



# The Sentinel

Arizona's First Chapter  
The Military Officer's Association of America

The Arizona Chapter Scottsdale, AZ 85250



Summer 2023    CHARTERED Oct 1956    66 YEARS OF SERVICE TO COUNTRY    Stephen MacDonald, EDITOR

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## President's Perspective by Tom Sheets



This marks the half-way point of the three-month summer hiatus from our monthly luncheons. Unfortunately, there does not appear to be an accompanying hiatus to the June-July summer heat. As I write this, the Weather Channel says the next 10 days will be between 112 and 115 degrees every day!

July does, however, offer those of us braving out July in the area, three opportunities to get together.

- July 12th Happy Hour at Maggiano's
- July 19th Freedom isn't Free Packing Party at Sagewood
- July 30th D-backs baseball game versus the Seattle Mariners

Details for these events appear elsewhere in this Sentinel.

Those of you who could not make the May luncheon missed a very significant event. We had the honor of presenting MOAA's highest award for distinguished service—the Chairman's Award—to Colonel Lee Lange. Lee served at the MOAA Headquarters in Alexandria, Virginia for 13 years and in our Arizona Chapter for nearly another 10 years.

*(Continued on page 2)*



FEBRUARY 23,  
1929

US ARMY  
JUNE 14, 1775

US NAVY  
OCT 13, 1775

US MARINE  
CORPS  
NOV 10, 1775

US COAST  
GUARD  
AUG 14, 1790

US PUBLIC  
HEALTH  
SERVICE  
JAN 4, 1889

US AIR FORCE  
SEP 18, 1947

NATIONAL  
OCEANIC AND  
ATMOSPHERIC  
ADMINISTRATION  
OCT 3, 1970

US SPACE  
FORCE  
DEC 20, 2019

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**Renew Your Chapter Membership!**  
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## Chapter Membership

by Bob Fiegl, Chapter 1st VP  
and Membership Chair  
[Fieglr869@gmail.com](mailto:Fieglr869@gmail.com)

This will be a shorter article for our mid-summer edition because I assume most of our members are traveling or otherwise busy with great summer activities. So, just a few numbers about our chapter's membership. We have 173 members, 22 of whom are surviving spouses.

A warm welcome to our newest member, LtCol Arthur Villani, USAF Ret, and his wife Amy, who joined on July 4th!

The not so good news this month is ten of our former members were dropped from our chapter in June because they were 2 years in arrears for the payment of annual chapter dues. It really pained me to have to do that because many people work hard to recruit new members.

On the topic of dues – just a reminder that they are due to our treasurer, Charlie Bitner, in January and become delinquent on March 31st. It's troubling to me that we have 44 members who have yet to pay their 2023 membership dues; that's 25% of our members. I implore those of you who've allowed this to slip by you to please tend to this now.

Questions about your status? Email me at [Fieglr869@gmail.com](mailto:Fieglr869@gmail.com). We have to get this number down quickly. There are a number of methods to pay listed in this edition of the Sentinel. (See below!)

I'll hopefully see you at one of the upcoming summer events we have scheduled. Our next 3rd Saturday general membership meeting/luncheon at McCormick Ranch Golf Club will be on September 16th.

Wishing you a safe and fun summer and hopes that you'll be able to escape the Phoenix heat for a while!

Warm regards,  
Bob

## President's Perspective

*Continued from page 1*

The award is not just based on years of service, but for the value he has created and the outcomes he has produced.

Our next luncheon is September 16th at McCormick Ranch. I hope to see you there. Until then, stay cool, stay safe, and enjoy the summer.

Tom



### ARIZONA CHAPTER MOAA MEMBERSHIP DUES RENEWAL FORM

**2023 DUES are payable on JANUARY 1. Dues become DELINQUENT on March 1, 2023.**

If you become delinquent, you can still pay your Past Dues by completing your information below and send it with your check — **\$20/year for a Regular Member** or **\$10/year for a Surviving Spouse Member** payable to "AZ Chapter MOAA" and mail to: **Charlie Bitner, 134 E. Northview Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85020.**

Dues for 2022 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Dues for 2023 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Member OR Surviving Spouse Member \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make any CHANGES to your Contact Information below:**

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**[To Renew Online - Click Here!](#)**

## Legislative Update

by Lee Lange, Legislative Chair



### NDAAs Clears House and Senate Committees: What's In, and What's Next?

Both the House and Senate Armed Services committees advanced their versions of the FY 2024 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) last week – each containing provisions aligning with MOAA's legislative priorities in the 118th Congress.

This marks the 63rd consecutive year both committees have voted overwhelmingly in favor of advancing the NDAA – the House panel passed its bill 58-1 on June 21, and the Senate panel did so with a 24-1 vote June 23. Both considered hundreds of amendments during the markup process.

