



**MAR 2024**  
**Volume 43, Issue 25**

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The Superstition Mountain  
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(MOAA and its Superstition  
Mountain Chapter are both  
nonpartisan.)



## President's Comments

**Gregory L. Moore, 1Lt. USA (Ret.)**

Greetings all,

For those who did not know, John Bushko, former Chapter President and current 1st Vice President underwent open heart surgery last week. According to Judy, all went well, and John is back home now. I ask that you all keep him in your prayers for a full recovery.

Some of you may not realize that we have tri-fold brochures, advertising the Chapter and welcoming further inquiry. Please pick up a few and put one up on a bulletin board in your park, housing complex or club that you may belong to or frequent. You never know what interest it may generate. A good way to get out our message!

Lastly, I want to reiterate that this is YOUR chapter. The Board welcomes suggestions re speakers, projects, venues, etc. We are your organization. Be proactive !!!

**Greg**



**VP Auxiliary/Surviving Spouse**  
**Judy Bushko**



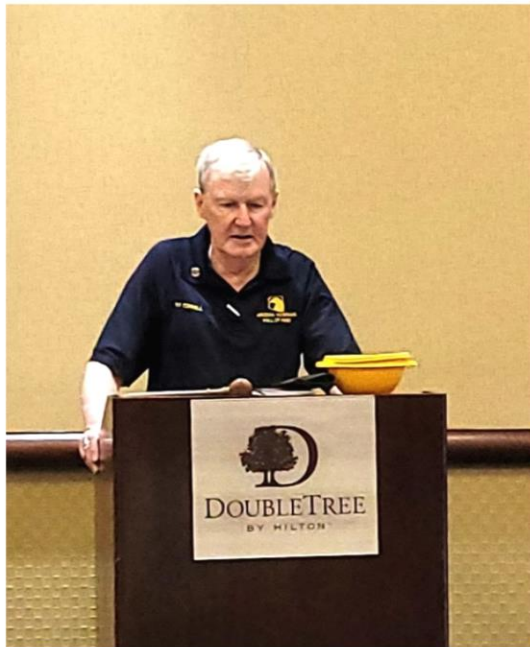
Greetings,  
Thank you for your prayers and concern for John. He is back home now, and recovering.

We both wish each of you a blessed Easter!

**Judy**

## February Luncheon Photos

**Speaker, Patrick J Connell, and wife  
Spoke on the Constitution**



**Meredith Moore and Judy Bushko**



**Patrick J and Constance (Connie) Connell**



We are sorry to say that, while we have individual photos of Ann and Fred Ferguson, we neglected to get a photo of them together! Our most sincere apologies to Ann and Fred!

