

President's Perspective

by Ron Bright



I hope everyone had a great summer hiatus and you're eager to renew friendships, make new friends, and march on through the rest of 2018.

Since the end of May, there have been a number of events that I will mention to bring you current. There have been two socials (Arizona Diamondbacks baseball game and the Amazon Distribution Center tour) which were very well attended. We are indebted to Jim Cullison for arranging the baseball outings. Chuck Schluter and Bruce Kosaveach arranged the Amazon Tour.

The MOAA Arizona Council of Chapters held their semiannual meeting where we were presented 5-Star awards for our newsletter and website. The National MOAA event planner came to Phoenix to begin planning the National MOAA Members' Meeting to be held on November 1. We also learned this month that we received another Level of Excellence 5-Star Chapter Award for 2017 which will be presented at a

banquet on November 1 to kick off the National Meeting. Save the date for a grand evening of dining and dancing at the Arizona Grand Resort in Phoenix.

Our summer recruiting efforts have begun to bear fruit and a \$250 award from MOAA for membership retention is in the bank. Thanks to our membership team of Dave Price and Lee Lange in their follow-up persistence.

Going Forward: September is nominating month for our 2019 Chapter Officer positions and Committee Chairs. The effort is being lead by First Vice President Mike Rogers. If you are interested in being considered for an elected office or committee chair, I urge you to step forward. Your contribution of time and talent is vital to the health of the Chapter and will be gratefully appreciated.

The September fifteenth luncheon is shaping up as a special day you won't want to miss. Army Colonel Ross Poppenberger com-

mands the Yuma Proving Ground and promises an excellent program on the work being done there. In addition, there promises to be a good number of new members whom we can welcome and get to know and a very special birthday we will celebrate together.

There is also a sad note to relate. Jesse Gersten passed away on July 31 at home. His enormous presence in the Arizona Veteran's community and our Chapter will be missed greatly. Confined to his wheelchair in his later years, he stood taller than most of us for his commitment, leadership and indomitable spirit. Donna and I are proud to have known him. Our sincerest condolences go out to Shirley and the family.



Ron and Donna Bright placing MOAA Memorial wreath May 28, 2018

Arizona Chapter Calendar

Board of Directors meets at 1030 hours first Thursday of the month unless noted otherwise

Location: National Guard Regional Training Institute, 5636 E. McDowell Rd. Show ID for entry. Members welcome.

Upcoming meetings:

- Sept 6
- Oct 4

Member Meetings/ Luncheons are held on the third Saturday of the month, Social Hour at 1100, Luncheon at 1145, McCormick Ranch Golf Club unless noted otherwise. See Page 7

Upcoming meetings:

- Sept 15
- Oct 27

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- Picnic—Save Date
- Officers/Directors



**CHAPTER LUNCHEON
SEPTEMBER 15**

**Yuma Proving Ground's Economic and Military
Impact on Arizona and its Mission and
Accomplishments**

Colonel Ross Poppenberger, the Commander at U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground is an Army Acquisition Corps Officer and a basic branch Engineer Officer.



COL Poppenberger was raised in Roseville, MN and graduated from Flagstaff High School in Flagstaff. He began military service in 1989 as an enlisted soldier in the 1/180th Field Artillery Bn, Mesa, Arizona, prior to his commissioning in 1994 from Arizona State University.

COL Poppenberger holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Business from Arizona State University. Additionally, he holds a Masters of Arts in National Security and Strategic Studies from the Naval War College and a Masters of Business Administration degree with emphasis in Acquisition and Procurement from Webster University.

COL Poppenberger's awards and decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal (2OLC), Meritorious Service Medal (3OLC), Army Commendation Medal (3 OLC), Army Achievement Medal (3 OLC), Iraq and Afghanistan Campaign Metals and the Airborne badge.

His two children are Jack, 18, and Morgan, 14.

McCormick Ranch Golf Club - REGISTRATION must be received by 4:00 p.m. Tuesday, September 11, \$25 per person. Make check payable to: AZ Chapter MOAA and mail to: Charlie Bitner, 134 E. Northview Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85020. 602-943-0028 or Charles.bitner@gmail.com

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

**LCDR/DR JIM CASTLEBERRY, USCG
(RET)**

CDR EDWARD COTTER, JR, USN (RET)

BRIG GEN DON D HARVEL, USAF (RET)

COL MARK S HOLLAND, USAF (RET)

COL LAREN TARBET, USA (RET)



The Sentinel newsletter is published by the Arizona Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA). MOAA and its affiliate chapters and councils are non-partisan.



