

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Fellow Officers,

On behalf of our entire chapter, thank you for your support of our annual Green Valley Chapter Awards Dinner. We had a record-setting



attendance, and an evening filled with good food (Thanks to the American Legion), plenty of drinks for all, renewal of old and establishment of new friendships, and maybe even a few veteran stories from our younger days. We recognized two outstanding JROTC students and awarded each of them a \$2,500 scholarship.

We know that these young leaders will be serving our Nation in some capacity for many years. We were also both honored and blessed to provide four veteran University of Arizona students with \$2,000 in student funding. All the recipients were very grateful to our chapter and our generous donors and members. Many thanks to you all.

As we complete the first half of our calendar year, we have some major issues that we must address. Like most MOAA chapters across our Nation, Green Valley faces two pressing issues: declining and aging membership and a 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!

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MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Green Valley Chapter · DESERT DUSTER NEWSLETTER

June 2026 ✉ Summer Issue



During our next board meeting on 8 September 2026, we will discuss our chapter membership, our board of directors for 2027, our funding for the next year, and our continued need for more volunteers. Many of our members have served on our board of directors and volunteered for several years. Thank you all for your service to our chapter. Currently, we do not have enough volunteers to serve on our board of directors in 2027. We will also need a larger list of volunteers who are willing to assist our chapter on an occasional basis.

During the summer months, please consider serving on our board of directors or volunteering for one of our events next year.

In our next newsletter, we will publish our event proposals for everyone to review and consider. In September we will publish the board of directors' position descriptions. With everyone working together, I am confident that we will have an outstanding group of new volunteers. Many thanks.

Whether you retired a few years ago or decades ago, your experience, wisdom and willingness to pitch in, even in small ways, will make an enormous difference. Please attend a board meeting, bring a friend, join your fellow chapter members for lunch or a cup of coffee, share an idea (or perhaps a war story), or simply stay connected to your fellow officers.

Together, we can reverse the trends of declining membership and lack of volunteers and keep Green Valley one of the strongest MOAA chapters in Arizona and the nation.

As always, I am honored to serve beside every one of our chapter members. Never Stop Serving our Great Nation.

God Bless the USA as we celebrate our 250th birthday.

With sincere appreciation and warmest regards,

Lee A. Staab
Colonel, US Army (Retired)
President, MOAA Green Valley Chapter
leestaab@mac.com

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.

Membership News

Jack Bundy, 1st Vice President; Membership

Our current membership remains reasonably stable after our rather large “rightsizing” at the end of 2025 where we removed non-active members from our roster.



Our total membership is now 51 including 9 Former, 34 Retired, and 8 Surviving Spouses

ALL MEMBERS HAVE PAID THEIR MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR 2026! THANK YOU! We also have 22 registered auxiliary spouses who have paid an additional \$15 dues.

We welcomed a few new members since our last newsletter. Recently joining were **Kyle Malloy, Maj, USAF, (Ret) who recently moved to Quail Creek from the Coronado Chapter in Sierra Vista; William (Bill) Guinn, COL, USA, (Ret) and Jerry Hill, CPT, USA, (Former).** We welcome our newest members to the Green Valley MOAA chapter!

We are still struggling with two things:

1. Demographics
2. Member unwillingness or inability to participate

Except for the usual five, there are almost NO members who volunteer to be on the board or to help with various functions and events. We are down to, at most, 4-5 people who do everything to provide support to the military and to veterans, as well as plan, organize, and conduct social and community events. Additionally, there are no more than about 20 members who continue to attend our functions or participate at all.

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Additionally, we have lost board members to illnesses and moves, and they have not been replaced. The remaining board members have had to assume additional duties. Since we all want to continue serving, we will do just that; but we are hopeful that others might help us continue our service to the community, to military members, to their families, to JROTC and veteran students, and to all the veterans who need our help.

This lack of membership participation will become critical soon and we may not be able to continue as an active chapter if things don't improve. WE NEED YOUR HELP TO SUSTAIN THE CHAPTER.

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!

