



The Sentinel

Arizona's First Chapter



The Arizona Chapter, 15403 E. Sunburst Drive, Fountain Hills, Arizona 85268

MAY 2004

CHARTERED IN 1956 - OVER 48 YEARS OF SERVICE TO COUNTRY

EDITOR: Terry Tassin



President's Message

Congratulations and many thanks go to Terry Tassin and Tom Houser. The AZ

Chapter has been notified of the following 2003 Communication Awards from National MOAA for a Category II (200-499 members) Chapter:

- *The Sentinel* - Editor, Terry Tassin - Winner for Electronic Newsletter.
- *The Sentinel* - Editor, Terry Tassin - 1st Runner-up for Printed Newsletter.
- AZ Chapter Website - Web Master, Tom Houser - Winner.

These are very significant achievements for which the entire Chapter membership can truly be proud. I'm sure that you all join me in congratulating Terry and Tom for a job exceptionally well done and in thanking them for the significant time, effort and expertise it took to achieve these results.

Last month I promised to provide you with a Chapter Survey/Questionnaire to help us determine what you like about the Chapter and what we can do better or differently to meet your needs and desires. That survey is provided later on in this edition of the *Sentinel*. We have tried to keep it simple so that you only need to check the boxes or circle the best responses but have also provided room for specific comments if you wish to make them. Particularly in checking the boxes, please make sure you let us know what you don't like real well or what doesn't work well for you, in addition to what you do like. Then, all you have to do is detach the two-sided page, fold it in half so that the address is visible, tape the ends together, place a stamp on it and mail it. Your Board of directors will use your responses to tailor

Chapter activities for the foreseeable future just as they did for the last survey some four years ago. If we don't hear from you, we will not know how to better serve your needs.

HELP WANTED! Our Chapter is in great need of help on our Membership Committee. Our previous Membership Committee Chairman, Paul Fein, has done a magnificent job, but constraints from his business activities no longer allow him time to continue as chairman and he has asked for relief. We not only need a Chairperson, by also two or three folks to serve on the committee. The Membership Committee is one of our most important committees and works directly with our Board of Directors (BOD) to retain existing members and to recruit new ones. It is the responsibility of the Membership Committee to take the lead in developing Chapter strategies and plans for both recruiting (retired, active, guard, reserve, auxiliary) and retention. We want to make sure that every eligible person (regular and auxiliary) within our area knows about us and what we have to offer and that every existing member knows how important they are to the Chapter. We have expertise on our Chapter BOD to help out as well as some existing protocol to assist the committee, but really need some dedicated folks to provide the necessary focus. If you are at all interested in helping us in this vital function, either as Chairperson or member, please contact me or one of the other BOD members at your earliest convenience.

Our next General Membership meeting is, for me, the highlight of the year. Again this year we will be providing \$1000 scholarships to five outstanding young men and women who are graduating from

high school in the Phoenix area. These five young people along with their parents and JROTC leaders will be joining us for lunch and scholarship presentations at the McCormick Ranch Golf Club on Armed Forces Day, May 15. Please make every effort to join us and to make these young people welcome. For those of you who can join us before the luncheon, Chuck Schluter has arranged a bonus. That would be a private viewing of a classic car collection which you will find more about elsewhere in the *Sentinel*. Oh by the way, our Spring Golf Outing, which helps provide funding for our scholarships, is May 1 at the Rolling Hills Golf Course. I also hope to see you for that fun and worthwhile day as well.

— Gary Fredricks

Half Staff: The Meaning of Memorial Day

Memorial Day, May 30 (traditional) or May 31 (this year's Congressional designation) is a day of "National Mourning." All U.S. Flags should be displayed at half-staff during the morning hours. At noon, they should be raised back to full-staff.

It's a sacred day to all war veterans: None need to be reminded of the reason why Memorial Day must be commemorated. But what about the general public and more importantly, future generations? Do most non-veterans really recognize the importance of Memorial Day?



Arizona Chapter Calendar

May 1

- Golf Tournament Rolling Hills GC

May 6

- BOD Meeting 1:30, American Legion 107

May 15

- Auto Tour
- General luncheon meeting and Scholarship Presentations

June 3

- BOD Meeting 1:30, American Legion 107

June 17

- General Dinner Meeting 6:30 p.m.

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

Chaplain's Corner

"Merciful Lord, we beseech thee to cast thy bright beams of light upon thy believers, that it being illumined by the doctrine of thy blessed Apostle and Evangelist Saint John, may so walk in the light of thy truth, that it may at length attain to life everlasting; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen"

—*Robert Rutherford, Chaplain*

Why Remember? Sacrifice is meaningless without remembrance. America's collective consciousness demands that all citizens be aware of and recall on special occasions the deaths of their fellow countrymen during wartime.

