

Superstition Mountain Express



MOAA® *Military Officers Association of America*

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



President's Comments

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

Greetings friends:

Two topics this month.

First, as we all get older, our health changes. Some changes are genetic/natural. Others may be exacerbated due to military service. Some of your aches and pains may be caused by an incident or incidents while on active duty.

Get your issues evaluated by a VA physician. Why? First is that you may be eligible for compensation (tax free). Second, should one of your service-connected issues contribute to your death, your survivors may be eligible for money and/or services. If you are a surviving spouse, have you spoken to a benefits counselor with regard to your eligibility? VA social workers, AZ Dept of Vet affairs, our personnel Affairs Officer Arlen Alan can all help.

SMC will continue our tradition of supporting the Marine Foundation **Toys for Tots** program this year. Until NOV 30TH we will be accepting monetary donations in any amount for children in need in Maricopa County. Cash or check. Make your check out to Superstition Mountain Chapter, MOAA w/"Toys for Tots" on the memo line. Send your donations to:

Greg Moore, 1581 W Corona Dr. Chandler, Az 85224-8558.
Or, bring to the November 16 luncheon if you prefer.

Thanks in advance for making a deserving child's Christmas a little merrier.

Greg



VP Auxiliary/Surviving Spouse
Judy Bushko



Hello!

John and I wish everyone a wonderful Thanksgiving Holiday!
Hope to see you at the Luncheon on November 16th. **Judy**

*An important reminder from **Ann Ferguson**. Use the MOAA website and make your views known!
They welcome your engagement, as you can see by the letter I received in response. **Ann**



Dear Virginia Ferguson,

Thank you for contacting your members of Congress and urging them to address the critical funding shortfall for the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA). Your advocacy ensures our elected officials understand the importance of supporting veterans and their families.

In July, VA officials warned that the VBA faced a \$3 billion budget shortfall by the end of fiscal year 2024. Without congressional action by September 20th, compensation and benefit payments for 7 million veterans and their survivors were at risk of being delayed. Your efforts helped spur Congress into action, leading to the passage of the supplemental funding bill, which was signed into law by the president by the September 20th deadline.

Your continued engagement is vital in ensuring Congress prioritizes the needs of our nation's veterans. Together, we can make a significant impact in supporting those who have bravely served our country. Thank you again for your commitment and support.

To stay engaged and informed, please visit the [MOAA website](#) and the [Legislative Action Center](#).

Sincerely,

April Vogel
Maj Gen, USAF (Ret)
Vice President for Government Relations
Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)
201 N Washington Street
Alexandria, VA 22314
800.234.6622
www.moaa.org

NEVER STOP SERVING.®

Be Grateful For Our Freedoms



Freedom of Speech by Norman Rockwell

Rockwell, Norman. *Freedom of Speech*. Feb. 20, 1943. Norman Rockwell Museum.

Norman Rockwell, Illustrator and Patriot

The famous front-page illustrator for *The Saturday Evening Post* magazine, Norman Rockwell, was very resourceful and a determined man. He was a true patriot who was inspired by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's address to Congress in 1941, outlining four freedoms which Roosevelt felt should be enjoyed by a postwar America; freedom of speech, freedom to worship, freedom from want and freedom from fear. Rockwell envisioned illustrating each of the four freedoms on canvas.

Ideas did not come easily to Rockwell for his work. The concept of the project he was envisioning began to weigh on him; it invaded his sleep at night. How to begin? By chance one evening he stopped in on a local Council Meeting, where a lone figure stood up amongst his neighbors and voiced an unpopular opinion. That night he awoke to understand that his plan should be to do what he always did, illustrate each freedom as it was exercised every day in simple situations in his local community. Rockwell prepared some rough sketches and made plans with a fellow cover illustrator at the *Post*, Mead Schaeffer, to go to Washington to pitch the idea of more posters to help the war effort.