MOAA Regular Membership:

If you are still a Basic Member, not paying any dues to National MOAA, that status is not indefinite. Please consider changing your Basic Membership to a Regular or Life Membership with the National MOAA Organization. If you are not sure of your status, please contact Jack at jhbundyaz@gmail.com.

Upcoming Events

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

Here's what's on tap for the Chapter for the remainder of 2026.

- **17 September:** Luncheon with guest speaker Moon Boswell who will tell us about initiatives for Native American veterans being pursued by the VA. Grill on the Green.
- **October:** Potluck dinner at COL Lee Staab's house. Date to be determined.
- **1 December:** Dinner at La Posada with collection of gifts for teens to present to the Santa Rita Fire Dept. for distribution and Installation of new Board of Directors.

Independence Day *Food for the Troops* Collection

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



It's time to check your pantry to see if there are any unexpired groceries that would help fill the food pantry at the 162nd Wing, AZ Air National Guard. This annual *Food for the Troops* collection will help young airmen when their funds run low at the end of the month as well as their families if they are deployed overseas. Some of their favorite foods include granola bars, pasta and sauces, tuna, and canned meats. Canned chili is very popular too. Rice and beans help them prepare satisfying meals for their families. Many have young children so dried fruit, cereal, fruit juices would also be appreciated.

In addition to non-perishable foods, we will also be collecting hygiene, paper, laundry detergent and other cleaning products, supplies that often cost more than food but are necessary for modern living.

Collection baskets will be available in front of the Madera Clubhouse on July 4th from 6:45 to 9 a.m. Chapter members will be in front of the clubhouse to accept groceries as well as gift cards (Safeway, Fry's, Walmart) and monetary donations.

If you will be traveling over the holiday weekend or it's too hot for you 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. Please add Food for the Troops on the memo line. Donations may also be dropped off at Lee Staab's house, 1859 N Pommel Rd in Quail Creek.

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 will 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, cash or checks. Bring address labels to prevent writer's cramp!

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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 educational grants for veterans attending the University of Arizona. They hope to have the 1st place prize, a 2026 Nissan Frontier Pro-4X Roush Edition truck on display too. The winning names for the vehicle, first class airline tickets for two to anywhere in the world commercial airlines fly and \$5,000 cash will be drawn on December 10.



THE JIM CLICK
MILLIONS FOR TUCSON
RAFFLE
MillionsForTucson.org

ROUSH
NEW 2026 Nissan Frontier Pro-4X Roush® Edition

GRAND PRIZE
NEW 2026 Nissan Frontier Pro-4X Roush® Edition

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

3RD PRIZE
\$5,000 CASH

YOUR TICKET NUMBER IS
053008

*Restrictions apply. Please see Millions for Tucson Raffle Rules | millionsfortucson.org
Raffle Management Headquarters: 2713 N. Campbell Ave. Suite 105, Tucson, AZ

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

MOAA Awards Scholarships and Educational Grants

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

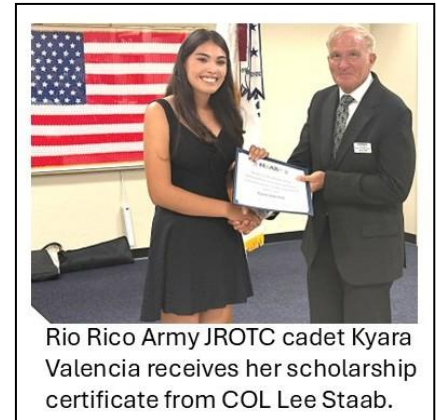
Thanks to donations from many members as well as grants and sale of Jim Click tickets and 50-50 raffles throughout the year, five students pursuing undergraduate degrees and one entering a graduate program will find the financial challenges of higher education a little less daunting.



Naval JROTC cadet Karson Darre from Sahuarita High School was awarded a \$2,500 scholarship. She has been accepted into Barrett, the Honors College at Arizona State University, where she will major in psychology and criminology. She also plans to participate in the ROTC program and after graduation hopes to earn a commission in the Air Force with the goal of serving as Special Investigations Officer.

