

## The Sentinel

**Arizona's First Chapter** The Milita



The Arizona Chapter Scottsdale, AZ 85250

April 2025

**CHARTERED Oct 1956** 

68 YEARS OF SERVICE TO COUNTRY

Stephen MacDonald, EDITOR

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### 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 by Bruce Kosaveach



#### HAPPY EASTER!



provoking and captivating program last month entitled "What You Do

Matters," presented by retired Scottsdale Police Officer Todd Larson. Chapter member Lenore Portante works with Todd and recommended him to speak to us. Based on lessons learned from the Holocaust in World War II Germany and the years leading up to it, a curriculum has been developed for law enforcement officers to ensure the core values of our democracy are upheld and that mistakes made are never repeated. More details are on page 9.

Additionally, we held a separate ceremony to commemorate with lapel pins those veterans who served during the time period of the Vietnam War. April 30th, 2025 will mark the 50th anniversary of the official end of the Vietnam War, and there were chapter members who were unable to attend when we initially gave out these commemorative Vietnam pins. Pins were presented by Stephen Miller from The Sons of the American Revolution and included spouses who played a large part in this period of our history.

April is our annual ROTC Scholarship Presentation luncheon. This is always a great program, as we get to meet and reward several of our aspiring military leaders of the future and military staff members (Continued on page 7.)



FEBRUARY 23, 1929

**US ARMY JUNE 14, 1775** 

**US NAVY** OCT 13, 1775

**US MARINE** CORPS **NOV 10, 1775** 

**US COAST GUARD** AUG 4, 1790

**US PUBLIC** HEALTH SERVICE JAN 4, 1889

**US AIR FORCE** SEP 18, 1947

NATIONAL **OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRA-**TION OCT 3, 1970

**US SPACE** FORCE **DEC 20, 2019** 

## <u>Announcements!</u>

### Welcome New Members!

Col Kevin Balisky, USA (Ret) Lt Col Jo Ann Enriquez, USAF (Ret)

#### **Did You Know?**

The Arizona Chapter pays \$220 annually for our email service. All of our chapter communications go thru our groups.io subscription. If you'd like to help defray these costs, you can make a donation at the link below and click on "+Sponsor this Group"!

azmoaa.groups.io

### **March 2025 Donations**

Scholarship Fund:

John Ady \$300 Gary Fredricks \$50

#### **Useful Web Links:**

Chapter Home Page

Member Dues Renewal

**Chapter Events** 

**Chapter News Blog** 

National MOAA Website

**MOAA Store** 

**MOAA Legislative Action Center** 

# Check Out Our Facebook Page!: Facebook

Don't forget to "Like" and "Follow" us!





## ARIZONA CHAPTER MOAA MEMBERSHIP DUES RENEWAL FORM

2025 DUES are payable on JANUARY 1. Dues become DELINQUENT on March 1, 2025.

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 <b>2024</b> \$	Dues for <b>2025</b> \$						
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!





### **MEMBER LUNCHEON**

April 26th, 2025

### **ASU ROTC**

## **Scholarship Award Presentations**

Please join us as we recognize an outstanding cadet from each of ASU's three ROTC programs and hear their plans for a professional and military career.







## Please see article on page 8 for more details!

Agenda: 11:00-11:45 am Meet & Greet Social Hour

11:45 am-12:00 pm Pledge, Invocation, Announcements, Business Meeting

12:00-2:00pm Lunch and Program

Place: McCormick Ranch Golf Club

7505 E McCormick Pkwy, Scottsdale, AZ 85258

**Cost:** \$40 Per Person; Reservations by 12PM, Wednesday, 23 Apr 2025 to Charlie Bitner

RSVP to Charles Bitner, 134 E. Northview Ave, Phoenix 85020

By email: <a href="mailto:charles@bitner36.com">charles@bitner36.com</a> or contact Charlie at 602-999-2779; <a href="mailto:PAY ONLINE!">PAY ONLINE!</a>

Menu: Caesar Salad, Blackened Sea Bass, Roasted Corn Salsa, Chimichurri, Herb Roasted Red

**Skin Potatoes, Cherry Pie** 

**Dress:** Military Uniform or Business Casual with Mini Medals

### Legislative Affairs

by Lee Lange, Legislative Chair



## Advocacy in Action: Details on MOAA's Spring Campaign on Capitol Hill

elcome to Advocacy in Action, MOAA's annual campaign to bring its top priorities to Capitol Hill. As the 119th Congress gets to work, MOAA is ready to champion critical issues for the uniformed services and veterans' communities. MOAA asks you to send a message to lawmakers to stand up for members of the eight uniformed services, veterans, retirees, and families.

