



Superstition Mountain Express

Military Officers Association of America



May 2021

Volume 42, Issue 7

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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

LTC John Bushko, USAF (Ret)

Friends

I know I may sound like a broken record, but I hope everyone is safe and healthy. We found a location for the Board and the Auxiliary to meet but are still working to nail down a location to have our membership meetings. We hope that location will be settled soon. For the Board and Auxiliary, we will meet at Goodies restaurant on Baseline and Dobson just north of the Dobson Restaurant, where we met before. More information about dates and times can be found on page five in this newsletter and will be sent to the members of the board and Auxiliary. It looks like we will be able to have a face- to- face membership meeting in June.

On a separate note, Ritt Schiano had to step down as the chapter Legislative Liaison for personal reasons. We are in search of a Legislative Liaison at this time, so anyone interested please contact me.

John



2021 OFFICERS

President, Lt Col John Bushko	480-759-1717 jabushko@earthlink.net
1st VP, CW4 Arlan Allen	602-283-5862 cw4allen@cox.net
2nd 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	
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

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AUXILIARY NEWS: from Judy Bushko




The auxiliary will be meeting in person on Wednesday, May 12th at 11:00 at Goody's Cafe, 1862 W Baseline Rd, Tempe. We will order from the menu and will be putting together hygiene kits before we eat. Hope to see you there.

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

Please stay safe and know you are all missed,

Judy

 <p>Hygiene Kits</p>	<p>Toothbrushes Toothpaste- full size Toothbrush holders Disposable razors Bar of soap -regular size Deodorant White socks Wash cloths Backpacks</p>	<p>The veterans have voiced their appreciation for these kits. They are given one per month. That is why we ask for full sized items.</p> <p>Most of the veterans are given plastic grocery bags to carry their personal belongings in. In November we were able to take many backpacks for them to use in place of the plastic bags, but more are needed.</p> <p>All donations can be brought to any chapter function or call any chapter board member and we'll see if we can pick them up. Monetary donations are also appreciated! Thanks for your support!</p>
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May Congratulations



MEMBER BIRTHDAY

SPOUSE BIRTHDAY



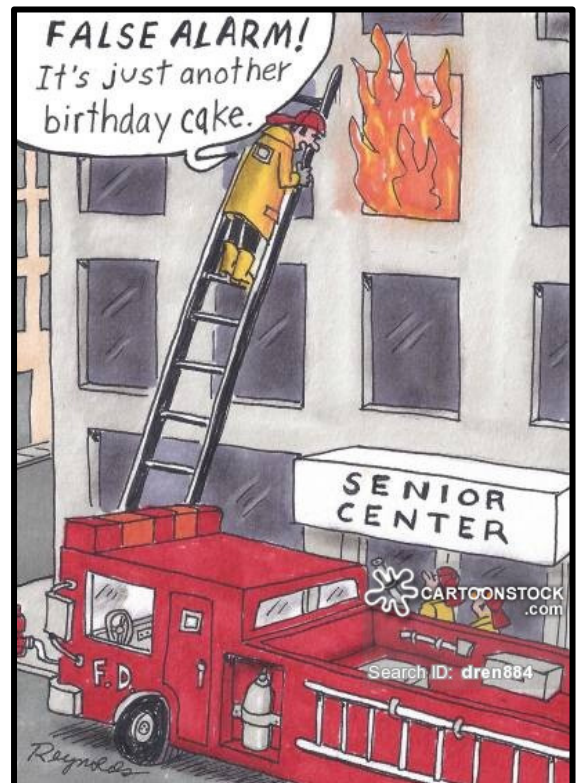
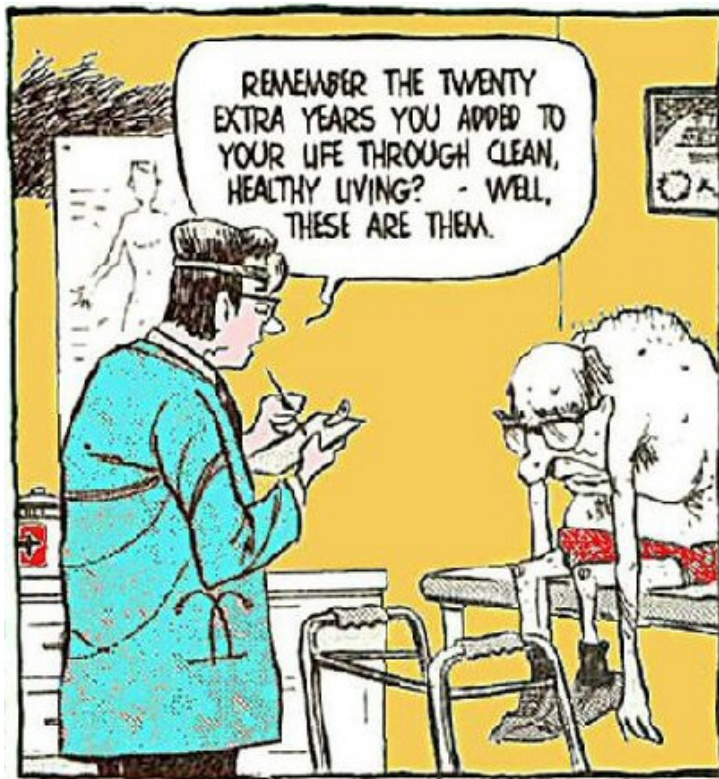
ANNIVERSARIES

