



THE TERRITORIAL

TUCSON CHAPTER OF THE ARIZONA COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA



MARCH-APRIL 2026

National MOAA and the Tucson MOAA Chapter are non-



FROM THE EAGLES NEST

By Polly Parks

Tucson MOAA Chapter President

The chapter has once again received a 2025 5-Star Level of Excellence Award, along with 5-Star Awards for the Newsletter and the Website.

U of A ROTC Scholarship Luncheon:

Next week, on Thursday, April 23, is our chapter's University of Arizona ROTC Scholarship Luncheon. Please join us at 1130 in the meeting room at the Viscount Suites Hotel, 4855 East Broadway. The luncheon agenda includes a short business meeting, the buffet luncheon, and the presentation of the three \$2,000 scholarships. The 2026 awardees are:

Air Force ROTC Recipient: Cadet Liam Heary; Scholarship in Memory of Colonel John E. Ford, III, USAF, sponsored by Mrs. Sherry Ford.

Army ROTC Recipient: Cadet Rushman Schwartz; Scholarship in Memory of Colonel George Luis Cajigal, USA, sponsored by Ms. Polly Parks.

Navy ROTC Recipient: MIDN 4/C Marcus Wilson; Scholarship in Memory of CDR Donald G. Scully, sponsored by Ms. Kristi Scully.

The ceremony will include a brief bio of

who the Scholarship is in memory of.

It is a wonderful opportunity to meet and socialize with ROTC recipients and their senior instructors.

The luncheon is \$35, payable in cash or by check. For those on a fixed income, there is a \$20 minimum. Once we iron out a few wrinkles, we hope to also use the "other" line on MOAA's CheddarUp site to pay for the luncheon.

I will send a reminder next week, but please let me know if you plan to attend. Guests are welcome.

Special Note: The May Luncheon will be May 21 instead of May 28.

The Chapter also presents a MOAA ROTC medal during ROTC ceremonies on campus. This year, the recipients and presenters are:

Air Force ROTC Recipient: Cadet Tracy Harrell, **Presenter: NEEDED.**

Army ROTC Recipient: Cadet Richmond Slan; Presenter: LTC Brenda Hughey.

Navy ROTC Recipient: MIDN 2/C Derek Luther; Presenter: CAPT Chuck Vaughn.

Continued on page 3

Upcoming Tucson Chapter Meetings

Venue: [The Viscount Suites](#) / Time: 1130
4855 E. Broadway, Tucson, AZ

April 23, 2026 U of A ROTC Scholarship Awards

NOTE DATE CHANGE: May 21, 2026
2026: The Future of NATO, presentation by Mark Schultz

June-August is Summer Break. Meetings resume in Fall

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MOAA Vail Satellite Meeting

MOAA Vail Satellite will hold its next meetings **Saturday, April 18** at the Del Lago Golf Restaurant, in Vail, at 1130. Please let me know if you will attend and please invite any military officers (active or retired) you know to attend. Please come and participate. We have added new members and look forward to others joining.

Col Tom Owens
Past President, MOAA Tucson Chapter
520-400-9561 cell <https://tucsonmoaa.org/>

WHO CAN JOIN THE MOAA TUCSON and VAIL SATELLITE CHAPTER?

MOAA membership is open to all officers, commissioned or warrant, whether on active duty, retired, former, reserve or national guard and their surviving spouse of all the eight uniformed services, including the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Space Force, Coast Guard, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the Public Health Service. To join the Tucson Chapter, click the Join Our Chapter button on our Chapter's home page: <http://www.tucsonmoaa.org/>.

The **Tucson MOAA Board** meets the first Wednesday of the month, at 2 p.m. via ZOOM. Members are invited to submit items for consideration not later than one week prior to the meeting to the President at pollyparks@earthlink.net. If you desire to participate, please email pollyparks@earthlink.net to receive the access link.