Speak up from wherever you are — at home or on the Hill along with hundreds of other MOAA members and staff who will gather in Washington, D.C., April 9th.

Legislators need to hear and understand why MOAA's priorities matter. With a new congressional session underway, many MOAA members might find themselves represented by new lawmakers — whether due to redistricting, retirements, or election results. This change presents a valuable opportunity to connect with your legislators and advocate for the uniformed services community.

MOAA's priorities for the 119th Congress reflect MOAA's commitment to protect compensation and benefits, ensure access to toptier DoD and VA health care, and address the unique challenges military families and veterans face. These efforts underscore MOAA's unwavering dedication to those who serve and have served.

This year, MOAA has five issues for members to bring to lawmakers this month and beyond. Click each item to download an issue paper covering the topic in full:

- <u>Improving unaccompanied housing</u> to support readiness and quality of life | <u>Write Your Lawmakers Today</u>.
- Advancing the report *Ending the Wait for Toxic-Exposed Veterans* to <u>ensure timely delivery of earned benefits</u> | <u>Write Your Lawmakers Today.</u>

- <u>Passing the Military Spouse Hiring Act</u> to expand employment opportunities | <u>Write Your</u> Lawmakers Today.
- <u>Enhancing stability and accountability</u> in the military health system | <u>Share Your Story</u> With MOAA.
- <u>Improving caregiving support</u> for families of veterans | <u>Write Your Lawmakers Today</u>.

MOAA needs our help to review the issues they will be taking to Capitol Hill and send messages to our Arizona legislators that we want their support. A few steps can help MOAA build strong grassroots connections and advance our legislative agenda.

#### **Legislative Action Center**

MOAA is rolling out new campaigns via the <u>Legislative Action Center</u>, allowing you to contact your legislators with just a few clicks. Whether you're new to the platform or a seasoned user, registering ensures you're prepared to support our campaigns.

The online portal allows you to find your elected officials, track legislation, and learn about key priorities like housing improvements, health care access, and pay increases. You can also send messages directly to your lawmakers urging support for MOAA-endorsed legislation; campaigns will begin as new legislation is filed.

**Pro tip:** Once you've logged into the center, you can stay logged in by enabling cookies on your browser. This allows the site to remember your login details and provides streamlined access to MOAA campaigns. Avoid clearing cookies, as doing so will require you to log in again the next time you visit the site. Following these steps ensures you're always ready to take action quickly and efficiently.

#### **Reach Out with Tailored Communications**

Another approach — particularly for issues that impact you personally or you feel especially passionate about — is to send a more personalized message to your representatives.

A well-crafted email providing background on your service, highlighting MOAA advocacy priorities, and offering your perspective as a constituent can make a significant impact.

(Continued on page 9.)

#### Personal Affairs

by Lee Lange, Personal Affairs Officer



#### Pentagon's Top Doctor Defends Military Health System Budget

The Pentagon's top doctor pledged recently to defend the military health system's \$61 billion budget but said more could be done to balance resources and improve medical care.

Dr. Steve Ferrara, the Defense Department's acting assistant secretary of defense for health affairs, told an audience at the AMSUS Society of Federal Health Professionals that the system, which serves 9.6 million beneficiaries, is a "force multiplier" that meets Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth's priority to strengthen U.S. operational forces.

Dr. Ferrara is a former member of the Arizona Chapter, MOAA, who initially retired to Scottsdale but later returned to Washington, D.C. to be with his wife who was still on active duty. We wish him the best in a very challenging time for resources within DoD.

In his role as acting assistant secretary, Ferrara said he would show Secretary Hegseth how the military health system (MHS) budget, which accounts for 7% of the Pentagon's top-line, is "100% worthy. I show him how we take that 7% --which has been obviously jealously fought over, whether it's going to be for bullets or bombs or submarines or tanks or airplanes -- and use that 7% to make the force more lethal, more fit to fight and win," Ferrara said during the speech.

The military health system has undergone a vast transformation in the past decade, with military treatment facilities, medical logistics, information technology, acquisitions, the Tricare health program for non-uniformed beneficiaries, and other services consolidated under the Defense Health Agency, while active-duty health care, uniformed medical professional training and development became the responsibility of the services' medical commands.

The reforms were designed to save money by eliminating triplicate functions within the Army, Navy and Air Force medical commands

(Continued on page 6.)



#### **Personal Affairs**

Continued From Page 5

and streamlining the Pentagon's health organization. But they have left many military hospitals and

clinics understaffed and patients leaving for -or being forced on -- the private sector, jeopardizing the system's balance.

