

# Superstition Mountain Express



**MOAA**® Military Officers Association of America

MAR 2025  
Volume 43, Issue 34

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## President's Comments Gregory L. Moore, 1Lt. USA (Ret.)

Greetings friends:

I recently had the opportunity to attend an event at the National Cemetery, sponsored by a Veterans group which was entirely new to me.

The *Missing in America Project* (MIAP) is a 501(c)(3) organization with the main focus being "...locating, identifying, and interring the unclaimed remains of American veterans." ([www.miap.us](http://www.miap.us))

At the recent ceremony, there were 18 remains honored, sixteen of which were Vietnam Veterans. A hearse arrived, escorted by about a dozen "Freedom Riders" on motorcycles. The urns were individually offloaded and escorted by a team with an American flag. A USMC color guard led the way. Prayers were offered, invited guests said a few words, and the ceremony concluded with "Taps" played and a volley fired. The urns were interred later.

A little-known charity, doing good work! Their motto - "It's the right thing to do."

Never Stop Serving

**Greg**





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



Hello!

Enjoy our Spring weather! Let us hope it is a long one.

I look forward to seeing you at the Luncheon on March 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Judy**

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# Superstition Mountain Chapter-MOAA

## Members Luncheon Meeting Saturday March 15, 2025

*12:00 Noon Social - 1:00 pm Lunch*

*DoubleTree by Hilton*

*1011 West Holmes Ave., Mesa, AZ 85210*

### *Menu*

\$30.00 per person

Pulled Pork with Rolls and Coleslaw

Macaroni & Cheese, Buttery Corn

Dill and Egg Potato Salad

*Iced Tea and Coffee*

### *Dessert*

Red Velvet Mini Cakes

**Reservations by Sunday, March 9 , 2025**

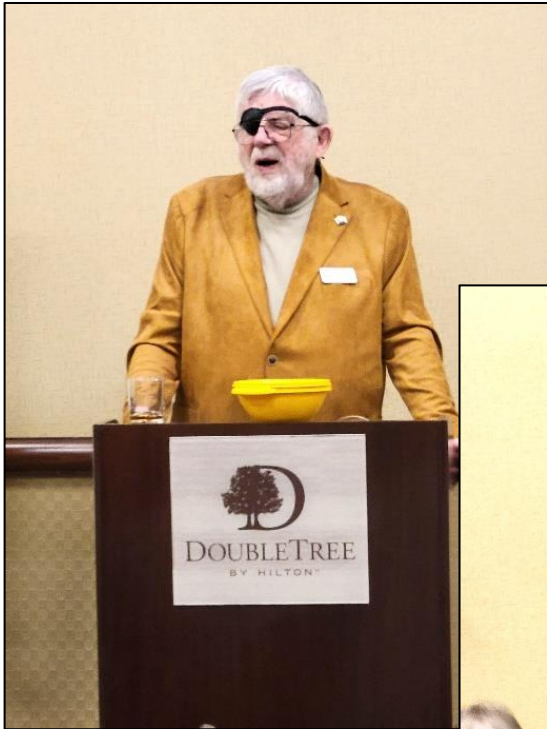
to John Bushko:

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



*February 15, 2025*  
*50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Luncheon Photos*

