



Superstition Mountain Express



February 2021

Volume 42, Issue 5

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This newsletter is published monthly September - May.



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
John Bushko

LTC John Bushko, USAF (Ret)

I hope everyone continues to remain safe and healthy. Even as people are getting the Covid vaccination, the percentage of positive test results continues to remain high. As a result, we will not be scheduling any face-to-face meetings for the foreseeable future. We will keep you informed as our schedule of meetings can be started again. Hopefully those of you who are in the eligibility zone to get the vaccine are able to schedule and get the shot. I know the VA made calls to some of our members to schedule them for the vaccination. Not sure how it is working, but I do know several people who were able to get the shot this way.

On another topic, the MOAA Newsletter has excellent information in each edition, it is sent via your email. If you are not receiving it and would like to, go to the MOAA website (moaa.org) and log in. Then go to "My Subscriptions & Notifications". It will ask for your email address then give you a menu of email notifications. Select the ones you are interested in getting, then sit back and read them as they arrive.

Continued on next page



2021 OFFICERS

President, Lt Col John Bushko	480-759-1717 jabushko@earthlink.net
1 st VP, CW4 Arlan Allen	602-283-5862 cw4allen@cox.net
2 nd VP, Col John Marsh	480-2191020 emarsh125@gmail.com
VP Auxiliary, Mrs. Judy Bushko	480-759-1717 jdbushko@earthlink.net
Secretary, Mrs. Peggy Allen	
Treasurer, Col Thomas Ralph	
Past President, MG Dave Rataczak	

2021 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

Superstition Mountain Express

In his 2021 budget, Gov Ducey included \$45 million to fully exempt military pension pay from income tax, saving the average Arizona veteran \$840 annually and \$416,400 to fund six additional Veterans' Benefits Counselor positions, mainly in rural communities. Last year Representative Gail Griffin lead the fight in the House, but she will need help from all Representatives to get it through the House Appropriations committee. If you want to see this happen, contact you State Representative and ask them to support the initiative. You can view the basics of the budget at:

<https://azgovernor.gov/governor/news/2020/01/governor-ducey-releases-balanced-budget-fy-2021>

Keep in touch with each other and let us know if there is anything we can do to help you through the day.

"Never stop Serving"

John



AUXILIARY NEWS: from Judy Bushko



We have really missed getting together with our auxiliary ladies. Our luncheons give us an opportunity to relax and visit with one another, as well as a time for us to work on all our projects.

Even though we are not meeting to work on these projects we are still collecting items for them. If you would like to donate items or donate money, it would be greatly appreciated. There is a coupon on page 11 of this newsletter (Chapter Auxiliary Donations) with the information for sending monetary donations. Some members like to order things from Amazon and have them shipped to me or you can drop your donations off at my house (call me and I will give you my address).

We are always looking for new projects to take on, so if you know of another way we can help our veterans please let me know. **480-759-1717** jdbushko@earthlink.net

Please stay safe and know you are all missed,

Judy

February Congratulations



MEMBER BIRTHDAY

Arlan Allen	21
Tom Gaylor	27
Dennis Languell	7
Karl Pfitzer	12
Robert Schrader	3

SPOUSE BIRTHDAY

Peggy Allen	10
Bonnie Faul	19
Joyce Gallagher	14
Dawn Grierson	18
Carol Languell	8
Lori Sottile	15
Cindy Wood	16

