Superstition Mountain Express MOAA[®] Military Officers Association of America



October 2021	
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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

Greetings Friends,

I am sorry I was unable to be at the September meeting, and I will also miss the October Meeting. For the October meeting I will be attending the MOAA annual meeting and receiving our 5-Star Award. I look forward to seeing everyone at the November meeting. I want to thank Arlan for stepping in to conduct the meetings in my absence.

If you are a MOAA National Premium member or considering an upgrade to Premium or Life Membership, it would be to your advantage to renew or upgrade your membership status before the end of the year to take advantage of the current dues structure. **Effective 1 January 2022, the dues will be increased as follows:**

Premium Member (Annual Pay): 1 Year, \$59 (up from \$48, a 23% jump!). 2 Years, \$100 (up from \$82)

3 Years, \$132 (up from \$108)

Life membership dues will also be increasing, based on the actuarial tables (life expectancy) and annual dues.



Continued on next page

202	1 OFFICERS	2021 COM	IMITTEE CHAIRS
President, Lt Col John Bushko	480-759-1717 jabushko@earthlink.net	Programs	CW4 Arlan Allen
1 st VP, CW4 Arlan Allen	602-283-5862 <u>cw4allen@cox.net</u>	Membership ROTC/JROTC	COL John Marsh Capt Ed Mangan
2 nd VP, COL John Marsh	480-2191020 <u>emarsh125@gmail.com</u>	Personal Affairs	Lt Gregory Moore
V/D Auviliant Mrs. Judy Dushka	490 750 4747 idbushka@aathlink.nat	Legislative	COL Robert Grierson
VP Auxiliary, Mrs. Judy Bushko	480-759-1717 jdbushko@earthlink.net	Newsletter	Mrs. Marlene Fox
Secretary, Mrs. Peggy Allen		Website	Lt. Ann Ferguson
Treasurer, COL Thomas Ralph		Transition Coordinator	
		Director	Maj. Austin Foote
Past President, MG Dave Rataczak		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

President's message continued...

Our 2ndVP/membership Chair, John Marsh, has had to step down due to family issues. I will be doing the membership responsibilities until we find someone to volunteer to take the position. Speaking of officers and director positions, we are in the process of seeking volunteers to lead the chapter. If you are interested, please contact me or the Nominating Committee Chairman, Ed Mangan, with your desire.

Please have a safe and ghoulish October. Don't eat too much candy during Halloween, remember it is bad for your teeth.

Always at your Service,

John













Greetings,

I will not be at the October luncheon as John, and I are traveling to see family and attend the MOAA National Annual Meeting in Washington DC.

The auxiliary will meet on Wednesday, October 6th at 11:00 at Goody's. Card signing is our project this month. Peggy Allen will be stepping in for me if you have any questions.

Thanks for all you support.

Judy



President John Bushko couldn't attend the luncheon. Not missing a step, Vice President Arlan Allen handled the meeting perfectly. Although the attendance was small, we had a good time visiting with each other and of course eating the great food!



Mel & Tom Ralph.

Ed Mangan



Judy Bushko

Lou Bates Ann Ferguson



Ann Schminke

Jo & George Meegan



Peggy Allen Meredith Moore Mel & Tom Ralph



Greg & Meredith Moore Mel & Tom Ralph



Ed Pollen

Ed Fox



Peggy Allen

MEMBER BIRTHDAY

Paula & Al Anderer



Just chatting with each other in this comfortable environment.

September Congratulations



SPOUSE BIRTHDAY



Charles Eckert	5
Laura Farmer-Wilson	16
Ed Fox	18
Judy Gofas	4
Joyce Herd	26
Elna Lidman	4
Roberta Rawls	17
Curtis Walker	10
Gerald Wittman	15

Donna Conger	
Charolette Eckert	
Laura Ferguson	
Melonie Ralph	
Margaret Romas	
Patricia Schaino	
Carolyn Wittman	

26	Michael & Gail.	7
21	Jeffery & Elna Foster.	8
1	Tom & Kay Galor	10
9	Dennis & Carol Languell	23
12	David & Lynne Loss	3
24	John & Marilyn Marsh	12
28	Karl & Vickie Pfitzer	2



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



Superstition Mountain Chapter MOAA Auxiliary Luncheon at Goody's Café 1862 W Baseline, Mesa AZ 85202

Wednesday October 13, 2021

Lunch at 11:00am Order lunch off the menu No reservation needed

We will be working on cards for our Veterans



Superstition Mountain Chapter MOAA Luncheon Meeting Saturday October 16, 2021

12 noon Social – 1:00pm Lunch

DoubleTree by Hilton 1011 West Holmes Ave., Mesa, AZ 85210 Ocotillo Room

Guest Speaker Presentation by Roddy Charlton On the AH-64, Apache helicopter.

