



The Sentinel

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

The Arizona Chapter Scottsdale, AZ 85250



May 2026

CHARTERED Oct 1956

69 YEARS OF SERVICE TO COUNTRY

Stephen MacDonald, EDITOR

In This Issue

- Page 1 Bruce Kosaveach -
President's Perspective
- Page 2 Announcements
- Page 3 May Luncheon Program
- Page 4 Chapter Membership
Chapter Mission/Web Links
Member Dues Renewal Form
- Page 5 Legislative Affairs
Luncheon Reservation Form
- Page 6 Personal Affairs
- Page 7 President's Perspective (cont)
- Page 8 Personal Affairs (cont)
President's Perspective (cont)
- Page 9 Recent Chapter Events
- Page 10 Chapter/Member Awards
In Remembrance
- Page 11 Advocacy in Action
Legislative Affairs (cont)
- Page 12 April Happy Hour
- Page 13 Membership Application
- Page 14 Who Can Join MOAA?
AZ Chapter Calendar
- Page 15 AZ MOAA Officers, Directors,
and Chairpersons

President's Perspective by Bruce Kosaveach



Lee Lange, president of the AZMOAA Scholarship Fund, led our April meeting as we presented our annual ROTC scholarships to three deserving future military leaders at Arizona State University. Each was awarded \$2500 to help them complete their college and to receive subsequent commissioning. Story on page 9.

We will hold a special meeting of the membership at our May meeting to vote on a change to our chapter's Bylaws. Our bylaws may be amended, repealed, or altered in whole or in part by a two-thirds vote of the membership present at any duly organized meeting of the Chapter, providing that *a copy of any amendment proposed for consideration has been mailed or e-mailed to each member qualified to vote at least 15 days before the meeting.* Please see official notification on page 2.

The AZ Chapter MOAA 70th anniversary celebration event webpages are now live! Thanks to Carl Ulbrich, chapter webmaster, and Katelyn Hardt, Gordon James Public Relations, our invitation, sponsorship, and registration pages, are live and ready for action!

70 Year Celebration - AZMOAA

I was proud to represent our Arizona Chapter as it was awarded three five-stars of excellence awards from National MOAA for

(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
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.

Announcements!

April 2026 Donations

Scholarship Fund Donors:
In Memory of Rob Stark

70th Anniversary Fund Donors:

Rob Welch
Lee Swanson
Pete Berger
Kathy Upchurch
Spring Training Package

Total Donations: \$2,070



HELP NEEDED FROM THE CHAPTER

The Arizona Chapter is looking to change platforms on its website to Zeffy.

Zeffy is a 100% free, fee-free fundraising platform designed to manage donations, sell tickets to our luncheons and happy hours, run auctions/raffles, etc. without credit card transaction costs.

Zeffy is free because it relies on voluntary contributions from donors at checkout.

We are looking for a member or spouse to manage this platform.

One of our former speakers, Michelle Cleveland, will be providing assistance on the back end of this platform, so we just need to give her what we want on the webpage. It is an easy platform designed for non-profits like our chapter.

This will be a game-changer for our chapter – please consider helping with this!

If you are interested, please contact Bruce Kosaveach.

NOTICE OF OFFICIAL BUSINESS TO BE CONDUCTED AT THE MAY 16TH MEMBER MEETING

Purpose – To add a new Section 3 to Article VIII of the current Bylaws of the Arizona Chapter MOAA, and renumber existing Sections as 4 through 7.

Reason – Current Bylaws do not have a procedural clause to fill a vacancy on the Board of Directors due to death, resignation, or incapacitation until the next annual election.

Action – Current Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the membership at any duly organized meeting of the Chapter, providing that a copy of the proposed amendment has been mailed or emailed to each member qualified to vote at least 15 days before the meeting.

Proposed Amendment – Section 3. “In the event of an opening on the Board of Directors caused by death, resignation or incapacitation, the Board of Directors may, with a majority vote of the Board, appoint a qualified member to serve out the remaining term of the vacant director’s seat until the next annual election.”

CALLING ALL MOAA LADIES! retired/former military, spouses, surviving spouses

The AZMOAA ladies are again getting together for lunch – just to discuss “stuff” women discuss – from recipes to grandkids to travel to books, etc. This time around, we’ll meet at The Village Tavern, 8787 North Scottsdale Road, on Friday, June 5th, at 11:30 a.m.

