



# Superstition Mountain Express

**MOAA™ Military Officers Association of America**



May 2020  
Volume 41, Issue 9

President's Message	1
Update from members	2
No functions in May	
Birthdays/Anniversaries	5
Chair Reports	5-6
Looking back at TROA	8-11
Donation information	11

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The Superstition Mountain Chapter, Military Officers Association of America Inc., is a non-profit organization, IRS tax ID# 23-7430856  
<http://www.smcmoaa.org/>

**Please remember to share the newsletter with your spouse!**



**President's Comments**

Hello All

I know this has been a trying time for us all. I hope everyone is well, maintaining their social distancing and staying home as much as possible.

I had a conference call with the board members, and we decided to cancel all meetings for the month of May. Due to the uncertainty of the situation regarding the opening of restaurants and their ability to host larger groups, we felt this was the best course of action. We will have another conference call later in May to assess the situation for June and make further decisions on gathering for our meetings. The fact is that most of us are in the high-risk group, so it is best we continue with the social distancing rules for now.

Stay safe, and if you need any help or know of someone who needs assistance reach out to us and we will do what we can to help.

**Warmest Regards,**

John Bushko



<b>2020 OFFICERS</b>		<b>2020 COMMITTEE CHAIRS</b>	
President, Lt Col John Bushko	480-759-1717 <a href="mailto:jabushko@earthlink.net">jabushko@earthlink.net</a>	Programs	CW4 Arlan Allen
1 <sup>st</sup> VP, CW4 Arlan Allen	602-283-5862 <a href="mailto:cw4allen@cox.net">cw4allen@cox.net</a>	Membership	Col John Marsh
2 <sup>nd</sup> VP, Col John Marsh	480-2191020 <a href="mailto:emarsh125@gmail.com">emarsh125@gmail.com</a>	ROTC/JROTC	Capt Ed Mangan
VP Auxiliary, Mrs. Judy Bushko	480-759-1717 <a href="mailto:jdbushko@earthlink.net">jdbushko@earthlink.net</a>	Personal Affairs	Lt Gregory Moore
Secretary, Mrs. Peggy Allen		Legislative	MG Dave Rataczak
Treasurer, Col Thomas Ralph		Newsletter	Mrs. Marlene Fox
Past President, MG Dave Rataczak		Website	Lt. Ann Ferguson
		Transition Coordinator	
		Director	Maj. Austin Foote
		Director	Mrs. Ann Schminke
		Director	Capt. George Meegan
		Director	Lt Col Sheryl Mauldin
		Director	Col Karl Pfitzer
		Director	Captain Al Anderer
		CAS Membership	Maj Norm Poole



## Update on what's happening with some of our members

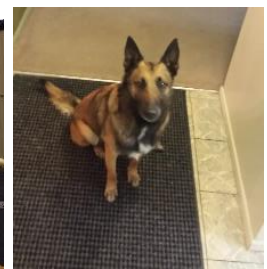
Here's what some of our members are doing during this interesting change in our lives, as we all are trying to stay in our homes as much as possible. Hope it makes you smile!



Not much happening here except that we are all doing fine. No virus yet. Nelly is enjoying us being home more. **Tom & Melanie Ralph**



**Al & Paula Anderer** We're hanging in there and doing fine! Bowen says "Don't let this happen to you."



**Adoption Day**

**Inspection is done!**

**Time for a Walk**



No, we have not finished the projects I mentioned in the last newsletter but are really trying to get stuff done. The utility room has been cleaned! One down, several to go. Hope everyone is staying safe!

