

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Fellow Officers,



On behalf of our entire chapter, thank you for your continued support of our annual Green

Valley Chapter. Over the past three summer

months, we completed funding the scholarships

for the two JROTC students and the four veteran students at the University of Arizona. All six recipients sent thank-you notes to our chapter, expressing their sincerest gratitude. After funding these scholarships, we will begin to focus on our annual Turkeys for Troops program. Through this program, our chapter provides gift cards to needy military families during the holiday season. Thank you all in advance for your continued generous support of this annual program.

As I mentioned in a recent newsletter, we have some major issues that we must address. Like most MOAA chapters across our nation and within the state of Arizona, our Green Valley Chapter 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. Some of our chapter members responded to our latest request for additional assistance. Thank you for stepping up and actively participating in our chapter and our programs. I realize that we are all busy with our own lives, so, understandably, many of our members are unable to assist currently. When you are able to give a bit of your time and talents, we are always in need of your advice and assistance.

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[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

September 2026 ✉ Fall 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 past three months, I have spoken with everyone on our current Board of Directors. Most of our board members have agreed to serve one **final** year. Many thanks. We are still in need of a Chapter Secretary, Chapter Treasurer, and Surviving Spouse Board Member. **One does not have to be a Surviving Spouse to fill this position.** Please consider serving in one of these positions during the next calendar year. With everyone working together, I am confident that we will have an outstanding group of new volunteers.

Recently, all chapters completed the annual MOAA survey, which covered many topics including membership, volunteers, and outside activities. Many chapters across our nation are facing the same issues as other volunteer-based organizations are. The survival of our many chapters, including our Green Valley Chapter, continues to be extremely challenging.

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. God Bless the USA as we continue to celebrate our nation's 250th year.

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.

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 fall programs with a **luncheon on Thursday, September 24, at American Legion Post 66, 1560 W Duval Mine Rd.** Doors will open at 11:30 and lunch will be served at noon. This is the presentation that was originally scheduled for January 21, 2026.

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 in fulfilling their Mission of Connecting Healthcare and Culture through Partnership, Respect and Understanding. She has more than 20 years of federal service as HR Director, DOD (Navy), VA and IHS. Moon is a citizen of the Potawatomi Nation and participates regularly in Traditional Ceremonies.

Moon raised a daughter and two stepsons while living in Alaska. Her children still live there. She currently resides in Tucson.

The menu will feature Beef tips with portobello mushrooms in gravy served with mashed potatoes. A vegetarian option will be offered upon request. Both options include dessert. Cost for the luncheon is \$12. Deadline for reservations is September 18. You can find the reservation form on page 17. This program is open to all so please invite your friends and neighbors even if they are not eligible for MOAA membership.

Membership Update

Jack Bundy, Past President, 1st VP, Membership Chair, Secretary, President of the Scholarship and Military Assistance Fund



Our current membership has remained stable at 51 since the publication of our last newsletter with no changes over the summer months. Our breakdown of members is 9 former military, 34 retired military, and 8 surviving spouses. We also have 22 registered auxiliary spouses who paid an additional \$15 dues each for 2026.

We always welcome new members to the Green Valley MOAA chapter and call on all current members to refer any eligible individual to our membership chair, Jack Bundy.

DUES STATUS

As reported earlier, all members paid their dues for 2026 and we thank you for that. It is now almost time to start collecting dues for 2027. The 2027 membership form is on pages 6-7. You may bring your dues and renewal form (don't forget to complete the second page) to the meeting on 24 September or mail it to the address on the bottom of the form.

There has been no change in enticing members to participate in activities, and, more particularly, in accepting leadership positions.

A plea for help was in the last newsletter, but other than having one member, Tom Garnella, (A BIG THANKS, TOM) who has offered to be our Secretary on the Board for the rest of 2026, no one else has volunteered. 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 generally no more than around 20 members who continue to participate at all.

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. Because we all want to continue serving, we will do just that; but for how long? **We cannot sustain the chapter unless we get more help.**



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 beyond 2027 unless more members step up.

WE NEED YOUR HELP TO SUSTAIN THE CHAPTER!

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!

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.

See Jack Bundy to change your membership status with MOAA National.