By way of review, the NDAA provides important authorizations to DoD that allows the Department to establish new policies and programs and to reauthorize programs set to expire. Later deliberations by the Appropriations Committee provide the appropriations to fund these authorizations.

Until Congress passes those bills, federal agencies, including those overseeing the eight uniformed services, lack the authorizations and funding needed for the annual military pay raise, quality health care coverage, and quality-of-life programs for servicemembers and their families, along with many other support programs and benefits necessary for an all-volunteer force.

#### Breaking Down the Bills

Although the Senate has not released the full text of its NDAA version, the bills do overlap in two areas at the top of MOAA's priority list:

- Both authorize a 5.2% pay raise for servicemembers, which is on par with the Employment Cost Index.
- Both will improve the calculation of Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) rates for junior enlisted members. The House version removes specified pay levels for those in grades E-1 to

E-4; details on the Senate's approach to BAH have not been released, but the bill's executive summary notes a similar modification.

#### House Bill Provisions

Despite the areas of overlap, there likely will be key differences between the House and Senate versions which must be addressed during negotiations, most likely through a conference committee designated for that purpose.

MOAA will continue to evaluate the Senate's progress on their version of the bill and continue to engage with the Senate Armed Services Committee and other Senate offices to see where the Senate stands on those issues impacting our servicemembers of all ranks and their families.

Provisions in the House bill would:

- Expand eligibility for the Basic Needs Allowance (BNA) by excluding BAH from the calculation. MOAA has staunchly supported BNA and is working to ensure the program works effectively to end food insecurity within the ranks.
- Encourage DoD to increase the BAH rate to 96%, a 1% increase. This provision is not a mandate; it would require appropriations from Congress before we can expect DoD to increase the rate.
- Extend commissary and exchange privileges for remarried surviving spouses.
- Require that the secretary of Defense and the secretary of Veterans Affairs submit a joint report offering ideas to increase capacity at Arlington National Cemetery.
- Provide zero out-of-pocket cost dental care to reserve-component servicemembers. Their dependents would still be eligible to purchase premium-based TRICARE Dental Program coverage.
- Advance access improvements to mental health care, including reports on mental health provider credentialing and reimbursements, as well as a feasibility study on employing mental health providers in military treatment facilities (MTFs), under supervision, who are working toward licensure. *(Continued on page 4)*



## Legislative Update

*Continued from Page 3*

- Require a report on wait times in MTFs and the TRICARE network, including the impact of the new Military Health System (MHS) Genesis system on delays in accessing care, as well as a report on hiring practices for civilian nurses at MTFs.

### What's Next for the NDAA?

While both the House and Senate Armed Services committees have honored their commitment to our nation's servicemembers and their families by advancing the NDAA, much more needs to be done before this year's defense bill becomes law.

Next steps for both chambers will be the floor consideration of their respective NDAA versions. Stay tuned for more updates on the NDAA and other defense-related issues in The MOAA Newsletter and Military Officer magazine.

### State Legislature Nearing End of 2023 Session

The Legislature returned Monday, June 12th after their four-week break, passed a handful of bills and are on another extended break until July 31. Legislators are on track to log the longest session in state history.

The state budget for FY2024 was passed several months ago, but considerable work still needs to be done on Governor Hobbs' agency director nominations including The Arizona Department of Veteran's Services new Director, LTC Dana Allmond, USA Ret.

One bill of note passed by the Legislature and signed by Governor Hobbs was SB1454 – Veteran Suicide Prevention: Pilot Program. The bill provides for the training of state and county veteran benefits counselors in suicide prevention and calls for an annual report from the Department of Veteran's Services.

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## **Recent Chapter Events** **May Member Luncheon** **Debbie Lee**

On May 20th, 2023 the Arizona Chapter of MOAA was honored to have Debbie Lee present her inspiring story of her son's ultimate sacrifice to our country.

Debbie Lee is an author, public speaker and political activist who has traveled the nation telling her son's amazing story and advocating for our troops, their families and families of the fallen. Debbie understands the sacrifice our troops make and that "Freedom isn't free." She shared with us that on Aug 2, 2006 she received a knock on the door that would forever change her life. She was notified that her son Marc Alan Lee had been killed in action becoming the first Navy SEAL killed in Iraq. Since that day, Debbie has dedicated her life to honoring our troops and the families of the fallen, defending our defenders, and fighting to keep the freedoms that our troops have fought for. She became the First Gold Star Mom in history to visit the combat zone where her son died.

Debbie founded America's Mighty Warriors (a registered 501(c)3 non-profit organization) with a mission to honor the sacrifices of our Troops, Veterans, and Gold Star Families by providing programs that improve quality of life, resiliency and recovery.



Debbie Lee, Gold Star Mom.



