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This newsletter is published
monthly September - May.



President's Comments

LTC John Bushko, USAF (Ret)



Please remember to share the Newsletter with your spouse!

Greetings all!

I am sorry that I was not able to be with you for the Membership luncheon. I had another commitment, but I will attend this month. I hope that everyone had a great time.

I was notified that we have again received the Four-Star Level of Excellence Award. Unfortunately, I will not be able to attend the MOAA meeting at the end of October to receive the award in person. I will receive it during the Council of Chapters meeting in November.

According to the MOAA Newsletter, the standard Part B monthly premium will drop to \$164.90 next year, which is down from \$170. for the first time since 2011-12. Beneficiaries will pay less in a new year. Due to the law passed on August 10th, thousands of veterans who served after the 1991 Persian Gulf War, or against a hostile force after November 11, 1998, or were discharged or released for active duty from September 11, 2001 to October 1, 2013, are now eligible for VA Health benefits. There is a wealth of information in the weekly MOAA Newsletter. If you are not signed up to receive it via e-mail, I would suggest that you log in to the MOAA website and select to receive it.

I look forward to seeing you at the next meeting. Stay safe and healthy.

John



AUXILIARY NEWS
From Judy



Finally, Fall!

The AUX will be meeting on Wednesday, October 12th. I will be there and I have a project planned for the meeting.

Please come and enjoy the companionship and friendship of the other members. Help us help our vets!

Judy

Below are depictions of some of the items which have been suggested for the residents of the Veteran's Home for their entertainment and pleasure. Anything that you do to support of our veterans is much appreciated by them. They especially appreciate the Krispy Kreme and Dunkin Donuts cards!



September Members Luncheon Attendees

Arlan and Marlene's Family – Ed Fox, Crystal and Levi



Arlan and Marlene's Family



Arlan presents 5-Star Award to Ann Ferguson



Ann and Fred Ferguson



Melvin Brown, Greg and Meredith Moore, Lou Bates



Sheryl Mauldin



Barb and Jim Austin



Melanie and Tom Ralph



George and Jo Meegan and Melanie and Tom Ralph



Jim Austin, George and Jo Meegan

October Congratulations!



MEMBER

SPOUSE

ANNIVERSARY

Ed Mangan	13
Jim Austin	19
Greg Moore	30

**Luncheon
Superstition Mountain Chapter MOAA Auxiliary**

Wednesday, October 12, 2002

11:00am - Lunch at 12:00 Noon

Denny's

Order lunch off the menu

Route 60 and Rural Rd.

No reservation needed



Help us help our Vets!

**Luncheon Meeting
Superstition Mountain Chapter MOAA**

Saturday, October 15, 2022

12:00 Noon Social - 1:00 pm Lunch

DoubleTree by Hilton

1011 West Holmes Ave., Mesa, AZ 85210

Menu

Salisbury Steak, vegetable, rolls and butter, dessert, coffee, or iced tea.

\$30.00 per person

Reservations by Sunday, September 11th

to Arlan Allen

4201 W Luke Ave, Phoenix AZ 85019

602-283-5862 - cw4allen@cox.net

Chairman Reports



1st Vice President
Arlan Allen - Programs

Hello everyone!! Our October luncheon will be on the 15th, at the DoubleTree, Phoenix/Mesa, 1011 W Holmes Ave., Mesa, AZ. Social hour begins at Noon with the buffet served at 1300. The meal will be Salisbury Steak, Vegetables, Rolls & Butter, Coffee, Iced Tea, water and Dessert. Please have your reservations to me no later than Sunday, October 9th. . Please call 602-283-5862 or email me at cw4allen@cox.net .

October also brings nominations for the 2023 Superstition Mountain Chapter Officers and Directors. The Chapter is looking for someone to fill the following positions: President, First Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. John Bushko will be heading the Nomination Committee. If you are interested, or know anyone that is, please let a Board member know.

Hope to see you at the October luncheon.

CW4 Arlan R Allen, USA, Ret.
First Vice President/Program Manager



Legislative
Bob Grierson



Fall greetings to the Superstition Mountain Chapter. Just like last year, at the time of drafting this update, NDAA is being tossed around in Washington. So far, not one of the twelve required funding bills has cleared congress. I learned a little tidbit today that I must share. The last time the House of Representatives passed all 12 funding bills before the September 30 end of Federal Fiscal Year was in 1997. A quarter century of government shutdowns, continuing resolutions, and short-term budgetary fixes. This falls on both republicans and democrats. We must do better.