2027 Chapter Membership/Renew Dues

ELIGIBILITY: Individuals who are or have been federally commissioned (including Warrant Officers) in one of the eight U.S. uniformed services (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Space Force, Coast Guard, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and Public Health Services) or the National Guard or other Reserve Components of those services, and Surviving Spouses of deceased individuals who would, if living, be eligible for regular membership.

Chapter Dues: (Military-\$25; Spouses-\$15) Membership Dues \$ _____

Make Dues checks 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.

If you wish to also donate to the Scholarship & Military Assistance Fund, please write a **separate check** for this donation. **Please make donation checks payable to: Green Valley MOAA Scholarship and Military Assistance Fund or 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)



Reverse Side:

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 **your** 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.

Little Things Mean a Lot

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



With this title I am probably dating myself but the words sung by Kitty Kallen in 1954, *[Little Things Mean a Lot](#)* (turn up your device volume!), are still important today to your MOAA chapter. We say that we need help in a variety of areas so I wanted to give you some possible suggestions that are not too time-consuming. If you will be coming to one of our events, like a luncheon or dinner, your help would be very much appreciated if you would assist with check-in. That would mean you would have to get there about 30 minutes ahead of the social period to get set up and be ready to welcome the first guests.

If a sit-down job is more to your liking, perhaps you could sell Jim Click raffle tickets prior to the meal. All the proceeds from these tickets go to our Scholarship and Military Assistance programs but without help to sell the tickets, we don't raise as much money to sustain these programs.

If working from home is more important to you, and you know how to use Excel, you could develop the spreadsheets that we use for check-in and keeping track of the meals ordered.

Because we no longer have a resident Chaplain, we would appreciate someone leading us in prayer at the beginning and end of each meeting. This could be the same person at each gathering or better yet, it would be ideal if we had a different volunteer at each event.

If you are willing to help in any of these areas, please let me know at peggy@greenvalleymoaa.org.

2027 Calendars Needed by VA Hospital

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



It seems calendars are appearing around the area in record numbers. If you have received more calendars than you can possibly use, please consider bringing them to one of our events and they will be taken to the VA Hospital. The calendars, both wall and pocket styles, are used to record veterans' upcoming medical and counseling appointments and are then given to the veterans to take home and post in a prominent place so they don't miss an appointment.

The homeless veterans' program can also use unopened travel and regular sized toiletries—shampoos, conditioners, toothpaste, floss, toothbrushes, hand cream, ChapStick, razors, nail clippers. Donations may also be left at 1908 E Longspur Place in Quail Creek.

Jim Click Raffle Tickets Still Available

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

There are only a couple more months to purchase your tickets for the annual Jim Click Raffle. All money collected from ticket sales stays right with our Chapter to fund Scholarships for JROTC cadets and educational grants for veterans enrolled at the University of Arizona. The money is also used to purchase gift cards for the Davis-Monthan commissary for our *Turkeys for the Troops* program.



Tickets are \$25 each or 5 for \$100, cash or checks payable to MOAA S&MA Fund. Prizes include a 2026 Nissan Frontier Pro-4X Roush Edition truck, two first-class round-trip tickets to anywhere commercial carriers fly or \$5000 in cash. The raffle will be held on 10 December.

Tickets will be available for purchase at the 24 September luncheon or by contacting peggy@greenvalleyMOAA.org.

Latest Legislative News

Darren Venters, Legislative Affairs and Transition Liaison

Looking Ahead: The November 3rd Election and State Advocacy

- November general election is the top priority for lawmakers. This fall, all 90 seats in the Arizona Legislature—both the Senate and the House of Representatives—are up for reelection.
- Deadline to register to vote in the general election is 5 October 2026.
- Early Voting begins 7 October.
- Need to register to vote or update your registration? Click here [AZ MVD Now](#)
- To follow your mailed in ballot, click here: [Election Eligibility and Early Ballot Status](#)

Arizona Legislature passed several military and veteran related bills this year. There are new rules for the 2027 tax year for disabled veterans with a service-connected disability. One must apply **between the first Monday in January and March 1** for Pima County Assessor's Office Valuation Relief Programs. If approved, a Disabled Veteran with a rating of less than 100% or a Nonservice-Connected Disability could receive a reduction to their Limited Assessed Value. For details, go to <https://www.asr.pima.gov/Downloads/Forms/veteran-exemption-application.pdf>.

- 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 exactly what keep our priorities alive. Just like our national campaigns, grassroots advocacy at the state level truly works when we stand together.
- Green Valley chapter covers two legislative districts. To find your district, click here: [Find My Legislator](#).