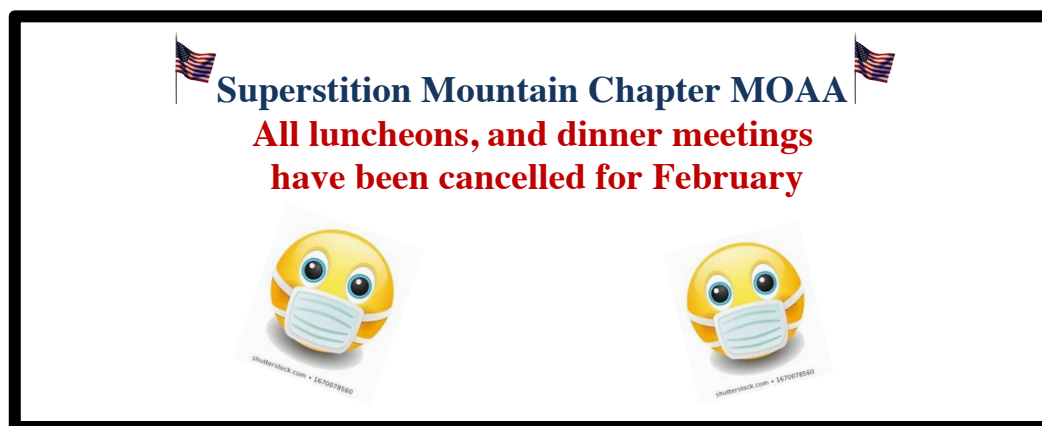


ANNIVERSARIES

Alex & Pamela Banachowski	9
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**A wedding anniversary is the celebration of love, trust, partnership, tolerance, and tenacity.
The order varies for any given year!**





Chairman Reports



1st Vice President
Arlan Allen - Programs

The latest update from Dobson's Restaurant as of January 25th: The Restaurant at Dobson's Golf Course will not be doing any banquet meetings until at least April, and maybe not even then. The determination to resume will be predicated on Covid numbers and number of vaccines administered. There is a possibility it will be in the Fall before banquet service resumes. We just have to wait. I will continue checking for updates.
602-283-5862 - email cw4allen@cox.net.



2nd Vice President
John Marsh - Membership

Coming up on one year with COVID-19. From changes in our membership rolls, it would seem that we have mostly avoided the virus. We have had a couple of removals which did not appear to be COVID related and have added three new members during the year. So far, so good!

From the medical side, vaccinations are proceeding. If you are worried about the shot or concerned as to bad reactions, remember that as we vaccinate millions of people some significant reactions will be talked about. But numbers will be small, in the single digits per million doses. Also, the vaccine is not like armor. The virus will attempt to infect you, but the body will react much more quickly

to fight it off. You can still spread the virus during that early period. So, hand washing, masks and some distancing will help protect those around you, especially if they choose to not vaccinate. Hope to see everyone in the near future when we are all vaccinated! And maybe a little travel after that!!! John M.



Treasurer
Tom Ralph



I hope at least some of you are getting vaccines for the virus. There seems to be very limited availability for appointments. So stay as safe as you can and try to enjoy life while it's a little cool.

As a reminder, there will be no collection of dues for 2021, and if you send me your dues anyway, I will likely just credit you for 2022. If you can't remember, send me a message at: 602-569-2130 or tomralph@cox.net and I will look it up for you.

Also, we are accepting donations for our JROTC program and our Auxiliary programs. Coupons with information are located on page 11 of the newsletter.

So be safe and party down- if that's possible.



Superstition Mountain Express



Personal Affairs
Greg Moore



With the Corona Virus still out of control it seems we are all spending more time at home. This would be a good time to check your records and make sure you have all your important documents in order and in a place where your loved ones can easily find them.

Things to remember...

When a veteran dies these documents will be needed and should be kept on hand.

- Full name
- SS and/or service number
- Date and place of birth
- Retired rank
- Date of retirement
- Disability rating (military/VA)
- Circumstances surrounding the death
- Next of kin
- Copy of DD214
- Copy of Death Certificate

What else is in the NDAA that was passed? From hearing aids to maternity care to chiropractic considerations, this Act covered many military related concerns.

Details on these are available at MOAA HQ
Website- <https://www.moaa.org/>

Now that President Biden is in office and is beginning to put structure to his Administration, MOAA HQ has a number of positions relative to President Biden's statements made during his candidacy relating to the military. Our MOAA HQ president outlined these key concerns in a letter to President Biden. These will be key advocacy points for our organization to follow up on as we begin the new year. You can see details in the latest MOAA HQ Newsletter also available on the National MOAA website.

What's Happening in Our State Legislature?

If anyone is interested in what bills are being considered by our State Legislature, you can go to legiscan.com-AZ and see which ones affect military members or their families

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



Legislative
Ritt Schiano



(Edited from the MOAA HQ Site)

Both Houses overrode the President's veto of the NDAA, so it is now in effect.