MOAA Tucson and Vail Satellite Chapter Mission

1. Advocate and support MOAA national goals.
2. Advocate and support the Arizona and metro Tucson programs, activities, and proposed legislation.
3. Encourage and promote a spirit of volunteerism and participation in programs and activities

From the Eagle's Nest *continued from page 1*

JROTC: This month, the chapter also presents a ribbon to an exemplary JROTC rising senior at each of the four Tucson-area high schools with the program. The recipients and presenters are:

Cienega HS Recipient: Cadet Wyatt Wilson;
Ceremony: 4/15/26, 1800 hrs, Presenter: Capt David Acklam.

Flowing Wells HS Recipient: Cadet Joshua Petty; Ceremony: 4/15/26, 1800 hrs, Presenter: LTC Jerry Petersen.

Desert View HS Recipient Cadet Alexander Bustillos; Ceremony: 4/29/26, 1800 hrs; Presenter CAPT Tom Eiff.

Cholla HS Recipient PENDING;
Ceremony 4/29/26, 1800 hrs, Presenter Polly Parks.

MOAA Board: Randolph "Randy" Long has resigned from the chapter and the Board. He and his lovely wife, Carol, will devote their time to the Rotary Club, a most deserving organization. Randy served as Membership Chair, and Caleb Martiny has stepped into that role. Chuck Vaughan has assumed the role of Secretary in addition to Treasurer, and Len Summer has accepted Surviving Spouse Liaison.

MOAA National Box List: Please see page 11-12 for the letter I wrote, and Chuck Vaughan was able to send to the 1,055 email addresses. The letter has resulted in four new members, Capt. David Acklam, (USAF, Ret), Col. Gregg Montijo (USAF, Ret), CAPT Tina Talley (USN, Ret), and CAPT James Hay (USNR, Ret). Only Tina Talley can make the luncheon this month. It's wonderful to have them all on board..

Hope to see you at the luncheon!



New member, Capt. David Acklam, presents the JROTC Certificate and Medal to Cadet Wyatt Wilson at the Cienega High School JROTC Ceremony on April 15.



USS Tucson submariners roll with retiree colleagues in the 2026 Tucson Rodeo Parade, February



Jessica Grover of the Tucson Veterans 2026 StandDown, accepts gift cards and other items purchased by the Tucson chapter from a \$1,000 MOAA Community Foundation Grant.

2026 Advocacy in Action



Edited from a MOAA article by Kevin Lilley

MOAA members brought the organization's top priorities to Capitol Hill on April 15, visiting about 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.

And ... remembering to hydrate.

"We beat the heat," said Lt. Gen. Brian T. Kelly, USAF (Ret), MOAA's president and CEO, referring to record-setting D.C. temperatures. "This is an energy-adding event: You're out in the heat, it's a long day, but you end the day with more energy than you came in with. Advocacy in Action demonstrates the power of our grassroots advocacy, the power of our members and our mission, and the power of our democracy. We've made great strides on these issues by connecting our members with their lawmakers on the Hill, but [our work is far from over](#)."

Answering the Call

MOAA members from across the nation visited offices in support of four pieces of bipartisan legislation:

The Major Richard Star Act, which would end an unfair pay offset faced by tens of thousands of combat-injured veterans.

The Shutdown Fairness Act, which would ensure continued, timely pay for the armed services during federal funding lapses.

The GUARD VA Benefits Act, which would allow veterans to keep the benefits they've earned by protecting them from unaccredited for-profit "claim sharks."

The Military CARE Act, which would create a system to provide military treatment facility patients with the tools they need to combat access-to-care issues, and gather data on those issues to improve accountability and oversight.

For more on the exciting day, follow this [link](#).

