

Superstition Mountain Express



MOAA® *Military Officers Association of America*

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(MOAA and its Superstition Mountain Chapter are both nonpartisan.)



President's Comments

Gregory L. Moore, 1Lt. USA (Ret.)

Greetings all,

Some of you may have received an e-mail with me as the sender asking you to purchase gift cards for needy veterans and overseas troops. Members of the Yuma chapter got the same message "from" their President.

SCAM, SCAM, SCAM!!!!!!!!!!!!!! We (SMC and MOAA) do not work that way.

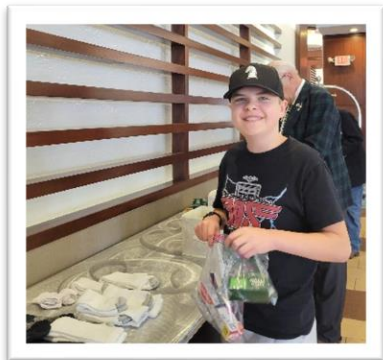
- General advice, NEVER send a gift card as a result of a solicitation. Once you do, there is no recourse like you have with a check.
- Also, NEVER give out your credit card info, especially your 3-digit security code.
- Another continuing scam is the message that you have a package from someone that is undeliverable because of fees due, poor address, etc.; or they need money and personal information etc. Call and verify with the sender if possible.

Always be skeptical of solicitations, run it by a friend or two, and be kind to others.

Greg



VP Auxiliary/Surviving Spouse
Judy Bushko



Meet Austin Wilson! Austin was playing in a Chess tournament at the DoubleTree as we had our luncheon in March. Between matches and after our luncheon, Austin noticed that we were doing something outside the banquet room. He asked Bill Baran what we were doing, and Bill told him that we were making hygiene kits for the homeless Veterans. Austin asked if he could help us. We obliged and got a photo for you.

Austin is interested in military history. Imagine his surprise when he was introduced to our resident Medal of Honor recipient, Fred Ferguson. He will never forget it because we have a photo.



Our President, Greg Moore, presented young Austin with a MOAA Challenge Coin, which may be the first of many challenge coins for this young man!

Austin's parents, Nicole, and Dewayne Wilson contributed to the Auxiliary in the amount of \$1,000.00. We are grateful for their contribution, and thank Austin very much for his enthusiastic interest in our Chapter's activities.

Judy



April Luncheon Photos!

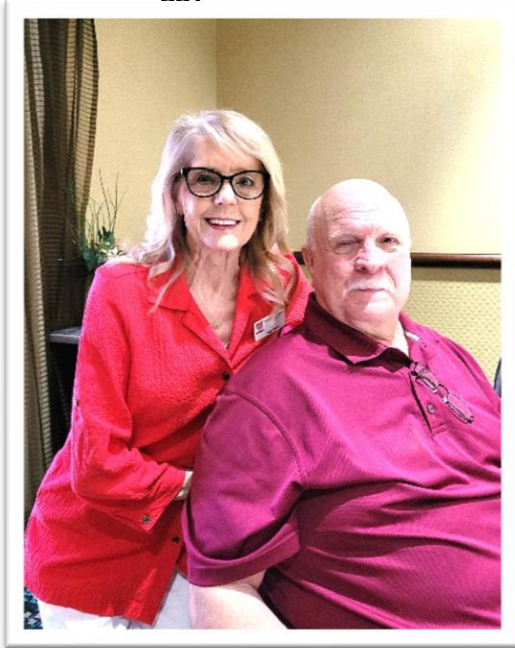
**Greg Moore and John Bushko attach
5-Star Award to MOAA flag**