Al Anderer	22	Linda Burch	2	Al & Paula Anderer	28
Ward Fogelsanger	15	Claudia Horak	28	Fred & Ann Ferguson	30
Charles McCorkle	24	Connie Koch	29	Karl & Joan Kohlhoff	19
George Meegan	20	Marcella Peters	24	Ritt & Patricia Schiano	23
Hal Peebles	27	Betty Schrader	12		
Mary Dawn Sandlin	8				

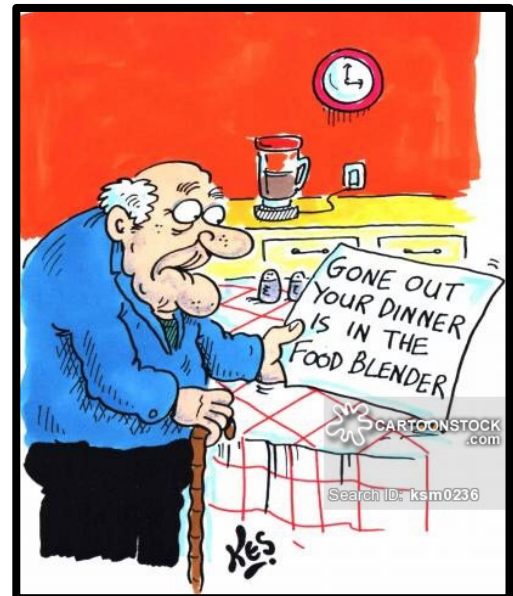
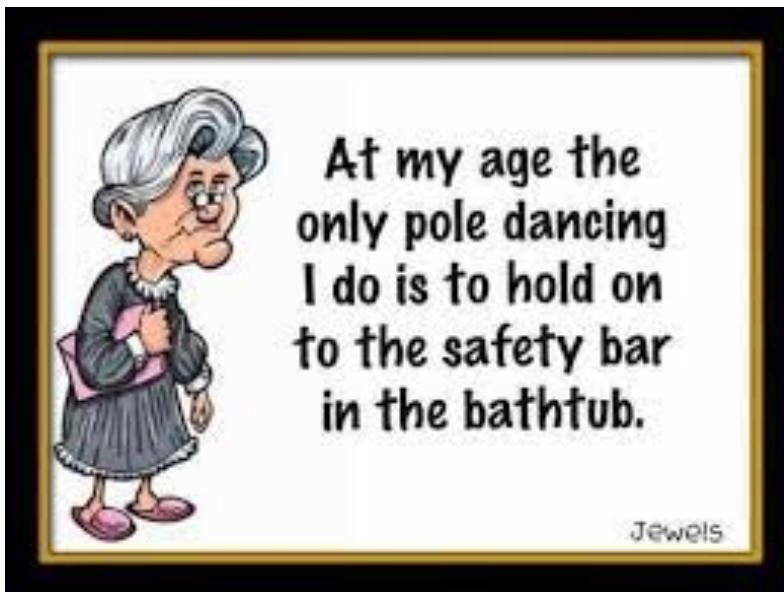
Enjoy your spring, summer is just around the corner!



