

# Superstition Mountain Express

**MOAA**® Military Officers Association of America



OCT. 2023  
Volume 43, Issue 20

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



## President's Comments Col. Robert Grierson

Fall greetings to the Superstition Mountain Chapter.

It's strange to look in the mirror and see an old goat looking back at you. I know... just wait a few years. However, to me it's a bit unnerving to realize that I've got more time behind me than ahead. It gets worse when I reflect on the fact that I'm now older than my father or my maternal grandfather.

This year I decided to become organized in these specific ways: getting in better physical condition; losing weight; and getting my affairs in order. It's not that I expect to end my time on earth anytime soon, but I have always believed that most people who die are surprised by the event. Getting in better shape is happening. My workouts are more strenuous. Under the guidance of my doctor, the weight loss is coming along well. I'm already down 22 lbs. So, that leaves one more thing, my affairs.

All of us who were honorably discharged have access to some support services. Those of us who retired, or are still serving, have additional support services available through Luke AFB. I have been exploring some of those services available for us and I'll share the information with you.

Let's begin with those of us who are retired military or still serving. Luke AFB has a retiree activities office where you can learn about all the services available to you. Their office is located at 13877 Thunderbird St, Glendale, AZ, United States, Arizona. Phone (623) 856-3923, and email [56FW.RAO@us.af.mil](mailto:56FW.RAO@us.af.mil). More importantly, the Judge Advocate section will assist you with creating or updating wills and powers of attorney. These documents are valid in all fifty states and territories and the best part is that they're free. They don't do trusts or criminal defense, so plan accordingly. Visit <https://aflegalassistance.law.af.mil> to create a worksheet for wills or POA's. The Legal Services office is in building 1150 (the blockhouse), phone (623) 856-6901.

(cont'd.)

For all honorably discharged Veterans here in the Phoenix metro area, there are some limited resources from the VA. The office of decedent affairs can be reached at (602) 277-5551 ext. 7203. National cemetery prearrangements can be made by contacting the National Scheduling Center at (800) 535-1117. And for a Veteran Burial Allowance, call (800) 827-1000. I have learned from research not to expect much for a burial allowance or services.

I recently came across a nifty packet published by the Associates of Vietnam veterans of America. It's a free folder entitled The Paper Safe. It organizes your documents and data to help your next of kin navigate the benefits we have earned. It is not a will or a trust, and it does not override those documents either. It places all account information, DD 214s, medical info, family member contact info, assets, and current VA and employer benefit info into a single location. You can download this document to your computer in a fillable format by going to [https://www.avva.org/documents/programs/2023\\_fillable\\_for\\_website.pdf](https://www.avva.org/documents/programs/2023_fillable_for_website.pdf).

I think we would all agree that if we can leave our loved ones with a roadmap to our final desires, interests, and benefits, they would be more likely to carry them out. So do not wait until it's too late, take the time to get your affairs in order

In closing, again, my official email is [smcpresident98@gmail.com](mailto:smcpresident98@gmail.com)

**Bob**



**AUXILIARY NEWS**  
**Judy Bushko**

The Auxiliary will meet on Tuesday, October 10<sup>th</sup>, at 11:00am at Denny's at Rural and the 60.

In November and December, we will meet at Chompie's Restaurant, 3481 W Frye Rd., Chandler, AZ 85226, by Chandler Fashion Mall. Dates to follow.

We will be working on hygiene kits. Hope everyone is doing well and that the heat declines. Please join us. I look forward to seeing everyone after the long, hot summer!

**Judy**

## October Congratulations



### MEMBER

|                   |    |
|-------------------|----|
| Patrick Gallagher | 4  |
| David Loss        | 13 |
| Richard Ridenour  | 17 |
| James S Austin    | 19 |
| Gregory L Moore   | 30 |



### ANNIVERSARY

**Auxiliary Luncheon  
Superstition Mountain Chapter MOAA**

*We follow  
the guys on Tuesday for October.*

**TUESDAY, October 10<sup>th</sup>, 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**

**Saturday, October 21, 2023**

12:00 Noon Social – 1:00 pm Lunch

**DoubleTree by Hilton**

1011 West Holmes Ave., Mesa, AZ 85210

Menu

BBQ Pulled Pork, with Macaroni and Cheese, Buttery Corn, Cole Slaw, Dill pickles  
Egg Potato Salad, Dinner Rolls, and butter.  
Iced Tea and Coffee 3-layer Chocolate Cake for dessert.

\$30.00 per person

**Reservations by Sunday, October 15th, 2023**

to **John Bushko**

TEXT 614-204-0413, Call 480-759-1717, or email [jabushko@earthlink.net](mailto:jabushko@earthlink.net).