Please text or call Sharon at 480-363-8083 or me, Susan Farrell, at 571-246-7113 and let us know if you’d like to join us.

Susan



MEMBER LUNCHEON

May 16th, 2026

Craig Quigley

Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy (Retired)

Luke Chapter MOAA



Admiral Quigley is a resident of Goodyear and a fellow MOAA member in the Luke Chapter. He previously served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs. He was on duty at his post in the Pentagon on 9/11/2001.

In the aftermath of this tragic event, Admiral Quigley was the front-line spokesman for the Pentagon and then U.S. Central Command. As with all of us, the images, emotions, and experiences of that tragic period are seared in his memory.

We all remember where we were when we learned of these awful events and the period that followed. Admiral Quigley has graciously agreed to share his memories and experiences with us.

ADM Quigley is a 1975 distinguished graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, MD and has served as president of his class. A native of Winthrop, IA, he is an active public speaker. He serves on the Board of Directors of the Luke Chapter of MOAA.

Agenda: 11:00-11:45 pm Meet & Greet Social Hour
 11:45 am-12:00 pm Pledge, Invocation, Announcements
 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, 13 May 2026 to Charlie Bitner
 RSVP to Charles Bitner, 134 E. Northview Ave, Phoenix 85020
 By email: charles@bitner36.com or contact Charlie at 602-943-0028; **PAY ONLINE!**
 Per new guidelines, **NO CREDIT CARDS WILL BE ACCEPTED AT THE MEETING CHECK-IN.**

Menu: Signature Salad, Roasted Turkey Breast with Savory Stuffing, Mashed Potatoes and Gravy, Cherry Pie.

Dress: Business Casual

Chapter Membership

by Daniel (Dan) Arroyo
Chapter 2nd VP and Membership Chair



Summer is upon us, and the temperature will be going up, but our membership fees will stay the same. It's really a great value for the money! Membership includes notifications of upcoming Luncheons, Happy Hours, a monthly newsletter with legislative updates and other topics relevant to today's changing military environment, and a chance to meet fellow service members, retired, former, or active. As always, if you know of anyone that meets our membership criteria and is interested in joining our group, please direct them to our website, www.azmoaa.org, to fill out an application, or give them a copy of the form at the back of this newsletter.

LTC Dan Arroyo, USA



Arizona Chapter Mission:

Advocate for and improve the lives of our military, our veterans, and their families.

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!

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Membership Now!**

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ARIZONA CHAPTER MOAA MEMBERSHIP DUES RENEWAL FORM

2026 DUES are payable on JANUARY 1. Dues become DELINQUENT on March 1, 2026.

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 2026 \$ _____

Dues for 2027 \$ _____

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 Affairs

by Lee Lange, Legislative Chair



Advocacy in Action 2026: MOAA's Mission Continues

This month, MOAA staff member Terry Waters writes about MOAA's annual trip to Capitol Hill. For decades, MOAA has stood as a powerful voice in Washington for those who wear and have worn the uniform and their families. From preserving earned benefits to adopting policies to protect and sustain the full force, MOAA exists to serve the uniformed services community in the halls of Congress.

On April 15th, MOAA executed its signature advocacy event, [Advocacy in Action](#). This year, MOAA advocates went to Capitol Hill on behalf of four critical, bipartisan priorities, the Major Richard Star Act, the Shutdown Fairness Act, the GUARD VA Benefits Act, and the Military CARE Act. Each of these bills represents a key effort to fix real problems affecting service members and their families, and each one is within reach with sustained pressure from constituents like you.

A Record-Setting Campaign

This year's Advocacy in Action delivered results on two fronts — in person on Capitol Hill, and across the country through a coordinated digital campaign. Here's what our community accomplished:

- **160 MOAA volunteers** participated in the Capitol Hill event.

- **Over 300 in-person office visits** conducted across both chambers.
- **More than 50 meetings** held directly with lawmakers.
- **Nearly 25,000 constituent messages** sent to lawmakers by MOAA advocates from all 50 states ... the most ever during a campaign.