**Meredith Moore and John Bushko
welcomed us to the Luncheon**



Peggy and Arlan Allen



Meredith and Greg Moore



John Pickering and John Bushko



John and Judy Bushko



Superstition Mountain Express

Tom and Melanie Ralph



Fred and Ann Ferguson



Lesley and Bill Baran



Arlan Allen and Steve Wood



Ann Ferguson



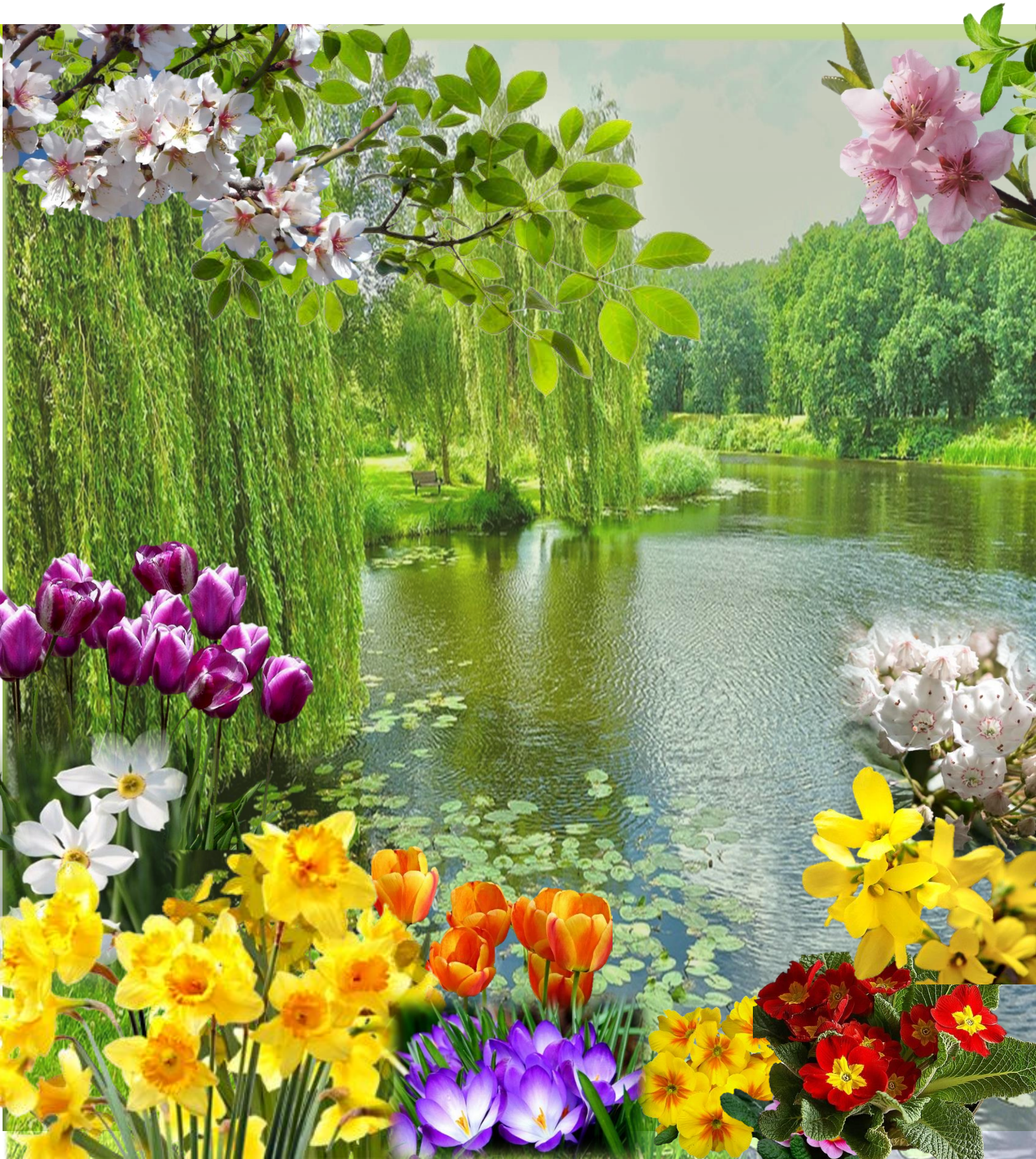
Lou Bates and Peggy Allen



Peggy Allen and Melanie Ralph



Spring Gallery



April Congratulations!



MEMBER

SPOUSE

ANNIVERSARY

Larry R Pucci	1	Melodie Fogelsanger	15	George B and Josephine Meegan	22
Barbara Austin	11				
Thomas L Ralph	15				
Shirley Bohn	16				

SUPERSTITION MOUNTAIN CHAPTER, MOAA

**Luncheon Meeting
Superstition Mountain Chapter MOAA**

Saturday, April 20, 2024

12:00 Noon Social - 1:00 pm Lunch

DoubleTree by Hilton

1011 West Holmes Ave., Mesa, AZ 85210

Menu

Street Taco Bar: Pork Carnitas, Shredded Chicken,
Flour Tortillas, and all the fixings!

Iced Tea and Coffee - Cookies for dessert

\$30.00 per person

Reservations by Sunday, April 14, 2024

to **John Bushko**

TEXT 614-204-0413, Call 480-759-1717, or email jabushko@earthlink.net.