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Also receiving a \$2,500 scholarship was Army cadet, Kyara Valencia, who just graduated from Rio Rico High School. Kyara plans to major in Biological Sciences with a pre-veterinary focus and ultimately enter the University of Arizona's Department of Veterinary Medicine program.



Rio Rico Army JROTC cadet Kyara Valencia receives her scholarship certificate from COL Lee Staab.



(L-R) Holding their grant certificates are veterans Travis Johnston, Hunter Gamino, Tonny Ann Espino & Jake Cortez along with their spouses/partners.

Four veterans, all enrolled full time at the University of Arizona, were awarded \$2,000 grants. These grants can be used to pay for educational expenses not covered by the GI Bill (lab equipment, uniforms) or to purchase laptops or pay parking expenses to enable the veterans to attend classes).

Jake Cortez, an Air Force veteran, served as an Airborne Linguist speaking Mandarin. He earned a bachelor's degree in electrical and computer engineering, graduating in 2026. Jake

is currently working as an intern for the Sandia National Laboratories in New Mexico. He will be continuing at UA in their Master's program in the fall semester.

Tonny Ann Espinoza served 6 years in the Navy on active duty and then transferred to the Navy Reserve to enable her to enter college full time. While on active duty she served as a Cryptologic Technician Interpretive Korean linguist. She hopes to complete the requirements for a Bachelor of Applied Science degree in Cyber Operations in 2027 and then return to active duty and eventually earn a commission as an Intelligence Officer.

Another Air Force veteran, Travis Johnston, served as a Fire Protection Craftsman while on active duty and then as fire captain and inspector. He is pursuing a BA in Psychology with a minor in Human Development and Family Sciences at UA. His experiences with trauma in the military as well as in civilian life made him realize the importance of sound mental health. He hopes to ultimately develop rehabilitation and recovery programs designed for service members and 1st Responders.

Army veteran Hunter Garmino became a medic/health care specialist after graduating from basic training. His military experience confirmed for him that something medical related was going to be part of his identity. Now at UA to study biomedical engineering, he ultimately hopes to return to active duty and become a surgeon with the Army's sending him to medical school. (Photos: Jack Bundy)

Green Valley MOAA Chapter Earns National Awards

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

Our Chapter recently won three awards from the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) for outstanding achievements.

The highest recognition, a 5-Star Level of Excellence (LOE) award is given to Chapters in all 50 states. The LOE awards are MOAA's most prestigious affiliate awards, honoring councils and chapters for their efforts across the full scope of their mission. Levels for this award range from three through five, with five being the highest award.

The judges' comments on our Chapter's achievements included great advocacy work for a small chapter and an active chapter with meaningful and varied community involvement. Some of the community projects that the Chapter initiated during 2025 to become eligible for the top award included providing Challenge Coins to vets completing rehab for PTSD; groceries and gift cards to the Air National Guard; generous scholarships to JROTC students and grants to veterans attending the University of Arizona; bedding for service dogs supporting blind vets; ongoing support for homeless veterans in the greater Tucson area; and gifts for teens at holiday time through the Santa Rita Fire Department.

The Chapter also received two 5-star communications awards for excellence. The first recognized the MOAA website. Marianne Cobarrubias is the webmaster for greenvalleymoaa.org. From designing the website about 10½ years ago to maintaining it throughout the years, she exhibits a high degree of creativity to keep the site informative, up-to-date, easy to navigate and enjoyable to read.



The second 5-star communications award was for this newsletter, which is a collaborative effort between Marianne and Peggy McGee. Peggy is responsible for content and Marianne does the layout and graphics work to make it eye-catching.

Photo: CAPT Chuck Vaughan, USN (retired), President, Arizona Council of Chapter's, presents the Communications Award for Outstanding Website in 2025 to Marianne Cobarrubias. (Photo: Jack Bundy)

Jack Bundy Earns Leadership Award

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



1st Vice President, Membership Chair, Secretary and President, Scholarship and Military Assistance Fund. Those titles describe CW3 Jack Bundy. See what we have been saying about the same people performing multiple jobs to keep the Chapter going? MOAA National has recognized multi-talented Jack for his leadership and persistence.