That last number is especially significant. Lawmakers pay close attention to the voices from their districts. When our in-person advocates sat down in congressional offices April 15th, they were reinforcing a message those lawmakers already had been receiving from constituents across their districts and states.

That coordination -- digital outreach followed by face-to-face advocacy -- is what tells lawmakers these issues matter to service members, veterans, and families at home.

What's Next

With the release of the president's budget, the National Defense Authorization Act process has begun in earnest, and MOAA is engaged at every level. As the 119th Congress enters its final stretch, we will continue to keep members informed and ready to act as these priorities move through the legislative calendar.

MOAA's council and chapter leaders will also be leading a **Summer Advocacy in Action** event later this year, bringing grassroots advocacy directly to communities across the country. Details are coming soon.

(Continued on page 11.)

May 16th Chapter Member Luncheon Reservation Form

Please reserve _____ meals for name(s): _____

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ (\$40.00/person) for the May 16th Member Luncheon Meeting payable to: **AZ Chapter MOAA** and mailed to arrive by **May 13th, 2026** 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 **May 13th, 2026 @ 12pm**.

Cancellations after May 13th, 2026 at 12pm will be charged and not refunded.

TO PAY ONLINE - CLICK HERE!

Personal Affairs

by Lee Lange, Personal Affairs
Officer



Do I Need an Umbrella insurance Policy?

From MOAA's Expert: You have homeowners' insurance with liability protection, and you also have an auto policy with liability protection ... so why would you need even more insurance?

The truth is, the more complex your finances are, and the more assets you have, the more insurance you need. If an accident were to happen and you were to get sued, you could be forced to pay a legal judgement from both your current assets and future earnings.

For example, let's say your teenage daughter ran a red light and caused an accident with significant damage to another vehicle (\$40,000) plus injuries to others (\$250,000 in medical bills). Suppose one of the injured passengers in the other car was a surgeon, who was temporarily unable to perform his work and sued for \$200,000 in lost wages. You'd be responsible for a total of \$490,000 in damages.

Your auto policy's liability coverage would kick in and cover up to the limit you have chosen. Some states have required liability minimums as low as \$10,000. But even if you had chosen a much higher amount (and \$300,000 is often the cap), your insurance wouldn't cover everything. You'd have to cover the remaining costs out of pocket.

This is where umbrella insurance, sometimes known as excess liability insurance, comes in. It sits on top of your existing home and auto coverage (hence the name "umbrella") and pays the difference between what your primary insurance policies pay and what you still owe. It would also provide coverage for any legal costs in a lawsuit.

Umbrella insurance covers not just the policyholder, but also other members of their family or household. And it covers liability claims that a typical homeowners or auto policy may not, such as those dealing with libel, slander, and false imprisonment.

These policies don't cover your own injuries or damages to your own property (this would be

(Continued on page 8.)

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President's Perspective

Continued from page 1

2025 in three categories: Level of Excellence – overall chapter (22nd consecutive year), Newsletter (Sentinel) - Col. Marvin J. Harris Communications Award – (10th consecutive year) and Website - Col. Marvin J. Harris Communications Award (10th consecutive year). Sincere thanks to Steve MacDonald for his great work on the Sentinel, and to Carl Ulbrich, Jireh Communications LLC, as webmaster for his dedication to making our website outstanding. I will be awarding certificates at our upcoming May meeting.

Advocacy in Action report: 159 participants from 49 states contributed to a little over 300 meetings with state senators and representatives in Washington, DC. In the past month, MOAA council and chapter members generated approximately 5,320 messages to Congress through the Legislative Action Center. *Thank you* to those of our chapter members who took the time to use MOAA's Legislative Action Center and

contact their senators and representatives about the veteran's bills that we presented on April 15th. There was unanimous agreement from all who we visited that these bills were important for the protection of earned benefits for veterans.

Thanks to chapter member Valerie Mettler, who headed up this year's JROTC program and to the 14 members who signed up to represent MOAA at a total of 28 high schools!! This is the largest number of high schools our chapter has ever served, and we can be justly proud. The *esprit de corps* of these students is sky high and they appreciate our participation.

One of our new members and past president of the Luke Chapter MOAA, Gene Wikle, was awarded the national MOAA Leadership Award at the April Luke Chapter meeting. Congratulations Gene – well deserved! Story on page 10.

