 lbs. lotions, 3 lbs. personal hygiene (shampoo, conditioner, deodorant), and 400 paper napkins.

When the donations were delivered to the VA just before Christmas, the staff was delighted to receive so many thoughtful and needed items. Thank you, Irene and all your friends in Unit 24.

Photo: Irene Silverman with the donations for the homeless vets. (Photo by David Silverman)

Marianne's Award

Peggy McGee, 2nd Vice President/Programs; Public Affairs Officer



For the past few years our Chapter has been awarded the Col. Marvin J. Harris Communications Awards by MOAA Headquarters. This annual program identifies councils and chapters that do an outstanding job communicating with their members by the website, newsletter, e-mail and social media. This award is for our website and we have our webmaster, Marianne Cobarrubias to thank for that. Marianne is not even eligible for Chapter membership but for the past 8 years she has been developing, growing and maintaining our award-winning website at no charge to the Chapter. We all appreciate her efforts in helping us tell our Chapter's story and keeping us informed. Photo: Outgoing president, Jack Bundy, presents Marianne the 2024 communications award.

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Green Valley Chapter · DESERT DUSTER NEWSLETTER

January 2026 ✂ New Year's Issue



JANUARY LUNCHEON RESERVATION FORM

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

21 January 2026 · Doors open 11:30am – Lunch 12:00pm

77 E Paseo de Golf in Green Valley

Please make your reservations by January 14

Reserve _____ places

Cost: \$_____ (\$30 per person)

MENU CHOICES:

#1 Shredded Beef Taco (1) & Cheese Enchilada (1) (comes with rice, beans, small salad)

#2 Chicken Tacos (2) (comes with rice, beans, small salad)

#3 Taco Salad with Steak in crispy shell

Dessert: Flan. All meals come with iced tea or soda of choice. Cash bar available for adult beverages. Vegetarian option by request. **Indicate menu choice (#) next to names, below.**

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.



SPRING COCKTAIL PARTY RESERVATION FORM

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

19 March 2026 • 4-6 pm

Location: Quail Creek Pickleball Ramada

Please make your reservations by March 12

Reserve _____ places **Cost:** \$_____ (\$15 per member; guests: no charge)

Serving finger foods, beer, wine, soft drinks, water. 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

Green Valley Chapter • DESERT DUSTER NEWSLETTER

January 2026 ✎ New Year's Issue



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

2026 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 2026 ✎ New Year's 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

Green Valley Chapter • DESERT DUSTER NEWSLETTER

January 2026 ✂ New Year's Issue



EVENTS ~ CALENDAR DATES

- 21 January:** Lunch, Taco Giro in Green Valley
- 19 March:** Cocktail Party, Quail Creek Pickleball Ramada
- 14 May:** Scholarship Awards Dinner, location: TBD
- 4 July:** Food for the Troops Collection, Quail Creek
- 17 September:** TBD
- 19 November:** Thanksgiving Dinner & Election of Officers, location: TBD
- 10 December:** Holiday Dinner, location: TBD

The Board of Directors meetings are the second Tuesday 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

2026 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.

2026 OFFICERS, DIRECTORS & CHAIRS



**President
& Treasurer**
COL Lee Staab
USA (Ret)
(720) 345-7305



**Past President, 1st Vice President,
Membership Chair, Secretary,
President of the Scholarship &
Military Assistance Fund**
CW3 Jack Bundy USA (Ret)
(951) 760-8706



**Legislative Affairs,
Transition Liaison**
Lt Col Darren Venters
USAF (Ret) 490-4470



**2nd Vice-President,
Programs, Public Affairs Officer**
COL Peggy McGee
USAR (Ret) 207-6188



Vacant positions:
JROTC Liaison
Grant Writer
Chaplain
Personal Affairs Officer

Surviving Spouse Liaison
Nora Durham
(719) 232-9277



Community/Sponsor Outreach
Maj. Gen. James Whitehead, Jr.
USAF (Ret) 475-8033



MOAA • GREEN VALLEY CHAPTER • 2026 Officers & Board Members

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.



**WITH
GRATITUDE**

★ For Your Service ★

We Proudly Sponsor MOAA

Thank You



Lisa Larkin Esq.
Associate Broker/ Team Leader
Call or Text: 520.940.2024
Email: llarkin@remax.net







GREEN VALLEY'S PREMIERE MORTGAGE LENDER

OUR EXTENSIVE PORTFOLIO GIVES YOU PLENTY OF OPTIONS

- CONVENTIONAL
- VA | FHA | USDA
- REFINANCE
- REVERSE MORTGAGE
- HELOC
- NEW CONSTRUCTION



GREEN VALLEY CHAPTER
COMMUNITY PARTNER



ROB SANCHEZ
BRANCH MANAGER
520.245.8622
WWW.ROBSANCHEZAZ.COM
1151 S LA CANADA #211A
GREEN VALLEY AZ 85614
NMLS #220897

 **EQUAL HOUSING
LENDER**

V.I.P. MORTGAGE, INC. DOES BUSINESS IN ACCORDANCE WITH FEDERAL FAIR LENDING LAWS, NMLS ID 145502. FOR STATE SPECIFIC LICENSING VISIT WWW.VIPMTGINC.COM/NATIONAL-LICENSES/. V.I.P. MORTGAGE, INC. IS AN EQUAL HOUSING LENDER. V.I.P. IS NOT AFFILIATED WITH ANY GOVERNMENT AGENCIES. THIS IS NOT AN OFFER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT. INFORMATION, RATES, AND PROGRAMS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. ALL PRODUCTS ARE SUBJECT TO CREDIT APPROVAL. OTHER RESTRICTIONS AND LIMITATIONS MAY APPLY. V.I.P. MORTGAGE HAS NO AFFILIATION WITH THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Green Valley Chapter • DESERT DUSTER NEWSLETTER