Far too often, the nation as a whole takes for granted the freedoms all Americans enjoy. Those freedoms were paid for with the lives of others few of us actually knew. That's why they are all collectively remembered on one special day.

This should be regarded as a civic obligation, for this is a national debt that can only be truly repaid by individual Americans. By honoring the nation's war dead, we preserve their memory and thus their service and sacrifice.

Remember Memorial Day

How Do We Remember? Means of paying tribute vary. Pausing for a few moments of personal silence is available to everyone. Attending commemorative ceremonies is the most visible way of demonstrating remembrance: placing flags at gravesites, marching in parades, and dedicating memorials are examples. Whether done individually or collectively, it is the thought that counts. Personal as well as public acts of remembering are the idea. Public displays of patriotism are essential if the notion of remembering our war dead is to be instilled in the

New Members

Welcome to new Chapter members since the last newsletter

MAJ Douglas Patt USA (Ret) and wife Vivian

355 E. Wildwood Dr, Phoenix, AZ 85048, (480) 283-2111, E-mail: pattdc@hotmail.com

Please take the opportunity to meet our new members at the next meeting.

Membership

Currently the AZ Chapter has 179 members including, 46 auxiliary members and 6 new members for 2004.



Calling All Veterans

A Celebration of Veterans & You're Invited For All Veterans & Their Families

America West Arena
Saturday, May 29, 2004, 11 AM - 1 PM



Free Admission ** & Free Parking ***

- ◆ Come celebrate your service to country with your family and join fellow Veterans for the "First Annual Calling All Veterans" event.
- ◆ This is a celebration and a coming together of all Veterans and will include a live feed of President George W. Bush from Washington, D.C. at the World War II Memorial Service.
- ◆ There will be entertainment, music, celebrities, and thousands of Veterans like you.
- ◆ Find out about Veterans benefits and services available.

For Tickets and Information Call - - 602-248-1552

***"Free Admission" - Must have an event ticket to attend.

***Free parking only at City of Phoenix garages - Must have event ticket for free parking.

young.

"Strewing with flowers or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion" became a tradition with the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR), the Union veterans organization that made honoring Civil War dead a civic duty for all citizens. Until 1882, the practice of placing flowers at gravesites was known as Decoration Day.

This of those who, in Lincoln's words "gave the last full measure of devotion," and you have some idea of the price of liberty. It has been a terrible price to pay if freedom fails, but a small price indeed if the world can eventually be free.

New York was the first state - in 1873 - to legalize May 30. By 1890, all northern states had followed suit.

Until the National Holiday Act of 1971 (P.L. 90-363), Memorial Day was observed each May 30.

Changing the date merely to create three-day weekends has undermined the very meaning of the day. No doubt, this has contributed greatly to the general public's nonchalant observance of Memorial Day.

Perhaps the most profound tribute of all was made on the first national memorial observance in May 1868 by then - General James A. Garfield when he said: "They summed up and perfected, by one supreme act, the highest virtues of men

and citizens. For love of country they accepted death, and thus resolved all doubts, and made immortal their patriotism and virtue." [Source: VFW Veterans News May/June 2003]

Its Classic Car Time!

As mentioned in our February Sentinel, we have a rare opportunity to visit an extremely nice, informal collection of relatively old, rare and classic automobiles. **Mark the calendar now! 15 May 2004, 1000 Hrs.** Be there!

Barry Briskman and his lovely wife Sharon have invited us to wander through their eclectic collection of rolling history on **Armed Forces Day 2004.** The "doors" will open at 1000 hrs and we'll have more than enough time to enjoy their warm hospitality before we head off to recognize the recipients of our 2004 JROTC scholarship awards.

As previously mentioned Barry is simply a *nice guy* who has a *nice garage*, and somehow over the years, he simply picked up "this and that" - and rarely got rid of anything? So, if you are fond of classic chrome, beautiful coachwork, or automobiles that reflect the evolution of society - then plan to join us.

The eclectic collection includes signs, hood ornaments, books, model automobiles and loads of memorabilia. But the cars are the stars. My favorites

Newsletter Advertising

If you or a business/organization known to you wishes to place an ad in *The Sentinel* please contact the Editor for details. Advertisements will be priced according to size in multiples that approximate standard business card dimensions. Proceeds from advertisements help defray cost of preparing the newsletter. Advertising costs are:

<u>Size</u>	<u>Annual</u>	<u>Quarterly</u>	<u>Impact Ad</u>
Single Card	\$80	\$25	\$15
Double Card	\$160	\$50	\$30
Quadruple Card	\$320	\$100	\$60

include an extremely rare 1952 Betone bodied Arnolt MG TD, a very large and gorgeous 1935 Packard Opera Coupe, and a 1927 LaSalle phaeton. More than a dozen cars are gathered, some are family treasures (his dad's 56' Buick), another is a beautiful Packard with custom coachwork by Brunn (serial number 2, chassis number 1, or vice versa) that is nearing completion. A recent addition is a graceful Lagonda that promises to be a lot of fun for Barry and Sharon.