Contacts for our current state legislature members are:

- **LD-19:**
 - **Sen. David Gowan**, (602) 926-5154, dgowan@azleg.gov
 - **Rep. Gail Griffin**, (602) 926-5895, ggriffin@azleg.gov
 - **Rep. Lupe Diaz**, (602) 926-4852, ldiaz@azleg.gov
- **LD -21:**
 - **Sen. Rosanna Gabaldón**, (602) 926-3424, RGalbaldon@azleg.gov;
 - **Rep. Consuelo Hernández**, (602) 926-3523, CHernandez@azleg.gov,
 - **Rep. Stephanie Stahl Hamilton**, (602) 926-3279, SStahlhamilton@azleg.gov

On the national level you may contact:

- **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** | 1429 Longworth HOB, Washington, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-2542; 1636 N Swan Rd. Tucson AZ 85712 (520) 631-5801

Washington DC: Three items on MOAA's Summer Advocacy priority list include the emerging NDAA

September has arrived, which means the summer congressional recesses are nearly over. The House recess ran from 24 July through 30 August, and the Senate's recess from 8 August through 13 September.

Now is an excellent time to assist in MOAA's Summer Advocacy Campaign. Support and advocate for passage of these three items: Please check out "How to Take Action" at www.moaa.org/takeaction. There are about two dozen specific bills listed if you want to "write" to your representative.

- Supporting combat-injured veterans. The Major Richard Star Act. Combat-injured and medically retired veterans before reaching 20 years of service lose \$1 of their earned retirement pay for every \$1 of VA Disability compensation they receive.
- Expanding the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) expired in 2025 Reauthorizing it and also adding military spouses as an eligible group is MOAA's goal. It would give employers an added incentive to hire veterans and military spouses.
- Restoring GLP-1 coverage for TRICARE For Life beneficiaries.

Darren Venters, Chapter Legislative Liaison, and Polly Parks, President of the Tucson Chapter, met with Cameron Fox, Representative Ciscomani's Legislative Assistant to discuss the Major Richard Star Act, Work Opportunity Tax Credit Act, restoring GLP-1 coverage, The Duty Status Act. Cameron's response was positive. Ciscomani is a co-sponsor to the Major Richard Star Act.

From our support-the-troops perspective, the major legislative piece we wanted the House to complete before adjourning is the NDAA—National Defense Authorization Act. There was a time not long ago when the NDAA passed by a large majority (for example in 2018, 351 "for" and "66" against; in recent years, the number opposed crept to over 100. This year's vote was a polarized 216 "for" and 212 "against".

Still, the House version of the NDAA contains solid people highlights: a pay raise for active duty of 5% and even 7%, requires Basic Allowance for Housing to cover 100% of housing costs, authorizes \$2Billion for barracks and family housing improvement (one of MOAA's goals stems from mold spores in family housing), and boosts for education and childcare for military families.

We await the Senate action and vote on the NDAA that needs 60 senators to vote "aye" to send it to the President. Yet their version is stalled and not even on the senate schedule for a vote. There are several real hangups:

- (1) clarity on defense spending with questions on the \$1.1Trillion submission, and another supplemental request to get the total to \$1.5Trillion, and yet another supplemental for the Iran War and weapons stockpile replacements of \$67Billion. (And by the rules of the Senate, whether a supplemental process is in order).
- (2) how to source the historic Trillion \$ bill, much of which adds to the deficits and whether any "bill payers" will come from cutting more deeply into non-discretionary parts of the national budget including even more reductions in cabinet department agencies and staffs (hopefully without Mr. Musk and his chainsaw act of before), domestic program cuts like medical and housing and more.
- (3) NDAA may be attached to the SAVE America Act that politically has its challenges for passage, and
- (4) the House bill endured over 300 amendments. Some passed like AZ's own Andy Biggs sponsoring if any component of the DOD fails its financial audit, a 0.5% cut would be made with those monies going to the Treasury to buy down the national debt.

BTW, the last time the DOD had a passing financial audit of their expenditures was... never. Only the USMC has passed its audit—3 years in a row. If Mr. Biggs' amendment holds, the Army, AF and Navy excluding Marine Corps budgets would be lopped a half-percent (for example, the Army would lose \$1.3B to the Treasury, the AF \$1.7B and the Navy \$1.8B, the Space Force \$275Million. Then there is the elusive DNI (Intelligence) budget that passes thru the AF budget but isn't AF programs, a possible cut of \$41Million.