**Meredith and Greg Moore**



**Melanie Ralph and Guest, Mark Walker**





**Steve Wood**



**Karl and Vicki Pfitzer**



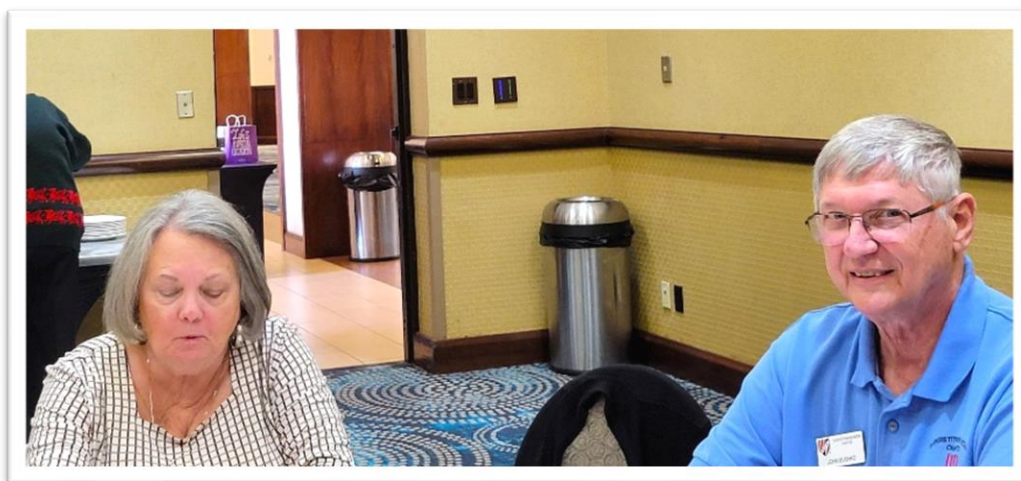
**Melanie and Tom Ralph**



**Lou Bates and Peggy Allen**



**Judy and John Bushko**





**John and Helena Pickering**



**Greg Moore**



**Arlan and Peggy Allen**



**Arlan Allen and Steve Wood**



**Karl Pfitzer and Ann Ferguson**



**Fred Ferguson, Tom Ralph, John Bushko**



## March Congratulations!



### MEMBER

John A Horak	7
Ted Kondferak	7
William Baran	8
James Faull	10
Cassie Prinke	12
Douglas J Conger	19
Joseph Edstrom	19
Patricia Scott	21
Joseph L Goldblatt	26

### SPOUSE

Helen Goldblatt	1
Sharon Follet	9
Paul Prinke	12
Judy Bushko	29

### ANNIVERSARY

Lucian and Laura Ferguson	12
John and Claudia Horak	13
Leonard and Mary Ann Fuchs	17
Paul and Cassie Prinke	26

**Luncheon Meeting  
Superstition Mountain Chapter MOAA**

**Saturday, March 16, 2024**

12:00 Noon Social – 1:00 pm Lunch

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

Menu

Italian Buffet: Chicken Parmesan with buttered Pasta, Italian Vegetables,  
Caesar Salad with choice of dressings, Rolls and Butter

Iced Tea and Coffee – Mini-Tiramisu Cakes for dessert

\$30.00 per person

**Reservations by Sunday, March 10, 2024**

to **John Bushko**

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

**SUPERSTITION MOUNTAIN CHAPTER, MOAA**

## Chair Reports



**1st Vice President/Programs**

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

*(On behalf of John Bushko, who is recovering from a serious surgery, your Editors would like to thank each and every one of you who expressed your concern, good wishes, and ongoing prayers. The Family very much appreciates the whole-hearted support of the Chapter.)*

**Peggy Allen and Paula Anderer, Co-Editors**





**Legislative**  
**Bob Grierson**

Greetings to the Superstition Mountain Chapter.

The clock continues to tick away on appropriations at the federal level. As of this afternoon, here are the current stats: House (7 Of 12 Bills Passed), Senate (3 Of 12 Bills Passed), Both Chambers (0 Of 12), Vetoed (0 Of 12), Signed by the President (0 Of 12). Not a good record. Especially considering that this is for the Federal Fiscal Year 2024 which is halfway over. I have sighed twice typing this.

#### Federal

As you know, MOAA has been actively engaged in a number of federal issues which impact our service members. Last month I gave you a list of legislation pending and the links to help you reach out in support. Here are a few more for you, courtesy of our State MOAA:

**Quality of Life ‘Erosion’ Poses Dire Threat to the Force, Lawmakers Say.** The chair and ranking member of the House Armed Services Committee and the leaders of that committee’s Quality of Life Panel, have sent a letter addressing the following key quality of life issues to President Biden. The letter seeks “significantly more attention and resources” in the president’s annual budget request, expected March 11, to address five key quality of life issues:

- Health and safety concerns with barracks and single-family housing.
- Inadequate compensation can lead to food insecurity, among other financial stressors.
- A lack of access to quality medical care, especially behavioral care.
- Childcare shortages, “especially in high-cost and remote areas.”
- Spouse employment concerns, driven by frequent military moves and license portability issues.