They also have a rare Packard Woody and the license plate simply reads, "Sliver". Barry has also earned quite a reputation in certain other circles too, so although to the local guys he's just "one of us", he has also been a judge at the famous Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance in CA. Not much of a surprise, because coincidentally, his exceptional and very rare 1937 MG SA "Charlesworth" Tourer has also been to Pebble Beach too, where it rolled away with top honors. But the best part, no matter what – Barry simply continues to be a quiet, candid artisan who is most comfortable amongst a few timeless automobiles and a bunch regular folks.

Mark your calendar – and let me know if you plan to be there. Call Chuck at his home 480-563-8480. Classy Cars for this Chapter's Classy folks, and I want to make sure that I have enough Krispy Kremes and coffee to go round.

Directions to Barry and Sharon Briskman: **8423 East Thunderbird Road, Scottsdale, AZ 85260.** I recommend you access Barry's address by heading north from Cactus Road. From Cactus, go north on N. 84th Street until you reach E. Thunderbird. Turn right (east), and make another right (south) onto 85th Street. Park your car and walk right in!

After the tour the route to the luncheon meeting is: West on Thunderbird to Hayden Road, left (south) on Hayden Road for 4.8 miles then right (west) on E. McCormick Pkwy for 1 mile and that should get you to the McCormick Ranch Golf Club.

If you get lost, call Chuck that day on his cell phone **480-695-5147** for further directions.

May Luncheon Meeting
Saturday, 15 May -
McCormick Ranch Golf Club

The next Chapter meeting is set for

"The greatest good we can do our country is to heal its party divisions and make them one people."
 --Thomas Jefferson

Saturday, 15 May at McCormick Ranch Golf Club. Bring a friend to our meeting and introduce them to a great group of people. The meeting will start with a social time at 11:30 a.m., with lunch served at 12:00 Noon. The reservation form is located on page 9 of this newsletter along with a description of the meal. The deadline for reservations to reach Bill Johnson is 10 May. Come join us for food and comradeship.

Some future Chapter meeting dates are listed here for your planning purposes. Please put them on your calendar as a reminder!

- BOD Meeting* - 3 Jun - Post 107
- Dinner* - 17 Jun - Sunshine Hotel
- BOD Meeting* - 2 Sep - Post 107
- Lunch Meeting* - 18 Sep-McCormick Ranch

 **Legislative Spotlight**
 [Source: The Affiliate May 04]

Edwards Launches SBP Discharge Petition: On March 30, MOAA's Chairman of the Board Adm. Jerry Johnson, USN-Ret., joined House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.), Rep. Chet Edwards (D-Texas), and Rep. Bob Filner (D-Calif.) at a press conference announcing the launch of Edwards' discharge petition to force a vote on H.R. 548. H.R. 548 is Rep. Jeff Miller's (R-Fla.) bill to phase out the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) age-62 annuity reduction over five years.

Citing the success of Rep. Jim Marshall's (D-Ga.) concurrent receipt discharge petition last year, Pelosi said a similar strategy is necessary this year for SBP. While the House-approved resolution includes a nominal SBP reserve fund, she noted that House Budget Committee leaders left the fund empty

Fund Donations

One person's generous gift will help strengthen America's future through supporting the education of our youth. Since the last newsletter generous donations have been received for the

General Fund:
 None

50th Anniversary Fund:
Chet Baumer \$20

Scholarship Fund:
 None

Our thanks to all contributors on behalf of all future beneficiaries of the Chapter Funds.

while defeating Edwards' amendment to provide real budget authority.

Edwards used even stronger words. "Reducing survivor benefits to those whose spouses have served their nation in the armed services is an insult," he said. "As an original cosponsor of Representative Miller's bill, I support his efforts and join my colleagues and The Military Coalition in working to completely eliminate this discriminatory practice. If just 218 of the [304] cosponsors of H.R. 548 will sign the discharge petition, we can respect the sacrifices of our military widows with our deeds, not just our words."

A discharge petition is a means of forcing a bill out of a committee to the House floor for a vote. A majority of House members (218 of 435) must sign the petition for this to happen. The practical effect of a discharge petition is to exert pressure for enactment of a bill with a large number of cosponsors that has continued to languish without action. The real vehicle for legislative action on SBP is the FY 2005 Defense

A Few Good Men
by Art Parker, JROTC Awards

Below are listed the members who have volunteered to represent our Chapter at JROTC awards ceremonies this year. If you have difficulties making your presentation date, immediately let Arthur Parker (602) 997-7913 know you will be unavailable.