I didn't post pictures last month because we currently don't have a pet (several feral cats, but no pets.) These photos are of Tini, Retired Military Working Dog. We drove to Lackland AFB in March 2014 to adopt her. From the beginning, Tini went just about everywhere with us, even to visit my sister in Albuquerque. Tini spent a lot of time at the airport with Arlan & Butch while they were rebuilding Arlan's airplane. She was doing the final wing inspection! Tini, also, joined several Board meetings and performed her "explosive detection" skills at one of our summer luncheons. Unfortunately, Tini got sick in October of 2018, and we had to let her go. **Peggy & Arlan Allen**

**Superstition Mountain Express**



Doing much of the same stuff. We are doing fine, just waiting for baseball to start!  
**Jo & George Meegan**



We don't have a pet at home unless you count the Javelina pack that passes our backyard. I am told they are friendly but have not attempted to pet one!! Marilyn and I have respected the lock down as it is personal for us older folks. We do get out to keep the wine cellar stocked at Total Wine. Patronage there early keeps us able to do good social distancing. Otherwise, books from Amazon, happy hour, cooking, home projects, etc. are our life. **John & Marilyn Marsh**



Nothing new going on here. Still not sick, so I guess it's working! Ann and I had been going out to lunch and dinner four or five times a week, but now nothing???? I am really looking forward to getting these stores and restaurants opened and baseball started!  
**Ann Schminke & Ed Mangan**



Judy and I are doing well. We only go out to the grocery store to get the needed items when necessary. We are still sorting through stuff in the house and rearranging closets, things we should have done ages ago. Judy keeps busy making masks for different groups she belongs to and for family members. I stay busy updating things around the house. Beyond that we watch a lot of TV, read, and work on puzzles. **Judy & John Bushko**



Our dog Buster is a 2-year-old Bernese Mountain Dog. Berner is an 11-year-old long haired Tuxedo Cat. We are Staying home except for grocery shopping and we take the dog for walks in our neighborhood.  
**Lesley & Bill Baran**



## Superstition Mountain Express



Hubbie Roddie continues to make fabulous, non-stop strides with the yard, patio, garage, and Camaro. I am still going thru greeting cards and lots of files. One treasure I found was a bag of S&H Green Stamp books and stamps. Would anyone like them? Another treasure is an envelope full of pre-stamped postcards, with 1 cent & 4 cent postage. When things open-up, I'll see if there is a Postal Museum in town. These definitely belong in a museum! At the bottom of my to-do list remains reading the Owner's Manual for my new Subaru and doing my sewing/mending... Stay safe! Keep well! **Rebecca & Roddy Charlton-Schmidt**



This is Mutley. He is a Toto dog. Like in the Wizzard of Ozz. We are doing well, hanging in there waiting for things to get back to normal. **David & Lynne Loss**



These are our dogs from past years. The Old English Sheep Dog, Dutchess is 3yrs and the Bearded Collie, Chewbacca is 6 months in the first photo. In the next one Dutchess was 4yrs, and then Chewbacca 6yrs and 2yrs. Both lived to 15 yrs.



Ed and I are keeping busy. I have finished getting all the old MOAA pictures put on to a flash drive so the chapter now has its picture history.

We finished making a new outdoor dart cabinet and are painting all of my outdoor statues. **Marlene & Ed Fox**

## This one is to keep you smiling!

I sent out an email to a few of our members asking for updates on what they have been doing since the lock down. I also asked for more **pictures of pets**. The following emails were exchanged by this member and me.

**Member** -I misread your e-mail and told the wife you wanted pictures of us petting but she said not tonight she is too tired. What is the cutoff date?

**Me** - By the 25<sup>th</sup> if possible

**Member** - Thx. Will go to store and get some wine and maybe some chocolate and flowers to set the mood. Will do my best to get you some pics.

No pictures, I guess it didn't work!

## All MOAA Chapter functions cancelled for May



Peggy and Arlan Allen delivered snacks to the Veterans Center for the Veterans Bingo games. Usually some of our members go help with the bingo but aren't allowed in during the Corona Virus shutdown. Carol (pictured on the right) said they could use the treats because Bingo is one of the few things they can still do. So the Allen's stepped up again!