## **Award Presentations**



Lee Lange presents Donna Bright with her husband Ron's posthumous Meritorious Service Award.



Lee Lange presented with National MOAA Chairman's Award "For Outstanding Leadership and Exceptional Service in support of the objectives and programs of the Military Officers Association of America"



# Coming in September! MEMBER LUNCHEON

Sep 16th, 2023



## “ADVS Initiatives, Updates, and Future Plans”

**Dana Allmond, Lt. Colonel, USA, (Ret)**



Arizona Governor Katie Hobbs has tapped Dana Allmond, a retired Army lieutenant colonel, to head the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services. Allmond has more than 23 years of active duty service in both the U.S. and abroad. She earned a bachelor's degree from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in 1994, a graduate degree from the Long Island University Charles William Post Campus in 2002, and a graduate degree from W. P. Carey School of Business, Arizona State University in 2019.

Lt. Colonel Dana Allmond is a mother, wife, veteran, dynamic change agent, and champion for our communities with veteran voices top of mind. She is focused on providing Class A services to protect the life, limb, health, and welfare of veterans and their families.

### Announcements!

#### June 2023 Donations

##### Scholarship Fund:

|                   |       |
|-------------------|-------|
| Lee Lange         | \$250 |
| Richard N. Zweig  | \$100 |
| Bob Fiegl         | \$100 |
| Bruce Kosaveach   | \$200 |
| Ray Boucher       | \$100 |
| Tom Trainor       | \$100 |
| Bill Roscher      | \$100 |
| SWVCC             | \$250 |
| Tom Sheets        | \$100 |
| Dave Boyd         | \$40  |
| Jack Farley       | \$100 |
| Donna Bright      | \$100 |
| Charles Christoph | \$200 |
| Carol Zimmerman   | \$100 |
| Jim McDevitt      | \$100 |
| Jerry McNally     | \$25  |
| Gary Fredricks    | \$100 |

#### Welcome New Member!

Arthur Dale Villani  
Lt Col, USAF (Ret)

#### Useful Web Links:

- [Chapter Home Page](#)
- [Member Dues Renewal](#)
- [Chapter Events](#)
- [National MOAA Website](#)
- [MOAA Store](#)
- [MOAA Legislative Action Center](#)

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Facebook Page!  
[Facebook](#)**

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## Personal Affairs

by Lee Lange, Personal Affairs Officer



### How to Add a Caregiver to Your TRICARE Online Pharmacy Account

TRICARE beneficiaries who use an Express Scripts online account to manage pharmacy needs can add up to eight caregivers to that account, the Defense Health Agency (DHA) announced June 22.

Through the online portal, registered caregivers can order or cancel prescriptions, review order status and shipping information, and answer questions from Express Scripts about medication. At some military pharmacies, registered caregivers may be able to pick up a beneficiary's prescription; DHA recommends contacting the pharmacy in advance to find out whether they offer this option and what procedures must be followed.

To add a caregiver, login to your Express Scripts account, click on the "Account" button at the top of the page, and select "Add a Caregiver" from the menu. Input the required information from there, including the first and last name, date of birth, and contact information (email and phone) for each caregiver.

Caregivers can access the account using the beneficiary's username and password. The

beneficiary will retain full account access, and adding a caregiver is optional.

Beneficiaries with questions on the process, or about other aspects of the TRICARE pharmacy program, should contact Express Scripts at (877) 363-1303.

### More From MOAA

MOAA offers several online resources to assist TRICARE users with navigating their earned benefit:

- MOAA's annual [TRICARE Guide](#) includes special sections on using Medicare and TRICARE For Life, what happens with TRICARE when a beneficiary retires from uniformed service, and other areas of interest.
- MOAA's [TRICARE Toolkit](#), updated monthly, offers expert advice on a range of topics, including how the benefit works overseas, how to resolve issues with the benefit, and whether to consider TRICARE supplements.
- MOAA's updated Transitioning Into Medicare and TRICARE For Life publication includes a checklist to help beneficiaries prepare for changes to their care after reaching age 65. Premium and Life members can download it [at this link](#). Not a Premium or Life member? Consider a [membership upgrade](#).

## AZ MOAA Summer Happy Hour

Wednesday July 12<sup>th</sup> from 4:30 to 7:00 at



16405 N Scottsdale Rd, Scottsdale, AZ 85254

**\$15.00 per person**

**Includes hors d'oeuvres, no host bar, & silent auction.**

**Let's stay in touch during the summer break.**

**Guests & prospective members welcomed.**

Make checks payable to AZ MOAA.