Our Chapter Lifetime Membership Award was won by Lee Lange. Congratulations Lee! Picture on page 11.

(Continued on page 8.)

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Personal Affairs


Continued From Page 6

covered by your health insurance, your homeowners' policy, or your auto insurance). And umbrella policies don't cover liability costs incurred through deliberate negligence or by your business or professional activities.

There are many scenarios where this type of insurance could be useful to have:

- You have a swimming pool, and at a party, a guest slips and falls and hurts herself badly, requiring surgery and ongoing care that exceeds the limits of your homeowners' policy.
- Your large dog bites a neighbor's child.
- You write a negative review of a local business, and the owner sues you.

The best part of an umbrella policy is that coverage is very affordable, with a \$1 million policy typically costing around \$150 to \$300 per year, the next \$1 million in coverage costing about \$75 a year, and every \$1 million after that costing about \$50 per year.

The extra layer of protection it offers can provide peace of mind, which is, of course, priceless. 

President's Perspective

Continued from page 7

It is with sadness I report that chapter member Rob Stark has passed away. Rob's wife, Nanette, told me that he enjoyed our chapter MOAA meetings very much and were the highlight of his month. Story on page 10.

Our April 30th Happy Hour at Maggiano's was a big success! Members who sometimes can't come to our Saturday luncheons were able to attend. Tom Sheets organized a silent auction with 9 items that raised \$350 for our 70th chapter anniversary event. He also managed a game show called "Music We Remember." See the story on page 12.

We're approaching our three months of summer break and will be planning a July Happy Hour event to keep us in touch – details to follow.

Best to all you fine people,

Bruce Kosaveach

President, AZ Chapter MOAA 

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Recent Chapter Events April Luncheon: ROTC Scholarship Awards

Our April membership meeting featured the presentation of \$2500 scholarships to three ROTC cadets/midshipmen enrolled in their respective service programs at ASU. Recipients of 2026 scholarships were:

- Army – CDT Gabriel Luhman
- Navy – MIDN Evan Donnelly
- Air Force – CDT Ezekiel Spann

Command representatives attending from their respective ROTC units were SFC Nicholas Wilson, USA; CAPT Kati Hill, USN; and Lt Col Gaven Hagens, USAF.

The chapter’s scholarship program is intended to help ROTC students with the cost of their education so that they can be commissioned into the U.S. Armed Forces. The Scholarship Luncheon gives chapter members a chance to see where the money they donated to the Scholarship Fund is going and to hear from the recipients about their plans for military service. 



The Navy contingent celebrates.

MOAA Level Of Excellence Awards

Our Arizona Chapter MOAA received all three Five-Star LOE awards for:

**Arizona Chapter – Five-Star
(22nd consecutive year)**

**Arizona Chapter Website – Five-Star
(10th consecutive year)**


**Chapter Newsletter (Sentinel) – Five-Star
(10th consecutive year)**

Congrats to the whole team! 



Bruce Kosaveach accepting LOE awards for the Arizona Chapter.

MOAA's Leadership Award

One of our newest members, Gene Wikle, former President of the Luke Chapter, was presented MOAA's Leadership Award by Brig. General David Ciesielsk, current President of the Luke Chapter, at their April 9th dinner meeting. Congratulations Gene! 



David Ciesielsk (left) presenting the MOAA Leadership Award to Gene Wikle.

In Remembrance Rob Stark

The Arizona Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America was saddened by the passing of Army CPT (FRM) Rob Stark on April 5th. He passed peacefully on Easter Sunday with his family by his bedside according to Nan his wife. A memorial service and celebration of life were held earlier last month. Nan will now be a Surviving Spouse, and we welcome her to any meeting we have.

Rest in peace, Rob – you will be missed.



Nan and Rob Stark.

ADVOCACY IN ACTION 2026 - Washington, DC

MOAA members representing 49 states brought the organization’s top priorities to Capitol Hill on April 15th, visiting a little over 300 congressional offices; interacting with lawmakers and staff members around conference tables, in hallways, and over coffee; and carrying forward the mission of preserving service-earned benefits for all who serve and have served, their families, and their survivors.