JROTC News

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



Even though they were on summer break from school, the Army JROTC cadets from Rio Rico High School got a jump on the school year with five different projects. On July 3 they supported the Santa Cruz Independence Festival by helping with parking and traffic control. As the teachers were getting ready for the school year, they helped with setup duties.

Towards the end of July, cadets supported both JROTC instructors with an internal move into a brand-new facility and on July 31 they supported the *Welcome Back Teacher* celebration with a color guard.

After the school year had opened, the top three cadets took part in the school-wide Open House by providing parents, family, and friends with an overview of the JROTC program.

On Independence Day the Naval JROTC cadets from Sahuarita High School provided a color guard and raised the American and Arizona flags to mark the beginning of the Nation's 250th Anniversary at the Quail Creek 4th of July ceremony.





Surviving Spouses Corner: Find Support Wherever You Live

Nora Durham, Surviving Spouses Liaison

SHARED BY ROY YENCHESKY

A military surviving spouse who lives far from a military installation or VA facility still has access to a wide network of national organizations dedicated to providing support, guidance, and community.



One of the most accessible starting points is [Military OneSource](#), which offers 24/7 phone and online assistance, confidential counseling, financial guidance, and help navigating survivor benefits.

Because services are delivered virtually, surviving spouses can receive personalized support without traveling long distances.

The [VA's Office of Survivors Assistance](#) also provides extensive online tools, benefit explanations, and direct inquiry support. Surviving spouses can explore programs such as Dependency and Indemnity Compensation, education benefits, and health care options through online guides, downloadable resources, and telephone support. The VA also offers virtual counseling, caregiver resources, and grief support through its Vet Centers and hotlines.

Several national nonprofit organizations play a major role in supporting surviving spouses regardless of location. [MOAA](#) offers survivor-specific guidance, legislative advocacy, and access to both local and virtual chapters. [MOAA's Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter](#) is especially valuable for those who do not live near a military community.

For more details on resources available for Surviving Spouses please go to <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2026-news-articles/spotlight/surviving-spouse-corner-find-support-wherever-you-live/>.

Please share this information with surviving spouse friends and relatives who might not live in the vicinity of a MOAA Chapter.

Food for the Troops Collection Exceeded Expectations

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



Our Independence Day *Food for the Troops* collection at Quail Creek exceeded expectations, especially since it had to be a one-day collection this year. We collected over 135 lbs. of groceries in less than one hour that morning. A couple days later a representative from the 162nd Wing, AZ Air National Guard, collected the much-needed groceries.

In addition to the groceries, visitors to the MOAA table donated \$122 to the *Food for the Turkeys* pot. We also earned \$81 from the 50-50 raffle proceeds. The money will be used to purchase gift cards for the Davis-Monthan Commissary to give to the troops to purchase the foods they need for a festive Thanksgiving meal. Many also purchased Jim Click raffle tickets so an additional \$450 was placed in the scholarship fund. The scholarships are awarded to graduating JROTC students from the local high schools and educational grants are given to honorably discharged veterans enrolled at the University of Arizona.

The lucky winner of the 50-50 raffle was Sharon Vandenberg.



Our president COL Lee Staab, with 135 lbs. of groceries collected from Quail Creek residents on Independence Day.



Selling Jim Click raffle tickets were (L-R) Nora Durham, Darren Venters, Lee Staab & Maj Gen Jim Whitehead.



(L-R) Peggy McGee & Wanda Staab drummed up business for the 50-50 raffle.

Chaplain's Corner

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



To all who have travelled through the summer, Welcome Back!

I hope the summer was a time to relax, perhaps visit someplace new, and hopefully you were able to enjoy time with family and friends.

Did you have a chance to celebrate our great country's 250th birthday? Parades were a highlight in many towns as well as concerts and various celebration events. I was in Little Rock, AR on the fourth of July and the local fireworks didn't end till after 3 am!

Celebrations continue in many locations to the end of the year with various events and displays. Give thanks for our country and for the freedoms we enjoy.

As the (eventual) cooler weather begins and more start venturing outside, consider getting involved with our MOAA Chapter. Events are regularly listed in the newsletter. Perhaps give some time to our Board to help us continue the supportive work MOAA provides.