School	Date	Time	Presenter
Sunnyslope HS	22-Apr	7:00 PM	Art Parker
Carl Hayden HS	28-Apr	6:30 PM	Bill Adams
North HS	28-Apr	6:00 PM	Harry Farenga
Central HS	01-May	7:00 PM	Ron Green
Cortez HS	03-May	6:00 PM	Art Parker
Apollo HS	04-May	7:00 PM	Terry Tassin
South Mountain HS	05-May	6:30 PM	Bernie Conway
Greenway HS	05-May	7:00 PM	Raymond Deane
Cactus HS	06-May	6:30 PM	Chuck Schluter
Moon Valley HS	06-May	7:00 PM	James Gallo
Alhambra HS	07-May	6:30 PM	Frank Birtciel
Glendale HS	11-May	7:00 PM	Terry Tassin
Deer Valley HS	11-May	7:00 PM	Chester Baumer
Shadow Mountain	11-May	6:00 PM	Bill McCollum
Camelback HS	12-May	7:00 PM	Gary Fredricks
Thunderbird HS	12-May	7:00 PM	Ron Green

"Speech delivery counts for little on the world stage unless you have convictions and, yes, the vision to see beyond the front row seats. The Democrats may remember their lines, but how quickly they forget the lessons of the past. I have witnessed five major wars in my lifetime, and I know how swiftly storm clouds can gather on a peaceful horizon. The next time a Saddam Hussein takes over a Kuwait, or North Korea brandishes a nuclear weapon, will we be ready to respond? In the end it all comes down to leadership. That is what this country is looking for now. It was leadership here at home that gave us strong American influence abroad and the collapse of imperial communism. Great nations have responsibilities to lead, and we should always be cautious of those who would lower our profile, because they might just wind up lowering our flag."
--Ronald Reagan

Authorization Bill, which armed services committee members will be drafting in late April and early May.

Johnson's press conference remarks expressed his hope of a positive resolution on SBP this year. "This is not a partisan issue," he said. "A majority of Democrats and Republicans alike are already SBP cosponsors. Fifty of the 61 members of the armed services committee are cosponsors. So we have plenty of support, if those supporters will just back their words with real action.

"We're grateful to Leader Pelosi and Representative Edwards for working to make SBP a leadership priority. We hope all House members will sign this discharge petition. But our hope is that the armed services committee will put an SBP fix in the defense authorization bill and make the discharge petition a moot issue."

That's the key point. The Bush administration opposes any SBP fix, so we expect there will be great leadership pressure on House Republicans not to sign the discharge petition.

For the 50 cosponsors on the armed services committee (and for budget committee leaders who established the SBP reserve fund), the way to back up their stated support is to put the fix in the defense bill.

All chapter members are urged to contact their representatives in support of Edwards' SBP discharge petition. Use the "Sign SBP Discharge Petition" Action Alert at <http://capwiz.com/moaa/home> to send an e-mail or use MOAA's Capitol Hill hot line, (877) 762-8762, to call your representative's office. With 349 representatives on record as cosponsors of H.R. 548 and/or H.R. 3763, we have every reason to expect real legislative

action, not just words of support. But we need a barrage of grassroots input to ensure they have plenty of incentive to finish SBP reform this year.

Senate Paid-Up SBP Bill Introduced

On March 9, Sen. Jon Corzine (D-N.J.) introduced S. 2177, a bill that would implement 30-year paid-up Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) coverage on Oct. 1, 2004, rather than the current 2008 effective date. This represents an important step forward in MOAA's effort to win equity for retirees who enrolled in SBP during the first few years of the program's existence. For the first time, we have a Senate champion on this issue and companion legislation to Rep. Jim Saxton's (R-N.J.) H.R. 1653.

In 1998, MOAA and our partners in The Military Coalition were successful in winning legislation to allow long-term SBP enrollees to stop paying premiums, while retaining SBP coverage, after having paid premiums for at least 30 years. However, for cost reasons, legislators pushed the implementation date to Oct. 1, 2008. This arbitrary effective date inadvertently discriminated against thousands of older retirees who enrolled during the first six years of SBP's existence (1972-78).

MOAA strongly supports this legislation, and will work for its enactment. Visit <http://capwiz.com/moaa/issues/bills/?bill=5347021> to send an MOAA-prepared message urging your senators to cosponsor S-2177.

SBP Actions Speak Louder Than Words

[Source: MOAA legislative update, 23 April 04]

In about 10 days, the House Armed Services Committee will start drafting the FY2005 Defense Authorization Bill, which will be the vehicle for any Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) fix enacted this year.