## Chairman Reports



### **1st Vice President**

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

Greetings All.

Well, the temperatures are finally starting to moderate and get down to tolerable levels.

Our next meeting will be on October 21<sup>st</sup>, at the Doubletree Inn. The menu will be BBQ Pulled Pork, with Macaroni and Cheese, Buttery Corn, Cole Slaw, Dill pickles, Egg Potato Salad, Dinner Rolls and 3-layer Chocolate Cake.

Our speaker for the meeting will be Bill Rogitz, a Veterans Advocate with Arizona Life.

**Please email your reservation to me at [jabushko@earthlink.net](mailto:jabushko@earthlink.net) or call me at 480-759-1717 by 15 October.**

The Board of Directors meeting will be on 10 October, 9:30am at Denny's on Rural Rd and US 60.

See you at the meeting,

**John**





**Legislative**  
**Bob Grierson**



Fall Greetings to the Superstition Mountain Chapter. At the time of the writing of this column, our legislators are engaged in a knock-down, drag-out fight. When you receive this newsletter, we will either be in a federal shutdown, or a short-term continuing resolution and another fight will be looming.

At the Federal level:

Following the House Speaker fight last January, the incoming Speaker, Kevin McCarthy, made a series of commitments to the members of the Freedom Caucus. According to the negotiated agreement, there were to be no omnibus bills, all 12 appropriation bills would be voted independently, and all legislation would only be considered following a period in which the representatives can review the bill. All great ideas, but none of that was done in the previous congress.

Eight months later, we have had only 1 of the 12 appropriation bills to clear the house. A Federal shutdown is looming next week, and all attempts to craft a short-term funding bill seem to fall flat. From a political perspective, the Democrats will vote against any bill that does not involve continued spending increases from the Pelosi led previous congress. The Freedom Caucus wants spending reductions across the board and border security. The rank-and-file Republicans do not want any adverse impact to Social Security, the VA, or Medicare. In other words, no consensus.

While we can discuss how much we need the NDAA, and other important bills like the MAJ Richard Star act HR 1282, the Guard VA Benefits Act HR 1139, or the BAH Restoration Act HR 2537 nothing is likely to happen. And to make matters worse, your military pay & pension, VA benefit, and even Social Security payments may be delayed or impacted. Let's remember that under the Obama Administration, our National Parks and Monuments were fenced off during the last shutdown. I expect something similar this time too...unless you get involved.

Last month I outlined how to get your voice heard just by using the MOAA.ORG website. Or even better, to register with MOAA Legislative Action Center. Once you do that, you can select what issue you want to contact Kelly, Sinema, Biggs, etc. about. And the email is sent to their office. This is what I had sent today:

*"Dear Representative Biggs,*

*I am writing to ask you to ensure that the federal government does not shut down if all twelve appropriation bills are not enacted before the end of the fiscal year. Failure to do so could result in disruptions to services, furloughs for federal employees, and other unintended consequences.*

*For a quarter of a century, Congress has grappled with passing timely appropriations, and it is likely you will fail to pass a proper budget by the Sept. 30 deadline yet again. Our nation's servicemembers, veterans, their families, and survivors need and deserve better. Temporary funding measures like a continuing resolution may keep the lights on and the doors open, but they threaten our nation's security and the future of the all-volunteer force.*

*Without the necessary funding and authorities, federal agencies overseeing the eight uniformed services lack the authorizations or funding needed for the annual military pay raise, quality health care coverage, and quality-of-life programs for servicemembers and their families, along with many other support programs and benefits.*

*As your constituent, I urge you to fulfill your constitutional obligations and ensure the government continues to operate – and, just as important, to finish the appropriations process for the upcoming fiscal year.*

*Respectfully,  
Robert Grierson"*

Please join me in demanding that our legislators live up to the expectations of the voters.  
To confirm who your state legislators are, you can go to <https://www.azleg.gov/findmylegislator/>.



# Promming



Years ago, I had a conversation with my beloved Aunt Ruth. She was always and ever my uncle's "*Brown-eyed Beauty*", and he married her as soon as she would say yes. I wanted her to tell me all about her young life, living in the country in the 1920's. I have never forgotten this wonderfully informative and delightful story. *Proms are not a new thing!*

The Little family lived on a small farm on the corner at the crossing of two narrow country roads. The Little's had three other daughters who were equally as beautiful as Ruth. Young men at the local college which Ruth attended, called this location "Little's Crossing", named for the four eligible beauties who lived there. They would frequently arrive in pairs or groups in the evening, hoping to get a date or a visit with one of the girls. One night, two fellas from the college (who were unacquainted) met up and agreed that it would be a lark to take a ride out to Little's Crossing. Arriving, they walked up to the door together. Ruth heard the car and came to the screen door. She immediately recognized both boys and braced for what was coming. The boys, still standing outside, stared at each other in disbelief. The driver asked, "Which one did you come to see?" "Why, I came to see Ruth!", said his passenger. "Well, I came to see Ruth myself!", the driver huffed. *At this point, I was unable to keep from interrupting to ask what happened next!* Flashing her beautiful smile at me, she confessed, "I was a terrible flirt! They both left, and I deserved it!" I don't think it was of any consequence to her. She was a fiercely independent young woman.