Menu

Chicken Parmesan, pasta, mixed green salad, vegetable, rolls, dessert, coffee, and tea.

\$30.00 per person

Reservations by Sunday, October 10th to Arlan Allen 4201 W Luke Ave, Phoenix AZ 85019 -602-283-5862 - <u>cw4allen@cox.net</u>

SMC MOAA 2022 Chapter Elections



Nomination Committee Chairman

Ed Mangan

Next month we need to publish our nominees for our 2022 Chapter Officers and Board in the newsletter. We are looking for members to step up and take on the following positions. **President, 1st Vice President/programs, 2nd Vice president/membership, Secretary, and Treasurer**. These are all crucial positions and have to be filled to maintain our chapter. If you are interested in one of these positions, please contact me at emangan3@aol.com, (602) 501-0128 or President John Bushko **480-759-1717** jabushko@earthlink.net

Chairman Reports



1st Vice President *Arlan Allen - Programs*

October! The frost is not on the pumpkin, but the calendar says it is Fall! Our monthly SMC luncheon will be held on October 16th. The buffet will

be Chicken Parmesan, pasta, mixed green salad, vegetable, rolls, dessert, coffee, and tea. I will need your RSVP by Sunday, October 10th. You can contact me at 602-283-5862 (can leave a message) or via email <u>cw4allen@cox.net</u>. The cost is \$30.00 per person. The location for our monthly meeting is Double Tree Phoenix/Mesa; 1011 W. Holmes Ave., Mesa, AZ.

Our guest speaker will be Roddy Charlton. Roddy's presentation will be on the AH-64, Apache helicopter. The AH-64 is the world's most advanced helicopter gunship. Roddy worked for both Hughes Aircraft and Boeing, from the developmental and prototype phase of the Apache for over 32 years. He is recognized as an expert on the airframe and systems. Part of his presentation will be a 12-minute video developed by the US Army and Boeing. It provides a crew member's perspective, uncensored, compiled from the on-board video and audio recordings. This video was taken on the opening night of the Persian Gulf War.

Looking ahead to the November 20th meeting, we will celebrate Thanksgiving and remember all our Veterans. The Campo Verde JROTC Cadets will present the Colors and perform the POW/MIA Ceremony. This is always a very impressive presentation, and the Cadets look forward to this activity each year.

I know it's been many months since some of you have attended the SMC monthly meetings. It's time to get out of the house and get back into the habit of attending our get togethers! We miss seeing old friends, the camaraderie and fellowship with our members. We miss you and hope to see you this month.





Treasurer Tom Ralph



It was great to see some of you at the September luncheon and I would encourage those of you who can, to try to make our upcoming luncheons. The food is great, and the service is spectacular. It's nice that the weather is starting to improve. Thank goodness for the fall.

Our fiscal position is still very strong, and we seem to have weathered the COVID shutdowns without too many monetary pains, as long as we don't see any worsening of the virus. Our JROTC programs and our auxiliary programs are continuing and hopefully will return to pre-COVID levels soon so I would ask that you consider supporting them if able.

Here's hoping for a great fall season followed by spectacular holidays. We have a lot to make up for.



2nd Vice President John Marsh- Membership

We are very sorry to lose John as our 2nd VP and Membership Chairman. He has done an outstanding job and we appreciate all his hard work.

Well wishes for you and your family and we are looking forward to when you are back in the valley.