The Major Richard Star Act: Member organizations of The Military Coalition have been blitzing the Hill in support of the Major
Continued on page 6

Advocacy in Action *continued from page 5*

Richard Star Act. On March 3, Senator Jerry Moran (R-KS) led a joint Senate and House Committee on Veterans' Affairs hearing to receive the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. (VFW) legislative presentation. He discussed the importance of the Star Act and committed to working with his colleagues to see it pass the U.S. Senate.

During the joint Senate-House hearing earlier, VFW National Commander Carol Whitmore responded to Senator Moran's question about how the Act might be funded, stating, "The Military Retirement Fund was set up for exactly this sort of situation.... The Military Retirement Fund is flush; it has over \$1 trillion in reserves."

Later that day, the Star Act, co-sponsored by 78 Senators and 319 House members, was once again stalled. The Non-Commissioned Officers Association reported that an attempt to bring the Act to a floor vote was blocked by Senator Ron Johnson (R-WI), who said, "We simply can't afford it." A compromise motion would have set up a single roll-call vote on the bill at a 60-vote threshold. It would also have waived all procedural votes to protect floor time between the vote and mid-August, but Johnson blocked that as well.

Veteran organizations and their supporters are not giving up as MOAA's April 15 Advocacy in Action day proved.

Arizona: The following are the outstanding veteran-related pieces of legislation in the Arizona House and Senate. The first three have the best chance of passage before the session ends, currently scheduled for April 25, 2026. However, on April 13, Governor Hobbs declared a moratorium on signing any new bills until the Republican-controlled legislature put forward its budget proposal and engaged in serious negotiation.

HB2165 (Rep. Diaz) – Veterans; State Park Fees; Exemption
→ Expands access to state park fee

exemptions for veterans

HB2620 (Rep. Blackman) – Homeless Veterans; Shelter Services

→ Provides funding for homeless veteran shelter and stabilization programs

HB2960 (Rep. Travers) – Veterans' Court Fund; Grant Program

→ Expands funding for veterans treatment courts

HB2226 (Rep. Blackman) – Processing Arrestees; Veteran Status

HB2127 (Rep. Carter; Rep. Gress co-sponsor) – License Plate Omnibus

HB2373 (Rep. Travers) – Veteran Organization Tax Refund

HB2406 (Rep. Willoughby) – Department of Veterans' Services; Study (subject to striker amendment)

HB2663 (Rep. Peña) – Military Leave Expansion

HB2759 (Rep. Nguyen) – Department of Veterans' Services Appropriation

SB1050 (Sen. Rogers) – Lifetime State Park Pass

SB1065 (Sen. Rogers) – Hyperbaric Therapy Funding

SB1107 (Sen. Petersen) – Peace Officer Certification Pathway

SB1275 (Sen. Gowan) – Veteran Diversion Program

STATUS NOTES

- - Legislative deadlines have significantly narrowed bill movement across both chambers
- - Remaining activity is concentrated in Appropriations and late-stage procedural steps
- - HB2165, HB2620, and HB2960 were scheduled for Senate Appropriations consideration on March 31
- - Most remaining bills are awaiting Rules Committee or final floor action
- - HB2406 remains active but unstable due to a strike-everything amendment

RESOURCES

You can read the bills and bill summaries here: <https://apps.azleg.gov/BillStatus/BillOverview?SessionID=130> Enter bill number and click on the "documents" tab.

Budget Update

By Polly Parks
The Territorial Editor

On March 19, Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth confirmed during a press conference that he had sent the White House a \$200 billion emergency request to fund the Iran War, which President Trump launched on February 28. This would be on top of the \$1 trillion appropriated for FY2026, which includes the extra Pentagon infusion from the One Big Beautiful Bill.

The massive emergency request immediately caused sticker shock in Congress, even among those who supported President Trump's action.

