



The Sentinel



Arizona's First Chapter

THE ARIZONA CHAPTER, P.O. Box 7644, Cave Creek, AZ 85327

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CHARTERED IN 1956 - OVER 40 YEARS OF SERVICE TO COUNTRY

FEBRUARY 2003

President's Message

These are the first words that I have written this year - so- "HAPPY NEW YEAR!" I want to wish each Chapter member the Very Best for '2003'.

This year has started out to be very busy for MOAA affairs. I traveled to Yuma to attend the Yuma chapter's dinner on the night of January 15 and then capped it off with a Council of Chapters meeting there on the 16th. Both meetings were very informative.



A discussion item of primary importance was the State MOAA convention which was scheduled to be held November 9 - 11 at the Poco Diablo Resort in Sedona, AZ. This year's convention has been cancelled and will hopefully be rescheduled for 2005. We will keep you updated on this important event as more information is received.

Another item of much interest was the theft of personal data from TriWest. The theft only involved active duty military personnel that had used TriCare; retired military that were on TriCare Prime; and those that turned 65 after 1 January 1999 and had been on TriCare Prime. All effected personnel have been notified by letter and apprised of what steps to take to protect themselves. At our January meeting two people indicated they had received the notification letter. We will continue to pass on any information that we receive. If anybody received a letter from TriWest that wasn't at the January luncheon, please give me a call at (480) 595-8693, so that we can discuss it and I can add you to the database that I am building. If you have any questions, I will try and get them answered through my contact in Tucson.

A volunteer has stepped forward to fill the 1st Vice President position - Col Gary Fredricks USAF (Ret) who recently joined the Chapter. Thanks Gary, I know it will be a pleasure to work with you. The Chapter still needs a volunteer for the Membership Chairman's position. I am having trouble fitting that into my

schedule along with everything else.

A gentle reminder to all that February 14 is Valentine's Day. Don't forget!

Happy Valentine's Day!

God Bless America And God Bless each of you.

Ronald R. Green

LtCol USAF (Ret), President, Arizona Chapter, MOAA

Scholarship/Awards Committee

The Scholarship program is on track for another successful year. Application forms were mailed in December to each of the sixteen high schools for which we claim responsibility. On January 2 we mailed letters to each of the high schools with the criteria for the award of the JROTC Recognition Ribbon and Medal. Now that we are in the last half of the school year we can expect some activity toward selecting recipients of both the scholarship money and the Recognition Medals. Plan on being tapped to serve on the Scholarship Selection Committee or the Award Presenters list. If you have strong desires to serve in either capacity, just let me know.

Arthur Parker & Richard Horn Scholarship/Awards

Membership

Currently the Chapter has 158 members including 41 Auxiliaries. Fifty-four year 2002 members have yet to renew for 2003. Unsure if you paid your dues for 2003? If an 02 follows your name on the mailing label of your newsletter, you are urged to fill out the enclosed renewal form and send it to Bill Johnson. If you know of someone who is not a member but fits our member profile, pass the information along to the membership chairman.

Ron Green, Membership

Chapter Name Change

Just a reminder that as of 1 January our chapter is officially The Arizona Chapter, Military Officers Association of America (MOAA). It appears that most people are using the term Military Officers Association in conversation rather than MOAA. The masthead on the printed newsletter will not change until the September issue.

Arizona Chapter Calendar

Feb 6

BOD Meeting

Feb 14

St. Valentine's Day

Sinking of USS

Maine 1898

Feb 17

President's Day

Feb 20

Luncheon Meeting

Feb 23

Flag Raising Mt.

Suribachi 1945

Feb 24

Operation Desert

Storm 1991

Mar 6

BOD Meeting

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Officers

SUPPORT OUR TROOPS — REMEMBER OUR FALLEN COMRADES — FLY YOUR FLAG

108th Congress Kicks Off New Bills

With the start of the new Congress, legislators have begun offering a stream of new bills. Here is a list of selected bills of interest to MOAA members, many of which are carryovers from last year's unenacted initiatives:

***H.R. 303** (Bilirakis, R-FL) would eliminate the disability offset to military retired pay for all retirees with 20 or more years of service.