## May Congratulations



### MEMBER BIRTHDAY

### SPOUSE BIRTHDAY

### ANNIVERSARIES

Al Anderer	22
Jaunita Gray	17
Ward Fogelsanger	15
Charles McCorkle	24
George Meegan	20
Hal Peebles	27
Mary Dawn Sandlin	8

Linda Burch	2
Claudia Horak	28
Connie Koch	29
Marcella Peters	24
Betty Schrader	12

Al & Paula Anderer	28
Fred & Ann Ferguson	30
Karl & Joan Kohlhoff	19

The only way to live is to accept each minute as an unrepeatable miracle, which is exactly what it is: a miracle and unrepeatable.

Margaret Storm Jameson

## CHAIRMAN REPORTS



**1st Vice President**  
**Arlan Allen- Programs**

In compliance with Federal, State and Local guidelines, to combat the spread of the Covid 19 Virus, Superstition Mountain Chapter, MOAA, has cancelled all activities for May 2020. We will reevaluate at the end of May and are hoping to resume normal luncheon activities in June.

602-283-5862 - [cw4allen@cox.net](mailto:cw4allen@cox.net)



**ROTC/JROTC**  
**Ed Mangan**



Due to the Corona Virus situation, all **ROTC/JROTC Awards Programs have been cancelled**. All of the JROTC awards have been sent out to each of our 22 schools. So now the only thing we need to do is pay for the sponsorship funds for our schools. I would like to thank all of our school sponsors this year. Hopefully, we will be able to have our functions again soon.

If you have any questions, please call or email me.  
[Emangan3@aol.com](mailto:Emangan3@aol.com) 602-501-0128



Legislative

Dave Rataczak



Taken from May issue of the Sentinel by Lee Lange, Legislative Chair

Virtual Storming Up to Us Now

Last month, I reported that, for the first time ever, MOAA canceled the annual Storming the Hill signature event, previously set for March 21-26 in Washington, D.C. While the ongoing pandemic forced the cancellation of in-person events connected to Storming the Hill 2020, MOAA will continue its advocacy mission with a Virtual Storm.

To do that MOAA is asking council and chapter members to take the lead. The one issue MOAA is asking us to take to our legislators is highlighting the need to protect the military health care benefit by stopping DoD's planned 18K billet reductions. Our chapter has responsibility for Rep Reuben Gallego and Rep David Schweikert. We also have a relationship with Sen Sinema's office. We will be arranging conference calls to those offices.

See MOAA's link at https://www.moaa.org/moaastorms and click on the Issue Paper for health care. While the chapter Virtual Storm team has specific responsibility for two U.S. representative, every chapter member can help our storming team by sending messages to your U.S. Representative and U.S. Senators. If you do not know who your U.S. Representative is, Google U.S. House of Representatives and enter your zip code.

Take Action: Ask your members of Congress to join the fight to halt the 18K billet reductions and end military treatment facility downsizing amid COVID-19 uncertainty. You can do this by calling their Arizona district or Washington offices or by sending them a message formatted by MOAA online.

Arizona State Legislative Update

State Legislative Ends Session – Veteran’s Issues Fail

The coronavirus pandemic focused the Legislature’s full attention on putting together a slimmed down state budget, then adjourning to do their part in stemming the spread of coronavirus. After including a \$50M relief package for the economic impacts of coronavirus to the state, the budget was passed on March 23, and both the House and Senate announced their adjournment. The \$11.8B budget passed by the legislature falls far short of Governor Ducey’s requested \$12.3B and does not include the major veteran’s issues below. In later news from the State Capitol, the legislature will meet May 1 in order to formally adjourn for 2020. They will then wait for the Governor’s call to a Special Session to deal with the state’s economic issues

Veterans Benefits Counselors (VBC’s)

SB1044, sponsored by Senator David Livingston, called for six new VBC’s. It was passed by the Senate on February 4 and sent to the House. A similar bill in the House, HB2139, sponsored by Representative Jay Lawrence, passed the full House on March 2, by a vote of 59-1. It was sent to the Senate for further action. But this initiative did not get into the budget passed on March 23, so the issue is very much in doubt.