January 2026 & New Year's Issue



Click a link to GV MOAA ~ Sponsor sites*

[Rob Sanchez, Mortgage Lender](#) • [MOAA Insurance Plans](#)

[Robert D. Lewis, Licensed Ordained Minister](#)

*links made available to GV MOAA

An advertisement for Tierra Antigua Realty. It features a large saguaro cactus in a desert landscape on the left. On the right is a headshot of Justine Lewis. The text includes the company name "Tierra Antigua REALTY", the tagline "Southern Arizona's Largest, Locally-Owned Real Estate Company", and contact information for Justine Lewis, Realtor: Direct: 520.481.6997, justinelewis@tierraantigua.com.

An advertisement for RE/MAX Select. It features a headshot of Lisa Larkin on the left. The text includes the RE/MAX Select logo, her name "Lisa Larkin, Esq.", her title "Associate Broker/Owner", her phone number "520-940-2024", her email "llarkin@remax.net", and her experience "Serving Southern Arizona since 1992". It also mentions "YourValleyTeam.com" and "Each Office Independently Owned And Operated".

An advertisement for Robert D. Lewis, DBA. It features a red logo on the left that combines a cross with a flame. The text identifies him as a "Licensed Ordained Minister" with the "National Association of Christian Ministers", provides his phone number "520-481-6994", and lists services: "Christian Weddings/ Funeral/Memorial and vow-renewal services." It also includes his email "rdlewis1393@gmail.com" and website "WEB: thecalling1.godaddysites.com".

An advertisement for MOAA Insurance Plans. It has a blue background with the MOAA logo and "INSURANCE PLANS" at the top. The main text reads "Standing with you at every stage." Below this is the phone number "1-800-247-2192" and the website "www.moaainsurance.com/plans". A small number "87017" is visible in the bottom right corner.

An advertisement for the book "What Have We Done?". The left side contains text about the authors, Jim & Kathie Rusk, and their experience with Minnesota winters. It states the book is available in eBook, soft, and hard cover formats at Amazon.com or Barnes&Noble.com. The right side shows the book cover, which features a photo of the Rusk family and the title "WHAT HAVE WE DONE?" in large, bold letters. Below the title is a subtitle: "The Story of One Family's Challenges and Successes in the Northwoods of Minnesota." At the bottom of the cover is a photo of Jim Rusk with a child, with the text "Jim Rusk with Kathie Rusk" below it.

MOAA National News

The **Major Richard Star Act**, a bipartisan effort to fix a long-standing injustice in the military retirement and disability compensation system, has taken a significant procedural step in Congress as lawmakers look to move the issue forward before the end of the year.

The MOAA-supported bill ([H.R. 2102](#) | [S. 1032](#)) eliminates a dollar-for-dollar offset faced by servicemembers whose combat-related injuries force them to medically retire before the 20-year mark. Ending this “[wounded veteran tax](#)” would allow eligible veterans to receive both full retirement pay and full disability compensation.



In a strategic shift to advance the legislation in this session of Congress, Sens. Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.), Mike Crapo (R-Idaho), and Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) have filed the text of the bill as an amendment to House-passed appropriations legislation ([H.R. 4016](#)).

[TAKE ACTION: [Ask Your Lawmakers to Support the Star Act Amendment \(Senate Amendment 4056\) to H.R. 4016](#)]

That House bill contains five of the [12 annual funding bills](#) often viewed as must-pass legislation for federal operations, including money for:

Defense

Commerce, Justice and Science

Interior

Labor/Health and Human Services

Transportation/Housing and Urban Development

By offering the Major Richard Star Act as an amendment to this package, sponsors hope to give members of both chambers an opportunity to vote on the issue in the context of essential federal spending legislation.

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Green Valley Chapter • DESERT DUSTER NEWSLETTER

January 2026 ✂ New Year's Issue



Why This Matters Now

Attaching the legislation to must-pass funding bills represents a key shift in advocacy strategy as the first session of 119th Congress winds down. Because the standalone bills have faced procedural hurdles over the past seven years, leveraging the appropriations process may provide the best remaining opportunity to secure floor consideration and a recorded vote in the coming weeks.

MOAA continues to highlight that this reform carries modest budgetary impact relative to its importance to veterans' families and supporters, and stresses that military retirement pay and disability compensation are distinct entitlements earned through service and sacrifice.

[MOAA ISSUE PAPER: [The Major Richard Star Act](#)]

How MOAA Members Can Help

MOAA's advocacy remains focused on passing the Major Richard Star Act. We need your help to urge members of Congress to support inclusion of the bill's language as an amendment to the appropriations legislation, and to oppose procedural barriers that could derail progress. Grassroots engagement remains critical to maintaining momentum.

[Send a message to your lawmakers today](#), and keep track of this and other MOAA legislative priorities at [our advocacy news page](#).

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).

Green Valley MOAA Chapter Contributors, this issue:



Lee Staab



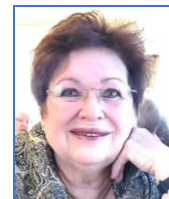
Jack Bundy



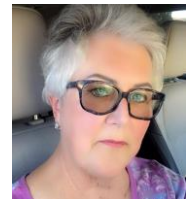
Peggy McGee



Darren Venters



Nora Durham



Marianne C.