**Greg Moore, Pres.**



**Speaker - Pete Kloeber,  
National MOAA Member**



**Meredith and Greg Moore**

**Bob and Dawn Grierson**



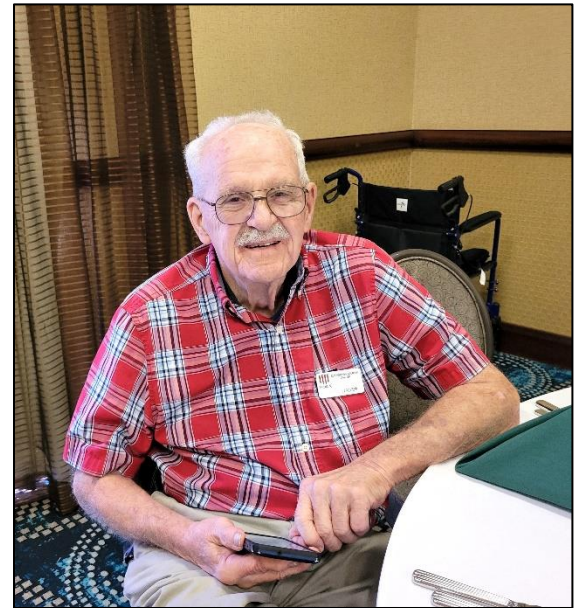
**Joyce and Pete Kloeber**







**Tom and Melanie Ralph**



**Mark Walker**



**Donna Stowman**



**Arlan and Peggy Allen**

**Ann and Fred Ferguson**



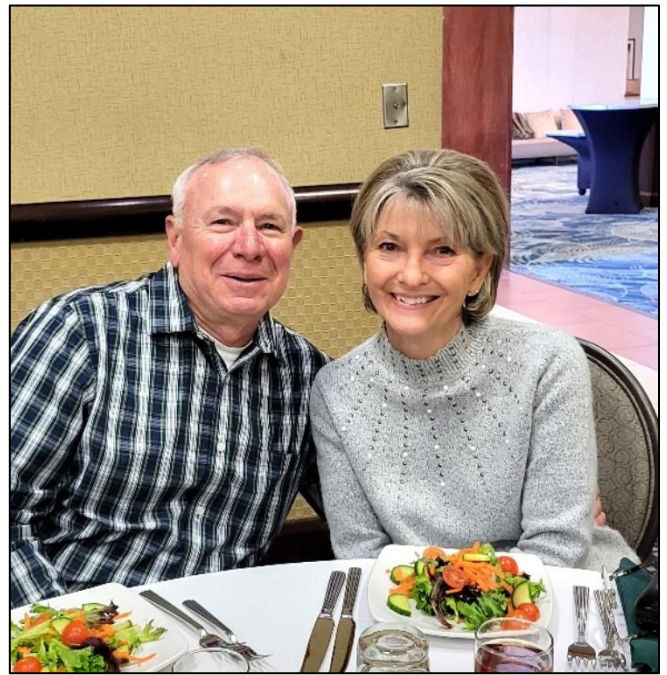
**John and Judy Bushko**







**Vicki and Karl Pfitzer**



**Mike and Jan Ostermeyer**



**Lesley and Bill Baran**



**Lou Bates and Sheryl Mauldin**



**Jim Austin with Caregiver**





# March Congratulations!



## MEMBER

William Baran      8



## SPOUSE

Judy Bushko      29

## ANNIVERSARY



*Hello Spring*

# Chair Report



**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President/Programs**  
**LTC John Bushko, USAF (Ret)**

Greetings everyone,

I would like to invite everyone to our Members meeting on March 15<sup>th</sup>. The meal will be Pulled Pork with rolls, mac-and-cheese, buttery corn, coleslaw, dill and egg potato salad, and dessert will be red velvet mini cakes.

Our speaker will be Ron Meeks. Ron has been an avid student of the American Civil War for approximately 65 years! He has visited more than 50 Civil War Battlefields and read approximately 200 non-fiction books on the subject. Ron has researched the history of numerous historical people and places from that era.

Ron has taken every opportunity during his life to expand his knowledge and experiences concerning the Civil War. Because of several unusual personal connections, Ron became genuinely interested in studying the war and battlefields. He learned early in his life that his father was born in a Civil War Battlefield town, which was close to several Civil War Battlefield National Parks. Additional research revealed that his grandfather's childhood home had been taken over by the Confederate Army for several months during the war, and used as the headquarters of a prominent General.

Ron has become quite knowledgeable about the Civil War, and shares this information in his speeches. He invites the audience to join in the discussions, and looks forward, enthusiastically, to speaking before new groups of people.

## **John**

Please remember to contact me about luncheon reservations on or before March 9<sup>th</sup> .



My email is [jabushko@earthlink.net](mailto:jabushko@earthlink.net), text me at 614-204-0413.





**Legislative**

**Bob Grierson**

March Greetings to the Superstition Mountain Chapter.

Whether you are a Democrat or a Republican, you have to admit it has been a very busy couple of months in DC. Elon Musk's DOGE has gone after a number of federal agencies like the VA, State Dept, Education, and more. The new Secretary of Defense has ordered a financial cut of 8% throughout DoD as well as firing the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs and the CNO. At the same time, Congress is proposing a significant increase in funding to DoD. I guess we will just have to see what happens next.

