



NOV. 2023 Volume 43, Issue 21

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The Superstition Mountain Chapter, Military Officers Association of America Inc., is a non-profit organization. IRS tax ID# 23-7430856 http://www.smcmoaa.org/



President's CommentsCol. Robert Grierson

Veterans Day greetings to the Superstition Mountain Chapter!

Being a Veteran means different things to different people. To most, it means service and support for God and Country. To some, it does not seem to mean any more than a retail discount.

Veterans are as different as snowflakes or grains of sand. Most are enormously proud of their service, whether in peace or war. I for one am immensely proud to have served. Years ago, Veterans were celebrated. Today, we have an increasingly smaller footprint in society. Not as many people today have a close relative who wore the uniform. There is a staggering disconnect between civilians and the military today. Recently, I attended a dinner with eighty people, mostly baby boomers. I was the only one who served.

As a child, I never attended a Veterans Day Parade. November in Chicago was inhospitable to men and beasts. However, on Memorial Day and Independence Day, all Veterans groups proudly marched with flags and rifles. I vividly remember seeing the WWI vets in wheelchairs being pushed by the WWII vets. The Korean War vets held flags and rifles. At that time, the war in Indochina was building up, so there were no Vietnam vets. Today the Vietnam vets are nearly gone, even the ones I thought of as "young." Who will replace us? (cont'd)

In May, this newsletter carried my article on volunteering. I am revisiting that subject. As a MOAA Chapter, we should remember our past while looking toward the future. In short, we need your help. Within the Superstition Mountain Chapter, we operate solely with the help of volunteers. Not a single paid employee. All board members, Auxiliary, newsletter, lunch and program, website, membership, ROTC programs, treasury, and legislative are managed by volunteers. Without the volunteers, none of those things take place. I am grateful for their support, and it is because of their efforts that we are a successful chapter. However, we need to bring in new volunteers. Are you willing to step up and be counted? In closing, again, my official email is smcpresident98@gmail.com

Bob



AUXILIARY NEWS Judy Bushko



Hello all,

Remember that this month the auxiliary will meet on Wednesday, November 8th, at 11:00am at the CHOMPIE'S at the back of Chandler Fashion Center, across Frye Rd. from Harkins Theatres. The address is 3481 W Frye Rd., at the corner of S. Chandler Village Dr. and Frye Rd., facing the mall.

We will discuss whether we want to continue meeting every month or go every other month. I will have a project of some sort available. Hope to see you there.

Judy



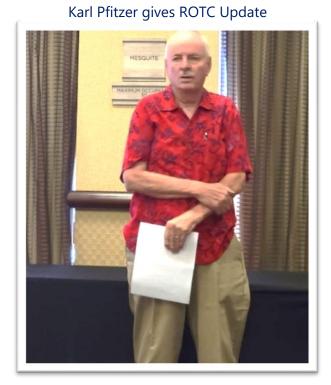
October Luncheon Photos

Judy and John Bushko



Helena and John Pickering – NEW members!





Peggy and Arlan Allen



Meredith and Greg Moore



Barb and Jim Austin



Melanie and Tom Ralph



November Congratulations!



MEMBER

Stephen E Wood 3 Ann Ferguson 7 Florence Griffin 7 Michael Ostermeyer 8 Norman D Peters 11 Dorothy Demers 17 Robert Grierson 23 Helen Benner 24 John J Kwak 27

SPOUSE

Jan Ostermeyer	2
Helena Pickering	6
Magdalen Kwak	12
Josephine Meegan	14
Laurel McClean	15
Marilyn Marsh	24
Anne Symonds	25



ANNIVERSARY

John and Judy Bushko	1
Bob and Denise Dulong	14
David and Laurel McClean	15
William and Lesley Baran	2

Auxiliary Luncheon Superstition Mountain Chapter MOAA

Wednesday, November 8, 2023

11:00am - Lunch at 12:00 Noon



3481 W Frye Rd., Chandler, AZ (across from Harkins Theatres) Corner of S. Chandler Village Dr. & Frye Rd.



Help us help our Vets!

The November Luncheon was necessarily canceled, due to lack of participation...



Chair Reports



1st Vice President

LTC John Bushko, USAF (Ret)

Programs

Greetings Everyone

IMPORTANT NEWS - THE NOVEMBER MEMBERSHIP MEETING ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER 18TH HAS BEEN CANCELLED. During the October membership meeting, it was determined that only about twelve people would be available to attend the meeting. Therefore, a vote was taken, and the majority decided to cancel the meeting. We look forward to seeing you on December 16th for the annual business meeting and installation of officers for 2024.

