



The Sentinel

Arizona's First Chapter
The Military Officer's Association of America
The Arizona Chapter Scottsdale, AZ 85250



October 2023 CHARTERED Oct 1956 67 YEARS OF SERVICE TO COUNTRY Stephen MacDonald, EDITOR

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and Chairpersons

President's Perspective by Tom Sheets



Fall is officially here. Football is back. It is finally cooling off a little. Sounds like picnic time to me! In fact, we are having our annual picnic this month at McCormick Stillman Railroad Park on October 14th. Please see details on page 3.

At the September luncheon we shared the great news that Jack Farley will be inducted into the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame on October 13th at Talking Stick Resort. Congratulations again Jack! If you would like to attend his induction ceremony, you can [use this link](#) to register, but you must do so by October 8th.

We also shared the great news that our Chapter has once again been awarded the Five Star Level of Excellence. Thank you to our membership for your support and contributions.

Sadly, we also shared the news of the passing of Archie Kelly and Pat Dale. AZMOAA lost our oldest member and America lost a Hero. Archie was 105! Please see the included article about Archie on page 7. I am sure our newer members who may not be familiar with his history will enjoy it.

If football is back, then so are the three Service Academy games. First up is Air Force vs Navy at 9:00 am our time on Saturday, October 21st. Although we are not planning a physical party, we will again have our Fundraising

(continued next page)



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

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.

President's Perspective

Continued from page 1

Football Pool for this game. If you are interested, please see the flyer and additional details on page 9. Each "Board" will have 100 squares that we sell for \$5 each. After the board squares are filled with purchasers names, numbers will be randomly drawn for the two team axes. A \$50 prize will go to the winner based on the score at the end of each regulation quarter. Thus, each sold out Board will raise \$500, give away \$200, and result in \$300 profit for our programs. We are putting the "fun" into fundraising.

For your reference, Army will travel to Air Force on November 4th and, as always, the Army-Navy game will be the second Saturday in December. We will have a physical event to watch and celebrate "America's game!"

We hope to see you at the picnic. Bring your BBQ appetites and your dollars for Air Force-Navy Squares.

Tom



Announcements!

In Remembrance

CAPT Archie Kelley, USN (Ret)
Col Patrick Dale, USAF (Ret)

Let's keep the Kelly and Dale families in our thoughts and prayers

September 2023 Donations

Scholarship Fund:
Pete Berger \$100

**Check Out Our
Facebook Page!:**
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Don't forget to "Like" and "Follow" us!



ARIZONA CHAPTER MOAA MEMBERSHIP DUES RENEWAL FORM

2024 DUES are payable on JANUARY 1. Dues become DELINQUENT on March 1, 2024.

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 2023 \$ _____ Dues for 2024 \$ _____

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!](#)