His citation reads in part: *The Military Officers Association of America is honored to recognize you with the distinguished MOAA Leadership Award for your service to the Green Valley Chapter. The time and dedication you continue to commit to the chapter and the greater community are truly admirable and embody the MOAA ideals well.*

The award is signed by Lt Gen Brian T. Kelly, President & CEO

Photo: CAPT Chuck Vaughan, USN (retired), President, Arizona Council of Chapters, presented the MOAA Leadership award to CW3 Jack Bundy during the May awards dinner. (Photo: Marianne Cobarrubias)

News from the Navy JROTC

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



Sahuarita NJROTC recently competed in the Navy National Orienteering Championship at San Felasco State Park in Alachua, FL. In addition to the competition, the trip consisted of swimming in Poe Springs, a natural water hole off the Santa Fe River, a visit to the Cade Museum in Gainesville, FL where Gatorade was invented, and the Alligator Farm in St. Augustine, FL.

Another cadet, William Thwaites, was a four-year varsity letter winner in Football and Wrestling. He received and accepted an appointment to the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in New London, CT.

Dan & Sally Cady Receive ESGR Spirit of Volunteerism Award

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

Chapter member Dan Cady and his wife Sally were recently recognized for their long and active involvement with the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) program. They received the Spirit of Volunteerism Award in recognition of their exceptional service and steadfast commitment to ESGR. This prestigious award is approved at the state or national level.



Dan and Sally worked tirelessly as a team, dedicating countless hours to supporting Guard and Reserve units. Their contributions include maintaining close contact with unit members, ensuring all had access to vital information about their rights and responsibilities under USERRA, and regularly briefed these protections at the Valencia Armory, Marana Army Guard and Reserve, Army Guard Silverlake Armory, US Air Force 943 Rescue Group, and 162 Wing.

Dan joined ESGR in Nebraska in 2014 before transferring to Arizona in 2016. He has served in multiple roles, including ESGR Mentor for Military Outreach Director and Coordinator, Employer Outreach Director, and Representative.

Dan and Sally together have presented hundreds of Patriot Awards to local businesses, ensuring that employers who support their Guard and Reserve employees received the acknowledgment they deserve. Their efforts have been recognized with prestigious awards: Sally Cady's State Chair Award and longevity pin, and Dan Cady's ESGR National Military Outreach Volunteer of the Year award (FY2017), Outstanding Volunteer Awards (2022 and 2023), longevity pin, and the Seven Seals Award (2018).

Dan and Sally's legacy will continue to inspire others in the ESGR community, reflecting the true spirit of volunteerism, selfless service, and unwavering support for those who serve our Nation.

Photo: (L-R) Ed Wozniak, President, Cornado MOAA Chapter, Sally Cady, Dan Cady, Wozniak's wife, Kaylee Nix, and Darren Venters. Ed and Kaylee are also long-time volunteers for the ESGR program. (Photo: Marianne Cobarrubias)

Green Valley MOAA Legislative Update – June 2026

Darren Venters, Legislative Affairs and Transition Liaison

NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE ACTION:

The Fiscal Year 2027 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) is officially moving, with major momentum building on Capitol Hill as lawmakers returned from the Memorial Day recess. Here is a look at the critical milestones ahead and how you can take action.



The Legislative Timeline

- **Tuesday, June 4, 2026:** The House Armed Services Committee convened for its full-committee markup. This is typically a marathon, late-night session where lawmakers debate hundreds of amendments to finalize the House version of the bill before it heads to the chamber floor.
- **Mid-to-Late Summer 2026:** The Senate Armed Services Committee is expected to introduce and mark up its own distinct version of the FY 2027 defense policy bill.
- **Fall 2026:** Once both chambers pass their respective versions, leadership will form a bipartisan conference committee to reconcile the differences.