There were over 14 new laws enacted during the last session of Congress that affected veterans and service members.

In addition to the new laws, legislation was also enacted on the following to benefit service members and veterans:

- *COVID 19 Relief
- *Suicide Prevention & Behavioral Health
- *Women Veterans' Programs
- *VA Claims & Benefits
- *Survivor Benefits
- *Student Veteran Benefits
- *Protection & Legal Support



ROTC/JROTC
Ed Mangan



I am still waiting to hear back from many of the JROTC Units. Many, if not all, of the schools have stopped all group gatherings like the Awards Night. We are still going move forward with getting our sponsors, so we will be ready if they hold something. These cadets still should get their recognition. Please contact Marlene Fox or me if you wish to sponsor a school or to donate less than the \$125.00. Everything is helpful and appreciated. Thank you.

A list of the schools we sponsor are listed on the next page.

Ed Mangan, SMC JROTC Chairman,
emangan3@aol.com, (602) 501-0128

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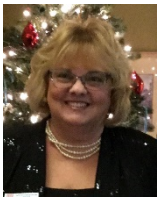
ROTC/JROTC Units/Schools supported by our chapter

ASU-USA, USN, USAF
Apache Junction – USN
Basha – USAF
Campo Verde – USAF
Casa Grande – USMC
Chandler – USAF
Coolidge – USMC
Desert Ridge – USAF

Dobson – USAF
Gilbert – USAF
Globe – USA
Hamilton – USAF
Higley – USAF
Marcos DE Niza – USA
Maricopa – USAF
Mesa – USAF

Queen Creek – USA
Poston Butte – USAF
Red Mountain – USA
Skyline – USA
Vista Grande – USMC
Westwood - USAF

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!**



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 jdbushko@earthlink.net



Last Call Blankets for VA Hospital

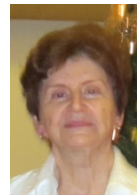
Blankets are used for covering our veterans who have passed in the room and are being moved.

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 Valley

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 and they are greatly appreciated.



Operation Paperback Books Ann Ferguson



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 11400 books taken to the VA Hospital and hundreds of paperbacks have been sent out to our troops.

Our Axillary ladies at work! They are Awesome!



Operation Paperback



Cell Phones for Soldiers



Pillows for VA heart patients and Hospice



Blankets for the Veterans in the VA Hospital



Hygiene Kits for Vets

Looking back at life's choices

A chapter member suggested I ask some of our members the following questions:

- 1. If you could give advice to your younger self, what would it be?**
- 2. Who was your most influential boss/co-worker during your career? Why?**



My Most Influential Boss by Ritt Schiano

My most influential boss was CDR Don Cannell. He was the CO of our brand new destroyer, the USS PAUL DE/FF-1080, that we commissioned in August 1971. He took young naval officers, like myself, and basically turned over a multimillion dollar, 4000 ton destroyer, with 350 men aboard (there were no women back then!) to us to learn how to handle a ship. He stood by our sides as we maneuvered during at-sea, alongside refueling, getting underway from a pier, or returning to port and docking (we called it bumper drills!!).

CDR Cannell taught us to think ahead, anticipate the unknown, to feel what the ship was doing, and to treat our fellow shipmates with respect and as teammates to accomplish the mission... whatever it was.

As the Navigator, which meant I had to report our ship's position to him twice a day, he always made me feel important and valued my work. He taught me what real leadership skills entailed. From him, I learned respect is earned, not given. And, most important, leadership shouldn't be exercised using rank. If you earned respect, shipmates would follow you anywhere and perform exceptionally.

When I became a qualified OOD (Officer-of-The Deck) and was responsible for the ship and everyone aboard during the captain's absence, I practiced what CDR Cannell taught me. Even during our time in Viet Nameese waters, I found his teachings resulted in fast, expeditious and professional responses from everyone I worked with to handle the ship. Just what is needed in life-threatening situations during war time.

Later, we had a new CO. He had none of CDR Cannell's leadership traits or skills. Working for this CO only increased my respect for what I had learned from CDR Cannell. And, even more important, what he taught me allowed me to have a successful civilian career in senior management positions in sales and manufacturing in the printing industry. So CDR Cannell had a lifelong impact on me.