**TAKE ACTION:** [Urge Your Legislators to Improve the Quality of Life of Our Servicemembers](#)

Elizabeth Dole Home and Community Based Services for Veterans and Caregivers Act (H.R. 542 and S. 141): would help veterans and their caregivers transition between caregiver support programs, assess the level of care they need, expand mental health services, and improve communication and coordination between veterans and their families and veterans service organizations.

**TAKE ACTION:** [Urge Your Legislators to Support H.R. 542 and Provisions in S. 141](#)

Expanding Veterans’ Options for Long Term Care Act (H.R. 1815 and S. 495) would allow the VA to launch a pilot program to look at the effectiveness of paying for assisted living services. Currently, the VA is unable to pay room and board expenses at these facilities.

**TAKE ACTION:** [Urge Your Legislators to Support H.R. 1815 and S. 495](#)

Veteran Caregiver Application and Appeals Reform (CARE) Act (S. 1792 and H.R. 4518) allows VSOs and nonprofit organizations to advocate for that population within the Veterans Health Administration (VHA). The CARE Act would provide a standardized process for training and qualifying organizations to assist caregivers and veterans in navigating VHA programs.

(cont’d.)

(cont’d.)

**TAKE ACTION: [Urge Your Legislators to Support the CARE Act](#)**

The Major Richard Star Act (H.R. 1282/S. 344) in the next National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). The point that must be advanced is that support to the all-volunteer force must overcome cost concerns.

**TAKE ACTION: [Ask Your Lawmakers to include the Major Richard Star Act in the FY 2025 NDAA](#)**

We have discussed many of these like the MAJ Star Act, as well as the CARE Act. These are bills designed to help veterans and retirees. We are close to getting these bills a proper vote. Your help is vital. Reach out to your Congressman and Senator by using the link below.

Please log in to the [MOAA Legislative Action Center \(quorum.us\)](https://quorum.us)

**State Issues**

SB1413 Provides an income tax elimination for the Uniformed Servicemembers of NOAA and USPHS in AZ. This bill has been approved by both the Commerce and Rules committee and will soon move to the Senate floor for a vote and then on to the House. Please contact your Arizona Senators and urge them to support SB1413. The sooner we get this through the Senate, the sooner we can start working on the House for passage this session! Thanks for your continued great work on this issue!

**PLEASE ACT NOW:** Please contact your senators so SB1413 can get to the House ASAP.

There are, truly, only a few bills with such little information on them, which I plan to monitor. Here are two to watch.

- HB2390 Property Tax Exemption; Combat Veterans  
Amends Section 42-11111, ARS; Relating to property tax exemptions. Exemption for property; widows/widowers, persons with total and permanent disability, veterans with a disability.
- HB2392 Income Tax; subtraction; care expenses  
Amends Section 43-1022, ARS; Relating to individual income tax. Individual income tax; subtractions from AZ gross income, U.S. Government Retirement.

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

**Bob**



**Mike Ostermeyer**

**JROTC/ROTC**



**Karl Pfitzer**

Hello Chapter Members:

As you can see by the chart below, we have started to receive awards ceremony dates from a number of our JROTC programs. All of our award packages are ready for distribution; however, we are still looking for chapter members to present and sponsor a JROTC High School program. If you are interested in sponsoring a JROTC award, or in presenting chapter awards at the schools' ceremonies, please let me know. Sponsorships are \$100 per school, which covers the cost of the Impact Award. If you have never presented awards in the past, this is a great opportunity to see how the JROTC program can positively affect our future leaders. If you have any questions, please contact me or Mike at our contact information below. Thanks for your support.