Legislative Robert Grierson



Fall greetings to the Superstition Mountain Chapter. At the time of drafting this update, NDAA is being

tossed around in Washington. Congress has little hope of finding any common ground on several very contentious issues. Some of the issues are: Highest budget amount in history, funding for creating a new office to "combat extremism," creates a gun court to

have your personal firearms seized without recourse, CRT at the academies, closes GITMO, and much, much, more. People I've spoken with expect NDAA to fail on a party-line vote in the senate, and continuing resolutions to be drafted as short-term fixes as we enter the new federal fiscal year.

For some good news, there have been attempts over the years to merge the Commissary and Exchange systems into a single entity. At MOAA's urging, a study was initiated in 2018. The conclusion was rendered saying "bad idea." But as I've learned over the years, bad ideas never die, they just find a new sponsor.

MOAA has identified several key legislative goals which I'll discuss below.

Federal Legislation supported by MOAA

FIRST ADVOCACY ITEM: Concurrent Receipt Update: **Major Richard Star Act S. 344.** *The Major Richard Star Act*, which would provide concurrent receipt for service-members unable to complete 20 years of service due to combat-related injuries. Help ensure these men and women get their full serviceearned retirement, as well as their disability compensation from the VA. More than half the Senate supports it. Here's how you can help.

Click on **TAKE ACTION**: Ask Your Lawmakers to Support the Major Richard Star Act Fill in your personal information and Zip Code.

SECOND ADVOCACY ITEM: Urge Your Elected Support Comprehensive Toxic Officials to 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. Omnibus bills have been introduced by both chambers of Congress to address this issue. The Senate's Cost of War Act and the House's "Honoring our PACT Act" provides the change we need recognizing and caring for toxic exposures. Each of these bills include the two key bills that MOAA supported with our Advocacy in Action campaign. In addition to supporting the comprehensive toxic exposure bills, we also encourage support for the following bills:

The Veterans Burn Pits Exposure Recognition Act introduced by Sens. Dan Sullivan (R-Alaska) and Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.) and Reps. Elissa Slotkin (D-Mich.) and Peter Meijer (D-Mich.) supports veterans who were exposed to burn pits and other airborne hazards by conceding exposure based on location and time. If veterans file claims, the act also requires VA to help them receive a medical examination.

The Toxic Exposure in the American Military (TEAM) Act, introduced by Sens. Thom Tillis (R-N.C.) and Maggie Hassan (D-N.H.) and Rep. Mike Bost (R-III.) would create comprehensive toxic exposure reform to expand health care, improve the presumptive process, and ensure veteran input in the process about the critical conditions affecting the health and well-being of service members, veterans, families, survivors, and caregivers as a result of exposures while in service.

These bills are an essential part of MOAA's 2021 Advocacy in Action campaign for comprehensive toxic exposure reform. Please take a moment to write your lawmakers about the importance of backing these bills. Click on TAKE ACTION: Ask Your Lawmaker to Support Comprehensive Toxic Exposure Reform]

Fill in your personal information and Zip Code.

THIRD ADVOCACY ITEM: Ask Your House Member to Support a Needed Fix for Military Families. H.R. 4021, introduced by Reps. Joe Wilson (R-S.C.) and Elaine Luria (D-Va.), would create an advisory council of EFMP-enrolled families and representatives from the Defense Health Agency, Department of Defense Education Activity, and DoD's Office of Special Needs. The council would represent the diversity of the disability community and would be charged with making nonstatutory, semiannual recommendations related to EFMP to the services and congressional armed services committees. Click on TAKE ACTION: Ask Your House Member to Support the **Representation for Exceptional Military Families** Act. Fill in your personal information and Zip Code.

FOURTH ADVOCACY ITEM: Reach Out to Your Lawmakers and Support Military Survivors. MOAA-supported legislation could become part of this year's NDAA and could make a real difference in the days after a loss. 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 and S.1669) will allow survivors to gradually repay the amount over the next 12 months and have an opportunity to request for debt forgiveness through DoD. Click on TAKE ACTION: Ask Your Lawmakers to Support the Military Retiree Survivor Comfort Act. Fill in your personal information and Zip Code.