For some good news, a few months ago, I reported the PACT act was approved and signed into law, but so far, that seems like it for the legislative process. A number of other important bills continue to languish in spite of their support and number of co-sponsors.

MOAA has identified a number of key legislative goals for this congress of which they are asking for your support by contacting your representative or senator. I'll outline below.

Federal Legislation supported by MOAA

Superstition Mountain Express

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..

Urge Your Legislators to Ensure Uniformed Services Pay Keeps Up With Inflation

Let your lawmakers know they must preserve the value of military compensation in the FY 2023 National Defense Authorization Act or risk the readiness and stability of the all-volunteer force

Help Support Military Family Access to Mental Health Care

Help MOAA build support for H.R. 4824, the Stop Copay Overpay Act, which would reduce TRICARE copays for mental health visits and address the financial barrier to accessing mental health services.

Urge Your Senators to Support Legislation Halting Cuts to Military Medicine

Please contact your senators and urge them to support H.R. 7900 Sec. 780, which would halt medical billet cuts for three years and increase congressional oversight and DoD reporting.

Call Your Elected Officials and Urge Them to Support Concurrent Receipt

Call 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.

Urge Your Senators to Protect Pay and Benefits in the FY 2023 NDAA

On July 14, the U.S. House of Representatives passed their chamber's version of the FY 2023 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) by a vote of 329-101. Now, it is time for the Senate to take up its version of the NDAA and pass it out of their chamber so the bill can continue to make its way through the legislative process.

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. These bipartisan and bicameral pieces of legislation 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.

Ask Your House Member to Adjust SGLI and VGLI for Inflation With the Supporting Families of the Fallen Act

Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI) and Veterans' Group Life Insurance (VGLI) coverage amounts have not been updated since 2005. This law would raise the level from \$400,000 to \$500,000 – a necessary move to preserve the value of this program in the face inflation.

Ask Your Lawmakers to Support the Expanding America's National Cemetery Act

Help MOAA stay in the middle of this important conversation – Contact your elected officials and urge them to support the Expanding America's National Cemetery Act.

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 Congress to Expand TRICARE Coverage to Certain 'Gray Area' Retirees

The TRICARE Fairness for National Guard and Reserve Retirees Act would ensure these "gray area" retirees who qualify for retirement pay before age 60 are eligible for the TRICARE retiree benefit. Under current law, gray area retirees who want TRICARE coverage must purchase TRICARE Retired Reserve (TRR), an expensive premium-based plan, even if they are receiving retired pay.

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

The CHAMPVA Children's Care Protection Act would expand coverage under the VA program for children of eligible veterans so they can have health care until age 26, as afforded to most Americans through private and federal policies.

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Urge Your Legislators to Support the Military Spouse Hiring Act

Contact your representative and senators and urge them to support the Military Spouse Hiring Act, which would incentivize businesses to hire military spouses.

Support the Elizabeth Dole Home and Community Based Services for Veterans and Caregivers Act

Contact your representatives and senators and urge them to support H.R. 6823 and S. 3854, the Elizabeth Dole Home and Community Based Services for Veterans and Caregivers Act, which would improve VA home and community-based services to care and support for veterans and their caregivers.

Ask Your Lawmakers to Fully Fund the Government on Time

We need everyone to contact their representative and senators and urge them to work together to fund the government before the Sept. 30 deadline.

Protect the All-Volunteer Force and Personnel Strength in the NDAA

Ask Congress to keep up our personnel strength so our troops can safely do their job.

Urge Your House Member to Support the Military Spouse Jobs Continuity Act

The Military Spouse Jobs Continuity Act calls on DoD to make the license reimbursement program permanent.

Urge Your House Member to Support Dental Coverage for the Reserve Component

The Dental Care for Our Troops Act would provide zero out-of-pocket cost dental care to reserve component servicemembers.