In the spring of 1942, the Ordnance Department of the U.S. Army had commissioned Rockwell to paint a poster of a gunner in need of ammunition. His work, entitled *Let's Give Him Enough and On Time*, was printed on posters which were sent all over the country to ordnance plants in order to spur production. The trip was ill-timed; he was dismayed to find that all resources for such things had been exhausted. Rockwell was concerned with helping with the war effort, and he was confident that his paintings would inspire people. He was deflated, but he had one more idea.

On the way back to his home in Vermont, he stopped at Curtis Publishing Company, the publisher of *The Saturday Evening Post*. He showed editor Ben Hibbs his sketches. Hibbs was excited and immediately relieved Rockwell from his current obligation to the *Post* of one cover per month for three months. Hibbs had plans to use the illustrations in the *Post* in a much more powerful way. Rockwell developed "stage fright" and it was two and a half months before he even started the project. He reckoned that Michaelangelo was better suited to it; "It was so darned high-blown."

Norman Rockwell stuck with it, and never gave up. He could not envision what happened next.

The *Four Freedoms* illustrations were published one per week for four consecutive weeks in the *Post*, accompanied by essays by noted writers. The first publication was *Freedom of Speech*. The *Post* received 25,000 requests for reprinting!

In May 1943, the U.S. Department of the Treasury and representatives of the *Post* announced a joint campaign to sell war bonds and stamps. They would send an Exhibit of the *Four Freedoms* paintings, one-thousand original cartoons and paintings by other illustrators, and original manuscripts from *The Saturday Evening Post* on a nationwide tour! Millions of people viewed the exhibit. One hundred thirty-three million dollars in war bonds and stamps were sold. Each buyer received prints of the four paintings.

The Office of War Information printed four million sets of posters of the paintings. Each was printed with the words "Buy War Bonds" and distributed in U.S. Schools, institutions and overseas.

The Four Freedoms original oil paintings now reside in the permanent Norman Rockwell Museum in their own special gallery where they can continue to inspire. Never give up on a good idea!

October Luncheon Photos



Greg Moore, President



Frank Michael, Speaker
National MOAA Representative



Meredith and Greg Moore

Greg Moore and Frank Michael



Frank Michael, National MOAA Rep. and John Bushko



John and Judy Bushko



Karl Pfitzer and Fred Ferguson



Bill and Lesley Baran



Mike and Jan Ostermeyer



Donna Stowman, Mike Ostermeyer, Jan Ostermeyer

Peggy Allen, Lou Bates



Lou Bates, Peggy Allen, Arlan Allen



Mark Walker



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

SPOUSE

Jan Ostermeyer 2
 Helena Pickering 6
 Josephine Meegan 14
 Marilyn Marsh 24
 Anne Symonds 25



ANNIVERSARY

John and Judy Bushko 1
 William and Lesley Baran 22

SUPERSTITION MOUNTAIN CHAPTER, MOAA

**Luncheon Meeting
Superstition Mountain Chapter MOAA**

Saturday, November 16, 2024

12:00 Noon Social - 1:00 pm Lunch

DoubleTree by Hilton

1011 West Holmes Ave., Mesa, AZ 85210

Menu

Street Taco Bar: Pork Carnitas, Shredded Chicken, Flour Tortillas and all the Fixins, Refried Beans with Cotija Cheese and Mexican Rice
Iced Tea and Coffee - Cookies for Dessert

\$30.00 per person

Reservations by Sunday, November 10, 2024

to **John Bushko**

TEXT 614-204-0413, Call 480-759-1717, or email jabushko@earthlink.net.

Happy Veterans Day!



Chair Report



1st Vice President/Programs

LTC John Bushko, USAF (Ret)

Greetings Everyone

Hopefully you survived all the ghosts and gremlins on Halloween!

Our November meeting will be on the 16th with the JROTC cadets from Campo Verde in attendance to perform their POW/MIA ceremony. The menu for the luncheon will be a Street Taco Bar. Including pork carnitas & shredded chicken, flour tortillas, shaved cabbage, shredded lettuce, diced tomato, chopped onion, cilantro, shredded cheddar, sour cream, house-made salsa, refried beans with cotija cheese, Mexican style rice and cookies. I hope to see many of you at the meeting. Come out and support the cadets.