Nominating Committee

As the Past President, it falls on me per the chapter bylaws to head the nominating committee. To this point I only have a commitment for the 1st Vice and 2nd Vice positions. We need members to volunteer for the positions of President, Treasurer, and Secretary. To continue as a viable chapter, we need strong leadership. Every member has proven during their careers in one of the uniformed services that you have what it takes to lead a group. I ask you now to seriously consider stepping forward to help lead this chapter. We need new ideas and leadership for the continued success of the chapter.

Please contact me via email at <u>jabushko@earthlink.net</u> with any questions or to volunteer for a position.



Legislative
Bob Grierson



Greetings to the Superstition Mountain Chapter. It has been busy in DC and Phoenix this month.

At the Federal level:

As I mentioned last month, MOAA has begun its annual Advocacy in Action (AiA) campaign. The two major initiatives from MOAA are: restore BAH to 100% and fix the Tricare pharmacy benefit.

In 2005, Congress eliminated servicemembers' out-of-pocket housing expenses, setting BAH at 100% of rental and utility costs. The 2015 NDAA, responding to budget pressures under sequestration, allowed DoD to reduce the rate to 95%, which was phased in 1% each year from 2015 to 2019. The DoD Budget Overview for FY 2015 noted this reduction of BAH would save the DoD \$5 billion over five years. That cost is borne by our service members. HR 2537 would fix this, but it only has twenty-three cosponsors, and no one from AZ is on board.

Cuts to the Tricare Pharmacy benefit. With the new pharmacy contract, the Defense Health Agency (DHA) slashed retail pharmacy network requirements as a cost-cutting measure. This enabled Express Scripts to offer contract terms to many pharmacies that did not even cover their costs. As a result, the TRICARE retail network has shrunk nearly 25%.

MOAA continues to support S.344 The Major Richard Star Act, legislation which would end an unfair pay offset faced by more than 50,000 combat-injured veterans, was reintroduced in the Senate on Feb. 9, and now has sixty-two co-sponsors. This bill allows medically retired, combat-injured veterans with less than 20 years of service to receive full DoD retirement pay and VA disability pay, instead of losing hundreds of dollars a month to cover the current unfair offset. Its companion bill in the House is HR 1282 and currently has 288 cosponsors. Both Sens Kelly and Sinema or listed as cosponsors. However, neither Rep Biggs nor Gosar have signed on to the bill.

MOAA is also supporting H.R. 1413 introduced in the House to preserve the option for full military honors now available at Arlington National Cemetery (ANC). The legislation would authorize designating the next national cemetery location with equivalent honors to continue these benefits, rather than reducing eligibility at ANC. This bill only has twelve cosponsors and nothing in the senate. My guess is this bill dies from lack of support.

On to the state

Senate Bills

SB-1375 has passed the AZ Senate and was passed to the house on 8 March. The bill provides tax exemptions for USPHS and NOAA members who are serving in AZ and on active duty pay. This provides parity equal with active duty, guard, and reservists. The bill is awaiting action in the House Rules Committee. Please contact the committee chair, Rep Grantham, and urge him to pass the bill and move it for full house vote. tgrantham@azleg.gov (cont'd.)

(cont'd.)

House Bills

HB 2064 joins the recent voter approved waiver of property tax for widows, widowers, disabled people, and disabled veterans. This bill is still highly active. It is awaiting a third read in the senate, then to the Governor.

HB 2089 Military Spouse Scholarship Program. This bill was previously reported. The spouses of military veterans' tuition scholarship fund are established consisting of legislative appropriations. The Arizona board of regents shall administer the fund. The bill has a Senate companion bill. The bill is waiting for a 3rd Read in the Senate, so we need to push our Senators to get it passed and to the Governor.

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



Treasurer
Tom Ralph

Hoping to see you at the December meeting!

While we are still strong fiscally starting our new season; and because our attendance has decreased since the COVID years, our overall fiscal position is starting to weaken a bit. I do hope all of you will continue to support our chapter by attending our luncheons and helping to support all our programs. As a reminder, 2024 dues are payable on the first of the calendar year and remain at \$25 for members and \$12.50 for our auxiliary members (our surviving spouses). If your spouse is a paying member of our chapter, and you are part of the auxiliary, you owe no dues. A dues coupon is attached at the end of this newsletter. I hope you all are looking forward to a great new year and a fun holiday season.