RSVP to Charlie Bitner 602.943.0028/charles@bitner36.com

# FREEDOM ISN'T FREE

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT SUPPORTING ARIZONA VETERANS AND DEPLOYED TROOPS



**WEDNESDAY, JULY 19TH 5:00-6:30 PM**

Event will benefit **three** charities:

**Youth for Troops:** Care Packages for Deployed Troops and Plastic Mats for Homeless Veterans

**Veterans First, Ltd:** Backpacks for Children of Veterans in Crisis

**U.S.VETS:** Move-In Kits for Veterans Transitioning into Permanent Housing



## FAMILY-FRIENDLY

MOAA MEMBERS AND SAGEWOOD RESIDENTS

**RSVP Required: Please respond to Bruce Kosaveach at [beklecox.net](mailto:beklecox.net) or call (602) 501-9876**

A community service project sponsored by **Military Officers Association of America** and **Youth for Troops**.

Guests can rotate through various work stations and learn about the collaboration between these organizations.

Volunteers will complete multiple projects to benefit deployed troops and at-risk Arizona veterans.

- ✓ SORT DONATIONS
- ✓ WRITE APPRECIATION CARDS TO DEPLOYED TROOPS
- ✓ DECORATE BOXES FOR DEPLOYED TROOPS
- ✓ ASSEMBLE CARE PACKAGES FOR DEPLOYED TROOPS
- ✓ ASSEMBLE MOVE-IN KITS FOR VETERANS TRANSITIONING INTO PERMANENT HOUSING
- ✓ FILL BACKPACKS WITH SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR CHILDREN OF VETERANS IN CRISIS
- ✓ SORT/CUT PLASTIC BAGS AND MAKE PLARN BALLS FOR PLASTIC MATS FOR HOMELESS VETERANS

SAGEWOOD

4555 E MAYO BLVD, PHOENIX, AZ 85050



## Arizona Chapter MOAA

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

ELIGIBILITY: Men and women who are or have been federally commissioned in one of the seven U.S. uniformed services (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard), or NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) or U.S. Public Health Services, the National Guard or other Reserve Components of those services, and Surviving Spouses of deceased individuals who would, if living, be eligible for regular membership as defined above. ([Click here for online application form.](#))

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone #: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Branch of Service: \_\_\_\_\_ Rank: \_\_\_\_\_

Service Status:  Active (includes Reserve/National Guard)  Retired  
 Former Officer  Warrant Officer  
 Surviving spouse of deceased MOAA member  OR eligible individual

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Your MOAA Member Number: \_\_\_\_\_ (National MOAA membership is required.)

If you are not currently a member of National MOAA, you may request membership at [moaa.org](http://moaa.org)

**OR** you may request the AZ Chapter Membership Chairperson, Bob Fiegl, to enroll you in National MOAA for a no-cost Basic Membership for 3 Years. You can email Bob at [Fieglr869@gmail.com](mailto:Fieglr869@gmail.com).

Chapter Dues are \$20.00 per year for a Regular Member and \$10 for a Surviving Spouse. *(This is separate from your national MOAA membership. Even if you have a free membership at national, you must still pay chapter dues.)*

Dues for new members joining: Jan 1 – Jun 30 = **\$20** . Jul 1 – Dec 31 = **\$20** (includes following year paid in full).

Amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Please mail check payable to “**AZ Chapter MOAA**” with completed application to Chapter Treasurer: Charlie Bitner, 134 E. Northview Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85020

How did you learn about the Arizona Chapter?  AZ MOAA Website  *The Sentinel* Newsletter  
 AZ MOAA Chapter Membership Chairman  Other ( \_\_\_\_\_ )

Applicant Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



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**Who Can Join MOAA?**

Men and women who are or have been federally-commissioned in one of the seven U.S. uniformed services:

- Army
- Navy
- Air Force
- Marine Corps
- Coast Guard
- Space Force
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- Public Health Services
- The National Guard
- or other Reserve Components of those services

Widows and widowers of deceased individuals who would, if living, be eligible for regular membership in accordance with the above.

**ARIZONA CHAPTER  
Military Officers Association of America**

**CALENDAR**

**Board of Directors Meetings**

First Thursday of each month  
Sep 7th, 2023  
the American Legion Post 44  
7145 E 2nd Street  
Scottsdale, AZ 85251

**Member Luncheon/Meetings**

Third Saturday of each month at 11am  
Next Meeting: Sep 16th, 2023  
McCormick Ranch Golf Club  
7505 E McCormick Pkwy, Scottsdale, AZ 85258

**Upcoming Events**

- 12 Jul 2023: Summer Happy Hour
- 19 Jul 2023: Freedom Isn't Free Charity Event
- 30 Jul 2023: Diamondbacks Game



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| <b>TREASURER</b><br>Col Charles Bitner, USAF<br>602-943-0028  | <b>JROTC AWARDS</b><br>Lt Col Jim Cullison, USAF<br>602-482-3838             | <b>SURVIVING SPOUSES</b><br>Susan Farrell, Surviving Spouse<br>602-993-8556             |
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