On the surface, it would seem a no-brainer that the Committee will support phasing out the "SBP widows tax" that cuts most military survivors' SBP annuities by one-third when they attain age 62.

After all, 352 of 440 House members have cosponsored one or both of Rep. Jeff Miller's (R-FL) SBP bills (H.R. 548 and H.R. 3763), including 50 of the 61 members of the House Armed Services Committee. We also have a pledge from Budget Committee Chairman Jim Nussle (R-IA) that he'll help find the money to pay for a fix.

The fly in the ointment is that the Administration has been arguing against any SBP fix, even though the cost is relatively small. As we learned last year

"How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving and tolerant of the weak and strong. Because someday in life you will have been all of these." --George Washington Carver

in the concurrent receipt battle, that can weaken the spine of legislators who say they're on the widows' side.

That's why MOAA and The Military Coalition placed ads this week and next week in National Journal's Congress Daily AM, a publication with wide distribution on Capitol Hill. The major headlines of the ad read, "House Armed Services Committee Members: It's Time to End the 'SBP Widows Tax'...Actions Speak Louder than Words."

You can view the ad on MOAA's Web site at:

<http://www.moaa.org/Legislative/SBP/CongressDailyAMAd.pdf>.

But the thing that will turn the tide is a barrage of grassroots inputs to remind legislators that we expect them to make good on their statements of support. Cosponsorship is meaningless unless they're willing to back it up with action when it counts.

Please use the "Put SBP in Defense Bill" alert on MOAA's Web site (<http://capwiz.com/moaa/home/>) to send your legislators this important message, and follow up with a phone call to their offices via MOAA's toll-free Capitol Hill Hot Line (1-877-762-8762). Just ask the Capitol operator to connect you to your legislator's office.

Storming the Hill, March 2004

*by Daniel M. Conway,
President AZ Council of Chapters MOAA*

The annual MOAA Storming the Hill in Washington DC was held on March 25 with emphasis on legislation to improve retiree survivor benefits. Specific legislation discussed included house bills H.R. 548 and H.R. 3763 and senate bills S. 1916 and S. 451 which we now call the "Widows Tax". Dan Conway, President of the Arizona Council, and Chuck Schluter Vice President of the Arizona Council were assigned as a team and met with the entire Arizona Delegation with the Congressmen and/or their military legislative assistants. We

"If the Conservative is less anxious than his Liberal brethren to increase Social Security 'benefits,' it is because he is more anxious than his Liberal brethren that people be free throughout their lives to spend their earnings when and as they see fit." --Barry Goldwater

ARIZONA CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP SURVEY (#2)

Summer 2004

The Board of Directors of the Arizona Chapter of MOAA requests your participation in this Survey. Please take a few moments to help us better serve you. A Chapter can only be successful if it satisfies the expectations and needs of its members while also inviting new members. Your cooperation is important; candid feedback is essential. Signatures are not necessary – survey replies are! For questions call Gary Fredricks at (480) 836-8419.

For the following questions, please check the box that best corresponds to your preference for each item. Add any comments you wish after “Other.”

- | | Most | Some | Little | None |
|---|------|------|--------|------|
| 1. I value AZ Chapter membership because: | | | | |
| a. Desire to remain involved and informed | | | | |
| b. Camaraderie and friendship | | | | |
| c. Sentinel - Chapter newspaper | | | | |
| d. Scholarship program | | | | |
| e. Entertainment | | | | |
| f. TOPS and networking | | | | |
| g. Desire for relevant legislative info (state/federal) | | | | |
| h. Other: _____ | | | | |
| 2. I prefer contact and communication through: | | | | |
| a. Monthly meetings | | | | |
| b. Monthly Sentinel by U.S. Mail | | | | |
| c. Monthly Sentinel by E-mail | | | | |
| d. Chapter Web Site | | | | |
| e. Other _____ | | | | |
| f. _____ | | | | |
| 3. For meetings, I prefer: | | | | |
| a. Breakfast meetings | | | | |
| b. Luncheon meetings | | | | |
| c. Dinner meetings | | | | |
| d. Alternate luncheon and dinner | | | | |
| e. Picnics | | | | |
| f. Recreation (golf/ballgame) | | | | |
| g. Weekday activity | | | | |
| h. Weekend activity | | | | |
| i. Daytime activity | | | | |
| j. Evening activity | | | | |
| k. Other: _____ | | | | |
| 4. At meetings, I prefer: | | | | |
| a. Current events speaker | | | | |
| b. Military topics | | | | |
| c. Business topics | | | | |
| d. Local topics | | | | |
| e. Legislative updates | | | | |
| f. Entertainment | | | | |
| g. Good mix of the above | | | | |
| h. Other _____ | | | | |
| 5. I find it difficult to attend meetings because: | | | | |
| a. Work constraints | | | | |
| b. Other time constraints | | | | |
| c. Transportation issues | | | | |
| d. Distance | | | | |
| e. No interest in meetings | | | | |
| f. Other: _____ | | | | |

For the following questions, please circle the appropriate response and/or fill in the blanks.