While lawmakers face a tight timeline to pass a final, unified bill before the fiscal year ends on September 30, recent trends suggest the process may spill into the late autumn or winter months. Because members face reelection this November, the final vote will likely occur during a high-stakes "lame-duck" session before the 119th Congress concludes on December 31. This political gridlock also increases the likelihood that federal spending will rely on temporary Continuing Resolutions (CRs) into the fall.

Standing Up for Key MOAA Priorities

Despite the tight legislative window, there is a strong ray of hope. Several crucial MOAA-backed priorities have a fighting chance to make it into the final FY 2027 NDAA, including:

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- **The Pay Our Military Act / Shutdown Fairness Act:** Ensuring our service members are paid on time, even during budgetary stalemates.
 - **How you can help:** [Send a letter to your lawmakers now.](#)
- **The Military Care Act:** Expanding access and improving the quality of care for service families.
 - **How you can help:** [Send a letter to your lawmakers now.](#)
- **The Major Richard Star Act:** Ending the unfair offset that prevents combat-injured veterans from receiving both their full retirement pay and VA disability compensation.
 - **How you can help** [MOAA | Action Center](#)
- **The GUARD VA Benefits Act:** Protecting veterans from predatory, unaccredited claims sharks.
 - **How you can help** [MOAA | Action Center](#)

“Every voice matters. And the more members who participate, the more powerful we can become.” — Lt. Gen. Brian T. Kelly, USAF (Ret), MOAA President and CEO

How You Can Take Action Today

I encourage you to visit the **MOAA Legislative Action Center (LAC)** today to advocate for these vital priorities. It only takes a few minutes to log on, send a message, and ensure your voice is heard in Washington. Click the link:

<https://moaa.quorum.us/> or scan the QR code:



For an even greater impact, consider reaching out to your congressional representatives directly by calling their Washington, D.C., or local Phoenix offices. That personal touch often goes a long way in turning a lawmaker's attention toward our cause.

Thank you for your continued dedication to our grassroots advocacy campaign. Your support truly drives our success!

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Contact Your Congressional Members

Make your voice heard directly by reaching out:

- **Senator Mark Kelly** – kelly.senate.gov | (202) 224-2235 | Phoenix: (602) 671-7901
- **Senator Ruben Gallego** – gallego.senate.gov | (202) 224-4521 | Phoenix: (602) 256-0551
- **Representative Juan Ciscomani** – ciscomani.house.gov | (202) 225-2542 | Tucson (520) 881-3588

ARIZONA LEGISLATIVE ACTION

State Update: Arizona Budget Standoff and Veteran Legislation

The Arizona Legislature is currently at a standstill as legislative leadership and Governor Katie Hobbs work to negotiate a revised fiscal year 2027 budget. With the state's hard deadline of June 30 fast approaching, numerous contentious issues remain on the table. While recent talks have shown some glimmers of optimism, a final agreement has yet to be reached.

Looking Ahead to November

Just as we see on the national stage, the upcoming November general election is the primary focus for lawmakers. All 90 seats in the Arizona Legislature—both the Senate and the House of Representatives—are up for reelection this fall.

Thank you for your incredible support of our state-level advocacy program! Your persistent phone calls, letters, and active participation in the state's **Request to Speak (RTS)** system are what keep our priorities alive. Just like our national campaigns, grassroots advocacy at the state level truly works when we stand together.

As our chapter now covers two legislative districts, please check your current voter registration card for your district. Contacts for our current state legislature members are:

District 19:

- Senator David Gowan [Email: DGOWAN](mailto:DGOWAN) (602) 926-5154
- Representative Lupe Diaz [Email Lupe Diaz](mailto:LupeDiaz) (602) 926-4852
- Representative Gail Griffin [Email Gail Griffin](mailto:GailGriffin) (602) 926-5895

District 21:

- Senator Rosanna Gabaldon [Email: RGABALDON](mailto:RGABALDON) (602) 926-3424
- Representative Consuelo Hernandez [Email: CHERNANDEZ](mailto:CHERNANDEZ) (602) 926-3523
- Representative Stephanie Hamilton [Email: SSTAHLHAMILTON](mailto:SSTAHLHAMILTON) (602) 926-3279

Chaplain's Corner

Warren Leibovitch, 2LT, CA (Former) wleibovitch@episcoar.org

As summer begins, many of us look forward to family gatherings, reunions, and a little well-earned rest. This season gives us an opportunity to pause, give thanks, and ask God's blessing on all who travel to friends, family, or places of adventure.