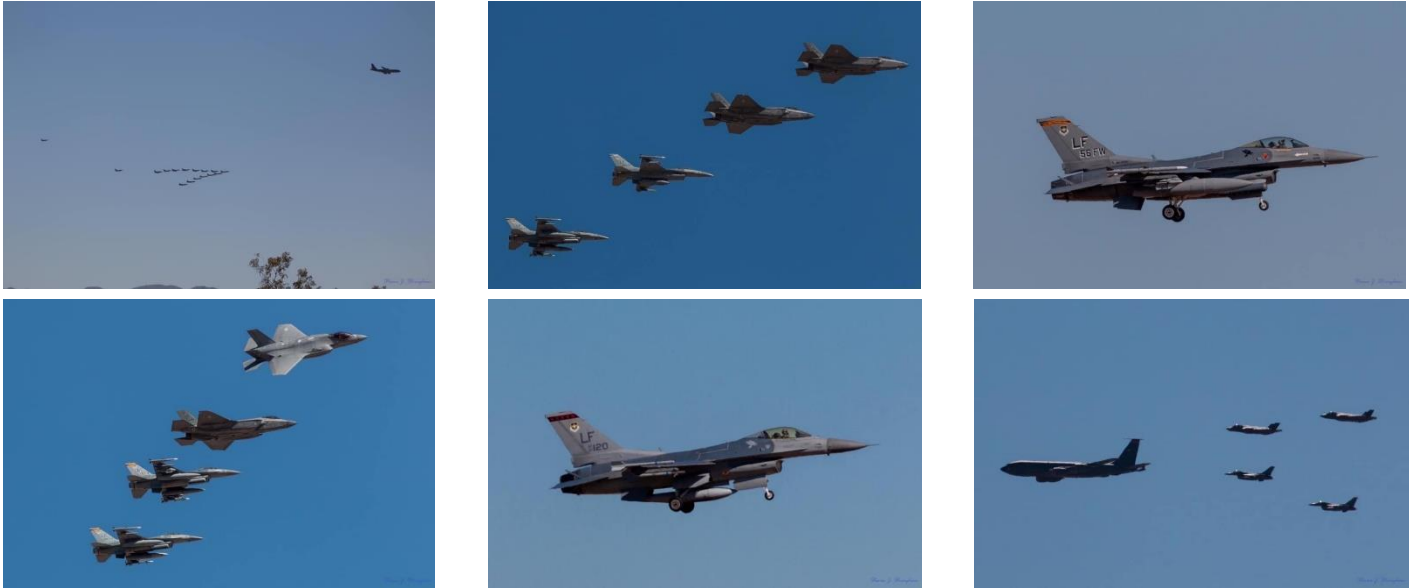
Tax Exemption on Military Retired Pay

Governor Ducey’s call for full exemption of military retired pay from state taxes faced strong opposition in the Arizona legislature. A major factor was the \$45M price tag which is proving to be a heavy lift for supporters. The Senate bill, SB1237, sponsored by Senator David Gowan, failed in a vote in the full Senate on February 25. Senator Gowan’s motion to reconsider the bill later was approved. It was not heard again. In the House, Representative Gail Griffin’s, HB 2667 narrowly passed the House Ways and Means Committee on February 19. There has been no further committee action, in part a reflection of member opposition to the bill. This initiative has an uphill fight in the face of the significant blows expected to the state economy from coronavirus.

Memorial Day May 25,2020



## Honoring Arizona's front line COVID-19 responders



Pictures taken in NE Phoenix by Steven Stringham

Luke Air Force Base, including the 56th Fighter Wing and the 944th Fighter Wing, along with the Arizona National Guard 161st Air Refueling Wing honored Arizona's front line COVID-19 responders with a community flyover May 1, 2020.

A formation of 15 aircraft, including seven F-35A Lightning IIs and seven F-16 Fighting Falcons flying out of Luke Air Force Base and one KC-135 from the 161st ARW were in the flyover.