ADVICE TO MY YOUNGER SELF by Arlan Allen

My advice would be "stay the course, you are on a path to an incredible life!" I would not change a thing. The butterfly effect could result in unintended consequences. A change could have prevented meeting and marrying Peggy, or the birth of our daughter, Leah, or the gift of our grandchildren, and the incredible friends I have made along the way.

MOST INFLUENTIAL BOSS AND CO-WORKER by Arlan Allen

My most influential boss and co-worker is our very own Fred Ferguson. The reasons for Fred being my most influential boss and co-worker are too numerous to count. Let's just say, he has always been there, at the right time, to provide support and/or guidance through good times and bad times. He is a constant and steadfast friend and confidant... always a Brother in Arms!

An additional comment: Three people that formed my moral compass, financial guidance and overall life philosophy. Morally and financially, I thank my grandparents, Ray and Elizabeth Allen. For my philosophical guidance, I thank a high school English/Literature instructor, and life-long friend, Mr. Ray Horcasitas.



MOST INFLUENTIAL BOSS by Ed Fox

The person who had the greatest influence on my military career and professional development was Colonel "Melvin." While his name is fictitious, I assure you the substance of my article is not. I wound up working for him twice: the first time, when he was a Lt Col, was simply an act of random selection; the second time was his by-name request after he had made full Colonel:

- Col Melvin was a balding man of average size and fitness. One of his closely guarded secrets was that he wore a toupee of such quality that only a very few knew it--he came up with a variety of excuses for wearing a hat when others were appropriately not wearing one because he had a pathological fear of birds pooping on his head...
- He had a short fuse and would fly into a tirade with the slightest provocation when he was not happy about something that brought negative attention to the squadron
- His ego was beyond the orbit of the moon and he had trouble sharing the credit--which resulted in him being a magnet for brownnoses
- He was the master of malapropisms that either offended, caused confusion, caused nervous glances to dart around the room, or made him the butt of jokes when he left the area. For example, some of his beauties were memorable enough to stand the test of time:
 - a. "When you fly with eagles, you gotta expect to be crapped on from time," a staff meeting gem.
 - b. "Sometimes you gotta grab'm by their ears, stretch'm up around their face, and make'm run faster," a staff meeting gem.
 - c. "You might have to put your foot to the medal to get the mission done," after a Commander's Call awards presentation.
 - d. And the winner, "His elevator is short a few bricks," uttered in a staff meeting when criticizing a branch chief's preparations for an impending command inspection visit
- He was a champion of, "Don't do as I do, do as I say:"
 - a. Came in late and left early
 - b. Criticized in public and rarely praised--even in private
 - c. Win at any cost--except to him

To give Col Melvin his due, while burning the good people out, his units did excel. What I extensively learned from him was what not to do as a commander, that management by fear was a high wire act that could have disastrous results. I declined working for him a third time after I retired.

"We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, therefore, is not an act, but a habit." -- **Aristotle**



MOAA Working for You!

Taken from the February 2021 issue of Military Officer Magazine

In 2020 MOAA advocated to get the following things included in the 2020 Defense Bill. These were the positive results of that action:

1. 3%pay raise
2. Medical Reform
3. Tricare Extended Care Health Option
4. Toxic Exposures – Agent Orange exposure – three new presumptives added
5. Guard and Reserve incentive pay for hazardous duty
6. Updating the business case analysis of the Commissaries and Exchanges.
7. DoD Civilian Jobs and the '180-day rule'
8. Improvements to the Exceptional Family Member Program (families with special needs.)
9. Improvements to Military Housing
10. Improved assistance for Gold Star families by casualty assistance officers

You can find out more information about these issues and what MOAA is working on this year by going to this website; [MOAA.org](https://www.moaa.org)



Presidents Day February 15, 2021



George Washington 1st President
April 30, 1789-March 4, 1797



Abraham Lincoln 16th President
March 4, 1861-April 15, 1865

As Presidents Day approaches it makes me think back to our country's history and the many monumental things that our people have overcome. Our countrymen in the past made many mistakes, but the country learned from them and became better, greater.