Please email me or call or text me at 614-204-0413, by November 10th with your reservation.

John



Treasurer

Tom Ralph

Hoping to see you at the 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, 2025 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



Legislative
Bob Grierson

**Previously Published in Bob's Absence*

Fall Greetings to the Superstition Mountain Chapter.

Just a quick note, I will be out up through December without access to most US legislative info. So, I invite you to use the links here to stay abreast of most legislative action. National bills supported by MOAA <https://moaa.quorum.us/bills> and State of Arizona legislation <https://dvs.az.gov/about/legislative-updates> Did you know that MOAA has a series of video updates on legislation free to its members? Take a look at what is available for you. https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLZJJ2z1-x_q3tfOALHMIkAR_pVTjEhk86 Currently, the Arizona State Legislature is in recess and US Congress are back in DC. So, at the state level, there's little activity to report. However, the state has a new Department of Veterans Services Director. His name is John Scott, and he served in the USMC as an NCO. His bio can be found at <https://dvs.az.gov/about/leadership/john-scott> As I mentioned last month, MOAA asks that you take the opportunity to seek action on a number of bills currently stalled in Congress. You have seen these before in previous updates, but this request comes from MOAA National.

- Junior Enlisted Pay Raise: Competitive pay remains critical to the health of the all-volunteer force, and both the House and the Senate seek to address this issue in the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). The House NDAA calls for servicemembers E-1 to E-4 to receive a 15% pay raise beyond the 4.5% earmarked for all in uniform. While the Senate version calls for an additional 1% increase for servicemembers E-1 to E-3 (beyond the 4.5% raise).
- Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) Restoration: Access to quality housing and promoting financial wellness is important to sustaining the all-volunteer force. Restoring BAH addresses both issues. The House version of the NDAA would restore BAH to 100% for FY 2025 – a move toward MOAA's goal of full repeal of the BAH reduction, but not a permanent fix. Unfortunately, the Senate version does not address the issue.
- Major Richard Star Act: Tens of thousands of combat-injured veterans lose a dollar of earned DoD retirement pay for every dollar of VA disability compensation. For three years in a row, over two-thirds of Congress has supported the Star Act, which would end that unjust financial offset. Despite this vast support, neither version of the NDAA includes the bill. However, it is critical lawmakers continue to hear about this important issue, especially as we approach the start of the 119th Congress.

How important is your involvement? Last week the Department of Veterans Affairs nearly defaulted on payments to disabled Veterans. Groups like MOAA ensured that did not happen, but the fix was only a 3 month continuing resolution. So, we have another fight looming after the election.

You may find the email links for your representatives and the committee members at: <https://www.azleg.gov/MemberRoster/>

Bob

Luncheon Meeting
Saturday, November 16, 2024 - DoubleTree by Hilton
Social Hour - Noon Lunch - 1:00pm

Menu

Street Taco Bar: Pork Carnitas, Shredded Chicken, Flour Tortillas, and all the Fixins,
 Refried Beans with Cotija Cheese and Mexican Rice
 Iced Tea and Coffee - Cookies for Dessert

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

2025 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 2024

Please print name_____

My National MOAA Number_____

2024 Chapter Activity Schedule - (Dates and times are subject to change.)

| Chapter Board | Chapter Auxiliary | Chapter Member/Guest |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| Meeting - CHOMPIE'S | - | Luncheon Meetings |
| Nov. 12, 2024- 9:30am | - | Nov. 16, 2024- Noon Social. 1:00pm Lunch |



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 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, 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. _____ | _____ | _____ |



“Life is not fair.
Get over it!”

..Life-long adage of Marlene Fox

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



Happy Thanksgiving!



Rockwell, Norman. *Freedom From Want*. March 6, 1943. Rockwell Museum Collections.

Newsletter Editors

Peggy Allen and Paula Anderer

Newsletter Contact: paulaanderer10@gmail.com

Superstition Mountain Chapter
Military Officers Association of America



RESOURCES

Newsletter: paulaanderer10@gmail.com

MOAA Home Page: <https://moaa.org> (Visit the [Take Action Center](#))

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.