LOOKING ON THE LIGHTER SIDE OF LIFE!



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A smile starts on the lips, a grin spreads to the eyes, a chuckle comes from the belly; but a good laugh bursts forth from the soul, overflows, and bubbles all around. — Carolyn Birmingham

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**Superstition Mountain Chapter MOAA
Auxiliary Luncheon
at Goody's Café
1862 W Baseline, Mesa AZ 85202
Wednesday, May 12, 2021**

**Lunch at 11:00am – making pillows at
10:45am**

Order lunch off the menu

No reservation needed

**Please join us for lunch. Come
early and help us put together
Hygiene Kits**

Happy Mother's Day!



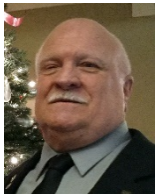
 **Superstition Mountain Chapter MOAA** 

**Dinner meeting and Satellite
chapter luncheon for May
have been cancelled**



Looking forward to meeting in June!

Chairman Reports



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

**GREAT NEWS – PLAN TO RESUME
IN-PERSON MEETINGS!!!**

We will hold our first in-person Board of Directors meeting of 2021 on May 11th at 10:00am. The new location is: Goody's Café, 1862 W. Baseline Rd, Mesa, AZ, in the meeting room. The Board of Directors meeting is open to all Chapter members, if you would like to attend.

The Surviving Spouse/Auxiliary meeting will be May 12th at 11:00 am to do projects, with lunch ordered off the menu at noon. This meeting will also be held at Goody's Café, 1862 W Baseline Rd, Mesa, AZ. Of course, this meeting is open to all Chapter members interested in coming. Working on the projects is always lots of fun!!!

WARNING ORDER: June 19, 2021!

This is a tentative date for an in-person Chapter meeting. **PLEASE NOTE: This will be a luncheon and a day change!** June 19th will be the third Saturday of the month. The time will be 1100 social

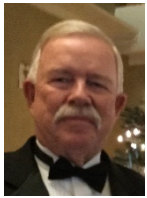
hour and 1200 lunch. This meeting will be held at the Doubletree by Hilton Phoenix-Mesa, 1011 W. Holmes Ave, Mesa, AZ. Currently, the Doubletree is limited to banquet only in the form of a buffet. This buffet will include salad, entrée, starch, vegetable and dessert. New scheduling requirements with the Double Tree require a five-day confirmation of numbers for the meeting, no exceptions. Therefore, I will need your reservations no later than noon on June 14th. The Chapter will be billed for any no shows. More information will be available in the June newsletter.

We are looking forward to the in-person meetings and hope you are too! It's been a long year.

CW4 Arlan R Allen, USA, Reserved



Superstition Mountain Express



Treasurer
Tom Ralph



I hope all of you are doing well and surviving the COVID thing. I think most of us are getting our shots and it may work out that we can start getting our programs back into gear soon. Fiscally, we are still very strong, but our JROTC program is still a bit underfunded for this year.

Those of you wishing to donate to one of our programs should consider JROTC for support, since most schools are still presenting awards to their outstanding students, but most are during fairly informal settings. I hope to see all of you in the near future and hope you all are keeping healthy and safe.

602-569-2130 or tomralph@cox.net



Legislative
John Bushko



MOAA Take ACTION April 26, 2021

These important issues require your immediate attention. Send your elected officials a MOAA-suggested message today.

Urge Your Elected Officials to Support Comprehensive Toxic Exposure Reform Legislation

Comprehensive toxic exposure reform is needed to ensure we avoid the problems faced by Vietnam veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange.

Urge Your Elected Officials to Fix the TRICARE Young Adult Coverage Gap

MOAA continues efforts to build support for The Health Care Fairness for Military Families Act of 2021 (H.R. 475), introduced by Reps. Elaine Luria (D-Va.) and Michael Waltz (R-Fla.). This bipartisan bill would expand TRICARE eligibility to young adult dependents up to age 26, bringing TRICARE in line with commercial plan requirements.

