

Superstition Mountain Express

MOAA[®] Military Officers Association of America



APR 2025
Volume 43, Issue 35

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This newsletter is published monthly September - May.



The Superstition Mountain Chapter, Military Officers Association of America Inc., is a non-profit organization.

IRS tax ID# 23-7430856
<http://www.smcmoaa.org/> (MOAA and its Superstition Mountain Chapter are both nonpartisan.)



President's Comments

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

Greetings friends:

The times, they are a'changin. No foolin', Greg!

Recently I attended a program sponsored by the American Legion, Chapter 1011 of the Vietnam Vets of Am (VVA) and the Tempe Veterans Commission; Navigating Healthcare Options for the Aging Veteran and His Family."

One major theme was planning. Not only having your DD-214, medical power of attorney, Living Will, trust, Will and other like documents in one accessible place for your loved ones, but doing prearranging. This can be with a funeral home who can arrange military honors, coordinate with a National Cemetery, arrange transportation to another location etc. Now is the time to plan.

Firstly, Spouses, if the call comes tomorrow that your loved one was killed in a Starbucks drive thru, WHAT WOULD YOU DO? Who would you call? How would you get money? Other benefit resources include the DAV, VA, Arizona Service Commission. All are free but you will need that 214.

The second takeaway was that we each must be proactive with the health care system. Keep a journal. Keep track of appointments, who did you talk to, phone numbers, tests, who ordered and why. Who is getting the results. PCP should get all. New/changed medications. All should know changes. Carry a copy with you at all times.

ALL physicians, Nurse Practitioners, and PA's on your team should know of each other. Be Proactive!!!!

Lastly, thanks to John Bushko for the great speaker last luncheon. As a long-time-ago History major, I could have listened to him for hours.

Greg

Important news affecting the Superstition Mountain Chapter, MOAA!! Please take a minute to read the following letter to all members of the Chapter. Over the last 12 months, the Chapter Officers and Directors have agonized over this difficult decision. The Board has reached a unanimous decision concerning the future of the Superstition Mountain Chapter, MOAA. If you have any questions after reading the letter, please attend the April luncheon or reach out to any Board Member for questions and concerns.

March 31, 2025

Dear Superstition Mountain Chapter MOAA Member:

As many of you are aware, our chapter membership numbers have been steadily declining over the past few years. The Chapter Board of Directors has been actively working to add new members to our organization with little success over those years. As an example, we had only 32 paid members and surviving spouses for the calendar year 2024 and to date we have less than 15 paid members for 2025. Additionally, participation by current members in the Chapter's luncheons and other activities has declined significantly. At our monthly luncheons we rarely have 20 attendees most of whom are Board members and spouses. At our 50th Anniversary luncheon this past February we had 26 attendees, sixteen of whom were Board members and spouses. Our efforts to recruit new members to serve in any capacity on our Board have also been unsuccessful. Many of our Board members have been in their positions or other Chapter leadership positions for over 10 years and they have been ready to hand over their responsibilities to a new cadre of leaders. During many Board meetings the most important discussion item has been the viability of continuing the operation of the Superstition Mountain Chapter.

With the facts listed above, and in accordance with National MOAA Bylaws and the Superstition Mountain Chapter Bylaws, the Board of Directors made the very difficult decision to cease operations of the Superstition Mountain Chapter effective May 31, 2025. This decision was not made lightly nor without consideration of the effect it will have on our chapter members and the activities we sponsor. The Board consulted with other Arizona MOAA chapters and discovered many of them are in a similar situation regarding membership and participation in chapter events. However, given the extent of our decline in membership and lack of participation, it became clear that the chapter could no longer continue as it has.

There are specific requirements in the National MOAA Bylaws and in the Superstition Mountain Bylaws for closing a chapter. Those requirements and the methods by which the chapter will comply with them are listed below.

- Notify National MOAA of the closure of the Chapter- Greg Moore, President
- Notify the Arizona Council of Chapter of our decision- Greg Moore, President
- Notify the Arizona Corporation Commission-Tom Ralph, Treasurer
- Notify the IRS-Tom Ralph, Treasurer
- Dispose of chapter assets-Board of Directors. See paragraph below. (Cont'd.)

(Cont'd.)

