

MOAA Military Officers Association of America

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http://www.smcmoaa.org/

Pleas**e** remember to share the newsletter with your spouse!



President's Comments John Bushko

Friends

Well, we had our first face-to-face meetings in October. Our Board meeting, the Aux meeting, and our Membership meeting were all well attended considering the

current situation. It was good to see everyone and know our group is surviving the pandemic as well as can be expected.

Judy Bushko gave a presentation at the dinner meeting on the basic steps to take when a loved one passes. There is some outstanding information on the MOAA website that can be downloaded to help prepare for the ultimate situation and preparation is the key to surviving any situation. If anyone has questions, feel free to contact Judy for further details.

Obviously, everyone has received numerous calls and emails about the upcoming elections. You will probably get this newsletter just a day or two prior to election day, November 3rd, but please be an informed voter and by all means do get out and vote.

Our next Board meeting will be on November 9th, the Aux meeting on November 13th, and the Membership dinner meeting on November 15th. We will not have the normal JROTC presentation this year due to the limited seating at Dobson Restaurant. We will be honoring one of our own members who has made a significant contribution to the success of our Chapter. Stay safe and healthy.

Never stop serving.

LTC John Bushko, USAF (Ret)



2020 OFFICERS

President, Lt Col John Bushko 1st VP, CW4 Arlan Allen 2nd VP, Col John Marsh VP Auxiliary, Mrs. Judy Bushko Secretary, Mrs. Peggy Allen Treasurer, Col Thomas Ralph

Past President, MG Dave Rataczak

480-759-1717 jabushko@earthlink.net 602-283-5862 cw4allen@cox.net 480-2191020 emarsh125@gmail.com 480-759-1717 jdbushko@earthlink.net

2020 COMMITTEE CHAIRS Programs CW4 Arlan Allen Membership Col John Marsh ROTC/JROTC Capt Ed Mangan **Personal Affairs** Lt Gregory Moore Legislative Capt Ritt Schiano Newsletter Mrs. Marlene Fox 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



AUXILIARY NEWS: from Judy Bushko



It was wonderful to see all of you at the last auxiliary meeting. We stuffed 16 pillows and will be taking them to the Veterans Hospital and/or Hospice of the Valley. Our next meeting will on Friday, November 13th at 11:00 at Dobson Restaurant... We will be packaging hygiene kits.

As I mentioned at our dinner meeting, I attended a virtual meeting of the surviving spouse conference. I found this to be most informative and useful. Recently, I had a very dear friend lose her husband quite unexpectedly while on vacation. Many questions arose as I listened and talked with her. I did not know the answer to many of the questions and the presentation gave me guidance as to where to go for possible answers. MOAA has a wonderful handbook available online. It is the **Surviving Spouse handbook**. This handbook is available for download. I highly recommend everyone take a minute and look at the many resources it has offer. This handbook was written by surviving spouses after they encountered situations after a death of a spouse. The handbook is geared to military survivors but may also be beneficial to nonmilitary as well. We shared some checklists with our friend and she found it helpful. The most important advice that was given was to communicate and talk with your spouse and those who may be responsible to carry out your wishes.

Please remember to vote and make your voice heard! **480-759-1717** jdbushko@earthlink.net

Please stay safe and know you are all missed, Judy













October Dinner Meeting





President John Bushko opened our dinner meeting with a prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance. Our attendance was small, but those of us that attended enjoyed seeing each other again after all these months. The dinner was great, social distancing protocol was observed, with masks worn when not seated at our tables. It was definitely different, but we made it work!



Judy & John Bushko



Peggy & Arlan Allen



Mike &Jan Ostermeyer



William & Lesley Baran



Lou Bates & Marlene Fox



Ed Mangan & Ann Schminke



Melanie & Tom Ralph



Ed & Marlene Fox



Jo & George Meegan



Diane Richardson

We were entertained during our social hour by the lovely Diane Richardson.

Then our very own member, Judy Bushko shared with us information she had received at a MOAA Leadership Conference. Judy said she was surprised by how many little things you need to take care of when your spouse passes. You can find information about this on the MOAA National website. https://www.moaa.org/.