Ask Your Lawmakers to Support the Military Hunger Prevention Act

Food insecurity among junior servicemembers is not a new concern, but like many ongoing problems, it's been made worse by the economic fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic. The Military Hunger Prevention Act would establish a Basic Needs Allowance (BNA) for these servicemembers, helping them overcome financial

difficulties and allowing them to concentrate on their duties.

Urge Your Senators to Support Legislation to Repeal the TRICARE Select Enrollment Fee

Act now to urge your senators to support the TRICARE Select Restoration Act, which is an important first step to repeal the enrollment fee for grandfathered retirees.

Urge your legislators to support concurrent receipt

Contact your representative and senators and urge them to support *The Major Richard Star Act*, which would provide concurrent receipt for servicemembers unable to complete 20 years of service due to combat-related injuries. Help ensure these men and women get their full service-earned retirement, as well as their disability compensation from the VA.

Support Health Care for Children of Disabled Veterans or Veterans Who Have Died Due to a Service-Connected Disability

Did you know many adult children of veterans who are disabled or who died from a service-connected disability lose access to their parent's health well before the age of 26?

Urge Your Senators to Support Legislation Extending TRICARE Coverage to Certain 'Gray Area' Retirees

The TRICARE Fairness for National Guard and Reserve Retirees Act (S. 829), introduced by Sens. Rob Portman (R-Ohio) and Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) and the House companion bill (H.R. 1997), introduced by Reps. Bill Johnson (R-Ohio) and Dean Phillips (D-Minn.) would ensure these "gray area" retirees who qualify for retirement pay before age 60 are eligible for the TRICARE retiree benefit.

Ask Congress to Preserve Arlington National Cemetery and Eligibility for 20-Year Retirees

Help MOAA stay in the middle of this important conversation – Contact your representative and urge them to designate in the FY 2022 NDAA the next national cemetery as ANC reaches capacity.

Ask Your Lawmakers to Support the Military Retiree Survivor Comfort Act

Financial concerns and stress can be a terrible burden on top of an already stressful situation for a newly widowed spouse. For some, when they discover DFAS may take part or all of that last retirement check back, it can be an overwhelming event. The Military Retiree Survivor Comfort Act (H.R. 2214) will allow survivors to gradually repay the amount over the next 12 months and have an opportunity to request for debt forgiveness through DoD.

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

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ROTC/JROTC
Ed Mangan



MOAA members,

It looks like many of the high school JROTC units will be having some sort of Awards Program. Some are just having private ceremonies. I have provided the awards to the unit military leaders.

Hopefully next year will be back to normal and we will be able to attend the ceremonies and present the awards in person.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone when we can resume our monthly meetings, hopefully in June.

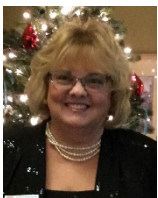
Ed Mangan, SMC JROTC Chair

emangan3@aol.com, (602) 501-0128

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
Hamilton – USAF	Higley – USAF	Marcos DE Niza – USA
Globe – 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!**



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.



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

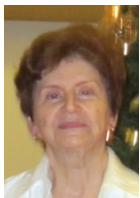


Last Call Blankets for VA Hospital

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!

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

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**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.

What have our members been up to during the Pandemic?



From Tom Ralph

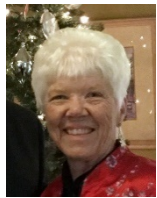
I made this end table during the COVID lockdown from an old antique drill press that my dad had in his garage, probably from the time I was born... I fabricated a metal stand for it, used a barn wood slab on the bottom, and used a piece of Myrtle wood for the top. As far as I know, Myrtle wood only grows in SW Oregon and my hometown, Myrtle Point, is right in the center of it. What you see is its natural color. The old press can still be operated, but not very well. It's pretty rusted up and some of the bearings are nearly frozen. As soon as my daughter saw it, she demanded that I give it to her, so it is currently located in her house in Tucson.

From Ed Fox

Pictured here are two of the wood projects I have completed during the COVID lockdown. Marlene helps me and we enjoy working together on these projects. After many years I finally made this oak table and bench set that Marlene has been wanting for our kitchen. Each unit has separate storage. Marlene made the cushions. I made this lodge style bench with shoe storage for me. One of the few things I have made for myself.