This summer also invites us to reflect on a larger journey. As our nation celebrates 250 years of independence, we have a chance not only to remember our history, but also to consider our responsibility.

There is a prayer in my church denomination for Independence Day that asks that we may "maintain our liberties in righteousness and peace." That is a timely prayer. Anniversaries are not only about remembering the past; they are also about asking what kind of people we are called to be now — people of gratitude, courage, justice, and hope. Members of MOAA know what it means to act in courage, to seek justice, and to offer oneself to the needs of our Nation.

As we celebrate our Independence, we must not forget the men and women of our Armed Forces and their families who serve beside them in sacrifice, endurance, and love.

Even in seasons of vacation and festivity, many remain on duty, deployed, training, standing watch, or carrying burdens unseen by others. Military spouses, children, parents, and caregivers also bear the weight of service in profound ways. They deserve not only our gratitude, but also our prayers and steadfast support.



So, this summer, may we travel safely, remember thankfully, and serve faithfully. May God bless our nation on this historic milestone, and may God protect all who wear the uniform of our country — and all who wait and worry at home.

A Blessing for Summer Travel and Service

"May God watch over all who journey this summer, granting safety in travel, joy in reunion, and rest in the days ahead. May God also bless our Nation with wisdom and peace as we mark 250 years of liberty. And may God hold in gracious care all the men and women of our armed forces, at home and abroad, and the families who love and support them. Amen."

Blessings, Warren+

Honor Flight Resumed Travel for Local Veterans

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

Twenty-three veterans, nine of whom are from the greater Green Valley/Sahuarita area boarded a flight from Tucson to Baltimore Washington International Airport that for many was the flight of a lifetime. The veterans were on an Honor Flight that would take them to Washington, DC to see the monuments, many of which were erected in their honor. Going on the Honor Flight #36 were 22 men and 1 woman. Two of the men, ages 96 and 97, served during the Korean War and the remainder served during the Vietnam era.

Some of the sights included stops at the Lincoln Memorial, Arlington National Cemetery where they saw the Changing of the Guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, and World War II, Korean Conflict, Women in Military Service to America, Iwo Jima and Air Force memorials.

Chapter member Tom Garnella served as guardian to accompany one of the veterans.

At the end of the whirlwind trip, the weary veterans were greeted by many well-wishers at Tucson Airport, many waving flags or sporting welcome home signs.

Chapter members are encouraged to participate in the Honor Flight program. To be eligible, a veteran must be a Southern Arizona resident and have served honorably on active duty, in the Reserves, National Guard, or Inactive Class 3 Reserves (IRR) prior to May 7, 1975.

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Veterans show heartfelt thanks for being

selected for the Honor Flight experience



Veterans at Lincoln Memorial



Tom Garnella

Veterans were greeted by many supporters at Tucson Airport



The Girl Scouts joined in welcoming the veteran's home





Veterans requiring wheelchairs or oxygen can still participate, as the program provides assistance and equipment as needed.

To apply for a future Honor Flight go to [Veteran Application – Honor Flight Southern Arizona](#). Apply now because it is approximately a one-year plus wait for this popular journey.

Honor Flight Southern Arizona is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that offers veterans a life-changing journey to see the WWII, Korean War, and Vietnam War memorials in Washington, D.C., at no cost. The organization operates entirely through private donations and volunteer support, ensuring that every veteran receives this honor without financial burden.

While there is no charge for the veterans who are accepted for an Honor Flight, the cost that includes the flight, hotel and meals to send a veteran is \$2,000. Guardians must pay their own way at a cost of approximately \$1,250.