This year, turmoil has manifested itself with delays in patient care as the result of a change in Tricare management contractors and billing processors, and more recently, the head of the Defense Health Agency, Army Lt. Gen. Telita Crosland, resigned unexpectedly without explanation.

Ferrara, a retired Navy interventional radiologist and former CIA chief medical officer who is married to a Navy pediatric nephrologist, said a functioning, quality health care system is vital to the readiness of the U.S. armed forces, an "ethical imperative" the nation must honor.

Ferrara said his priorities are to "support, sustain and strengthen" -- supporting the warfighters, sustaining professional medical skills, and strengthening the chain made up of the generations of providers who have served and will join in future.

To ensure satisfaction, he said, the system must work for everybody, including the soldier wounded on the battlefield, the sailor training at home, the service members who need embedded mental health providers, and the family members who get ill or injured.

Ferrara said that to make improvements, the system must ensure that its priorities and resources are intertwined, seeking out any "mismatches" and treading new ground, looking at improved partnerships with the Department of Veterans Affairs, academic health centers and foreign allies.

According to Ferrara, the Pentagon needs to fix its military hospital system; maximize the value of the Tricare health program and "simplify the Tricare experience;" and leverage technology, including doubling down on tele-health to expand capacity and using artificial intelligence.

President Donald Trump has nominated former CIA medical director Keith Bass, a retired Navy officer, rehabilitation counselor and health administrator, for the assistant secretary of defense for health affairs position.

Bass has not issued any public comments on the future of Defense Department health care. He served as the head of the White House medical unit from 2017 to 2019 and, at the time of his nomination, was the medical center director of the West Texas VA Health Care System.

Bass' confirmation hearing before the Senate Armed Services Committee has not been set.

## Renew Your Chapter Membership Now! CLICK HERE

······					
April 26th Chapter Member Luncheon Reservation Form					
Please reserve meals for name(s):					
Enclosed is my check for \$ (\$40.00/person) for the Apr 26th Member					
Luncheon Meeting payable to: AZ Chapter MOAA and mailed to arrive by Apr 23rd,					
2025 to: Charles Bitner, 134 E. Northview Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85020, or contact:					
Charles@Bitner36.com, 602-999-2779.					
Member reservations or call-ins WILL NOT be accepted after					
Apr 23rd, 2025 @ 12pm.					
Cancellations after Apr 23rd 2025 at 12pm will be charged and not refunded					

### President's Perspective

Continued from page 1

from the Army, Navy and Air Force ROTC Departments at Arizona State University. We encourage you to wear military uniforms or miniature medals/ribbons on your jackets.

In order to replace those scholarship funds and ensure the long-term efficacy of our scholarship program, our chapter is conducting its <u>annual fundraising campaign for the AZ MOAA Scholarship Fund from April 26th to June 1st, 2025</u>. Donations can now be made online directly to the Scholarship Fund from our chapter website! Details are on page 11.

This is also the time of year for MOAA's Legislative "Advocacy in Action" for the 119th Congress. I will be traveling to Washington, DC, for the week of April 7th representing Arizona with three other MOAA representatives for the Advocacy in Action Campaign on Capitol Hill (Wednesday, April 9th). We will be visiting with five Arizona Congressional Representatives in their offices to

discuss key military and veteran issues and enlisting their support.

In order to support national MOAA's efforts to address the legislative challenges facing our uniformed community, MOAA provides *an active link to access the MOAA Legislative Action Center*. Using this link, you can communicate with our Arizona US Senators and Representatives with prewritten letters about issues affecting the uniformed services, veterans, and retirees:

#### MOAA | Legislative Action Center

I hope you will take a few minutes to communicate using this link and make our voices heard to help MOAA and our veterans.

All the best to you fine people,

Bruce Kosaveach President, AZ Chapter MOAA





#### ASU ROTC Cadets to Receive Schol arships, Describe Aspirations

by Lee Lange, Schol arship Fund Chairman

his month we will present \$2500 scholarship awards to three cadets/midshipmen enrolled in one of the three service ROTC programs at ASU — Army, Navy and Air Force.

The three cadets/midshipmen, along with their guests and ROTC commanding officers, have been invited to attend April's luncheon. ROTC commanding officers will be offered the opportunity to highlight their programs at ASU, then introduce their scholarship recipients. Each of the cadets/midshipmen will receive their checks and provide brief comments on the impact of the scholarship and their career aspirations.