Chapter assets will be distributed in accordance with the instructions in the Bylaws of National MOAA and the Bylaws of the Superstition Mountain Chapter. Distribution will only be made after all Chapter liabilities have been met and resolved. Redistribution of Chapter assets to chapter members is prohibited under IRS rules. The Board will meet as needed throughout this summer to finalize the resolution of Chapter liabilities and determine where our remaining assets will be distributed. We expect to have these actions completed by September 2025 at which time the Board will notify Chapter members of our decisions in a special edition of the Newsletter. This newsletter will also contain information for members who desire to join an existing MOAA chapter within Arizona. The Chapter will close all operations on December 31, 2025.

The Superstition Mountain Chapter of MOAA was founded over 50 years ago and has been a source of fellowship, camaraderie, and outreach support for active-duty personnel, veterans, and members during those years. As a Charter member of the Superstition Mountain Chapter, it is with great sadness that I am writing this letter to you. However, considering the great difficulties facing the Chapter, it has become obvious that continuing operations were not feasible. Thank you for your support and understanding as we go through this difficult period.

Sincerely yours, Gregory L. Moore, 1LT, USA- Ret., Chapter President



VP Auxiliary/Surviving Spouse

Judy Bushko

Hello!

I look forward to seeing you at the Luncheon on April 19th.

Judy

Superstition Mountain Chapter-MOAA

Members Luncheon Meeting Saturday April 19th, 2025

12:00 Noon Social - 1:00 pm Lunch

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

Menu

\$30.00 per person

*Chicken Parmesan-lightly breaded,
with Marinara Sauce and Mozzarella

Buttered Pasta - Roasted Vegetables

Caesar Salad,
with Parmesan cheese and Croutons

Rolls and Butter

Iced Tea and Coffee

Dessert

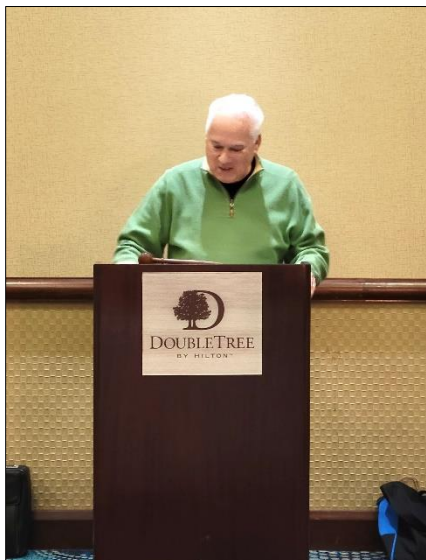
Tiramisu Mini Cakes

Reservations by Sunday, April 13 , 2025

to John Bushko:

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

March Luncheon Photos!



Speaker, Ron Meeks



Ron Meeks and Meredith Moore



Meredith and Greg Moore



Greg Moore and Ron Meeks



Ralph and Melanie Ralph



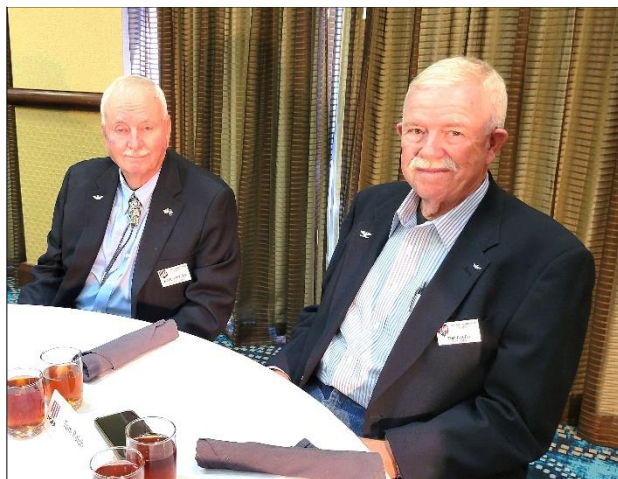
Tom Ralph, Karl Pfitzer, John Bushko and Arlan Allen



John and Judy Bushko



Meredith Moore and Judy Bushko
Bill and Lesley Baran



Karl Pfitzer and Tom Ralph



Sheryl Mauldin and Melanie Ralph



Arlan and Peggy Allen

Rebecca Schmidt and Marie Shadden



Lou Bates and Rebecca Schmidt



Marie Shadden and Sheryl Mauldin



Roddy Charlton, Rebecca Schmidt, Marie Shadden

April Congratulations!