Judy Bushko















Superstition Mountain Chapter MOAA
Auxiliary Luncheon
at Dobson's Restaurant
November 13, 2020

Lunch at 11:30am
Order lunch off the menu
No reservation needed

Please join us at 11am to put together Hygiene Kits





Superstition Mountain Chapter MOAA Thanksgiving Dinner Meeting November 15, 2020

4:00pm Social - 5:00pm Dinner

Dobson's Restaurant at the golf course 2155 S. Dobson Rd., Mesa, AZ

We will honor and thank Marlene Fox for the work she has done on our chapter history and newsletter

Menu choices Traditional Thanksgiving Ham or Turkey All meals include Green Salad, Vegetables, Dinner Rolls, Dessert & Coffee or Tea \$30.00 per person

Reservations by Wednesday November 11th to Arlan Allen 4201 W Luke Ave, Phoenix AZ 85019

602-283-5862 - <u>cw4allen@cox.net</u>



Central Arizona Satellite Chapter September Luncheon

No information available on your next meeting.

For additional information: please contact CAS POC Harold Fales at droamin@gmail.com - (573) 308-8372 or CAS Membership Rep. Norm Poole at nrpoole1066@gmail.com - (520) 836-8456.











November Congratulations





MEMBER BIRTHDAY

SPOUSE BIRTHDAY

ANNIVERSARIES

Helen Benner	24	Magdalen Kwak	12	William & Lesley Baran	22
Dorothy Demmers	17	Marilyn Marsh	24	John & Judy Bushko	1
Robert Grierson	23	Laurel McClean	15	Bob & Denise Dulong	14
Florence Griffin	7	Jo Meegan	14	Ed & Marlene Fox	29
John Kwak	27	Jan Ostermeyer	2	David & Laurel McClean	15
Michael Ostermeyer	8	Anne Symonds	25		
Norman Peters	11				

Attitudes are truly catching, so ask yourself, Is mine worth catching?

CHAIRMAN REPORTS



Stephen Wood

Ist Vice President Arlan Allen-Programs

3

We will be having our annual Thanksgiving dinner on November 15th, to be held at the Dobson Golf Course Restaurant. Social hour begins at 4:00 pm with dinner at 5:00

Menu items are traditional turkey or ham dinner. Please have your reservations to me no later than Wednesday, November 11th. You can call 602-283-5862 leave а message) cw4allen@cox.net. Please be advised, if you make a reservation (\$30.00 per person) and do not cancel 48 hours before the event, you are still responsible for payment of your reservation.

This year, we will be honoring Mrs. Marlene Fox, Newsletter Editor, for her sustained outstanding performance during the pandemic of 2020. Marlene gave unselfishly of her time and patience to assure continuous communications of the Chapter's activities and members to one another. We all thank Marlene and appreciate all she does for the Superstition Mountain Chapter, MOAA.

Our October meeting was the first meeting held with social distancing requirements, which will be in place until further notice. Masks are required to enter the building and anytime you are not seated at your table. Tables will have a maximum of six people per table and tables are separated by six feet. Maximum number of attendees is limited to 36. The wearing of masks worked very well during the October social hour. We are doing our best to maintain a reasonable level of safety for our Chapter meetings. Peggy and I wish you all a happy and safe Thanksgiving!

I look forward to seeing everyone on November 15th.



2nd Vice President John Marsh - Membership

Not much going on right now. Hopefully, we can start recruiting new members now that we our having dinner meetings and getting out more.

Happy Thanksgiving to everyone! Be careful, follow the covid-19 guidelines and stay safe.



Treasurer

Tom Ralph 👸 👸







Welcome back to a somewhat tentative return to our normal activities in October. We conducted an "in-person" Board of

Directors meeting followed by an "in-person" business meeting/dinner. Hopefully, we will be able to continue to build toward a more robust return to normal.

As a reminder, those of you have paid your 2020-chapter dues will be credited for your 2021 dues. Some of you have already paid your 2021 dues and they will be carried forward to 2022.