Surviving Spouses Have a Virtual Chapter

Nora Durham, Surviving Spouses Liaison



Did you know that there is a virtual MOAA Surviving Spouse Chapter? MOAA National is very excited about this venture and looks forward to having you join the Chapter! Its purpose is to provide:

- A National forum for surviving spouses of uniformed service officers
- A common space to communicate with each other
- An area to share information and concerns pertinent to surviving spouses and spouses
- A platform to advocate for the protection of rights of our members and our family members

Additionally, the Chapter wants to be a reliable source for surviving spouses and spouses who live in remote areas, who are housebound, who have jobs and children, or who may be unable to participate in a local chapter.

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MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Green Valley Chapter · DESERT DUSTER NEWSLETTER

June 2026 ✉ Summer Issue



MOAA's Board of Directors chartered its second virtual chapter for Surviving Spouses March 5, 2018. It is an "affinity group," with members who can share information in a virtual environment with colleagues seeking to work together as they each adjust to a new life. The Chapter wants to make a difference locally, statewide, and nationally, because as members of national MOAA and its local chapters and councils, they "never stop serving."

Some of the topics the virtual chapter will address include information on where to go, who to talk to, how to take the first steps, and what to do next.

- If your spouse served in Vietnam, he/she may have been exposed to Agent Orange. The PACT Act addresses this.
- Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC)
- Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) and your benefits
- Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance (SSI)
- Rules on remarriage
- TRICARE, dental and vision care

The Green Valley Chapter invites you to join in this exciting venture. The group meets monthly via ZOOM, and one of their goals is to have all 50 states represented. They acknowledge we all have busy lives and only ask that one participate to the degree possible. For additional information or to join the MOAA Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter, contact mssvc02@gmail.com. They look forward to hearing from you and welcome your participation in the virtual chapter. Access the downloadable application form by clicking [THIS LINK](#). The virtual chapter Board looks forward to meeting with you.

Pat Green
President

Gail Joyce
Vice President

Roy Yenshesky
Membership

Viviane Wersel
Newsletter

Cheryl Toland
Treasurer

Secretary Desperately Needed

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



We are looking for one volunteer — military member or spouse — to serve as secretary from September – December 2026.

That would require one to attend the monthly board meetings which are held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month from 9-10:30 at Friends in Deed.

The volunteer would take notes during the meeting and then type them up and share them with the Board.

We hope someone can spare about 6 hours to help the Chapter.

Contact peggy@greenvalleymoaa.org with questions or to volunteer.

Travel-Sized Toiletries Needed for Homeless Veterans

If you are traveling this summer and happen to be staying in a facility that still gives individual bottles of shampoo, conditioner and body lotion, please put any unopened containers in your suitcase as you pack to check out. The homeless veterans really appreciate these hygiene products.



With summer upon us, they can also use sunscreen, Chapstick and gently used or new hats. You may drop off items at 1908 E Longspur Place, the first right after the waterfall in Quail Creek.

As those 2027 calendars start arriving in your mailbox, once you have gotten as many as you need, please save the rest of them for the VA hospital. They use them when making multiple appointments for the veterans. You may bring them to the September luncheon.

EVENTS ~ CALENDAR DATES

- 21 January:** Lunch, Taco Giro in Green Valley
- 19 March:** Cocktail Party, Quail Creek Pickleball Ramada
- 6 May:** Scholarship Awards Dinner, Am. Legion Post 66
- 4 July:** Food for the Troops Collection, Quail Creek
- 17 September:** Luncheon, Grill on the Green
- October:** Potluck Dinner @ Lee's home (date: TBD)
- 1 December:** Holiday Dinner, location: La Posada

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



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.

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USA (Ret)
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Join MOAA Leadership and your fellow MOAA members on these hosted cruises and land tours.

AFFORDABLE TRAVEL — Every MOAA Signature Group is a negotiated special which is not available to the general public – only MOAA members and their guests can attend. You can, however, bring as many friends and family members with you as you like.

