

Superstition Mountain Express

MOAA® Military Officers Association of America



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INDEX

President's Message	1-2
Auxiliary Report	2
Birthdays/Anniversaries	3
Auxiliary/Luncheon Activities	4
Chair Reports	5-7
Members Contribution	7-8
Membership Application	9
Reservation/Donation/Dues	10
Editor's Page	11
Resources	12

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<http://www.smcmoaa.org/>



President's Comments Col. Robert Grierson

September greetings to the Superstition Mountain Chapter. This month's column will focus on the recruiting problem faced in today's military.

We are nearing 50 years of the "All Volunteer Force" following the end of the Viet Nam War. In that time, our servicemen and women have been sent to numerous garden spots throughout the world, and we've lost thousands of our sons and daughters in defense of our Nation and its principles. But never have we faced such difficulty in recruiting and retaining service members.

From an economic perspective, it makes sense for a military pilot with 10 years in uniform, earning \$90,000 per year to jump at a chance to fly for the airlines, earning several hundred thousand more. And if you're 17 years old, earning \$16 per hour at Burger King may seem more fiscally sound than \$1774 per month as an E1. Although, working at Burger King really doesn't come with any benefits other than the occasion Whopper. Aside from learning how to deal with other employees and an irate customer, no real job skills are learned.

DoD has often reported that 80% of American youth are ineligible to join the military. I question that number. It's one thing to be disabled or a criminal, but another if you are just lazy, fat, or stupid. When I was a young enlisted man, we placed our less intelligent personnel into jobs which required less skills. We also had fat farms where diet and exercise were stressed and monitored.

Recently, the Army has created a program to accept candidates who want to serve, but who failed the physical or educational standards. They put them through a rigorous process to bring up their scores to meet the standard. (cont'd)

(cont'd)

It's been an overwhelming success. For more than 20 years, the National Guard has run the Challenge program, working with "at risk youth", teaching them discipline, self-reliance, and helping them to obtain their GED. Many of those who graduate join the Army National Guard.

We have many ways to address the recruiting problem. My bigger concern is not the lack of awareness of what the military has to offer; rather it is the indifference of our youth to serving their country. Recent surveys have shown a dramatic decline in patriotism. If you believe that your country is racist, sexist, and led by evil people, why would you want to serve or defend it?

I would say that each of us was raised with a different view of America. However, we believed, and still believe, that we are not only the greatest country in the world, but that America is the last bastion of freedom in the world. So, how do we best impart our beliefs and values to Gen Z?

Please Talk to your grandchildren; talk to kids in your neighborhood. Join a local speakers bureau and speak to Rotary, Kiwanis, Lions, and other local clubs in your community. Fly the flag regularly. Talk about your experiences in the military. It wasn't all miserable. It was fun, exciting, boring, and exhausting - all at the same time. We never felt more alive! Shortly before I retired from the Army reserve in 2017, I administered the oath of enlistment to a group of young men and women. I hope that they had as much fun in their service as I did.

While Burger King wants to employ our youth, our Nation needs them. There's quite a difference between the two.

In closing, again, my official email is smcpresident98@gmail.com

Bob



AUXILIARY NEWS
Judy Bushko



The Auxiliary will meet right after the Board Meeting on Sept. 12th at 11:00am at the Denny's At Rural and Highway 60. We will keep this schedule in October.

We lost our Wednesday seats! Stay tuned.

Please join us, and I look forward to seeing everyone after the long, hot summer!

Judy

September Congratulations



MEMBER

Judy O Gofus	4
Elna Lidman	4
Charles L Eckert	5
Curtis Walker	10
Gerard Wittman	15
Laura Farmer-Wilson	16
Roberta Rawls	17
Ed Fox	18

SPOUSE

Laura Ferguson	1
Mary M Ralph	9
Margaret Roman	17
Charlotte Eckert	21
Mary Scott	22
Donna Lee Conger	26
Patricia Schiano	27
Carolyn Wittman	28



ANNIVERSARY

Karl E and Vicki Pfitzer	2
David and Lynne Loss	3
Michael A and Gail Dickson	7
Jeffery and Elena Foster	8
Tom and Kay Gaylor	10
John and Marilyn Marsh	12
Dennis and Carol Languell	23

**Auxiliary Luncheon
Superstition Mountain Chapter MOAA**

**Surprise! We lost our seats on Wednesdays, so we follow the guys on Tuesdays for September and October. Stay tuned for more info!*

TUESDAY, Sept. 12th, 2023

11:00m – Lunch at 12:00 Noon

Denny's

Order lunch off the menu

Route 60 and Rural Rd.