CHAPTER BBQ PICNIC

Oct 14th, 2023

Scott Hallock

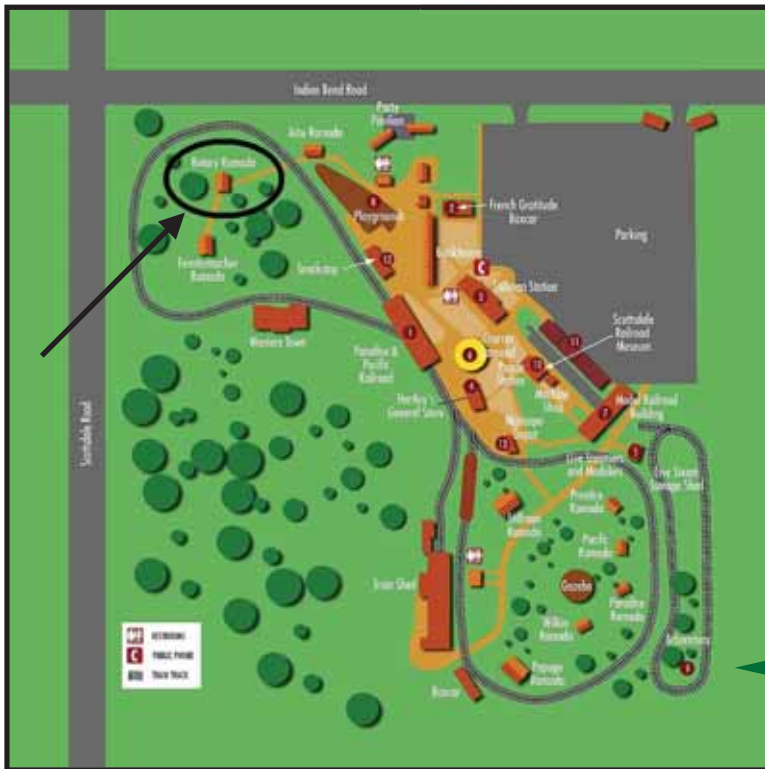


Scott will be back to play for us from last year. He has been performing for over 30 years solo, duo and with bands. He plays over 600 songs in the genres of classic rock, acoustic folk, bluegrass, country, tropical rock, reggae, and alternative rock, from the 50's to the present, as well as his own original music.

Annual MOAA
Arizona Chapter
BBQ/Picnic

11AM-2PM
Bring a prospective
member

Famous Dave's



McCormick-Stillman
Park
Indian Bend &
Scottsdale Roads
Rotary Ramada

MAP

Cost: \$40 Per Person; Reservations by 4PM, Tuesday, 10 Oct 2023 to Richard Zweig
RSVP to Richard Zweig, 8270 N Hayden Rd, Unit 2001, Scottsdale, AZ 85258
By email: zweigcc@comcast.net or contact Richard at (774) 216-9834

Legislative Update

by Lee Lange, Legislative Chair



The Budget Deadline Has Passed. What Are Lawmakers Doing?

September 30 marked the last day Congress had to pass the appropriations bills federal agencies will need to operate properly. Failure to do so would result in a government shutdown. At the last possible minute, the House passed a 45-day continuing resolution (CR) which was quickly passed by the Senate and signed by President Biden. The CR keeps the government funded through mid-November.

The passing of a CR to keep the lights on and the doors open is a step forward but it is still a failure of governance by our lawmakers. Constituents should not need to plead with their elected officials to do their job and pass timely appropriations. Service members, veterans, their families, and survivors need and deserve better.

Of the 12 appropriations bills needed to fund the government, only one had passed a single chamber of Congress as of September 13th – the House version of appropriations for military construction and the VA, which passed in July. While the lack of progress for appropriations is disheartening, MOAA will remain focused on service members and their families.

“When our nation’s elected leaders fail in these core responsibilities, it sends a negative message to those in uniform, to veteran and family influencers, as well as directly to those who may consider

joining,” said Lt. Gen. Brian T. Kelly, USAF (Ret), president and CEO of MOAA. “These are bad messages anytime, but are particularly impactful during our current recruiting crisis. We don’t need our elected leaders perpetuating and adding to negative perceptions that ultimately dissuade service and threaten our nation’s security.”

What’s Next

Until Congress passes the necessary appropriations bills, federal agencies overseeing the uniformed services and veteran communities will lack the funding and authorities needed to maintain an all-volunteer force. Along with the military construction-VA funding mentioned above, MOAA continues tracking the defense appropriations bill, which sets the DoD budget. That legislation was marked up by the House and Senate on June 14th and June 22nd, respectively.

While Congress works on appropriations bills, lawmakers also are pushing forward with authorization legislation. The National Defense Authorization Bill (NDAA) is the most critical of these authorization bills for MOAA’s purposes, as it affects DoD policies and programs. Both the House and the Senate have passed their respective versions of the NDAA; the next step in the process is for Congress to sort out the differences in the two bills via conference committee.

Timely appropriations have been an ongoing struggle in Congress. For more than a quarter-century, the federal government has failed to enact the necessary legislative measures to properly fund itself before the September 30 deadline. [Tell your lawmakers it’s time to act.](#)

Oct 14th Chapter Picnic Meeting Reservation Form

Please reserve _____ meals for name(s): _____

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ (\$40.00/person) for the Oct 14th Chapter Picnic payable to: **AZ Chapter MOAA** and mailed to arrive by **Oct 10, 2023** to: **Richard Zweig, 8270 N Hayden Rd, Unit 2001, Scottsdale, AZ 85258, or contact: zweigcc@comcast.net, 774-216-9834.**

Member reservations or call-ins WILL NOT be accepted after Oct 10th, 2023 @ 4pm

Cancellations after Oct 10th, 2023 at 4 pm will be charged and not refunded.