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Checking in on our members

Marlene Fox – Newsletter Editor

Earlier this month I called all of our members to check in and see how they are doing. I am happy to say that everyone seems to have made it through this past year pretty well. Three of our members said they had the Covid virus, but it was not bad enough for hospitalization. That's so great! I didn't actually get to speak to a few members, but left messages, so they would know we are thinking of them.

One of our members, John Horak, sent me the following information to share with you.

Nine years ago, when I was filing my disability claim due to Agent Orange, my bladder cancer was denied. Saw in the VFW magazine that bladder cancer was approved on the Agent Orange list this past January first. I have already submitted a review of my claim and receipt of same has been confirmed by the VA processing center back in Janesville, WI. So, if you are aware of any other Viet Nam vets who have been in my position, please let them know. God only knows, the VA sure isn't going to reach out to them.

For Your Information

VA Phone numbers & amp; Extensions

VA Indian School: 602-277-5551(main) - SE VA Clinic: 480-397-2890

If only extension is listed below, dial main number above first, then extension.

*Dental: 480-397-2860 (direct)SE VA

*Dental: 602-277-5551 Ex 4774

*MyHealtheVet Coord: Victoria Reyes Ex: 3934

*Telehealth: Erika Kinzie Ex. 4030

*Dietician: Jenessa, 602-329-1486

*Patient Advocate:Jennifer Russiello Ex: 3774

*Travel Benefits fax: 602-222-2601

*Agent Orange: Kirsten Lamunyon Ex: 6749 Kirsten.Lamunyon@Va.gov

*Prosthetics: 6417

*Cardio Rehab: Ex: 7926

*Cardiology: 602-200-2323 Or Ex: 7262

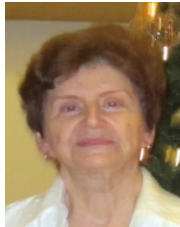
*Billing: Tri-West WPSe-VAPC3, P.O. Box 7926 Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7926

*Nuclear Medicine: Ex. 7639

*Community Care: Ex. 2254



An Autobiography of 2LT Ann Ferguson, USA (former)



I was born in Phoenix, Arizona, attended West High School, Good Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing and ASU having earned my BSN, MSN and later my FNP there. I have always enjoyed school, am a lifelong student. MY other hobbies include traveling, cooking, gardening and quilting.

I joined the Army as a Second Lieutenant, US Army Nurse Corps, with service in Texas and South Carolina, 1966 -1967. I was discharged because I was pregnant before I made 1st. In

those days if you said the word pregnant you were immediately gone.

I believe that we should care for each other and for the world we live on and make every effort to leave this world a better place for our children and the next generations. I consider myself a true patriot, having grown up during WWII, my father and all my uncles served during the war and the women in the family worked in the defense plants. I went to nursery school on base and remember going out to visit the bombers on the flight lines and always being fascinated by them. After the war I read Life magazine and other magazines weekly and saw the pictures from the concentration camps in Europe and from the Asian theater and learned what the war had been about. I was very young then and hadn't really understood until I saw those pictures. Now when I travel overseas, I always visit the military cemeteries, even those from WWI and before as I believe we should never forget all those who fought so we can be free.

Since leaving the service, I have supported, PROJECT C.U.R.E., a nonprofit humanitarian relief organization that delivers medical supplies and equipment to more than 120 countries worldwide. I enjoyed distributing medical supplies in Africa, Asia, Europe, Central and South America.

As a member of several Military organizations, I have continued to help our veterans any way I can. I was Vice-President - Auxiliary for the Superstition Mountain Chapter, Military Officers Association of America, for seven years. I have led the efforts to send Packages from Home to troops overseas and books to Operation Paperback for over ten years.

I am married to Maj Fred Ferguson, USA, Retired. We have two sons and four grandchildren. Fred and I have lived in Chandler for over 40 years. In 2013 I was very proud to be inducted into the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame.



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* in the memo line of the check

Mail to: Tom Ralph, Treasurer 20444 N 22nd St, Phoenix, AZ 85024

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, 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 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. _____

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
May 11 th – 10:00am	May 12 th – 11:00am	Sunday May 16th - Cancelled



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