MEMBER

Larry R. Pucci	1
Barbara Austin	11
Thomas L. Ralph	15
Shirley Bohn	16

SPOUSE

Melodie Fogelsanger	15
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ANNIVERSARY

George B. and Jo Meegan	22
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Chair Report

1st Vice President/Programs

LTC John Bushko, USAF (Ret)

Greetings everyone,

Our Luncheon this month will be on April 19th. Our menu will be Chicken Parmesan, lightly breaded, and topped with Marinara sauce and Parmesan cheese, Roasted vegetables, and Buttered pasta, Caesar Salad with Parmesan cheese and croutons, Rolls and butter, and Iced Tea and Coffee. Dessert will be Tiramisu Mini Cakes.

Hope to see you there!

John

Please remember to contact me about luncheon reservations on or before March 9th.

My email is jabushko@earthlink.net, text me at 614-204-0413.



Legislative
Bob Grierson

Spring Greetings to the Superstition Mountain Chapter.

Last month I 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. Fortunately, that has been rectified. Last year we had three focus areas, this year, we have five. They are:

12. Improving unaccompanied housing to support readiness and quality of life | Write Your Lawmakers Today 2. Advancing the report Ending the Wait for Toxic-Exposed Veterans to ensure timely delivery of earned benefits | Write Your Lawmakers Today 3. Passing the Military Spouse Hiring Act to expand employment opportunities | Write Your Lawmakers Today 4. Enhancing stability and accountability in the military health system | Share Your Story With MOAA 5. Improving caregiving support for families of veterans | Write Your Lawmakers Today

This year, MOAA's five issues are for members to bring to lawmakers this month and beyond. Click each item to download an issue paper covering the topic in full. And call your congressman and senator.

Now you may be asking what happened to the Major Star Act which we all expected to be passed last year. In spite of the overwhelming support in both houses of congress, it never made it to a vote on the floor. On a positive note, it has been reintroduced this year for consideration. It has new bill numbers, and it is getting new sponsors.

The Star Act still enjoys bipartisan support, with 185 cosponsors in the House and 43 in the Senate as of March 18.

MOAA and our veterans service community partners are working diligently to increase this support. It is imperative that we obtain as much engagement as possible so that this critical piece of legislation can cross the finish line.

The legislation (S. 1032 | H.R. 2102) addresses a long-standing and unjust offset by authorizing concurrent receipt of DoD retired pay and VA disability for those injured in a combat zone and forced to medically retire. "This measure corrects one of the deepest injustices in our present veterans' disability system," said Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.), who introduced the bill in his chamber. "It is unacceptable that tens of thousands of combat-injured veterans are denied the full military benefits they earned. Our bipartisan bill will right this longstanding injustice and finally provide these military retirees who have already sacrificed so much their full VA disability and Defense Department retirement payments."

Legislative Action Center MOAA has rolling out new campaigns via the Legislative Action Center, allowing you to contact your legislators with just a few clicks. Whether you are new to the platform or a seasoned user, registering ensures you are prepared to support our campaigns.

On to state issues. As I have covered since January, quite a bit has been put forward in the State House and Senate. Our state council of chapters has zeroed in on several bills they are asking for your support in getting passed. They are:

- HB2672: Property tax exemptions for 100% disabled veterans – Still no action in the Senate Committees
- SB1155: Ensures pay and income tax equity for members of the U.S. Public Health Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. – Still no posted action from the Senate committees
- SB1704: Authorizes the use of Veteran Donation Fund monies to support Arizona State Veterans Homes. – "Do Pass" from the House Federalism, Military Affairs & Elections committee on 3/10, no action in House Appropriations or Rules committees
- SB1021: Grants in-state tuition to contracted ROTC cadets at state universities. – "Do Pass" from the House Appropriations committee, no action in the House Rules committee

We will see how they fare in the upcoming months.