[TO PAY ONLINE - CLICK HERE!](#)

Recent Chapter Events September Member Luncheon

On September 16th, 2023, AZMOAA was honored to host Lt Col Dana Allmond, USA (Ret), as our guest speaker. Col Allmond, a West Point Graduate and career Army officer, was appointed earlier this year by Governor Katie Hobbs to head the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services. She provided us with a very informative overview of ADVS's initiatives, updates and future plans. We learned about Veteran Benefits Counselors, State Veterans Homes, and the Arizona Military Family Relief Fund, among many other things. The Colonel emphasized the efforts to combat veteran homelessness, outlined her priorities, and solicited inputs from any and all veterans.



Lt Col Dana Allmond, Director, ADVS

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AZMOAA AND AMERICA LOSE A HERO: CAPTAIN ARCHIE Kelley

On September 11, 2023 our AZMOAA Chapter lost its oldest member, and America lost one of its surviving heroes of World War II. At the age of 105, Captain Archie Kelley, USN Retired, is now reunited with the hundreds of shipmates he saved during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, long after they had passed.

Many of our members know his story, but for our newer members who may not, here is why he was so special to us...and to America. Archie was born in Washington, D.C. on July 31, 1918 and graduated from the US Naval Academy in 1941. His first assignment was the *USS West Virginia* in Pearl Harbor. On December 7th, Ensign Kelley was getting dressed to assume his watch as Officer of the Deck when the Japanese attack began.

Archie reported to his duty post, and while bombs and torpedoes were already exploding around the shipyard, he gave the orders to man battle stations and to close all watertight doors and hatches. This action undoubtedly saved the lives of hundreds of sailors as the ship was hit by seven torpedoes shortly thereafter. He then quickly ordered counterflooding on the opposite side of the ship to stabilize it. The *USS Oklahoma*, which was moored beside the *West Virginia*, quickly capsized after being hit by several torpedoes, killing 429 Sailors. The Commanding Officer of the *West Virginia* had been killed, and the Executive Officer and many others had abandoned ship and swam ashore to Ford Island. After a harried escape from a water-filling bottom-deck of the ship, Archie and about 40 others made their way topside, and were eventually evacuated to Ford Island, but not before preventing the same fate as the *Oklahoma*.

After Pearl Harbor, Archie went on to serve as a Gunnery Officer on three destroyers, supporting Marine landings throughout the Pacific. After the war, Archie attended Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and then worked in the Navy's

nuclear program developing the *Nautilus* and *Seawolf*, the Navy's first two nuclear submarines. One of the men who reported to Archie was a young Naval Officer named Jimmy Carter, who went on to become the 39th President of the United States.

After his long military service, Archie and his wife Carol settled in Paradise Valley, where among other things, he developed his fascination with helicopters. He worked for about 10 years with a company called Kellair, and rented his helicopters to the FAA Sky Harbor for their students' use.

Archie was a frequent speaker with AZMOAA over the years. In 2018 he celebrated his 100th birthday at Sagewood and was honored with a visit by Governor Doug Ducey.

A link to Channel 10's coverage of that birthday party follows: <https://www.12news.com/article/news/pearl-harbor-survivor-celebrates-100th-birthday-offering-wisdom/75-579299340>

The entire AZMOAA family sends our sympathy to Archie's wife, Carol, and to the entire Kelley family. We have lost a member; America has lost a hero; and the Kelley family has lost their loving patriarch.

We will share information regarding ceremonies or celebrations when they are known.



CAPT Archie Kelley

Personal Affairs

by Lee Lange, Personal Affairs
Officer



Final COLA Prediction: Where the 2024 Increase Could Land

With just a few weeks before final calculations can be made, the annual cost-of-living allowance (COLA) for military retirees, VA disability recipients, Social Security beneficiaries, and others receiving certain federal payments for 2024 is settling in at a higher-than-expected figure, but well below last year's adjustment.