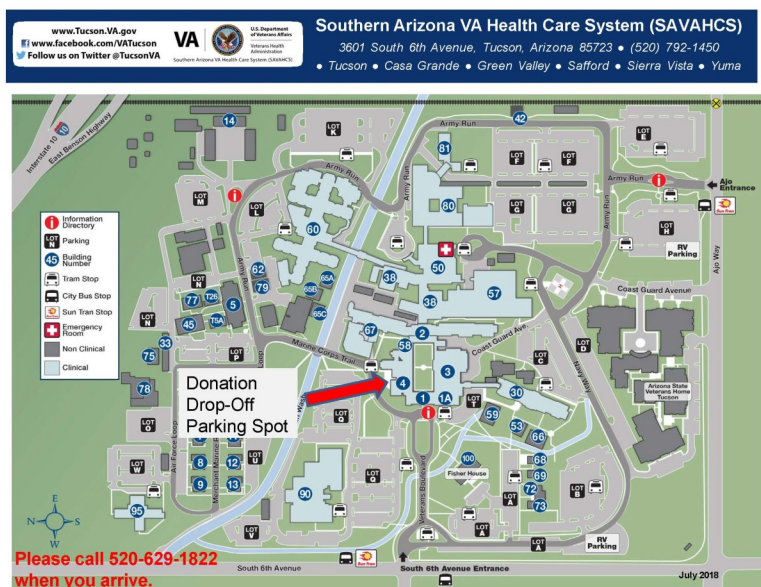
President Trump shrugged off the lack of clarity, stating, "We're asking for a lot of reasons, beyond even what we're talking about in Iran. This is a very volatile world, and the military equipment, the power of some of this weaponry, is unthinkable," adding, "It's a small price to pay to make sure we stay tippy top."

On April 3, 2026, President Trump formally proposed a 2027 budget of \$2.2 trillion to Congress, including \$1.5 trillion for defense, a 40% increase over FY2026 levels. The remaining discretionary spending of \$660.1 billion represents a 10% cut from FY2026 levels.

On April 15, Russell Vought, Director of the White House Office of Management and Budget, told lawmakers at a House Budget Committee meeting that the White House had not settled on "a ballpark" range for the additional FY2026 appropriation to fund President Trump's war with Iran and other international military actions. Vought said, "We're not ready to come to you with a request. We're still working on it. We're working through to figure out what's needed in this fiscal year versus next fiscal year."

The lack of fiscal clarity and the Administration's opaque line items do not bode well for the FY2027 budget process. If the President cannot negotiate a lasting ceasefire with Iran, the war and its economic fallout will overshadow the midterms, during which Republicans seek to hold narrow majorities in both houses.

SAVAHCS Donation Drop-Off Site



The Tucson MOAA LTC John A. Devine Scholarship Program

By John Davee, USAF Col, Ret.
Tucson MOAA Chapter, 2nd VP

A great way to recognize our Veterans for the sacrifices and dedication required by service in the United States Armed Forces is to help financially support the tax-deductible Tucson MOAA LTC John A. Devine Scholarship Program, which currently awards three annual \$2,000 scholarships to University of Arizona ROTC cadets or midshipmen.

This scholarship provides support to ROTC cadets in their freshman or sophomore years who have financial need to help pay for college expenses. Over the years, a number of cadets have left ROTC programs in their first two years for financial reasons. Many would have stayed and become officers in our Armed Forces if they had received a little financial assistance. Unfortunately, if a cadet or midshipman is not on a service scholarship, there is no financial support from the service during their freshman or sophomore years.

We are happy to accept any donation to help an ROTC cadet or midshipman. You can also sponsor a "Named Scholarship" in honor of or in remembrance of a particular Veteran who served in a specific branch of the Armed Forces. For a donation of at least \$500, we recognize the Veteran by presenting a University of Arizona cadet or midshipman with scholarship money and a certificate named for or in remembrance of the Veteran.

At our April luncheon, we present the scholarship to the cadet or midshipman along with a certificate. The family or friends of any "Named Scholarship" will receive a letter from the Tucson MOAA Chapter President notifying them of the scholarship presentation and providing a brief description of the recipient.