EASIER, SAFER TRAVEL — Vacations are meant to be an escape. It is your time to relax and unwind, explore, and discover. So, let us take care of the details. This is valuable time that doesn’t have to be spent worrying about how you’re going to get there or, what you’re going to do when you get there

INCREASE THE FUN FACTOR — Being surrounded by like-minded people offers you the chance to share experiences and make new memories together. Group travel can give you the chance to meet people and make new friends. You’ll meet individuals who are also passionate about travel and have experiences that are similar to your own. With shared military backgrounds and values, camaraderie forms naturally and often leads to lasting friendships.

2026 & 2027 SIGNATURE GROUPS

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October 1-10, 2026	Western Europe Yacht Cruise	9-nights from \$4,999
April 25-May 2, 2027	Castles Along the Rhine River Cruise	7-nights from \$4,199
July 19-27, 2027	France & Spain Yacht Cruise	8-nights from \$5,799
September 14-25, 2027	Circle Iceland Yacht Cruise	11-nights from \$8,999
Sept. 25-Oct. 4, 2027	Battlefields of WWI & WWII Tour	10 days from \$6,495

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June 2026 & Summer Issue



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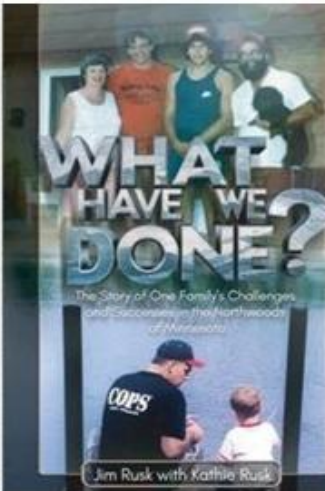
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MOAA National News

House lawmakers appear poised to reverse Pentagon plans to close or cut services at 41 military treatment facilities (MTFs).

Language in the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Military Personnel's [markup of the Fiscal FY 2027 National Defense Authorization Act \(NDAA\)](#) would halt planned reductions at selected MTFs and require a comprehensive review of Defense Health Agency (DHA) restructuring plans.



The legislation also provided the first detailed look at [the list of MTFs proposed for reduced services](#). **For Davis-Monthan they would be Limiting Access to Active Duty Servicemembers and their Dependents.**

[NDAA FIRST LOOK: [TRICARE Coverage Changes, Duty Status Reform, and More](#)]

MTF restructuring traces its roots to the FY 2017 NDAA, which directed sweeping reforms across the military health system (MHS). Goals include achieving efficiencies and consolidating uniformed medical providers in the largest military hospitals, where they have the case volume and complexity needed to maintain clinical skills essential to operational medicine.

MOAA's work on this issue has highlighted the need for rigorous data-based analysis and mitigation planning before any beneficiaries are moved out of MTFs and into the civilian sector for medical care.

As Congress considers proposals to realign the direct care system, MOAA continues to advocate for several key principles:

- **Preserve Military-Essential MTFs:** Military hospitals and clinics located in rural, remote, and medically underserved areas must be maintained when civilian capacity is insufficient to meet the needs of servicemembers and their families.

(continued, next page)

- **Protect MTF Pharmacy Access:** Even where facilities are downsized, pharmacy services should remain available. Military pharmacies provide beneficiaries with convenient access to medications at the lowest cost to both patients and the Pentagon.
- **Verify Civilian Capacity Before Any Transition:** No beneficiary should be moved out of an MTF until DHA demonstrates adequate civilian network capacity. That analysis must include provider availability, TRICARE participation, appointment wait times, and quality-of-care measures.
- **Put Patients First:** Transitions should include proactive communication, sufficient implementation timelines, and personalized assistance for vulnerable populations, including seniors, medically complex patients, and families with special medical needs.
- **Create Local Accountability:** Every downsized facility should have a designated office or point of contact responsible for helping patients resolve transition-related problems.
- **Strengthen Oversight:** Congress should require metrics to monitor access and defined thresholds that trigger corrective action to ensure problems are identified and addressed before beneficiaries experience prolonged disruptions in care.

[RELATED: [Urge Your Lawmakers to Address MTF Access Problems with the Military CARE Act](#)]

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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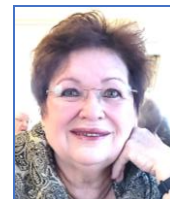
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