For several years, the primary goal of the chapter's scholarship programs has been to help cadets and midshipmen who are not receiving

ROTC scholarships to earn their commissions. This year's recipients are:

- Cadet Ashlyn Shea Williams, Army ROTC, ASU Junior.
- Midshipman Andrew Varadin, Navy ROTC, ASU – Junior.
- Cadet Leila Balsiger, Air Force ROTC, ASU Freshman.

ROTC commanding officers and cadets/midshipmen will be in uniform, so we are making this a uniform-optional event for our members. If your uniform has shrunk hanging in your closet, then dig out your miniature medals and pin them on your civilian jacket.





## Recent Chapter Events March Luncheon

### What You Do Matters!

or those who were not able to join us at the March luncheon, we had an intriguing present from Todd Larsen, Director of the What You Do Matters Institute: a big thank you to Lenore Portante for suggesting him as a speaker.

Todd Larson is an Army Veteran, a retired Scottsdale Police Officer, and recently began his fourth year at the helm of the What You Do Matters Institute (WYDMI). Since retiring from the Scottsdale Police Department, Todd has served in numerous community partnerships and leadership development positions, including Adjunct Faculty at the University of Phoenix and Northern Arizona University. He received his EdD from Grand Canyon University.

What You Do Matters Institute uses the lessons of the holocaust to teach various courses to audiences across America. One of their courses, which Todd focused on, is presented to law enforcement agencies to illustrate how the slippery slope of turning your back or accepting unethical things can eventually result in becoming a willing or unwitting partner in the commission of illegal and unethical activities and behavior.

His presentation reminded us of the famous words attributed to Edmund Burke: "All that is necessary for evil to triumph is for good men [and women] to do nothing." Doing nothing or lacking the courage to speak up puts people at the top of that slippery slope, and once out there, it is easy to start sliding down the slope.

You can learn more about the What You Do Matters Institute at <a href="https://wydminstitute.com/">https://wydminstitute.com/</a>.

Arizona Chapter Mission:
Advocate for and improve
the lives of our military,
our veterans, and their
families.



Todd Larson, Director of WYDMI, discusses Nazi Germany.



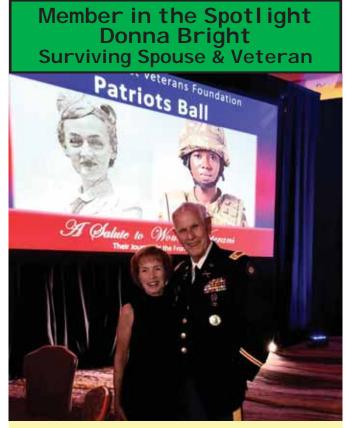
## Legislative Affairs Continued From Page 4

Personal engagement sends a strong message that military issues matter to voters in the district.

To connect with your lawmakers, visit their website and click the "contact" tab. You can also call MOAA's toll-free line to the U.S. Capitol switchboard at (866) 272-MOAA (6622) to speak with the lawmaker's office.

MOAA appreciates chapter member commitment to MOAA's mission. Your advocacy plays a crucial role in advancing the priorities that matter most to the military and veterans' communities. Together, we can make a lasting difference for those who serve and have served.





hat seems like just a few short years ago, I was born Donna Jean Yantz and then raised in Belle Mead, New Jersey, a small, rural town full of dairy farms and rich in American history dating back to the early 1700's. Back then, young girls graduating high school were encouraged to become teachers, nurses or secretaries. I chose nursing, attended the Helene Field School of Nursing and graduated with my degree in 1966. This nursing choice afforded me an interesting and diverse career starting at a hospital in New Jersey and in 1967 transferring to the National Institutes of Health, Cancer Institute, in Maryland caring for patients with leukemia, Hodgkins Disease, Aplastic Anemia and other cancers. All patients were in research studies hoping for a cure.

While working in Maryland, friends encouraged me to join the military services and help the efforts in Vietnam as a nurse. I did just that and volunteered for service in the Navy Nurse Corps. I was sworn in to service in Washington, DC, in October '68, completed my Naval Officer Candidate School in December and became Ensign Donna Jean Yantz! I reported for duty at the San Diego Naval Hospital on January

1st, 1969 – adding all new experiences away from my small hometown. My work in a medical unit there and then a medical Intensive Care Unit were challenging and fulfilling. Although I never shipped out to Vietnam, I met and married another Navy service member while there, so decided to leave the active duty Navy in November of 1970 as a LTJG. but remained on Inactive Reserves for another four years.