***H.J. Res. 3** (Thomas, R-CA) would prevent implementation of planned March 1 reductions in Medicare reimbursement rates. It would freeze Medicare payments at the higher 2002 levels until Congress can change the flawed rate formula.

***H.R. 26** (Cardin, D-MD) would reverse planned Medicare payment cuts and implement a schedule for yearly increases in the rate of Medicare reimbursements to providers.

***H.R. 36** (Bilirakis, R-FL) would allow qualifying survivors over age 55 to retain Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) if they remarry after the age of 55. Currently, they must forfeit that compensation if they remarry at any age.

***S. 19** (Daschle, D-SD) would authorize full concurrent receipt; restore tax equity for military homeowners and drilling Reservists; establish a mandatory funding mechanism for the VA health care system; and permit prescriptions from non-VA providers to be filled at VA pharmacies. NOTE: S. 19 is not intended as a vehicle for legislative action, but as a statement of the Democratic leadership's support for these initiatives in the 108th Congress. The individual provisions of S. 19 will be introduced as separate bills, and we'll list the separate bills on MOAA's Web site.

***S. 55** (Johnson, D-SD) would tie the yearly rate of Montgomery GI Bill Assistance to the cost of attending a public college or university.

***S. 58** (Johnson, D-SD) and **H.R. 56** (Edwards, D-TX) would allow military retirees to enroll in the Federal Employees Health Benefit Plan (FEHBP) as an alternative to TRICARE. Retirees who entered service before June 7, 1956 would be exempt from paying FEHBP premiums.

We anticipate imminent introduction of bills on other MOAA-supported issues, including Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) upgrades, health care improvements for under-65 beneficiaries, and active-duty pay and benefit increases. [Source: MOAA's Legislative Update 1-17-03]

Air Traveler Rights if Bumped

Although the number of involuntary bumpings (when someone is forced against their will to miss a flight because it is overbooked) is down slightly, it still happens with regularity. If you do not want to get bumped here are

some helpful hints:

- *. Make sure to get a seat assignment when you purchase your ticket.
- *. Check in early, at least no later than the time specified by the airline.
- *. Airlines don't owe you anything if you fail to comply with their check-in time.
- *. Board the airplane when your row is called. Airlines must ask for volunteers before they involuntarily bump someone, so make sure the flight attendants have asked for volunteers before you give up your seat. If you are bumped involuntarily you are owed nothing if your new flight gets you to your original destination less than one hour from the original scheduled arrival time. For destination arrival time delays of 1 to 2 hours on domestic flights (1 to 4 on international), you're owed the face value of the ticket for that segment of the flight from which you were bumped, or \$200 whichever is less. For longer delays, you're owed double the one-way fare or \$400, whichever is greater.

[Source: MOAA Member Services Update for June 02]

Grandparents

- The simplest toy, on which even the youngest child can operate, is called a grandparent... *Sam Levenson*
- Admission: My life was organized until I became a grandparent.
- The grandparents' job is to give their grandchildren roots and wings.
- A grandparent must recognize the value of generational continuity.
- Nothing is harder on a grandparent than watching a grandchild being corrected.
- Nobody can do for little children what grandparents can do. Grandparents sort of sprinkle dust over the lives of little children... *Alex Haley*
- A grandfather is a man-grandmother.

Nautical Trivia

Sally Ship. "Sally ship" was not a ship but a method of loosening a vessel that ran aground from the mud holding her fast. In the days before sophisticated navigation equipment, ships ran aground much more often than today. A grounded ship could be freed with little or no hull damage if she could be rocked out of her muddy predicament.

To free her, the order was given to "sally ship". The crew gathered in a line along one side and then ran from port to starboard and back and forth until the vessel began to roll. Often the rolling broke the mud's suction and she could be pulled free and gotten underway.

Passing Honors. Passing honors are ordered by ships and boats when vessels, embarked officials, or embarked officers pass (or are passed) close aboard - 600 yards for ships, 400 yards for boats. Such honors are exchanged between ships of the U.S. Navy, between ships of the Navy and the Coast Guard, and between U.S. and most foreign navy ships passing close aboard. "Attention" is sounded, and the hand salute is rendered by all persons in view on deck (not in ranks).