Tom



Personal Affairs
Gregory Moore

Greetings all,

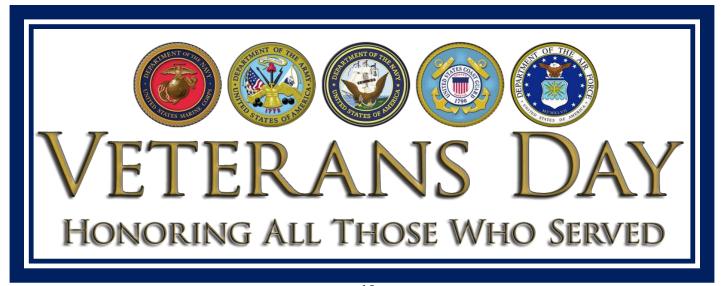
The familiar quote "These are the times which try men's souls." was written by Thomas Paine in the fall of 1776. It is as though he were looking into the future and seeing the fall of 2023. A dysfunctional Congress, two regional wars, folks contesting elections two years later, and on and on. So, let's do something to make ourselves feel better.

Last year, our chapter raised over \$700 for the Marine's Toys for Tots program and your Board of Directors has approved sponsoring the effort again this year. (I am happy already.) Please mail your contribution to me at Greg Moore, 2581 W Corona Dr, Chandler Az 85224-8558. Make your check out to SMC, MOAA and put Toys for Tots on the subject/memo line. All monies to me NLT Dec 1.

It will simply amaze you how the larger your donation, the better you will feel about our National and world situation. (As an officer and gentleman, would I lie to you?)

See you soon!

Greg Moore 1LT(AUS) Ret. Personal Affairs





JROTC/ROTC

Karl Pfitzer

Greetings Chapter Members.

Our Chapter has begun another year of support for the ROTC program at Arizona State University and to the JROTC programs at 20 local high schools. The Board of Directors has decided to make one change to the program this year based on feedback from the JROTC cadre. We will continue to award the MOAA Medal for demonstrated leadership; and a \$100 impact award to be given by the senior military instructor to a deserving cadet of his/her choice. We will discontinue awarding the US Flag that had previously been awarded to a cadet at each JROTC High School. We will continue to provide 4 MOAA medals to the ASU ROTC program. The school's awards programs are conducted near the end of the school year in April and May. In past years Chapter members have presented the awards in person during these ceremonies. We would like to continue that effort this year if possible. If you are interested in presenting this year, I will have a signup sheet available at each chapter function or you can contact me directly by phone or e-mail to discuss the program. Our support of these programs and the junior leaders they are developing is one of the most important outreach programs our chapter undertakes. The awards are very well received and highly anticipated by the instructors and cadets.

As in the past we ask Chapter members for donations to help fund the program. If you care to sponsor a JROTC High School, the cost is \$100 which covers the cost of the \$100 impact award to the JROTC programs. You can donate directly to the program with a check to our Treasurer Tom Ralph. Tom's contact information is in the chapter newsletter. Please note on your donation that the funds are for our JROTC program. We will start tracking donations with a chart in each month's newsletter. We need approximately \$2000 each year to cover our costs of the \$100 impact award. Attached you will find a chart that we will use to track our progress for the ROTC program. Thank you for your support of this important program that helps develop our future military and civilian leaders. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Karl Pfitzer - 480-635-2080 - pvkarl@cox.net (mailto:pvkarl@cox.net)