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)

2025 SMC MOAA ROTC JROTC Awards Program

#	School & Affiliation	Ceremony Date/Time	School Addresses	Presenter	Sr ROTC/JROTC Instructor & Contact Numbers
1. **	ASU: USA, USN, USAF, USMC, USSF	Pending per Rachael Lamb, Jan 16, 2025. Mar. 21, 25; Email Rachael, requesting date, time, and place for their ceremony.	Army/Air Force ROTC Arizona State University	1LT Greg Moore	Rachael Vee Lamb Senior Business Operations Specialist Army/Air Force ROTC Arizona State University Rachael Lamb rachael.duncan@asu.edu O: 480-965-0782 / 480-965-3181
2. **	Apache JCT. USN	Mon, Apr 7, 2025 @ 1700Hrs. Apache JCT HS Performing Arts Center (PAC)	APACHE JUNCTION H. S. NJROTC 2525 S. Ironwood Drive Apache Junction, AZ 85120		Norvin C. Deleon Guerrero, MgySgt USMC (Ret) ndeleong@goaj.org O: 480-982-1110, EXT: 5399 Guerrero C: 747-275-6188
3. ** *	Mesa, USAF	Fri, Apr 11, 2025, @1800Hrs. HS Auditorium	MESA HIGH SCHOOL 1630 E. Southern Ave Mesa, AZ. 85204		Mark D. Caldwell MSgt (ret), USAF Aerospace Science Instructor mcaldwell@mpsaz.org O: 480-472-5889 / 480-472-5900
4. **	Queen Creek, USA	Wed, Apr 23, 2025, @ 1030Hrs. QC HS Performing Arts	QUEEN CREEK H. S. 22149 E Ocotillo Rd Queen Creek, AZ 85142 Attn: JROTC	Ted Konfederak, COL ®, USA Life Member MOAA	SFC (Ret) John Biggs jbiggs@qcusd.org O: 480-987-5973
5. ** *	Higley, USAF	Wed, Apr 23, 2025 @ 1830Hrs. Williams Field HS Auditorium 2076 S. Higley Rd Gilbert, AZ 85295	HIGLEY HIGH SCHOOL 4068 East Pecos Road, Gilbert, AZ 85295		David Scott Vaughn, Col, USAF (Ret) Senior AFJROTC Instructor David.Vaughn@husd.org O: 480-279-7429 C: 813-810-4831
6. **	Dobson, USAF	Fri, APR 25, 2025 @ 1745Hrs. Annual Awards Banquet @ HS Cafeteria	DOBSON HIGH SCHOOL 1501 W Guadalupe Rd Mesa 85202	1LT Greg Moore	LTC Anthony Kusek arkusek@mpaz.org SMSgt (Ret) Stephen Tkach III sjtkach@mpsaz.org O: 480-472-3055
7. **	Chandler, USAF	Mon, APR 28, 2025 @1830Hrs. Chandler Center for the Arts	CHANDLER HIGH SCHOOL AFJROTC 350 N. Arizona Ave Chandler, AZ. 85225	John & Judy Bushko	MSgt (Ret) Scott Goodson Commandant of Cadets Goodson.Scott@cusd80.com O: 480-224-3987 / 480-812-7700