At the February Chapter luncheon in Mesa, our guest was MOAA board member Pete Kloeber who visited us from Flagstaff. He mentioned that the annual Advocacy in Action (formerly known as Assault on the Hill) had not yet released its key legislative objectives for the year. Sadly, as we approach the end of February, no information or guidance on federal legislation is forthcoming. In January MOAA announced its supporting the following initiatives:

#### **Currently Serving**

**Military housing:** Recent reporting from the Government Accountability Office (GAO) reveals the myriad challenges servicemembers in unaccompanied housing are facing. The health, safety, and privacy concerns outlined by GAO show the need for action.

MOAA seeks to improve funding and condition transparency for unaccompanied housing by requiring an annual, publicly available report, which will highlight areas that require the most attention from both DoD and Congress.

#### **Retirees/Veterans**

**Toxic exposure:** MOAA will focus on capitalizing on our recently released report, [Ending the Wait for Toxic-Exposed Veterans](#), to advocate for veterans exposed to toxic materials during their service.

While the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring Our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act has made major improvements to how toxic exposures are treated by the VA, additional measures are required. In cooperation with other VSOs, MOAA will advocate for Congress to pass legislation that shortens the time veterans must wait before their toxic exposures are acknowledged and conceded by the VA.

#### **Family/Survivors**

**Spouse employment:** Rates of unemployment for military spouses continue to be four to five times higher than the national average. This persistent challenge requires not only providing education and employment resources for spouses, but also incentivizing businesses to hire someone who will likely move in two to three years.

The Work Opportunity Tax Credit program was established to support populations who face significant barriers to employment, and adding a military spouse target group is long overdue. Passing the Military Spouse Hiring Act will provide another important lever needed to address the critical issue of spouse unemployment.

#### **DoD Health Care**

**Access to care:** DoD has acknowledged that congressionally directed reforms to the Military Health System (MHS), together with U.S. medical workforce volatility, exacerbated long-standing access challenges and led to a destabilized MHS that does not consistently deliver timely care to beneficiaries.

Current patient resources for reporting access problems and getting assistance navigating the MHS are inadequate. Also, it is unclear if there are mechanisms for reporting up to the Defense Health Agency so systemic access challenges can be identified and addressed.

MOAA seeks a digital MHS assistance platform allowing beneficiaries to report access-to-care challenges and receive help navigating the MHS, including reporting requirements to increase visibility on barriers to access so fixable issues can be addressed.

### **VA Health Care**

**Support for caregivers:** MOAA has long advocated for legislation that would improve caregiving support for veterans' families. This includes enhancements to the VA Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC) and expansion of home health and long-term care services to meet current and future needs of veterans, their caregivers, and families.

This year, MOAA strongly supports the reintroduction and enactment of the Veteran Caregiver Reeducation, Reemployment, and Retirement Act. This legislation acknowledges caregivers' invaluable contributions while addressing the significant economic and emotional burdens they face. By offering education, employment, and retirement opportunities, the legislation empowers caregivers to achieve financial security while potentially reducing the federal government's long-term economic burden.

### **Persistent Efforts**

There are certain issues that MOAA will always advocate for until they are passed. Among these are concurrent receipt for combat wounded (Major Richard Star Act), Arlington National Cemetery access, and cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs).

MOAA will also continually monitor certain issues and will immediately mobilize the entire association, our membership, and VSO/MSO allies to ensure these issues are not negatively impacted. These issues include:

- Decrements to scheduled pay increases.
- New TRICARE or TRICARE Pharmacy Program fees.
- TRICARE cost-sharing increases that exceed military retired pay COLA or TRICARE Pharmacy Program cost sharing that exceeds common industry practice.
- Unequal decrements of compensation and benefits based on rank, age, family composition, retirement status, or disability benefits.