2024 SMC MOAA ROTC JROTC Awards Program

#	School &	Ceremony	Presenter	Sponsor	Sr ROTC/JROTC
	Affiliation	Date/Time	Englished August State Open Date States	50 · 10 · 10 · 10 · 10 · 10 · 10 · 10 ·	Instructor
1	ASU: USA, USN,				
	USAF, USMC, USSF				
2	Apache Jct, USN		1.0	8	LCDR Gary Lock
3	Basha, USAF		1.0	8	COL Cliff Stansell
4	Campo Verde, USAF			20	LTC Steve Wood
5	Casa Grande, USMC			8	GySGT Jesus Flores
6	Chandler, USAF				MSGT Scott Goodsen
7	Coolidge, USMC				LTC Richard Callahan
8	Dobson, USAF				LTC Anthony Kusek
9	Gilbert, USAF				MSgt Elwin Longnion
10	Globe, USA			ic c	SFC Tony Lyons
11	Hamilton, USAF			te	LTC Greg Franklin
12	Higley, USAF			ie.	COL David Vaughn
13	Marcos De Niza, USA			ic .	MAJ Robert Fore
14	Maricopa, USAF			ic .	LTC Allen Kirksey
15	Mesa, USAF			te	MSGT Mark Caldwell
16	Queen Creek USA			.0	SFC John Biggs
17	Poston Butte USAF				MAJ John Napier
18	Red Mountain, USA			.0	MAJ Olga Cortez
19	Skyline, USA			.0	COL Geoff Stevens
20	Vista Grande, USMC			.0	1stSgt Alberto Griego
21	Westwood, USAF		3		LTC Joe Abel

Current on: Wednesday, November 01, 2023



veteran's association dedicated to maintaining a strong national defense and to preserving the earned entitlements of members of the uniformed continue. MOAA's Mission: The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) is a non-profit National MOAA, its Councils and Chapters are nonpartisan.

Date	N	IOAA Nation	al & Supers	tition Mountair	Chapter	Membe	ership App	lication	
Branch of Service	Date	Printed M	lember Name &	: Initial					
Street Address									
Please Circle: ARMY—AIR FORCE-NAVY—MARINE CORPS- COAST GUARD—NOAAPUBLIC HEALTH SVC Circle All That Apply: REGULAR-RESERVE-NATIONAL GUARD-FORMER OFFICER-ACTIVE-RETIRED—MALEFEMALE WIDOWWIDOWER Member Date of Birth MM/DD/YYYY Spouse Date of Birth MM/DD/YYYY Anniversary Date E-mail Address	Spouse First Name			_ National MOAA	Number				
Please Circle: ARMY—AIR FORCE-NAVY—MARINE CORPS- COAST GUARD—NOAAPUBLIC 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 three 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 new and have opportunities to participate in grassroots activism effort. You get Militury Officer Magazine via our mobile app. You we have the opportunity to attend our career fairs, networking events, and classes and to take advantage of valuable discounts on p and services. As a PREMIUM Member you get full access to everything MOAA has to officer including our full spectrum career resources (one-on-one career counseling, résumé reviews, and interviewing advice and critiques), countless dis on products and travel, and access to all MOAA exclusive publications and news updates. You will be able to tap into M staff of experts for financial and investment advice, college scholarships for dependents, and much more. That is on 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 At luncheons and activities with no fee. Chapter bylaws require Chapter members and Chapter Auxiliary members to be members of 1 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 nd St, Phoenix, AZ 85024 - Phone 602-569-2130 For More Informatio	Street Address			City	S	tate	_ZIP		
Circle All That Apply: REGULAR-RESERVE-NATIONAL GUARD-FORMER OFFICER-ACTIVE-RETIRED-MALE FEMALE WIDOW- WIDOWER Member Date of Birth MM DD YYYYY Spouse Date of Birth MM DD YYYYY Anniversary Date E-mail Address Female Address MOAA National membership for 2023 has three 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 new and have opportunities to participate in grassroots activism effort. You get Military Officer Magazine via our mobile app. You wanted to opportunity to attend our career fairs, networking events, and classes and to take advantage of valuable discounts on p and services. As a PREMIUM Member you get full access to everything MOAA has to offer, including our full spectrum career resources (one-on-one career counseling, résumé reviews, and interviewing advice and critiques), countless dis on products and travel, and access to all MOAA exclusive publications and news updates. You will be able to tap into M staff of experts for financial and investment advice, college scholarships for dependents, and much more. That is on 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 At luncheons and activities with no fee. Chapter bylaws require Chapter members and Chapter Auxiliary members to be members of I National. For National dues, enclose check for: \$40.00 – Make check payable to MOAA National Mail to: MOAA, pert. 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 Chair Norm Poole 520) 836-8456. nrpoole1066@gmail.com Name tags are durable hard plastic, w	Home Phone #		Work	or Cell#					
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NOVEMBER LUNCHEON MEETING CANCELED

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 - CHOMPIE'S	Luncheon- CHOMPIE'S	Luncheon Meetings		
Nov. 7, 2023- 9:30am	Nov. 8, 2023 - 11:00am	CANCELED-		



"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

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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



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