Karl Pfitzer

480-635-2080

Mike Ostermeyer

602-316-1072

**(Chart on next page.)**



## 2024 SMC MOAA ROTC JROTC Awards Program

#	School & Affiliation	Ceremony Date/Time	Presenter	Sponsor	Sr ROTC/JROTC Instructor
1	ASU: USA, USN, USAF, USMC, USSF	FR, 4-19, 1330 hrs	1LT Greg Moore <b>P</b>	N/A	
2	Apache Jct, USN	MO, 4-1, 1700hrs			LCDR Gary Lock
3	Basha, USAF	FR, 5-3, 1445 hrs	Arlan & Peggy Allen <b>P</b>	Arlan & Peggy Allen	COL Cliff Stansell
4	Campo Verde, USAF				LTC Steve Wood
5	Casa Grande, USMC	TH, 4-18, 1530 hrs	Ritt Schiano <b>P</b>	Norm Poole	GySGT Jesus Flores
6	Chandler, USAF	MO, 4-29, 1830 hrs	John & Judy Bushko <b>P</b>	John & Judy Bushko	MSGT Scott Goodsen
7	Coolidge, USMC		Ritt Schiano <b>P</b>		LTC Richard Callahan
8	Dobson, USAF	FR, 4-19, 1745 hrs	Greg & Mer Moore <b>P</b>	Greg Moore	LTC Anthony Kusek
9	Gilbert, USAF	TU, 5-7, 1730 hrs			MSgt Elwin Longnion
10	Globe, USA			Arlan & Peggy Allen	SFC Tony Lyons
11	Hamilton, USAF				LTC Greg Franklin
12	Higley, USAF				COL David Vaughn
13	Marcos De Niza, USA				MAJ Robert Fore
14	Maricopa, USAF				LTC Allen Kirksey
15	Mesa, USAF	FR, 4-12, 1800 hrs *			MSGT Mark Caldwell
16	Queen Creek USA	WE, 4-24, 1045hrs *		Robert Grierson	SFC John Biggs
17	Poston Butte USAF		Ritt Schiano <b>P</b>		MAJ John Napier
18	Red Mountain, USA	FR, 5-3, 1800 hrs *	Greg & Mer Moore <b>P</b>	Greg & Mer Moore	MAJ Olga Cortez
19	Skyline, USA	FR, 5-3, 1700 hrs			COL Geoff Stevens
20	Vista Grande, USMC		Ritt Schiano <b>P</b>		1stSgt Alberto Griego
21	Westwood, USAF		Greg & Mer Moore <b>P</b>	Greg & Mer Moore	LTC Joe Abel

**Current on: Friday, March 01, 2024**

**P= Presenter or School Has Awards Package**

**\*= Have Awardee Names**

**@= Sponsors Have Paid**

**Mike Ostermeyer**

602-316-1072

[Ostermeyer@cox.net](mailto:Ostermeyer@cox.net)

Karl Pfitzer

480-635-2080

[pvkarl@cox.net](mailto:pvkarl@cox.net)



**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, its 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 2024 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 newsletters and have opportunities to participate in grassroots activism effort. You get *Military Officer Magazine* via our mobile app. You will 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 will be able to tap into MOAA's staff of experts for financial and investment advice, college scholarships for dependents, and much more. That is 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 2024 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 Chair 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, March 16, 2024 - DoubleTree by Hilton**  
**Social Hour - Noon      Lunch - 1:00pm**

**Menu**

Italian Buffet: Chicken Parmesan with buttered Pasta, Italian Vegetables,  
Caesar Salad with choice of dressings, Rolls and Butter

Iced Tea and Coffee - Mini-Tiramisu Cakes for dessert

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

**Reservations must be in by Sunday, March 10, 2024**

**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

**2024 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 2024

Please print name \_\_\_\_\_

My National MOAA Number \_\_\_\_\_

**2024 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 - CHOMPIE'S</b>	-	<b>Luncheon Meetings</b>
<b>March 12, 2024- 9:30am</b>	-	<b>March 16, 2024- 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.*



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](https://moaa.org) ( Visit the [Take Action Center](#) )

MOAA SMC Chapter Website: [https// smcmoaa.org](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.