2025 SMC MOAA ROTC JROTC Awards Program

8. **	Basha, USAF	Fri, May 2, 2025 @ 1500Hrs. Basha HS Auditorium	BASHA HIGH SCHOOL AFJROTC 5990 S Val Vista Dr Chandler, AZ 85249	Arlan & Peggy Allen	Clifford B. Stansell, Col (Ret), USAF Senior Aerospace Science Instructor stansell.clifford@cusd80.com O: 480-224-2294
9. ** *	Red Mountain, USA	Fri, May 2, 2025 @1800Hrs. Red Mountain H.S. Auditorium	RED MOUNTAIN H. S. 7301 E. Brown Rd Mesa, AZ. 85207	1LT Greg Moore	MAJ ® Olga Cortez Senior Army Instructor olcortez@mpsaz.org O: 480-472-8150
10. **	Campo Verde, USAF	Mon, May 5, 2025 @ 1800Hrs. HS Cafeteria	CAMPO VERDE H. S. 3870 S. Quartz St. Gilbert, AZ. 85297		Steve Wood, Lt Col (Ret), USAF stephen.wood@gilbertschools.net O: 480-545-3100
11. **	Gilbert, USAF	Mon, May 5, 2025 @ 1700Hrs. Gilbert HS Auditorium	GILBERT HIGH SCHOOL 1101 E. Elliot Rd. Gilbert, AZ. 85234		Elwin Longnion, MSgt (Ret), USAF elwin.longnion@gilbertschools.net Awards POC: Cadet LT Col DeShane Tullie drtullie@gilbertschools.net O: 480-497-0177 EXT: 5066/5064
12. **	Hamilton, USAF	Tues, May 6, 2025 @ 1800Hrs. Hamilton HS Auditorium	HAMILTON HIGH SCHOOL 3700 S. Arizona Ave Chandler, AZ 85248		Daniel L. Kline, Lt Col (Ret), USAF Senior Aerospace Science Instructor, AFJROTC kline.daniel@cusd80.com MSgt (Ret) Fred Driver driver.fred@cusd80.com O: 480-883-5207
13. **	Skyline, USA	Fri, May 9, 2025 @ 1700Hrs. HS Auditorium	SKYLINE HIGH SCHOOL 845 S. Crismon Rd Mesa, AZ. 85208	1LT Greg Moore	COL® Geoff Stevens JROTC Senior Army Instructor gdstevens@mpsaz.org O: 480-472-9571
14. **	Globe, USA NOTE: UPS Awards 3/24/25	Reminder email on Feb 5, 2025. Responded to email. No date set per SFC Lyons	GLOBE HIGH SCHOOL, JROTC 437 S. High St Globe, AZ. 85501		SFC (Ret) Tony Lyons Senior Army Instructor tony.lyons@globeschools.org O: 928-402-6102 ext. 6125
15. **	Marcos De Niza, USA	Reminder email on Feb 5, 2025	MARCOS De NIZA H. S. 6000 S Lakeshore Dr. Tempe, AZ. 85283		MAJ (Ret) Robert Fore rfore@tuhsd.k12.az.us O: 480-838-3200
16. **	Maricopa, USAF NOTE: UPS Awards 3/24/25	Reminder email on Feb 5, 2025	MARICOPA HIGH SCHOOL 45012 W. Honeycutt Ave Maricopa, AZ. 85139		Lt Col (Ret) Allen Kirksey akirkseyjr@musd20.org CMSgt (Ret) Scott Burton sburton@musd20.org O: 520-568-5100 ext. 4182

2025 SMC MOAA ROTC JROTC Awards Program

17. **	Westwood, USAF	Reminder email on Feb 5, 2025	WESTWOOD HIGH SCHOOL 945 W. Rio Salado Pkwy Mesa, Az. 85201	1LT Greg Moore	Lt Col (Ret) Joe Abel jdabel@mpsaz.org O: 480-472-4400
Current on: Saturday, March 22, 2025 P= Presenter or School Has Awards Package *= Have Awardee Names **= Sent Letter to ROTC/JROTC Programs					

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 2025

Please print name _____

My National MOAA Number _____

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

Chapter Board Meeting	Chapter Auxiliary	Chapter Member/Guest
Chompie's, behind Chandler Fashion Center		Luncheon Meetings
April 8, 2025 9:30am	-	April 19, 2025 12 Noon Social - 1:00pm lunch



“Life is not fair.
Get over it!”

...Life-long adage of Marlene Fox

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



The Bicentennial of “The Shot Heard ‘Round the World” which occurred on April 19, 1775, coincides with our Luncheon date this year! Enjoy a quick review.

Having been forewarned by the colonists’ excellent line of communications, that General Gage and his men were on their way from Boston, the men of Lexington, Massachusetts hid their store of military arms. When General Gage arrived, 77 minutemen were armed and waiting for him on Lexington Green. A skirmish ensued. It is not established who fired first, but the colonists claimed that it was a British soldier. After a short battle, in which 8 colonists were killed and ten were wounded, there was little more resistance, Gen. Gage moved on to Concord to find any arms being amassed by colonists.

New Englanders quickly solidified their speculation that independence from England was a necessity. The Revolutionary War had begun.

At Concord, because of the warning of men like Paul Revere, most of the military supplies were hidden or destroyed in anticipation of General Gage’s arrival. At Concord’s North Bridge, 400 patriots confronted the British party, which withdrew because of the number of the crowd. As they marched back to Boston, they were attacked on every side in guerilla warfare by farmers and snipers all along the way from barns and the woods. Meanwhile, over 15,000 New Englanders gathered, and joined the Patriots in the “Siege of Boston”, and the newly formed Continental Army surrounded the 6,500 British soldiers in a siege.

Newsletter Editors

Peggy Allen and Paula Anderer

Newsletter Contact: paulaanderer10@gmail.com

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)

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and other organizations in your area.