Urge Your Senators to Support the Military Spouse Employment Act

The Military Spouse Employment Act ensures federal agencies can take advantage of the talent, expertise, and quality work military spouses are capable of through direct or remote federal work, regardless of where they are stationed.

Call Your Elected Officials to Support the Expanding America's National Cemetery Act

Help MOAA stay in the middle of this important conversation – Call your lawmakers and urge them to support the Expanding America's National Cemetery Act.

Ask Your Lawmakers to Pass the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2022

The Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2022 contains important provisions which would ensure Coast Guard members are paid in the event of any lapse in appropriations or government shutdown. Contact your legislators today and ask them to co-sponsor this critical piece of legislation.

Urge Your Senators to Support the Military Family Nutrition Access Act

The Military Family Nutrition Access Act will exclude BAH from income when determining eligibility for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and ensure military families have access to this benefit.

Share Your Story: Impact of TRICARE Pharmacy Network Changes

Will you be impacted when community pharmacies leave the TRICARE network? Please share your story with your representative.

Ask Your Lawmakers to Support the Jobs and Childcare for Military Families Act

The military spouse unemployment rate is not a new concern, but like many ongoing problems, it's been made worse by the economic fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ask Your Lawmakers to Support the Retained Skilled Veterans Act

This bipartisan legislation would end the so-called "180-day rule," which imposes a waiting period on those leaving service before they can take on certain types of DoD civilian employment. Many of these jobs are empty as qualified applicants with security clearances are forced to look elsewhere to start their careers.

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. 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.

Help MOAA Secure Health Care for Servicemembers in the Selected Reserve

The National Guard and Reserve play critical roles in our national defense and emergency response missions. The Healthcare For Our Troops Act would provide medical and dental care for Selected Reserve members at no out-of-pocket cost, bringing their coverage in line with their active-duty counterparts.

Superstition Mountain Express

Act Now to Improve Survivors' Benefits

Bipartisan legislation in the House and Senate (H.R. 3402/S.976) would align Dependency and Indemnity Compensation payments with other federal survivor benefits. Ask your legislators to show their support and make a long-overdue correction to this injustice.

Justice for ALS Veterans

Survivors should not be disadvantaged when an aggressive illness like ALS takes their loved one far too soon. The unique nature of this disease means few veterans survive long enough to receive the enhanced benefits that other totally disabled veterans receive.

Urge Your House Member to Support the BAH Restoration Act

The BAH Restoration Act calls on DoD to restore BAH to full coverage of the monthly cost of adequate housing in the area.

Urge Your House Member to Support the BAH Calculation Improvement Act

The BAH Calculation Improvement Act calls on DoD to reevaluate the current calculation of the Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) and provide recommendations for a more flexible, responsive method.

Support Long-Term and Extended Care Services for Veterans

Tell your lawmakers to press forward on MOAA-backed bills to enhance long-term and extended care options for veterans in need: the Elizabeth Dole Home Care Act; the Expanding Veterans' Options for Long-Term Care Act; and the Long-Term Care Veterans Choice Act.

State Legislation

The state legislature is currently out of session at this time.

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



Personal Affairs
Gregory Moore

Greetings to All:

I know, I know, who wants to think about Christmas when we haven't even gotten my birthday (10/30) or Thanksgiving, out of their way!

But, here goes:

The chapter will again be collecting funds for the Marines Toys for Tots program (instead of actual toys). I will be collecting funds at the November Luncheon, or they can be mailed to me at 1581 W. Corona Dr., Chandler, AZ 85224-8558.

Last year, in a pandemic year, we donated over \$800. This speaks well for all of us as a community-minded group, and when we are being considered for an LOE award from National, we need to keep on serving!

Greg
Personal Affairs



ROTC/JROTC
Al Anderer

If you are interested, or know anyone who is interested, in inspiring another generation of leaders in our High School ROTC programs, please call me. SMC supports several High School ROTC programs, and we need volunteers to present awards to outstanding ROTC graduates in the Spring. A former military officer is an inspiration to the young men and women who aspire to become military leaders in their own right. They are the future.

Thank you for your support!

Al Anderer

Al Anderer

al_anderer@cox.net 480-227-102



Tidbits



For those who miss the Autumn leaves as much as I!

Do you have any tidbits to share for the good of the Chapter?