ARIZONA VETERAN REGISTRY

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' SERVICES and the ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' SERVICES ADVISORY COMMISSION

Ask that you register with the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services. There are over 500,000 veterans in this state; we are dedicated to uniting the veterans of Arizona, which will make a difference for all Veterans of America. The information you provide will not be sold or used for any other purpose than the Veteran Registry and for approved Veterans Service Organizations to benefit all veterans. Thank you in advance for your participation in the Arizona Veteran Registry, we ask for your help in distributing the registration to other veterans.

Mail or Fax your registration to Arizona Department of Veterans' Services, c/o Registry – Joan Sisco.

Think of the Power We Can Wield and the Difference We Can Make In the Lives of Veterans

Peacetime____ WWII____ Korea____ Vietnam____ Gulf____ Enduring Freedom____
Other_____ Purple Heart Recipient yes____ no____

Branch of Service: _____ From _____ To: _____

Name: _____ Female__ Male__

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone Home: _____ Work: _____

Fax: _____ Cell: _____

Email: _____ Other: _____

Organizational Affiliation, if any: _____

How did you learn about ADVS Registry: _____

Comments/Concerns: _____

Date put into data base: _____ By: _____ Comments: _____

Buying a Veteran License Plate will put \$17.00 of the \$25.00 fee into the Arizona Veterans Donation Fund.

We invite you to visit our web site at www.azvets.com and use our "on-line" registration or mail this form to:
Arizona Dept. of Veterans' Services, 3225 N. Central Ave. Suite 910, Phoenix, AZ 85012
Tele: 602-225-3373 Fax: 602-255-1038

New MOAA Name Tags

Many people are ordering new nametags sporting the new MOAA logo. If you would like a new Name Tag, order forms are available at each Chapter meeting. It is requested that you pay for them (\$5) when ordering so if something prevents you from attending the next meeting they can be mailed to you.

Addresses

Just a reminder to please keep the membership chairman and the newsletter editor updated on your current mailing address, e-mail address, and telephone number.

Correction To January Issue

The Silent Auction in December netted just over \$2000. There was a \$100 donation from Bill Toy and Domenic Varricchico, and the \$1500 donation from Lexus came much earlier in 2002.

TAPS

If you know of any member or member's spouse who enters the hospital or passes away, please notify one of the Chapter Officers.

February Dinner Meeting

WHEN: 20 February 2003
6:30PM Social Period
7:00PM Dinner

WHERE: Best Western Executive Park Hotel
1100 N. Central Avenue
Phoenix, Arizona

COST: \$17.00 Per Person

MENU: Garden Salad
Honey Mustard Chicken
Rice Medley
Steamed Vegetables
Warm Rolls with Butter
Carrot Cake
Coffee & Iced Tea

PROGRAM: CWO Jody Reidenhour, Arizona National Guard The topic will be "My Administrative Duties".

Please make your reservations early and send your check to Bill Johnson using the Meal/Meeting Reservation Form in this newsletter. **Jim Seidl Programs**

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CHAPTER FINANCIAL PARTICIPATION

If you would like to make a donation to one or more of the AZ Chapter Funds or renew your chapter membership, include your check identified as the appropriate fund and mail to: Bill Johnson, 13410 N. 12th Place, Phoenix, AZ 85022-4944.

Membership Renewal: \$ 20 Full Member: _____ \$10 Auxiliary Member: _____
50th Anniversary Fund: \$ _____, General Fund: \$ _____, Scholarship Fund: \$ _____

* It is OK to identify me as a donor in the next newsletter. YES _____ NO _____

Name Full Member: _____ Auxiliary Member: _____

MEAL / MEETING RESERVATION FORM

Please reserve _____ spaces for (Name) _____

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ (\$17.00 per person) for **20 February 2003**
Make check payable to: **AZ Chapter MOAA** No Later Than: **13 February 2003**
Send to Bill Johnson, 13410 North 12th Place, Phoenix, AZ 85022-4944. Phone 602-689-5379