Ruth's story was of an earlier time; a softer time, long before the college boys came to call. It was a time when wise parents made allowance for the fact that young boys and girls needed to get to know each other slowly, and under close supervision. Their solution was to host a "Promming". Promming was both a title and an action. The genius of Promming was that no one was ever left out. It was a thoughtful way to allow a little freedom for young teens; an outlet for them to become more comfortable with the inevitable. Promming was an organized event, and closely supervised. There were rules, which if broken, could result in a loss of privilege:

- Every girl's prom card must be filled
- Couples may hold hands and go promming alone for 3 minutes
- Couples must follow the designated prom route
- No successive promming with the same partner
- At the end of 3 minutes, when the whistle blows, couples must return quickly to the starting point. If NOT, promming privilege is forfeited for the evening
- In the event of an uneven number of boys or girls, those who will enjoy an extra prom will be chosen with the flip of a coin.

With a wistful look in her eyes, Ruth began to speak in a lilting voice, recalling one of those wonderful evenings in detail. I have taken a small writer's license in fleshing out the story-very small.

At last, it came time for the Little family to host a Promming. For the entire week, Ruth's mother had been busy preparing refreshments for the boys and girls who would descend upon their home on the coming Saturday evening. The invitations were sent, and "prom cards" were made, with numbered lines and ribbons for securing them around the wrist. Ruth's father had also been busy with his contribution.

This was to be Ruth's first opportunity to prom. She had watched the preparations all week; now it was happening! There was great excitement among the Little sisters! They were dressed in cool floral summer dresses, with their curls carefully arranged on their pretty little heads. Their father had spent the week gathering and hanging lanterns around their home, and along the fences which met at the corners of the crossroad. Refreshments were beautifully arranged on a crisp white tablecloth, which was crowned with a lovely vase of flowers from the garden and a bit of delicate, snowy Queen Anne's Lace. As dusk fell, the lanterns were lit. The light of the lanterns, which hung in the large Chinaberry trees, gave forth their light. Their golden glow fell on the lovely table, and on the surrounding grounds. It was a soft summer's eve, with a light breeze. The prom route itself was glowing. Soon, invited guests began to arrive in great anticipation!

While enjoying the refreshments, boys were busy making choices for their desired "prom" (*promenade*) partners. Every girl had open spaces on her prom card. Decisions, decisions! With a cookie in one hand and a pencil in the other, each boy went quickly to assure his position on the card of his choice. If he were welcomed, he could print his name on the

## Superstition Mountain Express

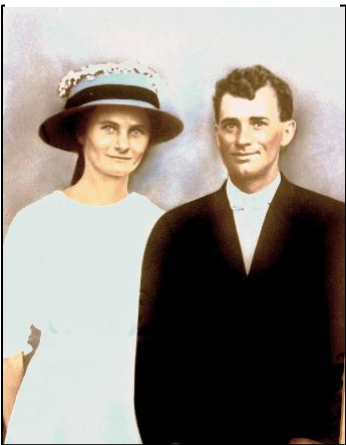
designated line of the girl's card. *He who hesitated was lost, at least as far as choices were concerned.* This arrangement worked well for the girls, as they could review their cards to see who came next. Not so for the boys. They had to remember which girls and when! After refreshments, and as soon as it was "good dark", the boys approached the girls whom they had chosen for the first prom of the evening.

Let the Promming begin! Partners began to form a line. When the line was complete, the whistle blew! The first couple grasped hands and began promming, feeling the excitement of holding hands while they walked into the soft glow of the lanterns alone. Fireflies danced in the blackberry bushes, and the honeysuckle vines along the sandy road lent their fragrance to the ambiance of the evening. A kiss on the cheek could have been stolen, but it would have been in safety and with the full approval of the parents. When the whistle sounded, the couple came running back to the starting point. Soon the line for the second prom formed. This pattern continued throughout the evening, until every girl had prommed, according to the order of her card. The next Promming would be hosted by a different family. In that way, every girl and boy had an opportunity to prom together at least once, and perhaps more, during the summer evenings. One taste of promming had everyone anxiously awaiting the next invitation. We could be forgiven for imagining how teens might conspire to arrange promming with a favorite partner as often as possible. It would have been within the rules to schedule every other prom together. Understand that I have no evidence for this...its purely an educated speculation!