Chair Report



1st Vice President/Programs
LTC John Bushko, USAF (Ret)

Greetings All,

I hope all had a Blessed Easter. Our next meeting will be on April 20th. The meal for the day will be a Street Taco Bar, with pork carnitas & shredded chicken, flour tortillas, shaved cabbage, shredded lettuce, diced tomato, chopped onion cilantro, shredded cheddar, sour cream, house-made salsa, Mexican-style rice, and refried beans. Dessert will be cookies.

We will have the JROTC cadets from Campo Verde High School doing their presentation of the Remembrance Ode.

I hope to see you at the meeting.

John



Treasurer
Tom Ralph

I hope everyone is having at least a fairly good spring, even though it is a bit wet and cool at times. Our chapter continues to do some amazing stuff this year in spite of dwindling membership. We have a robust JROTC program, and our Auxiliary continues to do some remarkable things for our veterans. Please remember, if you have not renewed your membership, dues are still \$25 and if you are a surviving spouse, \$12.50. And please consider including support for our JROTC program as well. As a word of caution, the scammers are out there in full force this year. Some of you have been getting emails, supposedly from our President Greg Moore asking you to donate a gift card to some sort of veterans organization. (cont'd)

Superstition Mountain Express

(cont'd.)

That is a SCAM. Please delete it and pretend it never got to your inbox. It looks professionally written, probably from some sort of program generated by the new "artificial intelligence " stuff going around now. Please be extremely cautious about anything asking for money on the internet and double check before responding. If it sounds funny, it probably is! I am looking forward to seeing you at the next luncheon and thank you for your support.

Ralph



Personal Affairs

Arlan Allen

With the first Quarter of the year behind us, it is time to start looking ahead and planning for vacations and contemplating tax year 2024.

The practice we all started in the military was reviewing our personnel files on an annual basis. This was usually done during your birthday quarter. Now, in retirement, we may not live as structured a life that we once did. The importance in checking these records has not changed. It may be a good time to review all your personal records. Make sure all your beneficiary information is up to date, i.e., addresses, phone numbers, etc. Also, make sure your beneficiaries have your DD214, account number and locations plus logins and passwords for all your accounts, as well as location(s) for safety deposit boxes. Something frequently overlooked is the location of and keys or combination to a safe.

CW4 Arlan Allen, Ret. USA



Legislative
Bob Grierson

Spring Greetings to the Superstition Mountain Chapter.

With the clock ticking away on appropriations at the federal level, a last-minute bill just cleared both houses and was signed into law. Federal Fiscal year 2024 is now funded. Not a good record considering that Federal Fiscal Year 2024 is halfway over. So now onto Federal Fiscal Year 2025. President Biden submitted his budget proposal to Congress. A few years back, a good friend on the Senate Staff would say "the President proposes, the Congress disposes." A truism for today. We shall see what (if anything) gets through a very divided congress. Federal As you know, MOAA has been actively engaged in a number of federal issues which impact our service members. Like last year, the Advocacy in Action campaign is limited to three big requests of Congress. This is what we ask: 2024 ISSUES Support Combat-Injured Veterans The Ask: The Major Richard Star Act would end an unjust pay offset that prevents tens of thousands of retired servicemembers from receiving the compensation they deserve. Ask Congress to include the bill in the upcoming National Defense Authorization Act. Restore the Basic Allowance for Housing The Ask: Ever-growing housing costs are just one of the financial challenges faced by service members and their families, especially young, enlisted personnel. Ask Congress to ensure BAH again covers 100% of housing costs. Protect TRICARE For Life The Ask: This earned benefit is under threat -- unfair fees and cost shares now under consideration are misguided cost-saving options. Ask Congress to reject these ideas not just for current retirees, but to protect future generations of servicemembers.

Share your TRICARE For Life story with MOAA. State Issues SB1413 which addresses pay parity for USPHS and NOAA officers serving in Arizona, has passed the AZ Senate and is now before the AZ House for committee review. The two committees considering the bill are Ways and Means and Rules. Please consider contacting the chairs and co-chairs of each committee along, and their district representatives, and ask them to support passing SB1413 through their respective committees and to the House floor for immediate passage. The Ways and Means committee chair and co-chair are Neal Carter - NCARTER@AZLEG.GOV and Justin Heap - JHEAP@AZLEG.GOV . The Rules committee chair and co-chair are Travis Grantham - TGRANTHAM@AZLEG.GOV and Gail Griffin GGRIFIN@AZLEG.GOV . The bills I have been following: HB2390 Property Tax Exemption; Combat Veterans - No Action taken Amends Section 42-11111, ARS; Relating to property tax exemptions. Exemption for property; widows/widowers, persons with total and permanent disability, veterans with a disability. HB2392 Income Tax; subtraction; care expenses - No Action taken Amends Section 43-1022, ARS; Relating to individual income tax. Individual income tax; subtractions from AZ gross income, U.S. Government Retirement. You may find the email links for your representatives and the committee members at: <https://www.azleg.gov/MemberRoster/>.