On to state issues. As I mentioned last month, quite a bit has been put forward in the State House and Senate. We will see how they fare in the upcoming months. This is an update on legislation I am following:

### **Senate Bills**

[SB1021](#) ROTC cadets; in-state student status - An Act amending section 15-1802, Arizona Revised Statutes; relating to classification of students for tuition purposes. 2025-02-12 Senate – Transmit to House

[SB1043](#) Homeless shelter services fund; appropriation - An Act Amending title 9, chapter 4, article 8, Arizona Revised Statutes, by adding section 9-500.52; amending title 41, chapter 37, article 2, Arizona Revised Statutes, by adding Section 41-3958; Appropriating monies; relating to the Arizona Department of Housing. Resources for veterans.

[SB1122](#) Property tax exemptions; inflation adjustment - An Act amending section 42-11111, Arizona Revised Statutes; relating to property tax exemptions. Exemption for property; widows and widowers; persons with a total and permanent disability; veterans with a disability. 2025-02-11 Senate – Rep/Dem Caucus

[SB1155](#) Income tax; subtraction; uniformed services - An Act amending section 43-1022, Arizona Revised Statutes; relating to taxation of income. 2025-02-11 Senate – APPROP DO PASS (Vote; 9-0-1-0)

[SB1158](#) Property tax; exemption; widows; widowers - An Act amending section 42-11111, Arizona Revised Statutes; relating to property tax. Under Subsection C; identifies a person with a total and permanent disability and a veteran with a service or nonservice connected disability.

[SB1163](#) Veterans; emergency admission; transport - An Act amending sections 36-524 and 36-525, Arizona Revised Statutes; relating to mental health services. Identifies a peace officer or a police officer who is an employee of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. 2025-02-11 Senate – Rep/Dem Caucus

[SB1267](#) Veterans; lifetime state park pass - An Act Amending title 41, chapter 3, article 1.1, Arizona Revised Statutes, by adding section 41-511.26; relating to the Arizona state parks board.

[SB1279](#) Technical correction; military; special plates - An Act amending section 28-2428, Arizona Revised Statutes; relating to special license plates.



[SB1495](#) National Guard; active duty; requirements - An Act amending title 26, chapter 1, article 3, Arizona Revised Statutes, by adding section 26-164; relating to the National Guard.

[SB1513](#) Housing grants; military; veteran; homeless - An Act amending section 41-3955.02, Arizona Revised Statutes; amending title 41, chapter 37, article 2, Arizona Revised Statutes, by adding section 41-3955.03; relating to the Arizona department of housing.

[SB1685](#) Technical correction; veterans - An Act amending section 41-607, Arizona Revised Statutes; relating to the department of veterans' services.

[SB1703](#) Veterans' benefits; claims; prohibition. - An Act amending section 41-608.01, Arizona Revised Statutes; amending title 41, chapter 3, article 7, Arizona Revised Statutes, by adding section 41-610.03; relating to the department of veterans' services.

[SB1710](#) Veterans; mental health; grant program - An Act amending title 41, chapter 3, article 7, Arizona Revised Statutes, by adding section 41-610.03; appropriating monies; relating to the department of veterans' services.

### **House Bills**

[HCM2004](#) Military bases; exemption from ESA - A concurrent memorial urging the United States Congress to enact legislation exempting military bases from Endangered Species Act. 2025-02-11 House – FMAE DO PASS (Vote; 4-3-0-0-0-0)

[HCR2010](#) Gold star families; legacy preservation - A concurrent Resolution supporting Gold Starr Families and the historical significance of the term.

[HB2030](#) Impersonation; veteran; armed forces - An Act amending title 13, chapter 24, Arizona Revised Statutes, by adding section 13-2414; relating to obstruction of public administration. Designates impersonating a veteran of the United States Armed Forces and engaging in specific, listed conduct with the intent to induce another to submit to the person's fraudulent official authority or to rely upon the person's fraudulent official acts to be a felony. Stipulates the class of felony based on the conduct of the individual while impersonating a veteran, and entitles the act the Master Sergeant Orlando Dona Valor act. 2025-02-11 House – Transmit to Senate, 2025-02-11 House – Third (Vote; 58-0-2-0-0)

[HB2188](#) National guard; active-duty combat - An Act amending title 26, chapter 1, article 3, Arizona Revised Statutes, by adding section 26-164; relating to the National Guard.

[HB2217](#) National guard; life insurance - An Act amending title 26, chapter 1, article 3, Arizona Revised Statutes, by adding section 26-158.01; relating to the National Guard. 2025-02-12 House – FMAE DO PASS (Vote; 6-0-0-1-0-0)

[HB2771](#) Leaves of absence; military training - An Act Amending sections 26-168 and 38-610, Arizona Revised Statutes; relating to military affairs.