- 6. I prefer meetings that are held in (West Phoenix/West Valley) (Central Phoenix) (North Phoenix) (East Phoenix/Scottsdale) (Mix) (No Preference).
- 7. I would be willing to participate in the following Chapter activities: (Board of Directors Officer) (Membership Committee) (Legislative Committee) (Personal Affairs Committee) (Public Affairs Committee) (Morale Committee) (50th Anniversary Committee) (Scholarship Committee) (JROTC Awards Committee) (Programs Committee) (Ad Hoc Committees).

I am willing and my name is: _____.

8. I can give someone from my neighborhood a ride to meetings (Yes) (No). If Yes, my name is: _____.

9. I would like a ride to meetings (Yes) (No). If Yes, my name is: _____.

10. I would like to see the following changes to the Sentinel: _____

11. I would like to see the following changes to the Chapter meetings: _____

Fold pages in half with this side out. Place this page on the outside. Tape together. Place a stamp in the upper right corner of the bottom half of this page and place in the mail. Thanks.

FOLD -----FOLD

AZ Chapter MOAA
15403 E. Sunburst Dr
Fountain Hills, AZ 85268

Stamp
Here

AZ Chapter MOAA
15403 E. Sunburst Dr
Fountain Hills, AZ 85268

met personally with Senator Kyl and Representatives Grijalva, Hayworth, and Renzi, with photo ops with Senator McCain and Representative Kolbe.

All in all the meetings were very positive. Senator Kyl and Representatives Flake and Shadegg have financial concerns, but are sympathetic to the current inequity. The only non-believer is Representative Kolbe. His legislative assistant is a hard sell, but did admit that Representative Kolbe is receiving a significant amount of mail on the issue. It is important to keep up the mailing effort in his District.

All in all, MOAA is very optimistic about SPB legislation being passed this year. The big problem with all of the present bills is the phase-in period which varies from 5 to 10 years.

The day following the Storming activities was dedicated to a Council Presidents Seminar. Two upcoming activities stressed were the National Convention in Nashville on October 14 - 16 2004. Attendees are responsible for their own expenses at the Convention. It should be a great event. One point to consider is that Southwest flies non-stop from Phoenix. For those who will admit their age, the senior citizen rate is quite reasonable.

The other event is the Council and Chapters Seminar to be held September 30 through October 2, 2004 in South Lake Tahoe. All Arizona Chapter Presidents, incoming Presidents, and Personnel Affairs Chairmen will be invited. MOAA will pick up the costs of representatives and their Spouses. The only costs not covered are for transportation. Possibly the Chapters could pick up some of the transportation costs. Each Chapter is urged to participate in this activity at the maximum level. This might mean appointing a dedicated Personnel Affairs Chairman to better serve the MOAA Chapter membership.

There was an individual opportunity to review Chapter Awards grading. The application form is included as Appendix J of the new Council and Chapter Handbook. For the subjective scoring, it is especially important to include a concise narrative of the activity. No Photos, CD's or VCR Tapes. Last year, Yuma was the only Arizona Chapter to be recognized for this award. It is hoped that several more Chapters will be successful in the future.

MOAA Benefits Info Update April 2004

CHAMPVA Policy Extended - Under the Civilian Health and Medical Program

of the department of Veteran Affairs (CHAMPVA), some remarried surviving spouses of veterans have until Dec 16, 2004 to apply for reinstatement. This extension applies to CHAMPVA-eligible spouses who remarry after a veteran's death. Previously the surviving spouse lost access to CHAMPVA benefits if they remarried before their 55th birthday and before Feb 4, 2003. To be eligible for CHAMPVA, people must be family members of veterans who have a permanent and totally service-connected disability, who died of a service-connected condition, or who was totally disabled from a service-connected condition at the time of death. For further information go to:

<http://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel>.

TAMP Offers Transitional TRICARE Coverage

- The 2004 National Defense Authorization Act authorized three new temporary provisions that enhance eligible Guard/Reserve access to TRICARE medical and dental benefits. The Department of Defense announced plans to implement the new provisions under its "2004 Temporary Reserve Health Benefit Program." Eligibility for some of the new temporary TRICARE enhancements began Nov. 6, 2003, and ends for all on Dec. 31, 2004. Updates on the three temporary programs for Reserve Component families are posted to the TRICARE Web site at <http://www.tricare.osd.mil> and the Reserve Affairs Web site at <http://www.defenselink.mil/ra/>.