Bob



Mike Ostermeyer

JROTC/ROTC



Karl Pfitzer

Hello Chapter Members:

As you can see by the chart below, we have started to receive awards ceremony dates from a number of our JROTC programs. All of our award packages are ready for distribution; however, we are still looking for chapter members to present and sponsor a JROTC High School program. If you are interested in sponsoring a JROTC award, or in presenting chapter awards at the schools' ceremonies, please let me know. Sponsorships are \$100 per school, which covers the cost of the Impact Award. If you have never presented awards in the past, this is a great opportunity to see how the JROTC program can positively affect our future leaders. If you have any questions, please contact me or Mike at our contact information below. Thanks for your support.

Karl Pfitzer

480-635-2080

Mike Ostermeyer

602-316-1072

(Chart on next page.)

2024 SMC MOAA ROTC JROTC Awards Program

#	School & Affiliation	Ceremony Date/Time	Presenter	Sponsor	Sr ROTC/JROTC Instructor
1	ASU: USA, USN, USAF, USMC, USSF	FR, 4-19, 1330 hrs	1LT Greg Moore P	N/A	
2	Apache Jct, USN	MO, 4-1, 1700hrs			LCDR Gary Lock
3	Basha, USAF	FR, 5-3, 1445 hrs	Arlan & Peggy Allen P	Arlan & Peggy Allen	COL Cliff Stansell
4	Campo Verde, USAF				LTC Steve Wood
5	Casa Grande, USMC	TH, 4-18, 1530 hrs	Ritt Schiano P	Norm Poole	GySGT Jesus Flores
6	Chandler, USAF	MO, 4-29, 1830 hrs	John & Judy Bushko P	John & Judy Bushko	MSGT Scott Goodsen
7	Coolidge, USMC		Ritt Schiano P		LTC Richard Callahan
8	Dobson, USAF	FR, 4-19, 1745 hrs	Greg & Mer Moore P	Greg Moore	LTC Anthony Kusek
9	Gilbert, USAF	TU, 5-7, 1730 hrs			MSgt Elwin Longnion
10	Globe, USA			Arlan & Peggy Allen	SFC Tony Lyons
11	Hamilton, USAF				LTC Greg Franklin
12	Higley, USAF				COL David Vaughn
13	Marcos De Niza, USA				MAJ Robert Fore
14	Maricopa, USAF				LTC Allen Kirksey
15	Mesa, USAF	FR, 4-12, 1800 hrs *			MSGT Mark Caldwell
16	Queen Creek USA	WE, 4-24, 1045hrs *		Robert Grierson	SFC John Biggs
17	Poston Butte USAF		Ritt Schiano P		MAJ John Napier
18	Red Mountain, USA	FR, 5-3, 1800 hrs *	Greg & Mer Moore P	Greg & Mer Moore	MAJ Olga Cortez
19	Skyline, USA	FR, 5-3, 1700 hrs			COL Geoff Stevens
20	Vista Grande, USMC		Ritt Schiano P		1stSgt Alberto Griego
21	Westwood, USAF		Greg & Mer Moore P	Greg & Mer Moore	LTC Joe Abel

Current on: Tuesday, April 02, 2024

P= Presenter or School Has Awards Package

***= Have Awardee Names**

@= Sponsors Have Paid

Mike Ostermeyer

602-316-1072

Ostermeyer@cox.net

Karl Pfitzer

480-635-2080

pvkarl@cox.net



MOAA's Mission: The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) is a non-profit veteran's association dedicated to maintaining a strong national defense and to preserving the earned entitlements of members of the uniformed services, their families, and survivors. National MOAA, its Councils and Chapters are nonpartisan.