For updates on National bills supported by MOAA <https://moaa.quorum.us/bills> and State of Arizona legislation <https://dvs.az.gov/about/legislative-updates> And please sign up for the MOAA legislative campaigns. It is easy and free. First step: Register as an advocate in [our Legislative Action Center](#). If you are already registered, send the link to a family member or friend. Remember, the Legislative Action Center is open to all who support the uniformed services community.

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

**Bob**





**JROTC/ROTC**

**Mike Ostermeyer**

Hello Everyone,

I hope that everyone survived the holidays.

Update on Superstition Mountain Chapter (SMC) ROTC/JROTC Awards Program. Thursday, January 9, 2025, 17 email letters were sent out to the 17 schools that SMC supports. As of January 23, 2025, 10 JROTC/ROTC Programs have responded to the email letter with dates and time or awaiting on details of their ceremonies. As of now, the earliest JROTC Ceremony is Friday, April 11, at 6:30PM, at Mesa High School. I will be looking more Presenters and Sponsors for these schools. I attached to the newsletter the current update on the schools.

Thank you for your time.

**Michael**

**(Mike Ostermeyer - 602-316-1072)**





#	School & Affiliation	Ceremony Date/Time	Presenter	Sponsor	Sr ROTC/JROTC Instructor	Contact Numbers
<b>Superstition Mountain Chapter MOAA ROTC / JROTC Programs / POC Michael Ostermeyer</b>						
1. **	ASU: USA, USN, USAF, USMC, USSF	Pending per Rachael Lamb, Jan 16, 2025	1LT Greg Moore		Rachael Vee Lamb Senior Business Operations Specialist   Army/Air Force ROTC Arizona State University Rachael Lamb <a href="mailto:rachael.duncan@asu.edu">rachael.duncan@asu.edu</a>	O: 480.965.3181
2. **	Apache JCT. USN	Mon, Apr 7, 2025 @ 1700Hrs. Apache JCT HS Performing Arts Center (PAC)			MGySgt Norvin C. Deleon Guerrero <a href="mailto:ndeleong@goaj.org">ndeleong@goaj.org</a>	O: 480.982.1110 EXT: 5399 Guerrero C: 747.275.6188
3. **	Mesa, USAF	Fri, APR 11, 2025, @ 1800Hrs. HS Auditorium			MSgt Mark Caldwell <a href="mailto:mcaldwell@mpsaz.org">mcaldwell@mpsaz.org</a>	O: 480.472.5889
4. **	Queen Creek, USA	Wed, APR 23, 2025, @ 1030Hrs. QC HS Performing Arts	Ted Konfederak, COL (R), USA Life Member MOAA		SFC John Biggs <a href="mailto:jbiggs@qcusd.org">jbiggs@qcusd.org</a>	O: 480.987.5973
5. **	Higley, USAF	Wed, APR 23, 2025 @ 1830Hrs. Williams Field HS Auditorium			COL David Vaughn <a href="mailto:David.Vaughn@husd.org">David.Vaughn@husd.org</a>	O: 480.279.7429 C: 813.810.4831
6. **	Dobson, USAF	Fri, APR 25, 2025 @ 1745Hrs. Annual Awards Banquet @ HS Cafeteria			LTC Anthony Kusek <a href="mailto:arkusek@mpaz.org">arkusek@mpaz.org</a> SMSgt (Ret) Stephen Tkach III <a href="mailto:sjtkach@mpsaz.org">sjtkach@mpsaz.org</a>	O: 480.472.3055
7. **	Chandler, USAF	Mon, APR 28, 2025 @ 1830Hrs. Chandler Center for the Arts	John & Judy Bushko	John & Judy Bushko	MSGT Scott Goodson <a href="mailto:Goodson.Scott@cusd80.com">Goodson.Scott@cusd80.com</a>	O: 480.224.3987