Send them to paula_anderer@cox.net

AUXILIARY ACTIVITIES



Working for Vets
Judy Bushko

Hygiene Kits for Vets

Items we need for our kits are razors, wash cloths, combs, white socks, bars of soap, deodorant, 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 540 kits made since we started this project!



Heart Shaped pillows for VA Hospital and Hospice of the Valley

Patients at the VA hospital, who 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!

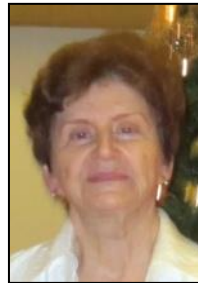
When you upgrade your phone, don't throw those old phones away. Bring them to us. We'll send them in to get phone time for our troops overseas. **Phones don't need to work!**

Contact Judy Bushko **480-759-1717** or
e-mail: 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 blankets are then given to the family. Over 50 blankets donated since we started this project!



Operation Paperback Books
Ann Ferguson

We send paperbacks to the troops and hard cover books are taken to the VA Hospital. Since 2012, over 11,400 books taken to the VA Hospital and hundreds of paperbacks have been sent out to our troops.

Bring your books to any chapter function or contact Ann Ferguson **480-961-9634** or e-mail: vfergusonfnp@cox.net

"In conclusion, the value of books is insurmountable, as evidenced by their abilities to communicate new ideas, experiences, knowledge, and wisdom that is necessary for life, and that makes the reading of books important." - essaybasics.com



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 2022 has 3 types to pick from. **1. Basic--free-electronic only.** **2. Premium- \$40.00 a year.** **3. Life membership-fee is age dependent** (can be as much as \$700.00) As a **BASIC Member** you will receive electronic newsletters and have opportunities to participate in grassroots activism effort. You get *Military Officer Magazine* via our mobile app. You'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: \$40.00 – Make check payable to MOAA National

Mail to: MOAA, Dept. 1488, Maryfield, VA 22116-9820

Enclose check for: Chapter \$25.00 or Auxiliary (SSAC) \$12.50

Make check payable to SMC of MOAA. Write 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 Norm Poole

520) 836-8456. nrpoole1066@gmail.com

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

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



September Luncheon Meeting
Saturday, October 15, 2022 - DoubleTree by Hilton
Social Hour - Noon Lunch - 1:00pm

BUFFET

Salisbury Steak, vegetables, roll w/butter, dessert, coffee, water. or iced tea.

\$30.00 per meal - Name(s) _____

Reservations must be in by Sunday, October 9th

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

Chapter Donations

Enclosed is a donation of \$ _____

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

Please make check payable to SMC of MOAA

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

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



2022 Chapter Dues Renewal Form

Annual Dues: \$25 Regular Members \$12.50 Auxiliary (**SSAC**) Members

Please make check payable to SMC of MOAA

- - - Write *MOAA Chapter Dues* on Memo line of the check

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

Check enclosed; renew my membership for 2022

Please print name _____ My National MOAA

Number _____



2022 Chapter Activity Schedule - (Dates and times are subject to change.)

Chapter Board	Chapter Auxiliary	Chapter Member/Guest
Meetings	Luncheons	Luncheon Meetings
October 11 th - 9:30 am	October 12 th - 11:00am	October 15 th , 12 Noon Social - 1:00pm lunch



“Life is not fair. Get over it!”

...Life-long adage of Marlene Fox

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

We were honored, at the September Luncheon, to host Ed Fox, his daughter, Crystal and his son-in-law, Levi Melton. They accepted the posthumously-awarded MOAA Communication Five-Star Award to Marlene for her excellent work on this Newsletter. The family was given the honor of attaching the Award to the Chapter Banner.

We were also proud to present the MOAA Communication Five-Star Award for the Website to Ann Ferguson, who accepted the Award on behalf of Jim Austin as well as herself. Thank you for your hard work! The Chapter is so proud of you!

Peggy Allen and Paula Anderer

Newsletter Contact: paula_anderer@cox.net

Superstition Mountain Express

4201 W. Luke Ave.

Phoenix, AZ 85019

Superstition Mountain Chapter **Military Officers Association of America**

RESOURCES

Newsletter: paula_anderer@cox.net

MOAA Home Page: <https://moaa.org>

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

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



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