Dr. Eduardo Pagan, ASU history professor, shared his thoughts with chapter members on **The Meaning of Memorial Day** at May’s meeting. He first addressed the Armageddon that was WW I and led to the observance of Memorial Day. He then talked about the meaning of **Memorial Day** to Americans.

WWI was a true Armageddon as modern technology caused unimagined casualties. Great carnage ensued with over 5,000 soldiers killed every day for a total of 9 million lost. Seven million civilians died and 15 million people went missing. The Great War destroyed the faith of a generation in reason, the rule of law and moral leadership. Famine and depression followed, setting the stage for fascism and ultimately another world war. Names of Americans killed in WW I are etched in monuments across the nation. We hope our leaders take time to read the names of the fallen before deciding to send more Americans into harm’s way. But as terrible as WW I was it did not kill hope. There is still hope that 100 years later we can have peace in the world.

Memorial Day is a special day to honor all those who have died in the defense of our nation. We honor ordinary citizens who did extraordinary things to defend freedom. They paid the ultimate price and deserve our respect. We have always depended on our citizens to defend our constitution – citizen soldiers vice a large standing military. Democracy is only as strong as the willingness of those to step up and do the work required to defend the nation. Core values built on selfless service define our nation. We must pray for our leaders as we

Photos — Left: Dr Pagan , Center and Right: AZ MOAA Color Guard at National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona Ceremony, May 28, 2018. Members were Lee Lange, Jim Cullison, Dave Boyd and Mike Rogers.

Dr. Pagan (cont.) ...

live in unstable world and we will no doubt need to fight for our freedoms again and again.

In closing, chapter president Ron Bright noted that many of our chapter members have answered the call to defend the nation and now enjoy the freedoms brought by that service.

TAPS

With deep regret we announce the passing of our long-time member:

LTJG Jesse Gersten, USN
May 7, 1930—July 30, 2018

Our heartfelt condolences are extended to Shirley and the family.

TAPS

We recently learned of the passing of MOAA Legacy member:

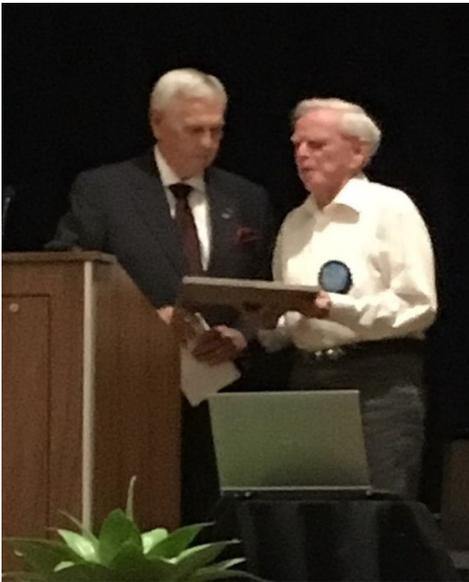
1st Lt Robert W Stimming, USAF (Ret)
April 26, 1920—October 17, 2017

We extend our heartfelt condolences to the family

Governor Doug Ducey congratulates Archie Kelley on his 100th Birthday July 31, 2018 at Sagewood



President Ron Bright presents MOAA Plaque to Archie Kelley



Right: On August 23, 15 chapter members visited the Amazon Fulfillment Center in Phoenix for a guided tour. Thanks to everyone for coming out to join us! The tour was very enlightening and now we have a better idea of how our Amazon orders are processed. There are 2,500 employees working 24/7 in the facility with over 1.35 million square feet. Our member found out Amazon offers great benefits and has made a big commitment to veterans and Reserve/National Guard hiring.

MOAA SUMMER of 2018

Diamondbacks Game July 1



Pete Berger and Kathy Upchurch



Bernie and Judy Conway



Above Center: Jim Seidl celebrates his 99th Birthday with a party on August 31 at The Stratford



Lisa Guinn, our Amazon tour guide, did an outstanding job of keeping us all together and keeping the tour interesting at the same time.