As a final note, our financials remain very strong even with almost no fiscal activity for the past several months. As we prepare for the upcoming holiday season, I wish you all good health and a safe and fun filled next two months.



Personal Affairs *Greg Moore*



this month.

Greetings friends: Three things to cover

- 1. There are three new presumptive diseases/illnesses related to agent orange exposure-bladder cancer, hyperthyroidism, and parkinsonian-like symptoms. If you have been diagnosed with any of these three, contact your VA pcp with regard to a rating physical.
- 2. A caregiver of a veteran who has a VA rating of 70% or greater and has difficulty performing his/her ADLs (activities of daily living) (feeding self, toileting, walking etc) may now be eligible for compensation by the VA for caregiving. This can be as much as \$2700/mo. No training/license is required. Stay tuned for more information.
- **3.**Toys for Tots. The SMC Board has approved a change in the program for our chapters Toys for Tots drive. In the past we had members bring toys to the dinner meeting for subsequent distribution to the marines at Luke AFB for their program. Due to meeting changes, shopping difficulties for some, etc we will now send a contribution to the program from the chapter membership. **Please send your donation to me made out to SMC, MOAA with Toys for Tots on the subject line**. Your cancelled check will be your receipt.

Send your generous contribution to Greg Moore PA, 1581 W. Corona Dr, Chandler AZ 85224 by DECEMBER 7th. Last year Toys for Tots served 31,500 children in Maricopa and Pinal counties with over 36,800 toys. Times are tough for many families this year so please, let's do our generous part by DECEMBER 7th.

Everyone: social distance, mask up, wash your hands often, stay home if you are not feeling well. We are all in this together and that is how we will beat it.

Meredith and I wish you all a Happy Thanksgiving!







Legislative



Ritt Schiano



(Ec Ma ma CO

(**Edited** from MOAA HQ Website)
Many working families grapple with how to manage their childcare needs as the COVID-19 pandemic continues. According to Child Care Aware of America. 35% of

childcare centers and 21% of family childcare programs remain closed nationwide. Why does this matter to military families? After all, don't they have their own childcare system?

TAKE ACTION: Ask Your Lawmaker to Pass Child Care Stabilization Funding

Breaking Down the Numbers

There are approximately 800,000 military children under age 5. The military's child development centers (CDCs) only serve 25%, or 200,000, of these children. The other 600,000 are receiving care outside of CDCs. When CDCs are at capacity, military families can opt to use their service's fee assistance program through Child Care Aware of America to receive a subsidy for childcare.

The closures, increased expenses, and dwindling options within the civilian sector are impacting military families that get their care on the economy. DoD recognizes that childcare "enhances force readiness" and is a critical benefit to recruit and retain service members. According to the Blue Star Families Annual Military Family Lifestyle Survey, childcare is a top quality of life concern for military families. It is clear the lack of childcare options and increasing cost of childcare could impact military recruitment, retention, and force readiness.

COVID-19 Relief

To stabilize the U.S. childcare industry, Congress needs to invest a substantial amount in financial relief. Child Care Aware of America states \$50 billion is needed to "help keep providers in business and make childcare more affordable for families". There is bipartisan support to provide childcare relief funding. In July, the House passed H.R. 7027, the Child Care is Essential Act, which would provide the \$50 billion in relief. While the Senate is of childcare stabilization supportive disagreements over the bottom-line number have delayed passage of this critical bill. It is unclear whether this will be considered in upcoming COVID-relief packages. Timing is critical to secure stabilization funding. Passing childcare stabilization funding now will allow families to go back to work, enhance our economy, and improve military family readiness.

Take Action! Ask your member of Congress to pass childcare stabilization funding now.

Not only will this help the civilian community, it will also help our active duty families in need.

Continued on next page...