If you or someone you know is interested in contributing to the Tucson MOAA LTC John A. Devine Scholarship Program, or for further information, please contact John Davee directly. Email kiddavee@gmail.com or call (520) 275-7864.

SAVAHCS Gains New Director

On April 5, the Veterans Administration announced the appointment of Dr. Leslie T. Lockridge (DNP, RN) as the new Executive Director of the Southern Arizona Veterans Administration Health Care System (SAVAHCS). Dr. Lockridge brings a wealth of experience and proven leadership to this role. Most recently, she served as the Acting Deputy Assistant Under Secretary for Health for Patient Care Services within the Veterans Health Administration, where she oversaw 16 National Program Offices that delivered operational, policy, and compliance support across VHA.



D-M RAO Board News

Base News: [The Base Pharmacy](#) is being renovated, and all services are now consolidated at the Base Exchange Pharmacy. More information on how to place an order or refill is available at the link above.

The 492nd Special Ops Beddown is on track, and approximately 26 projects are in the works, including funding secured to build a new runway.

The FamCamp remodel was scheduled to begin at the end of March. However, it will have to compete for funding, so progress will be incremental.

Upcoming: The A-10s will finish graduating from D-M in June.

There will be a ribbon-cutting for the South Wilmont Gate sometime in mid to late May. In April, beta testing for commercial vehicles will begin. Once open, the North Wilmont Gate will remain open for a while.

There will be a local exercise starting around May 11, lasting about a week to a week and a half. There will be noise.

The Exchange will have a celebration April 24th @ 1530-1700 for The Month of the Military Child.

The Commissary would like to alert patrons to bring their own bags. If you don't have them, the charge will be 5 cents per plastic bag and 10 cents for paper. This charge will also apply to ClicktoGo and delivery.

RAO: The RAO Board has a new member organization and representative. Alan Young, the American Legion Department of Arizona District 2 Commander, attended the April 6 meeting and was an active participant. Al is also the Vice Chair of the Tucson Veterans' Affairs Committee, which includes the Marine Corps League, Marana Night Hawk 72 Detachment; US Army Warrant Officers Association – Fort Lowell – Apache Chapter; Women in Military Service for America Memorial Foundation; Disabled Veterans of America Auxiliary, Cactus Chapter #2; American Legion Auxiliary Oro Valley Unit 132; Military Order of the World Wars, Region XIII; and MOAA.

The VSO, who participates in TAP Briefings, noted the base is losing a lot of senior personnel, E8 & above.

VITA: The VITA report covered results through the end of March, with two weeks remaining at that time. 1,673 federal returns had been processed, resulting in over \$237,000 in refunds. 1,796 state returns had been processed, resulting in over \$950,000 in refunds. There has been over \$656,000 in savings from using commercial tax services. Chuck Schable, Director, noted that the D-M RAO's free VITA tax service is one of the largest among the RAO's that offer the service.



TUCSON CHAPTER OFFICERS

Web: <https://tucsonmoaa.org/> Facebook: [MOAA Tucson Chapter](#)

President: Polly Parks, Territorial Editor, 703-338-6881 / pollyparks@earthlink.net

1st Vice President: Ross Orvik, CDR, USN, (Ret), 510-393-9359 / rorvik@orvik.com

2nd Vice President: John Davee, Col, USAF (Ret), 520-275-7864 / kiddavee@gmail.com

Personal Affairs: Brenda Hughey, LT COL USA (Ret), 703-321-6344 / hugheyb1@gmail.com

Legislative Chair: Caleb Martiny, Lt Col, USAF (Ret), 907-250-6521 / calebmartiny@gmail.com

Secretary/Treasurer: Charles Vaughan, CAPT. USN, (Ret) 505-553-4364 / Chuck.vaughan@comcast.net

Membership Chair: Caleb Martiny, Lt Col, USAF (Ret), 907-250-6521 / calebmartiny@gmail.com.