Ruth's family hosted many more Prommings as their girls grew. Ruth did have one haunting experience while promming; someone had stolen a kiss on the lips! She told no one, as Ruth was certain that she was ruined for marriage! Alas, Ruth did marry and lived happily until just before her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. She was afforded a well-attended (early) 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party, which she thoroughly enjoyed. She kept her sparkling personality and beautiful curly hair all her life; at the end it was snow white. To explain Ruth's independence, you should know that she was the point guard for her high-school basketball team at age 16, with a game face! She loved golf and was written up in *Golf Digest* magazine for hitting a hole-in-one in her 80's. Ruth was still golfing at 93, with a cart, and playing Bridge with women half her age. She lived her life well and was greatly loved!

*by Paula Anderer*

*Walter and Pearla Little*

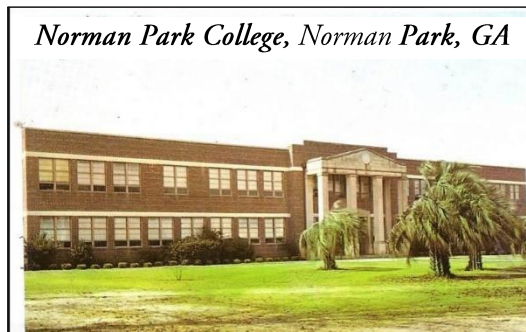


*Typical Sandy Road in  
Omega, GA*

*The "Brown-eyed Beauty"*



*Omega HS Basketball Point  
Guard, Age 16-Game Face*



*Norman Park College, Norman Park, GA*

*Ruth at 93, with long-time  
golf partner, Jamie*







**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 22<sup>nd</sup> St, Phoenix, AZ 85024 - Phone 602-569-2130**

For More Information Contact, Membership Committee Chairman Norm Poole

**520) 836-8456. [nrpoole1066@gmail.com](mailto: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, October 21, 2023 - DoubleTree by Hilton**  
**Social Hour - Noon      Lunch - 1:00pm**

**Menu**

BBQ Pulled Pork, with Macaroni and Cheese, Buttery Corn, Cole Slaw, Dill pickles,  
Egg Potato Salad, Dinner Rolls, and butter.  
Iced Tea and Coffee    3-layer Chocolate Cake for dessert.

**\$30.00 per meal - Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_**

**Reservations must be in by Sunday, October 15th, 2023**

**Make checks payable to: SMC of MOAA**

CONTACT: **JOHN BUSHKO**

TEXT 614-204-0413, Call 480-759-1717, or email [jabushko@earthlink.net](mailto:jabushko@earthlink.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 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 22<sup>nd</sup> St, Phoenix, AZ 85024

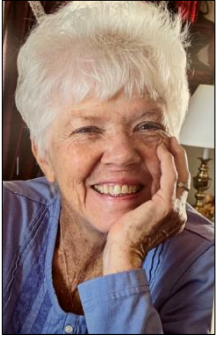
Check enclosed; renew my membership for 2023

Please print name \_\_\_\_\_ My National MOAA

Number \_\_\_\_\_

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

| <b>Chapter Board</b>         | <b>Chapter Auxiliary</b>       | <b>Chapter Member/Guest</b>                            |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| <b>Meeting</b>               | <b>Luncheon</b>                | <b>Luncheon Meetings</b>                               |
| <b>Oct. 10, 2023- 9:30am</b> | <b>Oct. 10, 2023 - 11:00am</b> | <b>Oct. 21, 2023<br/>12 Noon Social - 1:00pm lunch</b> |



“Life is not fair.  
Get over it!”

***...Life-long adage of Marlene Fox***

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



Your Co-Editors were unable to attend the September Luncheon.

Therefore, we have no pictures of your lovely faces to include with this newsletter. Beg your pardon! Paula has offered a lovely story for your enjoyment, as a consolation. It is set in the rural community of Omega, GA, in the 1920's. The story was related to her by her elderly aunt. It is a coming-of-age story, which unexpectedly reveals the origin of *Prom*. We hope that you enjoyed it and that it took you back to that age when things were mysterious and complicated between you and the opposite sex. Those were the days of blushing and a dry mouth, and of tingling all over and quickly hiding from view or running away. Remember? It is our fond hope that you did!

**Newsletter Editors**

**Peggy Allen and Paula Anderer**

Newsletter Contact: [paulaanderer10@gmail.com](mailto:paulaanderer10@gmail.com)

## ***Superstition Mountain Express***

4201 W. Luke Ave.

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.