Arlington National Cemetery

The public comment period on the Federal Register to address dramatic reductions for eligibility to Arlington National Cemetery (ANC) will close Nov. 16th. Some members of Congress are watching the volume of comments to gauge interest, making it even more important to make your voice heard. Non-contiguous federal land is available for expansion of the cemetery. MOAA will continue to encourage members and others to comment. So go directly to the comment page on the MOAA HQ website, or you can read the full proposed rule and make your comments there by clicking the "SUBMIT A FORMAL COMMENT" button in the upper right corner. It is important for your comments to be yours alone, not the product of mass mailings. Use your own words to explain how this affects you.

What Is Next? When the Federal Register public comment closes, it will take over a year to reconcile and resolve legal challenges before approval. Existing ANC standards will remain in effect during that time. Intervention from elected officials may be required to change course for reduced eligibility for our national cemetery. Congressional staff members have already indicated It is not too early to reach out to your elected officials and voice your concerns.

TAKE ACTION: Submit a Comment | **Contact Your Lawmaker**

HEALTHCARE UPDATE MOAA appreciates DoD's pause on reform and reassessment of the availability of civilian healthcare. But legislation is needed to ensure robust analysis and mitigation planning throughout the implementation process to protect your access to care. Please contact your elected officials and urge them to support language in the FY 2021 National Defense Authorization Act that would halt medical restructuring and billet reductions while increasing reporting requirements and congressional oversight.

MOAA National Legislative Action items are available to you at http://www.moaa.org/ . Click on 'Take Action' at the top of the page.









Auxiliary Sponsored Programs



Hygiene Kits for Vets Judy Bushko



Items we need for our kits are: Razors. Wash cloths, combs, white socks, bars of soap, regular size toothpaste and toothbrushes. We have been asked for regular sized items

as the veterans are only allowed to receive one kit a month. Thanks for your continued support! Over 400 kits made since we started this project!

Last Call Blankets for VA Hospital

Blankets are used for covering our veterans who have passed in the room and are being moved. They are covered with these blankets and the blanket is then given to the family. Over 50 blankets donated since we started this project!

Heart Shaped pillows for VA Hospital and Hospice of the Vallev

Patients at the VA hospital that have had heart surgery use these pillows to help in their recovery. Hospice of the Valley gives them to their patient's family members for comfort.

Cell Phones for Soldiers /Helping Heroes Home. Calling for old phones!

When you upgrade your phone, don't throw those old phones away. Bring them to us. We'll send them in to get phone time for our troops overseas. Phones don't need to work. Contact Judy Bushko 480- 759-1717 idbushko@earthlink.net



Operation Paperback Books



We send paperbacks to the troops and hard cover books are taken to the VA Hospital.

Bring your books to any chapter function, or contact Ann Ferguson. 480-961-9634 or email vfergusonfnp@cox.net

Since 2012, Over 11320 books taken to the VA Hospital and hundreds of paperbacks have been sent out to our troops.

Our ladies at work! Always there to help our Veterans. These ladies are Awesome!



Hygiene Kits

Toothbrushes
Toothpaste- full size
Toothbrush holders
Disposable razors
Bar of soap -regular size
Deodorant
White socks
Wash cloths
Backpacks

The veterans have voiced their appreciation for these kits. They are given one per month. That is why we ask for full sized items. Most of the veterans are given plastic grocery bags to carry their personal belongings in. They need backpacks.

All donations can be brought to any chapter function or call any chapter board member and we will see if we can pick them up. Monetary donations are also appreciated! Thanks for your support!



Chapter Elections

Capt Ed Mangan Chairman, Nomination Committee Past President

The nominating committee is very happy to announce that all of our current board members have agreed to return for 2021. We still need someone to fill the position of **Transition Coordinator**. Contact me for information or if you would like to take on this position.

Emangan3@aol.com 602-501-0128

A list of the nominees is on the right.

We will be voting and installing during the December Dinner meeting.