8. **	Basha, USAF	Fri, MAY 2, 2025 @ 1500Hrs. Basha HS Auditorium	Arlan & Peggy Allen	Arlan & Peggy Allen	COL Cliff Stansell Basha AFJROTC 5990 S Val Vista Dr Chandler, AZ 85249 <a href="mailto:stansell.clifford@cusd80.com">stansell.clifford@cusd80.com</a>	
<b>#</b>	<b>School &amp; Affiliation</b>	<b>Ceremony Date/Time</b>	<b>Presenter</b>	<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Sr ROTC/JROTC Instructor</b>	<b>Contact Numbers</b>
9. **	Campo Verde, USAF	Mon, MAY 5, 2025 @ 1800Hrs. HS Cafeteria			LTC Steve Wood <a href="mailto:stephen.wood@gilbertschools.net">stephen.wood@gilbertschools.net</a>	
10. **	Gilbert, USAF	Mon, MAY 5, 2025 @ 1700Hrs. Gilbert HS Auditorium			MSgt Elwin Longnion <a href="mailto:elwin.longnion@gilbertschools.net">elwin.longnion@gilbertschools.net</a> Awards POC: Cadet LT Col DeShane Tullie <a href="mailto:drtullie@gilbertschools.net">drtullie@gilbertschools.net</a>	O: 480.497.0177 EXT: 5066/5064
11. **	Hamilton, USAF	<b>Tues, May 6, 2025 @ 1800Hrs. Hamilton HS Auditorium Pending</b>			Lt Col (ret) Dan Kline <a href="mailto:kline.daniel@cusd80.com">kline.daniel@cusd80.com</a> MSgt Fred Driver <a href="mailto:driver.fred@cusd80.com">driver.fred@cusd80.com</a>	O: 480.883.5207
12. **	Skyline, USA	Fri, MAY 9, 2025 @ 1700Hrs. HS Auditorium			COL(R) Geoff Stevens <a href="mailto:gdstevens@mpsaz.org">gdstevens@mpsaz.org</a>	O: 480.472.9571
13. **	Globe, USA	<b>Reminder email on Feb 5, 2025. Responded to email. No date set per SFC Lyons</b>			SFC (R) Tony Lyons <a href="mailto:tony.lyons@globeschools.org">tony.lyons@globeschools.org</a>	O: 928.402.6102 ext. 6125



#	School & Affiliation	Ceremony Date/Time	Presenter	Sponsor	Sr ROTC/JROTC Instructor	Contact Numbers
1. **	Marcos De Niza, USA	Reminder email on Feb 5, 2025			MAJ Robert Fore <a href="mailto:rfore@tuhsd.k12.az.us">rfore@tuhsd.k12.az.us</a>	O: 480.838.3200
2. **	Maricopa, USAF	Reminder email on Feb 5, 2025			LTC Allen Kirksey <a href="mailto:akirkseyjr@musd20.org">akirkseyjr@musd20.org</a> CMSgt Scott Burton <a href="mailto:sburton@musd20.org">sburton@musd20.org</a>	O: 520.568.5100 ext. 4182
3. **	Red Mountain, USA	Reminder email on Feb 5, 2025			MAJ Olga Cortez <a href="mailto:olcortez@mpsaz.org">olcortez@mpsaz.org</a>	
4. **	Westwood, USAF	Reminder email on Feb 5, 2025			LTC Joe Abel <a href="mailto:jdabel@mpsaz.org">jdabel@mpsaz.org</a>	

**Current on: Sunday, March 02, 2025**

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

**\*= Have Awardee Names**

**\*\*= Sent Letter**

**@= Sponsors Have Paid**



**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

**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 22<sup>nd</sup> St, Phoenix, AZ 85024

Check enclosed; renew my membership for 2025

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

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

**2025 Chapter Activity Schedule - (Dates and times are subject to change.)**

<b>Chapter Board Meeting</b>	<b>Chapter Auxiliary</b>	<b>Chapter Member/Guest</b>
<b>Chompie's, behind Chandler Fashion Center</b>		<b>Luncheon Meetings</b>
<b>March 10, 2025 9:30am</b>	-	<b>March 15, 2025 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.*



Newsletter Editors

Peggy Allen and Paula Anderer

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

4201 W. Luke Ave.  
Phoenix, AZ 85019



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

RESOURCES

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

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

MOAA SMC Chapter Website: <https://smcmoaa.org>





: <https://beconnectedaz.org>

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