Keep praying for the men and woman of our Armed Forces and their families, especially

those deployed to support the needs in the Middle East at this time.

Enjoy the rest of the summer season as we transition into the fall. Before you know it, we will be preparing for Thanksgiving!

Before your schedule gets busier preparing for the season, take time to reflect on your blessings.

A Seasonal Prayer of Thanks: *God of every season, as summer fades and fall begins, we thank you for the gifts of these past months for days of light, times of rest, and moments of joy. As the season turns, give us grateful hearts, steady courage, and peace for whatever lies ahead. Help us welcome the fall with hope, care for one another with kindness, and trust that you are with us in every change. Amen.*

Feel free to contact me at any time if you need some support or prayer for yourself, a loved one or friend. I am happy to pray with you or simply be a listening ear.

Blessings and Peace,
Father Warren





SEPTEMBER LUNCHEON RESERVATION FORM

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

24 September 2026 • Social 11:30 | Lunch 12noon

LOCATION: American Legion Post 66 | 1560 W. Duval Mine Road, Green Valley, AZ

**** Please make your reservations by SEPT. 18 ****

Reserve _____ places Cost: \$_____ (\$12 per person)

Menu Choices:

- #1 Beef Tips with portobello mushrooms in gravy served with mashed potatoes
- #2 Vegetarian option is offered upon request

Both options include dessert. Cash bar will be available. **Indicate menu choice (#) next to each name, 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 made a reservation and find you cannot attend, PLEASE CONTACT (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

September 2026 ✂ Fall Issue



EVENTS ~ CALENDAR DATES

- 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
- 24 September:** Lunch, American Legion Post 66
- TBD October:** Potluck dinner, President Lee Staab's home
- November:** No meeting
- 1 December:** Thanksgiving/Holiday Dinner, 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

2027 Chapter Dues Campaign begins!

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



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



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
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.



MOAA SIGNATURE GROUPS

**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

July 12-21, 2026	Highlights of Eastern Europe River Cruise	9-nights from \$3,999
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
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Lisa Larkin Esq.
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JIM & KATHIE RUSK

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"What Have We Done?" is available in eBook, soft and hard cover formats at [Amazon.com](#) or [Barnes&Noble.com](#).

The book cover for "What Have We Done?" features a group photo of four people (two men and two women) in the upper half. The title "WHAT HAVE WE DONE?" is prominently displayed in large, white, block letters. Below the title, a subtitle reads "The Story of One Family's Challenges and Successes in the Heartlands of Minnesota". The lower half of the cover shows a man in a black t-shirt with "COPS" written on the back, talking to a young child. The authors' names, "Jim Rusk with Kathie Rusk", are at the bottom.

The RE/MAX Select logo includes the text "RE/MAX SELECT" in blue and red, with icons for a house, a car, and a person.

A headshot of Lisa Larkin, Esq., a woman with blonde hair, wearing a dark top.

Lisa Larkin, Esq.
Associate Broker/Owner
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The RE/MAX logo features a stylized red and blue hot air balloon with the text "RE/MAX" inside.

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MOAA National News

August Recess Ends: What's Next for Congress?

Lawmakers will have only 14 legislative days between their impending return to Washington, D.C., and their departure for the midterm elections. This leaves a limited window to avert a government shutdown and accomplish other unfinished business.



The House of Representatives will be back in session Aug. 31, and the Senate will join them Sept. 14. With the end of the fiscal year on Sept. 30, passing appropriations legislation to keep the government open is the dominant issue – everything else competes for scraps of time. At this point on the calendar, bills unrelated to funding regularly stall or are attached to must-pass appropriations packages.

Both chambers will go on recess in early October for the 2026 midterm elections. Thirty-five seats in the Senate and all 435 seats in the House are up for grabs. The outcome, and the future of the many bills being considered by Congress, is uncertain.

Here is a look at some of the key pieces of legislation MOAA will be pressing lawmakers to pass before time is up.

Will There Be Another Shutdown?

The federal government shut down from Oct. 1 to Nov. 12 last year, with the funding lapse lasting a record 43 days before a continuing resolution reopened most agencies.

A second shutdown began Jan. 31 for several agencies including the Department of Homeland Security, which affected the Coast Guard. Funding was not restored for a record-breaking 76 days.