2020 Chapter Board Nominees

President- Lt Col John Bushko
1st Vice President- CW4 Arlan Allen
2nd Vice President- Col John Marsh
VP Auxiliary- Mrs Judy Bushko
Treasurer - Col Tom Ralph
Secretary- Mrs. Peggy Allen
Past President - MG Dave Rataczak

Director Positions

Programs - CW4 Arlan Allen
Membership - Col John Marsh
Newsletter Editor - Mrs. Marlene Fox
Personal Affairs - 1LT Greg Moore
ROTC - Capt. Ed Mangan
Legislative - Capt Ritt Schiano
Transition Coordinator -

Website - Lt Ann Ferguson

Director - Lt Col Sheryl Mauldin

Director - Capt. George Meegan

Director - Maj Austin Foote

Director - Mrs. Ann Schminke

Director – Col Karl Pfitzer

Director - CAS Membership Maj Norm Poole

Director – Capt Al Anderer



VETERAN'S DAY
NOVEMBER 11, 2020
THANK YOU TO ALL WHO SERVED!











An Autobiography of Capt Al Anderer, USAF, Former





I grew up in Philadelphia (Fly, Eagles, Fly!) and graduated from high school in 1959. As a senior, I had no idea what I wanted to study and requested & received an appointment to the Air Force Academy. I graduated in 1963 with a B.S. degree and a major in Public Affairs, as well as a commission as a 2nd lieutenant.

My military active duty started with 20 months of pilot training at Moody AFB, GA (where I met my wife), and C-130 training at Sewart AFB, TN. Then it was off to Columbus, OH, and Lockbourne AFB. I was stationed there but spent most of my time TDY to Evreux, France, and flying throughout Europe, North Africa and the Middle East. There were several trips to the Dominican Republic, transporting the 82nd Airborne Division in 1965. I also rotated to the Panama Canal Zone where we stood on alert and traveled throughout South America.

At the beginning of February 1966, while flying north at 22,000 ft. over Quito, Ecuador, a familiar voice came on the air and gave me instructions to switch to a private frequency. It was one of my roommates heading south at 21,000 ft. He gave me the news that we both had orders for Okinawa with departure in November 1966. Paula and I were engaged in February and married during May in her hometown of Atlanta, GA. I left for Naha AB, Okinawa, in June of 1966. (I'll leave for another time the story of the departure date and marriage date sliding closer and closer).

From June of 1966 I flew out of Naha AB on the southern tip of Okinawa. The normal mission was to rotate to Cam Ranh Bay for 15 days, ferrying troops and supplies in country. Our primary focus was SVN with occasional trips to other SE Asia locations. No C-130s were permanently stationed in SVN. Almost all were TDY from Okinawa, Taiwan & Japan (Okinawa was still occupied by the US at that time).

In addition to the everyday mission of hauling and occasionally dropping troops & supplies, the rest of my 33-month tour was broken up by two 45-day TDYs to Ubon, Thailand, flying "Blind Bat," a flare/FAC mission to destroy and disrupt truck traffic along the Ho Chi Minh Trail. At the start of the mission in 1965 out of Da Nang, each C-130 operated as part of a four-ship formation, along with a pair of B-57 bombers and a Marine EF-10 for electronic-countermeasure support. Whether the group operated over North Vietnam or over Laos, the C-130 would drop flares on truck traffic while the B-57s bombed and the EF-10 jammed enemy radars. In 1966 the operation was moved from Da Nang to Ubon after several C-130s were lost to a mortar attack, and the mission was moved further south along the trail as stronger & more robust antiaircraft fire was encountered. The mission used the call signs Blind Bat & Lamp Lighter and changed to 6 or 7 hours along the trail as a flare/FAC operation from 6 pm to 6 am each night. The C-130s were no longer accompanied by the B-57s and EF-10 and often encountered 37mm flack traps. One gun would fire, and two others would triangulate on the first set of tracers. The 3 sets of tracers crisscrossing would provide wider and more complete defensive coverage. In addition to the B-57s that would be scheduled to fly with us, many of the aircraft we worked with, Air Force, Navy & Marine, had been on bombing runs up North and still had munitions to drop before returning to base. Occasionally we worked with the Air Commandos out of Nakhon Phanom. Thailand, when they needed more flare support, After my second Ubon tour and about 350 hours and 54 missions over Laos, 11 into NVN, my Blind Bat missions were over. It was back to the Cam Ranh Bay grind for the rest of 1968 and into 1969.