The flight path brought them through Buckeye, Luke Air Force Base, Litchfield Park, Surprise, Waddell, Goodyear, Tolleson, Phoenix Metro, Tempe, Chandler, Gilbert, Mesa, Scottsdale, Deer Valley, Glendale, Peoria, Sun City West, and El Mirage

Here is a video of the fly over in Gilbert, taken by Jeri Warren - <https://youtu.be/vbeEzIX9ryc>



### In Memoriam

**Ann Gippert, Beloved Wife, Mother, Friend  
May 4, 2020**



Ann and Scott Gippert were charter members of our chapter. Scott held many board positions including president. Ann was our chapter secretary for many years. They were always very active in our chapter although Ann hasn't been able to attend our functions as much over the past few years. We will miss Ann very much. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family

## Looking Back at Our Chapters History



**February 6, 1975  
Leisure World Ballroom**

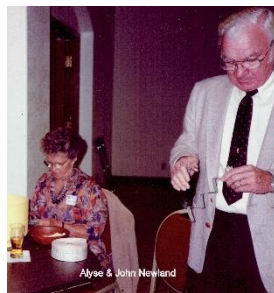
**Col Morill presents a gavel to  
Charter President Bob Wright.  
Two hundred fifty guests were  
in attendance.**

**TROA  
Superstition Mountain  
Chapter is launched**

Our Chapter was formed as The Retired Officers Association (TROA). In January 2003 National TROA was changed to Military Officers Association of America (MOAA). In 1998 our chapter had a membership of 284 members. Most of our functions/meetings had 150 or more members in attendance. Here is a trip down memory lane from 1991 -2002. Unfortunately we only have this one picture from before 1991.