While the specter of another shutdown remains, Congress' failing to agree to pass a continuing resolution by Sept. 30 is unlikely. There is little appetite for a shutdown before the election, and both the House and Senate have passed competing stopgap spending bills that would keep the government open until December. MOAA expects passage of one of these bills will be the top priority for lawmakers once they return to Washington.

[TAKE ACTION: [Ask Your Lawmakers to Protect Servicemember Pay During a Shutdown](#) | [Ask Your Lawmakers to Protect Uniformed Services Retirement Pay](#)]

MOAA has long held that [lapses in funding](#) financially harm servicemembers and hurt readiness. We have called on Congress to work together to reverse this trend of increasingly common shutdowns. Passing legislation to protect those in uniform from the harmful effects of a shutdown would bring a measure of certainty and enable service members to better focus on their mission.

National Defense Authorization Act

Among the legislative packages for floor consideration in September is the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). Both the House and Senate have proposed versions of the must-pass annual NDAA, and Congress is expected to take up the bill shortly after returning.

The House passed its version ([H.R. 8800](#)) in late July. It authorizes a \$1.15 trillion budget, includes a [tiered pay raise](#) of 5% to 7%, [reverses cuts to more than 40 military treatment facilities \(MTFs\)](#), mandates [additional oversight for the TRICARE pharmacy benefit](#), and more.

The Senate version ([S. 4784](#)), with a topline budget of \$1.14 trillion, was [advanced by the Senate Armed Services Committee in June](#) but has not been brought to the floor. It shares provisions aimed at reversing MTF cuts and enhancing pharmacy oversight, but authorizes only a 3.6% pay raise across the board. It also contains a provision that would establish a digital system to improve TRICARE beneficiary access to care, [a priority of MOAA's](#).

Once S. 4784 passes the Senate, negotiations will begin between the chambers on a final bill. MOAA will continue monitoring the NDAA as it develops this fall and will engage with lawmakers and their staffs to keep key provisions supporting servicemembers and their families in the final bill.

Take Care of America's Veterans Act

The Take Care of America's Veterans Act (TCAVA) is a sweeping omnibus bill including more than 60 pieces of legislation supporting veterans, survivors, and caregivers. Provisions such as the Major Richard Star Act, the Love Lives On Act, and the Veteran Caregiver Reeducation, Reemployment, and Retirement (3R) Act address high-level MOAA priorities.



Leaders in the House postponed a scheduled vote on TCVA shortly before leaving Washington in July.

While general support among veterans is high, there remains an active debate concerning the source of TCVA's funding and codifying the VA's upcoming changes to disability ratings for sleep apnea and tinnitus.

[RELATED: [MOAA Takes Pragmatic Approach to Supporting Landmark Veterans Bill](#)]

The provisions in TCVA will greatly help many veterans, survivors, and caregivers – past, present and future. This bill is a pivotal opportunity to achieve long-awaited wins for veterans across the country. Taking no action is likely to result in the funds earmarked by this legislation being removed from the wider veteran community entirely and returned to the Treasury.

TCVA may be brought back to the floor for action in September, and MOAA will continue to work with lawmakers, their staffs, coalition partners, and other stakeholders to make sure this opportunity is not wasted.

[TAKE ACTION: [Urge Your Lawmakers to Support the Take Care of America's Veterans Act](#)]

Make Sure Your Voice Is Heard

With only 16 legislative days before recess, lawmakers will be weighing many priorities. Advocacy leaders and volunteers around the country are engaged in [MOAA's Summer Advocacy in Action campaign](#) in support of three priorities: the Major Richard Star Act, military spouse employment, and pharmacy parity for TRICARE For Life beneficiaries.

[FROM MOAA'S PRESIDENT: [Congress Is Listening. It's Time to Act.](#)]

Before recess, Congress needs to keep hearing from the people affected by these decisions. With competing priorities and a looming election, it will be up to uniformed service members, families, veterans, and survivors to ensure those who serve and have served aren't lost in a crowded docket. Please register as an advocate, get involved in your community, and [take action today](#).

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Green Valley Chapter • DESERT DUSTER NEWSLETTER

September 2026 ✎ Fall Issue



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



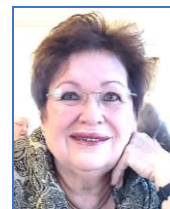
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