Civilian life continued to introduce me to new challenges in the nursing field. I first worked at a large outpatient medical clinic in Queens, NY, for three years, but when my husband's company moved us to Connecticut, I found a nursing position at a local hospital. 1975 found us transferred again (this time with two young sons) to Chicago, where I worked part-time as a nurse and full time as a mother.

In 1982, I found myself working and raising two boys as a single mom. Nevertheless, I earned my Bachelor of Science Degree from Aurora University in 1987. Once the boys were also in college, I decided to discover what Phoenix, AZ had to offer and moved there in 1996.

As it turned out, Phoenix had a great deal to offer – not only good weather and an easier lifestyle, but also a very rewarding Nursing Management position at Honor Health. I stayed with Honor Health for 15 years – during which time (1999), I was also awarded a Master of Arts degree in Organization Management from the University of Phoenix.

ENTER RON BRIGHT!! Unknowingly, Ron and I lived within a mile or two of each other, but never met until my friend introduced us and we married in 2001. We enjoyed so many activities together – tennis, traveling, aerobics, new friends, kids and grandkids, long quiet walks together --- even volunteering for MOAA.

Over the years, Ron served on the Scholarship Committee and became President in 2018. At the same time, I was on the Board of Directors. I also served as a liaison between our chapter and McCormick Ranch, setting up events and am currently on the Scholarship Committee. Additionally, having lost Ron two years ago, I am a Surviving Spouse.



#### 2025

#### Annual AZ MOAA SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

The Arizona Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America is conducting its annual fundraising campaign for the AZ MOAA Scholarship Fund from April 26 to June 1, 2025.

We are awarding our three annual ROTC scholarships at our April 26th meeting, and you will witness just how much these scholarships mean to our young, aspiring military leaders of the future. Now is the time to start replacing those scholarship funds and ensure the long-term efficacy of our scholarship program.

You will meet the recipients again as you read about them in next month's *Sentinel*, and you can rest assured that your donations <u>are going to a good cause</u>. Last year we raised \$3,660. Our goal this year is \$4,000.

We now have the ability to donate directly online (via our chapter website) to the Scholarship Fund: Go to <u>Home - AZMOAA</u> and Scroll down to "ROTC Scholarship".

The AZ MOAA Scholarship Fund is an IRS approved 501(c) (3) charitable non-profit organization, FID tax number 43-2087533. Your contribution is tax deductible. You can also donate at any AZ MOAA event or by mailing a check to:

AZ MOAA Scholarship Fund Attn: Charles Bitner 134 E. Northview Ave. Phoenix, AZ 85020

Our future Scholarship winners & their families thank you!

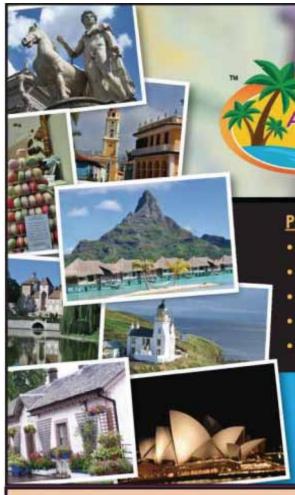


## Arizona Chapter MOAA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

**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, Space Force), 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.)

Your MOAA Member Number:	(National MOAA membership is required.)
	IOAA, you may request membership at moaa.org <b>OR</b> you may request Fiegl, to enroll you in National MOAA for a no-cost Basic Membership gmail.com.
Full Name:	1900
Spouse Name:	Chapter
Over 4 A Library	
Street Address:	
City:	State: Zip:
	TO Java
Telephone #:	E-Mail address:
Branch of Service:	Rank:
Service Status: Active (includes Reserv	ve/National Guard) Retired
Former Officer	Warrant Officer
Surviving spouse of de	ceased MOAA member OR eligible individual
	ular Member and \$10 for a Surviving Spouse. (This is separate from have a free membership at national, you must still pay chapter dues.)
	ease mail check payable to "AZ Chapter MOAA" with completed Bitner, 134 E. Northview Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85020
To pay dues online, go here: https://azr	
How did you learn about the Arizona Chapte	er?AZ MOAA Website The Sentinel Newsletter
	anOther ()
Applicant Cinnetons	Deter
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 at 10:30am April 3rd, 2025 Papago Park Arizona National Guard Base 5636 E McDowell Rd Phoenix, AZ 85008

#### Member Luncheon/Meetings

Third Saturday of each month at 11am
Next Meeting: Apr 26th, 2025
McCormick Ranch Golf Club
7505 E McCormick Pkwy, Scottsdale, AZ 85258

#### **Upcoming Events**

17 May 2025: May Member Luncheon



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The Sentinel Newsletter is sent electronically

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