National Legislative Update

by Lee Lange
Legislation Chairman

Legislative Update ... *continued*

Defense Authorization Bill Signed

This month's update is a summary of MOAA's legislative updates since the May Sentinel. The big news is that President Donald Trump signed the FY 2019 John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) into law Monday, August 13, in a ceremony at Fort Drum, N.Y. The last time Congress passed a defense bill this early was over 20 years ago with the FY 1997 NDAA. Highlights include;

- A 2.6 percent increase in basic pay for troops.
- \$11 billion for military construction, including family housing.
- Active duty end-strength increases over FY 2018 levels for each service to put them better in line to meet the requirements of the National Defense Strategy (485,741 in the Army, 331,900 in the Navy, 186,100 in the Marine Corps, and 325,720 in the Air Force).
- No increase to TRICARE fees.
- No reduction to the basic allowance for housing.

What's Next

Attention turns to the completion of the defense appropriations legislation, which will fund the policy directives and authorizations included in the FY 2019 NDAA. The two defense bills directly complement each other in the congressional budget and spending process, as the FY 2019 NDAA must be funded through the appropriations process under a separate appropriations bill.

Once Congress returns in September, pressure will intensify as lawmakers have about nine working days to act on passing a budget for the upcoming fiscal year.

Despite the president's talk of a government shutdown, some GOP leaders dismiss the possibility and signal lawmakers' intent to pass a series of spending bills before the midterm elections to prevent a lapse in funding for most of the federal government.

Indications are that the rapid progress made with the NDAA will continue during the defense

appropriations process. Congressional leadership has stated they aim to have the final legislation approved and signed into law by the president before the Oct. 1 start of the new fiscal year.

Where We Are Now

Members of the House, having finished their defense legislative work, are on August recess until after Labor Day. The House defense appropriations legislation H.R. 6157, sponsored by Rep. Kay Granger (R-Texas), chair of the House Appropriations Committee-Defense (HAC-D), was debated and then passed by the full House Thursday, June 28, by a vote of 359-49. The House bill approved \$674.6 billion in total defense spending.

The Senate returned to session the week of August 20 to continue work on their version of the defense appropriations legislation, sponsored by Sen. Richard Shelby (R-Ala.), chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee. Shelby also serves as the chair of the Senate Defense Appropriations Committee.

How You Can Help

The Senate continues to consider amendments to the appropriations legislation from its members. Senate leadership will bring the bill up for final vote. When passed, Senate Bill S. 3159 will be reconciled with the House version before going to the President for signature. You can help move the process forward by contacting your legislators at <http://takeaction.moaa.org/?0>

Click on "Find Your Elected Officials," enter your zip code in box to get started. Send a message to your elected officials urging passing Defense Appropriations Bill S. 3159.



**ALL OF US MOURN THE PASSING OF
SEN JOHN MCCAIN**

AUGUST 29, 1936—AUGUST 25, 2018

**REST IN PEACE JOHN MCCAIN.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE.**



Personal Affairs

By Lee Lange

Personal Affairs Officer

New TRICARE Dental and Vision Plan Coming Soon

A new TRICARE dental and vision insurance option for active duty military members and retirees is set to be offered starting January 1, 2019. This is the first time retirees will have a vision option. The new plan will be offered and administered through the Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP). This program currently has 3.3 million federal employees and family members enrolled and gets high marks for quality and value.

All TRICARE retirees and their families are eligible for both the dental insurance and the vision coverage. Active duty military families are only eligible for the vision coverage.

The FEDVIP dental program of offerings will replace the existing TRICARE Retiree Dental Plan (TRDP), which is currently provided through Delta Dental. That program will sunset Dec. 31, 2018. The retiree dental plan and the new addition of a vision plan will allow beneficiaries to select from among 10 dental and four vision carriers with a variety of benefit options.

Key Facts

Eligible beneficiaries must choose their plan during TRICARE's open season, which is scheduled to be Nov. 12 - Dec. 10, 2018.

There will be no automatic transition for those beneficiaries currently enrolled in the TRICARE Retiree Dental Program. Beneficiaries will be required to enroll for coverage.

Enrollment and plan changes can only occur during the open season with the exceptions for those beneficiaries with qualifying life events (usually anything that necessitates a change in the DEERS system).

Many Options Available

Coverage under the new plan will include features such as no-waiting period for most dental services and no annual maximum benefit depending on choice of dental plans. For vision, features such as no deductible, no limit on LASIK will be offered by some of the available

Personal Affairs ...continued

brands for frames or contacts and discounts on LASIK will be offered by some of the available plans.

Beneficiaries are encouraged to start gathering pre-enrollment information through the website set up just for this program. The website, www.TRICARE.benefeds.com, is up and running now. There are several tools to help you decide which plan is best for you including FA-Q's, a plan comparison tool, numerous webinars and the ability to ask questions online. Please note that all plans posted on the website now are for 2018. The new 2019 plans will be posted in October. Expectations are that the new plans will be very similar.