Stateside Space-A Travel Extended

The one-year test to expand space-available travel privileges to family members of active-duty and retired service members traveling within the continental United States has been extended until further notice. This does not apply to "grey-area retirees" who are retired but not yet eligible for retired pay and benefits. The family members are able to travel space-A aboard military flights when accompanied by their sponsors. To register for space-A travel, active-duty sponsors must be on leave or a pass and remain in that status while awaiting travel and through the entire travel period. Space-A travel information is available at

<http://public.amc.af.mil/SPACEA/spacea.htm>.

Air Force Retiree News April 2004

New Commissary Newsletter Keeps Customers Connected --

Staying connected to your commissary benefit is now just a click away. Commissary Connection, a customer

newsletter delivered via e-mail, is launching in late April but shoppers can sign up now at

<http://www.commissaries.com>.

"Commissary Connection will be a fairly informal newsletter," said Kaye Kennedy, chief of corporate communications for the Defense Commissary Agency. "We're planning to send it out only when we have significant news to communicate to customers," said Kennedy.

"We already work with military newspapers, television, radio and various military news services to get the word out to customers. Commissary news is also available on our Web site, and many commissaries have a store newsletter they send out locally. Commissary Connection is simply another tool to proactively communicate with customers and keep them informed of what's happening in commissaries."

Commissary Connection will keep customers abreast of news about promotions and sales - even offering links to manufacturer and vendor sites where they can enter shopping sprees and contests, or sign up for commercial newsletters. The newsletter will be delivered from a mailbox at CommissaryConnection@deca.mil and signup is through a link on the front page of the commissary web site.

Shoppers are not required to give any personal information when they sign up. "All people have to do to subscribe is give us an e-mail address," said Kennedy. "We take privacy issues very seriously and we don't collect information on our customers. We also wanted to keep the process simple." Subscribers will receive a welcoming e-mail when they sign up. The first edition of Commissary Connection won't go out until the end of April, giving shoppers time to sign up and catch the first issue.

2004 Chapter Scholarship Recipients

The following students will be honored and presented their \$1000 scholarships at the May luncheon meeting. The student's parents and senior military instructors will also be present. Please come and meet and greet them and make them feel welcome.

Joshua J. Freitas	Cactus AFJROTC
Johnathan Gilman	Deer Valley AFJROTC
Marina L. Hernandez	Central AJROTC
Timothy W. Maas	Thunderbird NJROTC
Sharon Preiss	Carl Hayden AJROTC

Raffle Winners

Congratulations to the following members who were winners in the

"50/50" raffle held at the April meeting: Raymond Deane, Dolly Blecick and Mike Gannon.

Memorial Day 2004 Service

The Chapter has again signed up for its Color Guard to participate in the Memorial Day ceremony beginning at 8:00 AM on Monday, May 31 at the National Cemetery on Cave Creek Road. The Arizona Council of Chapters will also be participating in the wreath ceremony. This is always a very nice ceremony paying tribute to those veterans who have died. All Chapter members are urged to attend.

Chapter 50th Anniversary

ATTENTION ALL CHAPTER MEMBERS: Since our Chapter's 50th Anniversary celebration will take place in 2006, we need to start contributing now to the Anniversary Fund. Whenever you have a little extra discretionary money available give it to the Treasurer for deposit in the Anniversary Account. Check the box on the form in this newsletter at the bottom of page 9, clip it out and send your contribution to the Chapter Treasurer, Bill Johnson.

Free National and Chapter Memberships

One of the most popular questions

MOAA receives concerns what we have come to call the "chapter freebie program." This program really is quite simple. Any Chapter recruiting a new officer into its ranks (that is, an officer who has never before been a member of national MOAA), can offer that officer a free one-year membership in the national organization as a bonus. It's that simple. Join the Chapter and receive a free one-year membership to national MOAA - no strings attached.

This program has been in existence for more than five years and, based on the great results it has produced, it will continue indefinitely.

Our Chapter has been so delighted with recruiting results we have additionally taken to offering a free one-year Chapter membership - a two for one deal! Now you can't beat that! If you have a candidate for the "chapter freebie program" call our Membership Chairman or Chapter Secretary Terry Tassin a call.

Website Streamlines Benefits Search
[Source: DAV Mag Apr 2004]

All of the government benefits and assistance in the world won't make a difference to those who are eligible if they cannot access the required information and applications.

Harnessing the internet and related technology as tools to bring the government closer to the people, an

unprecedented collaboration among federal agencies and organizations, led to the creation of a one-stop resource for finding government benefit programs.