I was due to separate from the service in mid-March 1969, but my squadron managed to squeeze in one last 15-day TDY tour in February. After 33 months of this, I expected the last tour to be like all of the others; however, in order to get my broken aircraft out of forward Army airfields (mortar bait in the vernacular of our Army comrades), I wound up having to make two 3-engine takeoffs at sundown in the last week of the tour. I completed 957 combat sorties and just over 1500 hours of combat time.

After separation most of my feather merchant life was filled with sales management positions with Federal Express & Greyhound Corporation, as well as my own recruiting company.

Now my time with family, Vietnam Veterans of America, Military Officers Association of America, and volunteering with Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, and just added TLC Brotherhood membership (Thailand, Laos, Cambodia). My Georgia Peach and I have two children and two grandchildren, all in Arizona. Paula & I have lived in Arizona since 1981, but have lived in New Jersey, Atlanta, and Chicago since separating from the service.



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, it's Councils and Chapters are nonpartisan.

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Member Date of Birth M	MM/DD/YYY	Y Spouse Date of I	Birth MM/DD	/YYYY	
Anniversary Date	E-	mail Address			
the opportunity to attended and services. As a PRE our career resources of discounts on products tap into MOAA's staff more. That's on top of Superstition Mountain luncheons and activities MOAA National. For National dues, e	d our career fairs, netwo MIUM Member you ge (one-on-one career co and travel, and acces of experts for financial fall the benefits you re with no fee. Chapter by	m effort. You get Military orking events, and classes et full access to everything unseling, résumé review as to all MOAA exclusival and investment advice exis \$25 per year. Spouses ylaws require Chapter men 3.00 – Make check pay VA 22116-9820	and to take advanting MOAA has to tows, and interviewing publications at the central c	age of valuab offer, includi ing advice and news upd arships for ders may participe Auxiliary me	le discounts on products ng our full spectrum of nd critiques), countless lates. You'll be able to ependents, and much
Make check payable Mail Chapter Applic SMC MOAA, Tom I	to SMC of MOAA. Veation and Check to:	exiliary (SSAC) \$12.50 Write 2020 dues in the one 602-569-2130			
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CLIP AND MAIL

November Dinner Meeting Reservation

Sunday, November 15, 2020 - Dobson's Restaurant Social Hour 4:00pm Dinner - 5:00pm

Meal Choices: Ham_____ Turkey_____ \$30.00 per meal - Name(s) _____

Reservations must be in by Wednesday, November 11th

Make checks payable to: SMC of MOAA

CLIP AND MAIL TO: **ARLAN ALLEN:** 4201 W Luke Ave, Phoenix AZ 85019 602-283-5862 (can leave message) or email: cw4allen@cox.net

Annual Dues:		_	Pr Dues Renewal Form \$12.50 Auxiliary (SSAC) Members	80	
		Please make check p	ayable to SMC of MOAA		
Write MOAA Chapter Dues on Memo line of the check					
	Mail to:	Tom Ralph, Treasurer	20444 N 22 nd St, Phoenix, AZ 85024		
		Check enclosed; renew	my membership for 2020		
Please print name_	e My National MOAA Number				
Address					
Phone number		Email			



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 22nd 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 22nd St, Phoenix, AZ 85024

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



2020 - 2021 Chapter Activity schedule - (Dates and times are subject to change)

Chapter Board	Chapter Auxiliary	Chapter Dinner,
Meetings	Luncheons	Luncheon Meetings
November 9 th – 9:30am	November 13 th – 11:30am	Sunday November 15 th – 4:00pm social – 5:00pm dinner
December 14 th – 9:30am	December 11 th – 11:00am	Sunday December 20 th – 4:00pm social – 5:00pm dinner
January 11 th – 9:30	January 8 th – 11:00	Sunday December 20 th – 4:00pm social – 5:00pm dinner



Be Connected Website https://beconnectedaz.org/
Visit the Be Connected website and explore the different features and other organizations in your area.