Scholarship Chair: John Davee, Col, USAF (Ret), (520) 275-7864 / kiddavee@gmail.com

ESGR Chair: Ross Orvik, CDR, USN, (Ret), 510-393-9359 / rorvik@orvik.com

SS Liaison: Leonard Summers, USAF Maj (Ret), (520) 548-1702 / cctscwbys@aol.com

Chaplain: Bette Ludlow, 520-207-3755 / bettyludlow@yahoo.com

Webmaster: Charles Vaughan, CAPT. USN, (Ret) 505-553-4364 / Chuck.vaughan@comcast.net

Past President: Tom Owens, Col, USAFR, (Ret), 520-760-3476 / owensttt@gmail.com

MOAA Tucson Chapter Mission

1. Advocate and support MOAA national goals.
2. Advocate and support the Arizona and metro Tucson programs, activities, and proposed legislation.
3. Encourage and promote a spirit of volunteerism and participation in programs and activities beneficial to Tucson civic and military communities.

Volunteer to be a MOAA Mover Tucson Chapter needs Your Help

Our MOAA programs and their quality depend on the voluntary efforts of our members. We need a volunteer for the Board position of Legislative Chair as Caleb Martiny is taking on the Membership Chair. Please consider lending your *LEADERSHIP AND VOICE* to the Chapter teams.

Contact Tucson Chapter President Polly Parks at pollyparks@earthlink.net

LOCAL VA CONTACTS

Southern Arizona VA Health Care System (SAVAHCS) 520-792-1450 or 1-800-470-8262
Suicide Prevention Coordinator 520-792-1450 extension 6415
Caregiver Support Program 520-629-1822 extension 5390
Patient Advocate Office 520-629-1819
Care in the Community 520-792-1450 extension 6555
Women's Health Clinic 520-629-4885

Center for Development & Civic Engagement
520-629-1822

D-M AFB CONTACT NUMBERS
Base Welcome Center 520-228-4886
Info and Referral Services 520-228-5690
ID/CAC card processing 520-228-4425
Base Exchange 520-748-7887
Commissary 520-228-3116
Retiree Activities Office 520-228-5100
VSO 520-275-7633



Hello, MOAA National Member;

I'm Polly Parks, the Surviving Spouse of a U.S. Army Colonel, and the President of the MOAA Tucson Chapter. I want to thank all 1,800 MOAA national members in our catchment area who agreed to be contacted by the local chapter. This initial communication is an ask, an invitation, and a chapter brief.

The Ask is for you to go to MOAA's [Legislative Action Center](#) (LAC) and add your support to the four [2026 Advocacy in Action issues](#) that MOAA members will present to House and Senate offices on April 15. The four bills are:

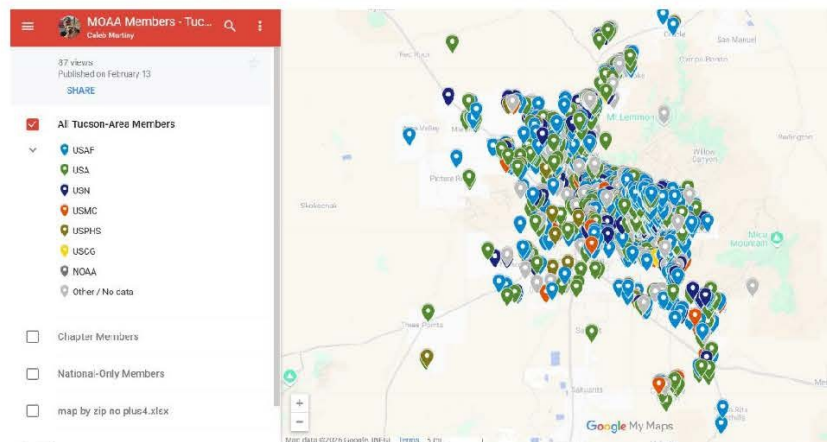
- [The Major Richard Star Act](#)
- [The Guard VA Benefits Act](#)
- [The Military CARE Act](#)
- [The Shutdown Fairness Act](#)

If you haven't used the LAC before, it's very simple and just takes a few minutes. Just click the links above and follow the prompts. Rest assured, every letter sent amplifies MOAA's impact in the halls of Congress.