Officially launched in the spring of 2002, the GovBenefits.gov allows users to fill out a brief questionnaire that will screen them for eligibility for more than 417 federal benefit programs. Simplicity and effectiveness were the designers' primary concern, according to Dennis Gusty, GovBenefits program manager.

"It's your government. We feel this site should be available to anyone," Gusty said. "With that in mind, we set out to make sure the site is easy to use and readily accessible."

"What we have done is simply made a one-stop source for all of this information, as well as a site that links the user to the program or benefit online." Gusty said.

For disabled veterans, GovBenefits can shorten the often frustrating distance between eligibility and compensation. The site includes links and eligibility screening for more than 70 veterans benefits programs, including Direct Loans for Disabled Veterans, the Disabled Veterans Outreach Program and Local Veterans Employment Representative Program.

A second phase of the website is in the works, that will provide online applications for each benefit in order to streamline the application process. For more information, go to www.govbenefits.gov.

Getting Those Well-Deserved Medals

Requests for the issuance or replacement of medals, decorations and awards should be directed to the specific branch of the military in which the veteran served. See the chart below for the appropriate addresses based on military service.

SERVICE	WHERE TO WRITE FOR MEDALS DOCUMENTATION	WHERE MEDALS ARE MAILED FROM	WHERE TO WRITE IN CASE OF APPEAL OR PROBLEM
ARMY	National Personnel Records Center Medals Section (NRPMA-M) 9700 Page Avenue St. Louis, MO 63132-5100	U.S. Army Soldier and Biological Chemical Command, IMMC Soldier Systems Directorate 700 Robbins Avenue, P.O. Box 57997 Philadelphia, PA 19111-7997	Commander PERSCOM Attn: TAPC-PDO-PA 200 Stovall Street Alexandria, VA 22332-0471
AIR FORCE	National Personnel Records Center Air Force Reference Branch (NRPMF) 9700 Page Avenue St. Louis, MO 63132-5100	Headquarters Air Force Personnel Center AFPC/DPPPR 550 C Street West, Suite 12 Randolph AFB, TX 78150-4714	Headquarters Air Force Personnel Center AFPC/DPPPR 550 C Street West, Suite 12 Randolph AFB, TX 78150-4714
NAVY	Bureau of Naval Personnel Liaison Office, Room 5409 9700 Page Avenue St. Louis, MO 63132-5100	Bureau of Naval Personnel Liaison Office, Room 5409 9700 Page Avenue St. Louis, MO 63132-5100	Chief of Naval Operations (OPNAV 09B33) Awards and Special Projects Washington, DC 20350-2000
MARINE CORPS	Bureau of Naval Personnel Liaison Office, Room 5409 9700 Page Avenue St. Louis, MO 63132-5100	Bureau of Naval Personnel Liaison Office, Room 5409 9700 Page Avenue St. Louis, MO 63132-5100	Commandant of the Marine Corps Military Awards Branch 3280 Russell Road Quantico, VA 22134-5100
COAST GUARD	Bureau of Naval Personnel Liaison Office, Room 5409 9700 Page Avenue St. Louis, MO 63132-5100	Bureau of Naval Personnel Liaison Office, Room 5409 9700 Page Avenue St. Louis, MO 63132-5100	Commandant U.S. Coast Guard Medals and Awards Branch, (PMP4) Washington, DC 20593-0001

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May Luncheon Meeting

WHEN: 15 May 2004
11:30 a.m. Social Period
12:00 Noon Lunch

WHERE: McCormick Ranch Golf Club
7505 McCormick Parkway
Scottsdale, Arizona

COST: \$16.00 - Per Person

MENU: Tossed Salad w/Dressing
Oriental Beef Pepper Steak w/Steamed Rice
Fresh Vegetable Medley
Fresh Breads and Butter
Strawberry Shortcake
Coffee & Iced Tea

PROGRAM: Annual JROTC Scholarship Awards Presentation. Classic automobile tour before the luncheon - see article in newsletter.

Please make your reservations early and send your check to Bill Johnson using the Meal / Meeting Reservation Form.

-- Jim Seidl, Programs

TAPS




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

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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 North 12th Place, Phoenix, AZ 85022-4944.**

Membership Renewal: \$ 20 Full Member: _____ \$10 Auxiliary Member: _____

50th Anniversary Fund: \$ _____

Scholarship Fund: \$ _____ **General 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 _____ meals for (Name) _____

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ (**\$16.00** per person) for **15 May 2004.**

Make check payable to: AZ Chapter MOAA **No Later Than: 10 May 2004**

Send to: Bill Johnson, 13410 North 12th Place, Phoenix, AZ 85022-4944. Phone 602-689-5379

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Access Arizona Chapter's Internet Web Site at: <http://www.azchaptermoaa.org>

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