There are multiple miscellaneous house bills which are under consideration too. Here are some which may be of interest:

- Federal HR 413 A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow the work opportunity credit to small businesses which hire individuals who are members of the Ready Reserve or National Guard, and for other purposes. Support
- Federal HR 847 A bill to provide interim appropriations for the Coast Guard Retired

Serviceman's Family Protection and Survivor Benefits Plans for each fiscal year after fiscal year 2018, and for other purposes. Support

 Federal - S 21 - A bill making continuing appropriations for Coast Guard pay in the event of an appropriations act expired prior to the enactment of new appropriations (official title to be confirmed).
Support

State Legislation

To confirm who your state legislators are, you can go to <u>https://www.azleg.gov/findmylegislator/</u>

MOAA National Legislative Action items are available to you at <u>http://www.moaa.org/</u>. 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 500 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!



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!

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



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.

A Short Story from George Meegan



In December 1959 while serving as a Marine Security Guard for the embassy in Kabul, I met a famous columnist who was popular in the 50s/60s. His name was Drew Pearson.

One night I had the midnight to 0800 tour of duty and when I first arrived, I had a note to send the embassy vehicle to the Kabul Hotel at 0400. This was a bit unusual, but I sent the vehicle and when they returned Mr. Pearson introduced himself like he was royalty. I merely stepped out on the chancery steps and said I'm Corporal Meegan. He said he was there to investigate a story

about trouble in Kandahar where the" mullahs" had destroyed a Girls School. The school was part of the King's effort to open the country to modern times. The "mullahs" were the ancestors of the Taliban group originated in Kandahar. It was also at this time that young women could uncover their faces, the older ones remained in Chandra (full covering).

Sem per Fi George

On The Lighter Side of Life!



A little silver-haired lady calls her neighbor and says, "please come over here and help me. I have a killer jigsaw puzzle, and I can't figure out how to get started". Her neighbor asks, "What is it supposed to be when it's finished?"

The little silver-haired lady says, "According to the picture on the box, it's a rooster." Her neighbor decides to go over and help with the puzzle. She lets him in and shows him where she has the puzzle spread all over the table.

He studies the pieces for a moment, then looks at the box, then turns to her and says, "First of all, no matter what we do, we're not going to be able to assemble these pieces into anything resembling a rooster."

He takes her by the hand and says, "Secondly, I want you to relax. Let's have a nice cup of tea, and then," he said with a deep sigh.....

"Let's put the corn flakes back in the box!"





Woodshop Humor

Ed is refinishing our dining table. As he was sanding it, I ask him why he didn't try a stripper. He said, "She was already booked!"

9



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

	Printed Member Name & Initia	l				
Branch of Service	Rank					
Spouse First Name	Nati	ional MOAA Numb	er			
Street Address		City	Stat	e	ZIP	
Home Phone #	Work or Ce	11#				
Please Circle: ARMY	AIR FORCE-NAVYMARINE CO	ORPS- COAST GU	ARDNO	DAAP	UBLIC I	HEALTH S
Circle All That Apply:	REGULAR-RESERVE-NATIONA	AL GUARD-FORM	ER OFFI	CER-A	CTIVE-F	RETIRED-
	REGULAR-RESERVE-NATIONA _ WIDOW WIDOWER	AL GUARD-FORM	ER OFFI	CER-A	CTIVE-I	RETIRED-
MALEFEMALE						

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 2022 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<u>memarsh125@gmail.com</u>

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.

ametag type	Select na
magnetic	Pin on

1._ 2.

Print first and last name

	October Luncheon Meeting Saturday October 16, 2021 – Double Tree by Hilton Social Hour - Noon Lunch – 1:00pm
Chicken Pa	Buffet Style armesan, pasta, mixed green salad, vegetable, rolls, dessert, coffee, and tea
\$30.00 p	er meal – Name(s)
	Reservations must be in by Sunday, October 10th 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: <u>cw4allen@cox.net</u>
	
	Chapter Donations
	Enclosed is a densition of th
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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
Meetings	Luncheons	Luncheon Meetings
October 11 th – 9:30	October 13 th – 11:00am	October 16 th – 12 noon social – 1:00pm lunch
November 8 th – 9:30	November 10 th – 11:00am	November 20 th - 12 noon social – 1:00pm lunch
December 13 th – 9:30	December 8 th – 11:00am	December 18 th – 12 noon social – 1:00pm lunch



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