1991 Loretta & Frank Schafer



1991 Alyse & John Newland



1992 Dale & Gerry Copsey



1992 David & Betty Beil



1993 Ann & Scott Gippert



1994 Bob & Betty Grenig



1992 Betty Page



Herb & Florence Gunderson



**Superstition Mountain Express**



1992 Bill Bakke



1992 Honey Gustafson



1993 Jim & Helena Chikar



1991 Lori Andrews



Marilyn Glenny & Mary Pavikay



1992 Norman Barnes



1992 Roy Wickerham



1992 Mo Reiff



1994 David & Marge Tobey



1994 Bill Moore & John Thomas



1994 Ann & Lou Stelzner



1994 Carl & Betty Dunlap



1994 Jim, Ann & Bill Schminke



1994 Sam & Sandy Apuna



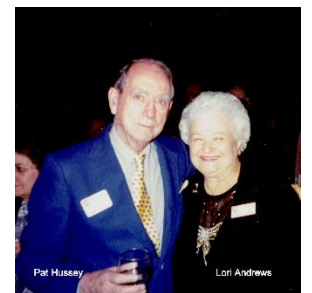
1995 Anita & George Woodard



1995 Don & Maria Costello



Royce & Barbara Brownfield



Pat Hussey & Lori Andrews



Marilyn & Gayle Glenny



1996 Al & Betty Page



1996 Bev Dunlap & Dale Copsay



1996 Bill Moore Singing God Bless America

**Superstition Mountain Express**



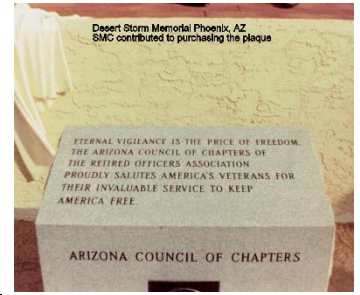
Jean & Ralph Jackson



1996 Dinner Meeting



1998 Desert Storm Memorial & Council of Chapters plaque



1999



Carol & Dick Winkler



Charolette & Robert Artuso



Donna & Doug Conger



Doris & Pat Hussey



Joan & Doug Shannon



Judy & Dino Gofas



Laverne & Bob Holloway



Pat & Frank Robertson



Mary & John Thomas



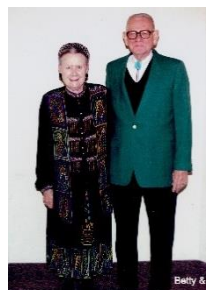
Bruce & Angela Thorenson



Frank Robertson, Ralph Jackson, Doug Shannon



Tinker Band played for our dancing pleasure



Betty & Al Page



Gerry & Dale Copsey



2000 Rebecca Schmidt



2000 Marilyn Glenny



2000 Kawanis Park Picnic

**Superstition Mountain Express**



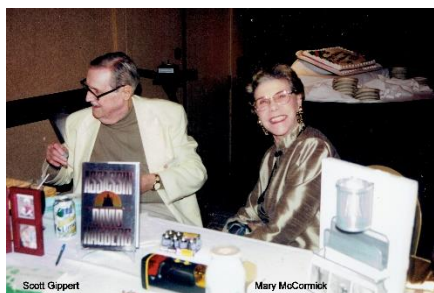
2001 Hawaiian Night



2002 Pat Hussey Tribute to US Navy



2002 Rebecca Schmidt & Roddy Charlton



2002 Scott Gippert & Mary McCormick



Bee & Irv Jorgenson, Charolette & Robert Artuso



1999 Travis & Laura Wilson

**2020 Chapter Dues Renewal Form**



Annual Dues:            \$25 Regular Members            \$12.50 Auxiliary (SSAC) Members

**Please make check payable to SMC of MOAA**

**- - - Write MOAA Chapter Dues on Memo line of the check**

Mail to: Tom Ralph, Treasurer    20444 N 22<sup>nd</sup> St, Phoenix, AZ 85024

Check enclosed; renew my membership for 2020

Please print name \_\_\_\_\_ My National MOAA Number \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_



**Chapter Auxiliary Donations**

Enclosed is a donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

This donation may be used for any Auxiliary projects \_\_\_\_\_  
specifically, Hygiene Kits for Vets \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make check payable to SMC of MOAA**

**Write Auxiliary in the memo line of the check**

Mail to: Tom Ralph, Treasurer    20444 N 22<sup>nd</sup> St, Phoenix, AZ 85024

**ROTC/JROTC Donations**

Enclosed is a donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ or School Awards Sponsor \$125.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
If sponsoring a school, please write the school name here \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make check payable to SMC of MOAA**

**Write JROTC in the memo line of the check**

Mail to: Tom Ralph, Treasurer    20444 N 22<sup>nd</sup> St, Phoenix, AZ 85024



**Superstition Mountain Express**

**Superstition Mountain Chapter  
Military Officers Association of America  
1151 N Joshua Tree Lane  
Gilbert, AZ 85234**



**2020 Chapter Activity schedule - (Dates and times are subject to change)**

<b>Chapter Board Meetings</b>	<b>Chapter Auxiliary Luncheons</b>	<b>Chapter Dinner, Luncheon Meetings</b>
June – no meeting	June 12 <sup>th</sup> – 11:30am	<b>Sunday June 14<sup>th</sup></b> – 12 pm social – 1:00pm Lunch
July – no meeting	July 10 <sup>th</sup> – 11:30am	<b>Sunday July 19<sup>th</sup></b> – 12 pm social – 1:00pm Lunch
August – no meeting	August 14 <sup>th</sup> – 11:30am	<b>Sunday August 16<sup>th</sup></b> – 12 pm social – 1:00pm Lunch
September 14 <sup>th</sup> – 9:00am	September 11 <sup>th</sup> - 11:30am	<b>Sunday September 20<sup>th</sup></b> – 4:00pm social – 5:00pm dinner
October 12 <sup>th</sup> – 9:00am	October 9 <sup>th</sup> – 11:30am	<b>Sunday October 18<sup>th</sup></b> - 4:00pm social – 5:00pm dinner
November 9 <sup>th</sup> – 9:00am	November 13 <sup>th</sup> – 11:30	<b>Sunday November 15<sup>th</sup></b> – 4:00pm social – 5:00pm dinner
December 14 <sup>th</sup> – 9:00	December 11 <sup>th</sup> – 11:00am	<b>Sunday December 20<sup>th</sup></b> – 4:00pm social – 5:00pm dinner