No reservation needed

Join Us

Help us help our Vets!



**Luncheon Meeting
Superstition Mountain Chapter MOAA**

Italian Meal: Meat and cheese Lasagna, Caesar Salad, Italian veggies,
Fingerling potatoes, Rolls and butter,
Iced tea and coffee. Tiramisu for dessert!

Saturday, Sept. 16th, 2023

12:00 Noon Social – 1:00 pm Lunch

DoubleTree by Hilton

1011 West Holmes Ave., Mesa, AZ 85210

Menu

\$30.00 per person

Reservations by Sunday, Sept. 10th, 2023

to **John Bushko**

Chairman Reports



1st Vice President

**LTC John Bushko, USAF (Ret)
Programs**

Greetings All.

Well, we made it through another Summer, and one of the hottest on record. Hopefully everyone survived without dealing with any health issues.

Our next membership meeting will be September 16th at the DoubleTree Inn. Our menu for the meeting will be Lasagna with meat and cheese, Ceasar salad, Fingerling potatoes, Italian veggies, rolls and butter, and Tiramisu for dessert.

Our speaker will be one of our own, Barbara Austin. Barb decided to write a book honoring the service of military nurses. Her book, **You Can Let Go Now**, documents the contributions of military nurses during the Vietnam War. She will discuss what went into the effort to write the book and will have signed copies of the book available for anyone interested. The cost of the book is \$24.95, and she will accept Venmo, checks or cash.

Additionally, one of our members, Lynn Loss, was interviewed by the local FOX News affiliate about her experiences living and growing up in Los Alamos, NM, during the development of the atomic bomb. If it works out, I will have the projector available to view the broadcast segment.

The Board of Directors meeting will be September 12th at Denny's on Rural Rd and US 60.

Please email your reservation to me at jabushko@earthlink.net or call me at 480-759-1717 by September 10th.

I hope to see many of you at the meeting.

John Bushko

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Nominating Committee

Per the Chapter By-laws, as the Past President, I will be chairing the nominating committee to select those individuals to guide the chapter in 2024. The Board of Directors and I will select the rest of the committee at the board meeting on the 12th. Many of our officers and directors have been in their positions for many years and need a break. A member of the committee will be contacting many of you. Please consider helping the chapter move forward. If you are interested in serving in any position, feel free to contact me directly. These positions are open to spouses as well.

John



Legislative
Bob Grierson



Greetings to the Superstition Mountain Chapter. At the time of writing this column, our erstwhile legislators are on break this month.

At the Federal level:

While conventional wisdom holds that your wallet is safe when the legislature is out of session, that doesn't hold true for many of the bills currently in limbo. Important bills like the MAJ Richard Star act HR 1282, or the Guard VA Benefits Act HR 1139, the BAH Restoration Act HR 2537 all affect pay and benefits for many of our members. In most cases, the votes are there. But these bills are stuck in either committee or lack of leadership in either chamber.

One of the great benefits of being a MOAA member is the legislative advocacy we have in DC. MOAA has a full-time team dedicated to protecting and expanding the benefits for all servicemembers. But they need your help. This year I've met with Reps Biggs, Stanton, and Gosar and found them to be interested in helping but lacking the knowledge of various bills. The common question I keep hearing "is this needed?" What this tells me is we need to fill their inbox. They don't use mail any longer. Letters are diverted to a handling facility. Email or phone calls are what it takes to let them know what you support. Always have the bill number handy (HR 1282 and S 344 for the Star act). Tell them you are their constituent and to support the bills.