Today our country faces many new challenges, and we need to keep the faith and hope that as in the past we will endure and come out better, stronger!

God bless all of you for your service and God bless America!



An Autobiography of 1LT Gregory Moore, USA, Retired



I was born in Quincy Ill and raised in Palmyra Mo., a small farming community 18 miles from Quincy and 11 miles from Hannibal Mo, home of Mark Twain. My father was a schoolteacher and my mother a cosmetologist. I have a sister in Tucson who is a teacher, a part time goldminer in Canada and plays volleyball at a national level.

The summer of my sophomore year we moved to Payson Arizona. I graduated from Phoenix High School in 1964. Attending Arizona State University, I majored in education (history/chemistry). I joined ROTC, where I met fellow chapter member Karl Pfitzer. Our class graduated in 1968.

I was commissioned a 2LT Infantry and attended my basic school at Ft Benning Ga. I was next assigned to an AIT training Bn at Ft McClellan Ala. From there I attended Jungle School in Panama and then was sent to Vietnam to be with the 1st Infantry Division, the "Big Red One." (If you are going to be one, be a Big Red One), as the saying goes. I served as an infantry platoon leader until June of 1969 when I was wounded in a combat action.

Nine months later I was discharged from the hospital in Texas and returned to Arizona to attend graduate school majoring in Counseling. While in the hospital I was retired from the army as a 1LT. I was still going to school when I was recruited to coordinate a federally funded program to assist veterans/active duty who had a background in military healthcare and assist their transition into the civilian work force.

During this time, I was selected by the DAV as Arizona Employee of the Year and also the Arizona Disabled Veteran of the Year. I started the Arizona Hospital Association's nurse recruitment program. I left the Association and enrolled in the College of Nursing at ASU graduating with a BSN. I have been an RN for 30 years and have held national certifications in Medical Surgical and Oncology. My primary specialty is home care and have 20 years of experience as a Case Manager/visit nurse.

I am a charter member of SMC/MOAA and have been Personal Affairs officer for the last six years. I also belong to the VFW, DAV and VVA. Outside interests include martial arts (Yang style Tai Chi) and reading.)

Meredith and I have been married 27 years (no children) and enjoy traveling on small ship river cruises and visiting family, especially the elementary school aged nephews in Santa Fe.

DID YOU KNOW?

National Parks

The National Parks in the US are staying open during this pandemic. It was thought that people need a place to go, to get out of their homes. US Veterans can go these parks free.

Check out this website: <https://www.nps.gov/planyourvisit/veterans-and-gold-star-families-free-acc>

Superstition Mountain Express



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.

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 2021 has 3 types to pick from. **1. Basic--free-electronic only.** **2. Premium- \$43.00 a year.** **3. Life membership-fee is age dependent.** 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'll 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'll be able to tap into MOAA's staff of experts for financial and investment advice, college scholarships for dependents, and much more. That's 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: \$43.00 – 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 2020 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 Chairman John Marsh:

480-219-1020 memarsh125@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. _____



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 22nd St, Phoenix, AZ 85024

CLIP AND MAIL



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

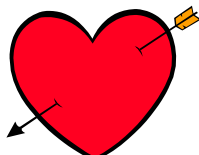


Marlene Fox
Newsletter Editor

As the Newsletter Editor, I strive to minimize errors. There will be times that mistakes occur. If you notice any errors, please let me know. I would appreciate any input on articles you might think would be appropriate for the newsletter. It would also be helpful if all address changes, corrections, or email changes were sent to me, so I can insure you receive the newsletter without delay.

marlenekfox@cox.net - 1151 N Joshua Tree Lane, Gilbert, AZ 85234, 480-854-9473

Happy Valentine's Day!



Superstition Mountain Express

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



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

Chapter Board	Chapter Auxiliary	Chapter Dinner,
Meetings	Luncheons	Luncheon Meetings
March 8 th – 9:30am	March 12 th – 11:00am	Sunday March 21st – 4:00pm social – 5:00pm dinner
April 12 th – 9:30am	April 9 th – 11:00am	Sunday April 18th – 4:00pm social – 5:00pm dinner
May 10 th – 9:30am	May 14 th – 11:00am	Sunday May 16th - 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.