MOAA National & Superstition Mountain Chapter Membership Application

Date _____ Printed Member Name & Initial _____
 Branch of Service _____ Rank _____
 Spouse First Name _____ National MOAA Number _____
 Street Address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____ - _____
 Home Phone # _____ Work or Cell# _____
 Please Circle: ARMY--AIR FORCE--NAVY--MARINE CORPS- COAST GUARD--NOAA--PUBLIC HEALTH SVC
 Circle All That Apply: REGULAR-RESERVE-NATIONAL GUARD-FORMER OFFICER-ACTIVE-RETIRED-
 MALE___ FEMALE___ WIDOW-___ WIDOWER___
 Member Date of Birth MM___/DD___/YYYY_____ Spouse Date of Birth MM___/DD___/YYYY_____
 Anniversary Date _____ E-mail Address _____

MOAA National membership for 2024 has three types to pick from. **1. Basic--free-electronic only. 2. Premium- \$40.00 a year. 3. Life membership-fee is age dependent** (can be as much as \$700.00) As a **BASIC Member** you will receive electronic newsletters and have opportunities to participate in grassroots activism effort. You get *Military Officer Magazine* via our mobile app. You will also have the opportunity to attend our career fairs, networking events, and classes and to take advantage of valuable discounts on products and services. As a **PREMIUM Member** you get full access to everything MOAA has to offer, including our full spectrum of our career resources (one-on-one career counseling, résumé reviews, and interviewing advice and critiques), countless discounts on products and travel, and access to all MOAA exclusive publications and news updates. You will be able to tap into MOAA's staff of experts for financial and investment advice, college scholarships for dependents, and much more. That is on top of all the benefits you receive at the BASIC Membership level.

Superstition Mountain Chapter membership fee is **\$25 per year**. Spouses of current members may participate in Chapter Auxiliary luncheons and activities with no fee. Chapter bylaws require Chapter members and Chapter Auxiliary members to be members of MOAA National.

For National dues, enclose check for: \$40.00 – Make check payable to MOAA National
Mail to: MOAA, Dept. 1488, Maryfield, VA 22116-9820

Enclose check for: Chapter \$25.00 or Auxiliary (SSAC) \$12.50
Make check payable to SMC of MOAA. Write 2024 dues in the memo line
Mail Chapter Application and Check to: SMC MOAA, Tom Ralph, Treasurer
20444 N 22nd St, Phoenix, AZ 85024 - Phone 602-569-2130

For More Information Contact, Membership Committee Chair Norm Poole
520) 836-8456. nrpoole1066@gmail.com

Name tags are durable hard plastic, white background with MOAA logo and your name engraved in black. To place your order, please fill out the form below.

Print first and last name	Select nametag type	
	Pin on	magnetic
1. _____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____

Luncheon Meeting

**Saturday, April 20, 2024 - DoubleTree by Hilton
Social Hour - Noon Lunch - 1:00pm**

Menu

Street Taco Bar: Pork Carnitas, Shredded Chicken, Flour Tortillas, and all the fixings!
Iced Tea and Coffee - Cookies for dessert!

\$30.00 per meal - Name(s) _____

Reservations must be in by April 14, 2024

Make checks payable to: SMC of MOAA

CONTACT: **JOHN BUSHKO**

TEXT 614-204-0413, Call 480-759-1717, or email jabushko@earthlink.net

Chapter Donations

Enclosed is a donation of \$_____

This donation may be used for any Auxiliary projects _____ or ROTC _____

Please make check payable to SMC of MOAA

Write *AUXILIARY* or *ROTC* in the memo line of the check

Mail to: **TOM RALPH, Treasurer:** 20444 N 22nd St, Phoenix, AZ 85024

2024 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 22nd St, Phoenix, AZ 85024

Check enclosed; renew my membership for 2024

Please print name _____

My National MOAA Number _____

2024 Chapter Activity Schedule - (Dates and times are subject to change.)

Chapter Board	Chapter Auxiliary	Chapter Member/Guest
Meeting - CHOMPIE'S	-	Luncheon Meetings
April 9, 2024- 9:30am	!	April 20, 2024- Noon Social. 1:00pm Lunch



“Life is not fair.
Get over it!”

...Life-long adage of Marlene Fox

In loving Memory of Marlene Fox, our long-time Newsletter Editor.



Newsletter Editors

Peggy Allen and Paula Anderer

Newsletter Contact: paulaanderer10@gmail.com

Superstition Mountain Express

4201 W. Luke Ave.

Phoenix, AZ 85019

Superstition Mountain Chapter Military Officers Association of America



RESOURCES

Newsletter: paulaanderer10@gmail.com

MOAA Home Page: <https://moaa.org> (Visit the [Take Action Center](#))

MOAA SMC Chapter Website: <https://smcmoaa.org>

 **beconnected**: <https://beconnectedaz.org>
service members • veterans • families • communities

Visit the websites and explore the different features,
and other organizations in your area.