Did you know that you can send emails to all your representatives at the federal level just by using the MOAA.ORG website? Just follow these steps:

1. Go to MOAA.org
2. Click on "Advocacy"
3. Click on "Legislative Action Center"
4. Click on red box in upper right "Sign Up"
5. Fill out the information required and submit

To make this more efficient for you, please register with MOAA Legislative Action Center by doing the following:

1. Go to MOAA.org
2. Login to your MOAA account
3. Click on "Advocacy"

Superstition Mountain Express

4. Click on “Legislative Action Center”
(cont’d)

(cont’d)

5. Under “Active Legislative Campaigns” Click on an issue or “Write” (in a black box) to the right of the issue you want to write about
6. When you click “Write” the next screen will be populated with letters to both our Senators and to your Representative.
7. Note: You can edit the proposed letters if desired/needed
8. Scroll to the bottom and click on “Submit Selected Letters”
9. That’s it!

Earlier this month I learned that MOAA keeps track of its members who are registered with the Legislative Action Center. We are at the bottom of the chapters in AZ with 12% of our members registered. Please take the time to join me in the fight to protect your benefits by registering today.

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

Bob

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At the request of Ms. Ann Ferguson, we are including the following information for the good of the Chapter. Thank you for always thinking of our vets, Ann!



The Arizona Department of Veterans’ Services (ADVS) is happy to announce that we are accepting admission applications to the Arizona State Veteran Home-Flagstaff (ASVH-Flagstaff)!

The new ASVH-Flagstaff sits on 10 acres of land donated by the City of Flagstaff. Nestled in the ponderosa pines, the 74,000 square foot skilled-nursing facility will have 80 beds serving the long-term care and rehabilitative needs of Veterans and their families. The home provides

Superstition Mountain Express

furnished and private resident rooms equipped and designed for all mobility levels in a homelike atmosphere. (cont'd)

(cont'd)

"We are grateful to the Flagstaff community for their continued support throughout this entire process," said Deputy Director of Arizona State Veteran Homes, Kim Trotta. "It has been a long road, but we are so excited and thrilled to start accepting applications and welcoming residents."

Those eligible for admission are Veterans (with an other than dishonorable discharge), a spouse of a Veteran, or a Gold Star family member.

All applicants must meet eligibility requirements and submit a completed application with all required documents to be considered for admission. Failure to submit a completed application will result in a delay in the processing of your application.

ADVS broke ground on ASVH-Flagstaff in 2019 after the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs State Home Construction Grant Program approved establishment costs for the new facility. The grant covers 65% of construction costs, with the State securing matching funds.

Call the ASVH-Flagstaff admissions hotline at **(602)234-5678 and press 4.**

socialmedia@azdvs.govsocialmedia@azdvs.gov



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 2023 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 2023 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. _____	_____

Luncheon Meeting

Saturday, Sept. 16th, 2023 - DoubleTree by Hilton

Social Hour - Noon

Lunch - 1:00pm

Italian Meal: Meat and cheese Lasagna, Caesar Salad, Italian veggies,
Fingerling potatoes, Rolls and butter
Iced tea and coffee Tiramisu for dessert!

\$30.00 per meal - Name(s) _____

Reservations must be in by Sunday, Sept. 10th, 2023

Make checks payable to: SMC of MOAA

CONTACT: JOHN BUSHKO

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

2023 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 2023

Please print name _____ My National MOAA

Number _____

2023 Chapter Activity Schedule - (Dates and times are subject to change.)

Chapter Board	Chapter Auxiliary	Chapter Member/Guest
Meeting	Luncheon	Luncheon Meetings
Sept. 12, 2023- 9:30am	Sept. 12, 2023 - 11:00am	Sept. 16, 2023 12 Noon Social - 1:00pm lunch



“Life is not fair.
Get over it!”

...Life-long adage of Marlene Fox

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



Newsletter Editors

Peggy Allen and Paula Anderer

Newsletter Contact: paulaanderer10@gmail.com

Superstition Mountain Express

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Phoenix, AZ 85019

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

RESOURCES

Newsletter: paulaanderer10@gmail.com

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.