MOAA predicts the upcoming COLA will be 3.2%, down 5.5 percentage points from last year's 8.7% increase. It's the smallest figure in three years, but it's just the fifth time in 20 years the adjustment has reached 3% or higher.

The Math

The COLA figure stems from the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W), an inflation-tracking metric updated monthly by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. CPI-W figures from July, August, and September are averaged, and the percentage increase of that number over the previous year's average results (known as the "base") is the new COLA rate.

The average of this year's July and August figures (300.725) would yield a 3.0% COLA increase when compared with last year's base (291.901). If the September figures continue the average rate of increase seen since May, the final figure will result in the 3.2% projection. A second higher-than-expected bump in CPI-W could move that figure up, but likely only by a tenth of a percentage point.

MOAA will update its [COLA Watch page](#) on October 12th, after the release of the September figures (likely mid-morning), to reflect the 2024 calculations.

MOAA's Role

The cold calculations make the process of an inflation adjustment for military retiree pay seem automatic and predictable. Unfortunately, that hasn't always been the case for this extremely important benefit.

From proposals in the 1980s to eliminate the military retiree COLA entirely to a 2010 commission's report suggesting a deferral of all

military retiree COLA until age 62, the adjustment regularly comes under scrutiny on Capitol Hill. The most recent major threat came in 2013, when a continuing resolution included language creating "COLA minus 1 percent" for retirees under 62 – a reduction to the military retirement benefit that would've cost younger retirees tens of thousands of dollars in earned benefits.

MOAA rallied alongside our partners in The Military Coalition at the time to secure a change to the law in early 2014, before the change could take effect.

More recent threats have come not by targeting military retirement pay, but by plans to change how the overall COLA is calculated. A Congressional Budget Office (CBO) proposal to move from CPI-W to a metric called "Chained CPI" would save the government more than \$250 billion over 10 years, per the CBO's math – with some of that money removed from the pockets of military retirees counting on their earned retirement income.

This proposal has yet to take form in legislation. But as budget battles boil over on Capitol Hill and lawmakers look for cost-cutting solutions amid shutdown threats, MOAA stands ready to make your voice heard and protect all earned benefits, including the value of military retirement pay, from potential cuts.

You can keep up with MOAA's latest advocacy efforts by visiting [MOAA's Advocacy News page](#). And by registering for MOAA's [Legislative Action Center](#), you'll be able to contact your lawmakers about issues of importance to MOAA and the wider uniformed services community.

Useful Web Links:

[Chapter Home Page](#)

[Member Dues Renewal](#)

[Chapter Events](#)

[National MOAA Website](#)

[MOAA Store](#)

[MOAA Legislative Action Center](#)



2023 Air Force vs Navy Football Game Pool

Join us for the first of three Military Academy football game pools of the year and raise money to support the Veteran programs of the Arizona Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (AZMOAA)

Saturday October 21, 2023



VS



***** This football pool will NOT involve a physical party or event *****

The football pool details:

- We will sell "Boards" made up of 100 squares
- Squares cost \$5.00 each
- Members (and members' friends) buy a number of squares not knowing what team scores they represent
- Once all squares on a Board are sold, the numbers for each team axis will be randomly drawn
- At the end of each quarter, the square that intersects the last digit of each team's score will win \$50. That will be repeated for each quarter on each Board sold

Tickets can be purchased:

- at the October 14th picnic at McCormick-Stillman Park, or
- by mailing a check to Charlie Bitner (must arrive before gameday)

The winner of this game will be one step closer to the Commander in Chief's Trophy

***On behalf of the Veterans and their families who will benefit from your generosity,
WE THANK YOU!***

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

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.

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
October 5th, 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: Oct 14th, 2023
McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park
7301 E Indian Bend Rd, Scottsdale, AZ 85250

Upcoming Events

- 18 Nov 2023: November Member Luncheon
- 9 Dec 2023: Annual Army-Navy Game
- 16 Dec 2023: Annual Christmas Luncheon



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|---|---|---|

Access Arizona Chapter's Internet Web Site at: azmoaa.org
The *Sentinel* Newsletter is sent electronically

Arizona Chapter
Military Officers Association of America
3537 E Tina Dr
Phoenix, AZ 85050



azmoaa.org



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