The Invitation is for the chapter's April 23rd luncheon, where the chapter will award three \$2,000 scholarships to outstanding third-year cadets from the University of Arizona's Air Force, Army, and Navy ROTC programs. This annual event offers a great opportunity to interact with cadets and their senior instructors and learn more about the chapter and its activities.

The venue is the private meeting room off the lobby of the [Viscount Suites Hotel](#), 4855 E Broadway Blvd (between Swan and Craycroft), and begins at 1130. The all-inclusive buffet luncheon, which includes vegan options, is \$35 (if this is a hardship, contact me). Please let me know if you plan to attend.

The Brief: The 1,800 MOAA national members in this area come from all branches of the uniformed services and are spread across Tucson, Marana, Oro Valley, west of the Tucson Mts., and Vail. Your numbers include active-duty personnel, retirees who are still working, retirees, and Surviving Spouses. In short, you embody MOAA's



diverse membership. This demographic and geographic diversity presents some challenges for the chapter.

The Tucson Chapter has been active since October 1980 (back in the TROA days). We are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with a dedicated U of A ROTC Scholarship Fund. Most of our current members are older officers or surviving spouses, but not all. Our three youngest Board members are part of MOAA's sought-after 40-60 age group, which will help shape MOAA's future presence in Tucson. The Board has asked 1st VP and ESGR Chair Rusty Orvik (CDR, USN, ret.), Legislative Chair Caleb Martiny (Lt Col, USAF, ret.), and Personal Affairs/Tucson Veterans' Affairs Committee Rep. Brenda Hughey (LT COL, USA, ret.) to develop strategies to address our demographic and geographic challenges. If you're interested in working with them, please let me know.

We are one of nine chapters within the Arizona Council of Chapters (AZCOC), and Tucson's chapter Secretary/Treasurer, Chuck Vaughn (CAPT, USN, ret.), is currently serving as the AZCOC President. The Tucson chapter played a key role in establishing the Catalina Mountains Chapter. Past President Tom Owens (Col, USAF, ret.) has initiated a similar effort in Vail.

MOAA chapters are essential to MOAA's non-partisan advocacy at both the state and federal levels, but advocacy is only one aspect of our chapter's activities. Tucson's current activities include supporting the annual Veterans Standdown, the Esperanza en Escalante Board, the Davis-Monthan Retiree Activities Office Board and RAO newsletter, Tucson Veterans' Affairs Committee, ESGR, annual awards for the four JROTC programs, and the chapter's University of Arizona ROTC Scholarship and Awards Program. Last year, the Vail Satellite organized a fundraising golf tournament for the Scholarship Fund. We also maintain a [website](#) and [Facebook](#) page, publish *The Territorial* newsletter electronically, and hold eight monthly luncheons with guest speakers.

In closing, I want to thank you for being a MOAA National member, and I encourage you to consider joining the local chapter to help shape our future. As an incentive, the Board has agreed to waive 2026 dues for any MOAA National member who joins. Dues are \$30 per year for Officers (including spouses) and \$8 per year for Surviving Spouses. [Instructions on how to pay](#) and a fillable [membership form](#) are available on the [Tucson MOAA website](#), along with a link to Tucson MOAA's [Cheddar Up online portal](#), where you can pay dues and/or make a donation. If you decide to join and take advantage of the 2026 dues waiver, please fill out and submit the fillable [membership form](#).

If you have any questions, you can send them via this email or to me directly at pollyparks@earthlink.net.

V/r,