These major areas of veteran benefits were addressed with corresponding bills:

- Stand with Our Wounded Warriors: Advocate for the Major Richard Star Act.
- Stop Predatory VA Claims Agents and Protect Veterans’ Earned Benefits.
- Military Treatment Facilities Access Problems with the Military CARE Act.
- Protect Service Member Pay During Any Future Shutdown. 🌈



Lee Lange receives the Chapter Lifetime Membership Award from Bruce Kosaveach & Dan Arroyo at our April member meeting.

Legislative Affairs

Continued from Page 5.

None of this happens without MOAA members taking action. The nearly 25,000 messages sent (many from chapter members), the 300 office visits, the direct conversations with lawmakers — all of them reflect a community that refuses to let these issues be forgotten. MOAA greatly appreciates member commitment to Never Stop Serving.

If you haven’t yet visited MOAA’s [Legislative Action Center](#), please act today. It takes just minutes to send a personalized message to your lawmakers, and in the final stretch of this Congress, every message counts. 🌈



2026 Arizona AiA Team: Bruce Kosaveach, Nora Durham, Pete Kloeber, Tom Waddell



April Happy Hour at Maggiano's!

Our second quarter mid-meeting Happy Hour at Maggiano's on April 30th was a good time for all! Good food, good people and all for a good cause! Our silent auction, organized by Tom sheets, raised \$350 towards our chapter's 70th anniversary celebration. Bruce announced that Sanderson Ford has signed on to be one of our sponsors for that event.

Tom also made known that our chapter will be receiving \$4000 from the national MOAA Community Outreach Grant program that we've participated in for many years. He said that the Southwest Veterans Foundation will add \$1000 to that amount to help with our new program that we will be trying during the holidays at the end of the year. "Shop with a Vet" will be co-organized with the Arizona Law Enforcement Outreach & Support (AZLEOS) program called "Shop with a Cop," with a goal of reaching many more kids of veterans in need than either organization could accomplish individually. This will be an outstanding program – details later in the year.

And finally, Steve MacDonald and Bruce Kosaveach squared off in a contest called "Music we Remember", and Steve won the challenge complete with a framed prize! 🌅



Bruce Kosaveach and Steve MacDonald fight it out in the Music We Remember Game Show!



Chapter members enjoying some good food, libations, and company.



Delicious appetizers at the buffet.



Steve MacDonald with the coveted award.



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.)

If you are not currently a member of National MOAA, you may request membership at moaa.org.

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 Eligible Officer OR eligible individual

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.)*

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

To pay dues online, go here: <https://azmoaa.org/product/annual-membership/>

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

Next Meeting:

May 7th, 2026, 10:30am

Via Zoom call.

Member Luncheon/Meetings

Third Saturday of each month at 11am

Next Meeting: May 16th, 2026

McCormick Ranch Golf Club

7505 E McCormick Pkwy, Scottsdale, AZ 85258

Upcoming Events

5 Jun 2026: AZMOAA Ladies Luncheon

July 2026: Summer Happy Hour (TBD)



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FIRST VICE PRESIDENT CAPT Bob Fiegl, USN 850-207-9845	ARRANGEMENTS Col Charles Bitner, USAF 602-999-2779	PERSONAL AFFAIRS Col Lee Lange, USMC 703-232-3609
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT LTC Daniel Arroyo, USA 214-450-5319	CHAPLAIN Vacant	PROGRAMS Col Tom Sheets, USMC 760-213-3705
SECRETARY CPT Lenore Portante, USA 970-355-8981	PHOTOGRAPHER CAPT Chuck Christoph, USN 480-231-0262	SCHOLARSHIPS Maj Gene Wikle, USAF 480-236-1658
TREASURER Col Charles Bitner, USAF 602-999-2779	LEGISLATION Col Lee Lange, USMC 703-232-3609	SURVIVING SPOUSES Susan Farrell, Surviving Spouse 602-993-8556
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT Col Tom Sheets, USMC 760-213-3705	MEMBERSHIP LTC Daniel Arroyo, USA 214-450-5319	WEBMASTER Carl Ulbrich, Jireh Communications
DIRECTORS: Capt Stephen MacDonald, USAF; LCDR Ron Honeycutt, USN		

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

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



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