MOAA is working on its own webinar, set for October 9. Watch your weekly MOAA national Newsletter and the Sentinel for more information on FEDVIP.

Pharmacy in Scottsdale

Our member, Jon Hitchcock, submitted the following:

There is a **Luke AFB Pharmacy** extension office located in **Old Town Scottsdale**. When calling Luke AFB for your pharmacy refills, select the **Scottsdale Pick-Up Center** for prescription pick up.

OPEN: Monday and Thursday
Closed 12-1 PM for Lunch

LOCATION: 7301 E 4th St Suite 7

PHONE: 480-882-5472

This would save a drive to Luke for prescriptions or refills. With Express Scripts charging more now for prescriptions, this could help many.

Keep Us Informed

Let us know when you change your phone number, address or e-mail so we can keep you in the loop with this newsletter and other chapter communications. Contact any chapter officer with your changes.

September Luncheon

WHEN: September 15, 2018
 11:00 am Meet & Greet Social Hour
 11:45 am Lunch

WHERE: McCormick Ranch Golf Club,
 Scottsdale

COST: \$25 Per Person reservation by
 9/11/2018

DRESS: Business Casual

MENU: Chicken Piccata, Herbed Rice Pilaf,
 Traditional Caesar Salad, Apple Pie

PROGRAM: Colonel Ross Poppenberger,
 Commander at U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground

Arizona Chapter 2018 Schedule of Meetings and Events

September
 Board Meeting on the 6th
 Luncheon on the 15th

October:
 Board Meeting on the 4th
 Picnic luncheon on the 27th

November:
 Board Meeting on the 1st
 Luncheon on the 17th

December:
 Board Meeting on the 6th
 Holiday Party on the 15th

TREASURER'S REPORT MAY 2018

From Pat Dale's report, the silent auction net and miscellaneous contributions, the Golf Tournament event netted the Scholarship Fund \$7,259.59. That nearly covered the outlays in scholarships this year (and would have more than covered the usual \$6,000 had we not changed the awards). That number returns the scholarship fund to \$27,485, the amount before taking out the \$7,500 for the 2018 awards. ~ Charlie Bitner

MAY GENERAL FUND DONATION

\$40 Mike Rogers—May Luncheon

MAY SCHOLARSHIP FUND RECEIPTS

\$7,259.59 Auction and Golf Tournament

MEAL/RESERVATION FORM

Please reserve _____ meals for (name): _____

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ (\$25.00/person) for the May 2018 luncheon. Make check payable to: **AZ Chapter MOAA** or pay by credit card at the luncheon. Send check to: **Charlie Bitner, 134 E. Northview Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85020, 602-943-0028, charles.bitner@gmail.com**

**Member reservations or call-ins WILL NOT be accepted after September 11
 Cancellations after September 11 will be charged and not refunded.**

CHAPTER FINANCIAL PARTICIPATION

If you would like to **make a donation** to one or more of the AZ Chapter Funds, include your check identified with the appropriate fund and mail to: **Charlie Bitner, 134 E. Northview Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85020, 602-943-0028, charles.bitner@gmail.com.**

General Fund: \$ _____ Scholarship Fund: \$ _____ [a 501(c)(3) charitable fund]

Name of Donor: _____

It's Almost Picnic Time

The weather will be cooling soon and that means the Arizona Chapter Annual Picnic is getting near.

Mark **Saturday, October 27**, on your calendar for the picnic BBQ. It will be held again at McCormick Stillman Railroad Park in Scottsdale.

Bring your appetite and a prospective member! Member cost is \$25 but prospects are FREE! Relax and enjoy the entertainment. See you in October!

The Arizona Chapter MOAA - 2018 Board of Directors and Committee Chairs					
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			CHAPLAIN	COL Daniel Butler, USA	480-352-2682
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				Col Lee Lange, Vice Chair	703-232-3609
			ARRANGEMENTS	Col Lee Lange, USMC	703-232-3609
			SCHOLARSHIPS	CAPT Jon Shawl, USN	602-999-8253
			TRANSITION LIAISON	CDR Jim Draper USN	480-483-7769
			WEBMASTER	COL Rob Welch USA	480-207-6446
			SHARE A RIDE	Vacant	

Access Arizona Chapter's Internet Web Site at: azmoaa.org

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