



# THE TERRITORIAL

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



MARCH 2024

National MOAA and the Tucson MOAA Chapter are non-partisan



## FROM THE EAGLES NEST

By Col Tom Owens,  
Tucson Chapter President

Eagles Nest

I hope you are enjoying this delightful Sonoran spring.

The MOAA Vail Satellite meeting is next Saturday, March 16, at Del Lago Golf Restaurant at 1130. Please call Tom Owens, 520-400-9561 if you plan to attend.

At the Tucson Chapter February meeting, Rusty Orvik CDR, USN, (Ret) gave a lively and informative presentation on the Employer Support for Guard and Reserves (ESGR) program, which is a volunteer program coordinated by a staff group within the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs, Office of the Secretary of Defense. ESGR provides free education, consultation, and if necessary, mediation for employers of Guard and Reserve employees. ESGR aims to support America's employers who share their



employees with the nation to ensure our national security. ESGR sponsors a rewards and recognition program that recognizes employers for policies and practices that support their employee's participation in the Guard or Reserves. Guard and Reserve members can nominate their employer for various awards such as: "The Patriot Award", Local Committee Charis Award", PRO PATRIA Award, and the "National Freedom Award" for nomination. Please take a look at their leaflet included in this issue.

The March meeting is scheduled for March 28 at 1130 at Trattoria Pina, on Swan at Sunrise. Our guest speaker is Colonel Greg Hoffman, Deputy Commander, 162nd Air Wing at the Morris Air National Guard Base co-located at the Tucson International Airport. The Wing encompasses an Operations Group, including the 148<sup>th</sup>, 152<sup>nd</sup>, and 195<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadrons, the 162<sup>nd</sup> Training Squadron, and an International Military Student Office. Additional groups are a Maintenance Group, a Medical Group, and a Mission Support Group. There are also three geographically separated units at D-M: 162<sup>nd</sup> Wing Alert Detachment, Total Force Training Center, and 214<sup>th</sup> Attack Group. This promises to be most informative and I hope you will join us.

April will be our ROTC / JROTC events. We will award scholarships to the University of Arizona's outstanding ROTC cadets (Air Force, Army, Navy/Marines). Additionally, four local

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## Upcoming Tucson Chapter Meetings

The March Luncheon is scheduled for  
1130 Thursday, March 28  
Speaker: Col Greg Hoffman,  
162nd Wing Deputy Commander  
Venue: [Trattoria Pina](#), 5541 N Swan, near Sunrise.

The April Luncheon is scheduled for 1130 Thursday, April 25th  
ROTC Scholarships and Award  
Venue: [Trattoria Pina](#), 5541 N Swan, near Sunrise.

## MOAA Tucson / Vail Meeting

MOAA Tucson / Vail will hold its next meeting Saturday, March 16, at Del Lago Golf Restaurant, in Vail, at 1130. Please let me know if you will attend. Please invite any military officers (active or retired) you know to attend.

Vail is a growth area close to Tucson. MOAA Tucson Chapter started over 50 years ago. We had over 110 members. More recently we started a satellite chapter in the Catalina Mountains area (north of Tucson - SaddleBrooke). After 10 years, they grew to form their own chapter: Catalina Mountains Chapter of MOAA. They now have over 70 members. We now wish to form a satellite chapter in the Vail area. We have found that members do not want to drive 15-20 miles to attend monthly meetings. So we will hold meetings in the local Vail area. Please come and participate.

Col Tom Owens  
520-400-9561 cell  
President, MOAA Tucson Chapter

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## TUCSON CHAPTER ACTIVITY

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 to the Secretary: [pam.devine@azmoves.com](mailto:pam.devine@azmoves.com), not later than one week prior to the meeting. If you desire to participate, please email [rorvik@orvik.com](mailto:rorvik@orvik.com) to receive the access link.

**Eagles Nest** continued from page 1

members will attend JROTC ceremonies at Cholla, Cienega, Desert View, and Flowing Wells High Schools to award MOAA medals to JROTC cadets.

Mark your calendar: the Veteran Stand Down is scheduled for March 13 at the Ramada Inn, 777 W. Cushing Street, from 0900 to 1300. The Veteran Career Fair will be on March 14, same location, from 1000 to 1500. Our chapter has donated money to supply materials for helping at this event. And the Jim Click 2024 Raffle has begun. Please contact me if you want tickets.

MOAA National will visit us sometime in the next few months. They usually come once every two years. We will let you know when it is scheduled.

We apologize for the lateness of this issue; the editor came down with COVID. She missed the D-M meeting as well.

Finally, we are still looking for someone(s) to step up and be our Treasurer and Membership Chair. These are needed positions to keep our chapter functioning well.

## **Legislative Update**

**By Ann Hollis, USAF LtCol (Ret), Legislative Chair**

Congress came through (albeit a few days late) passing the MilCon/VA, Commerce, Justice Science, Energy/Water, Interior/Environment, and Transportation/HUD bills. President Biden signed the bills on March 9. All other bills, including Defense, expire on March 22.

In our Catchment Area, Representatives Raul Grijalva and Juan Ciscomani voted to pass the bills. Senators Karen Sinema and Mark Kelly voted yes as well.

However, the rest of the bills, including the Defense, State and Homeland Security departments is just two weeks away and negotiators are still far apart on spending amounts and policy provisions necessary to fund those agencies.

We must continue to push our Senators and Representatives to work toward a compromise budget that will address the country's needs. I am asking you to act immediately using the [MOAA Legislative Action Center](#) and click on the topic:

***“Ask Your Lawmakers to Avoid a Government Shutdown and Finish the Appropriations Process,” and “Urge Your Elected Officials to Pay Servicemembers During a Government Shutdown.”*** I also urge you to call and leave a personal message urging our elected representatives to put aside election-year partisanship and concentrate on the business of the nation. Press them to support quick action on a compromise budget that puts the people, our national security, and our economy first!

Remind them that as members of MOAA, we are not just constituents, but we are voters as well! If they are unwilling to put the good of the nation first, then we will remember their inaction at the polls.

To contact our Congressional members on these or any other issues of importance to you personally or to MOAA, you can use the MOAA Action Center to send emails or you can visit

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the members' websites to send a message; or call their offices direct.

Sen. Kyrsten Sinema -- [www.sinema.senate.gov](http://www.sinema.senate.gov) -- (202) 224-4521

Sen. Mark Kelly -- [www.kelly.senate.gov](http://www.kelly.senate.gov) -- (202) 224-2235

Rep. Raul Grijalva -- <https://grijalva.house.gov/> -- (202) 225-2345

Rep. Juan Ciscomani -- <https://ciscomani.house.gov/> -- (202) 225-2542

MOAA's Board of Directors approved Tricare for Life, Star Act, and Housing Help as anchors for the [Spring Advocacy Drive](#); click link for more information.

**Arizona Legislative News:** [SB 1413](#) has moved forward and had its third reading March 5. Effective January 1, 2025, expands the individual income tax subtraction for active service compensation to include compensation received for active service in the U.S. Uniformed Services, rather than the U.S. Armed Forces. Contact your state Senators and Representatives to support this oversight.

The Tucson and CMC member catchment areas are comprised of Legislative Districts 17, 18, 20, and a part of 21.

**LD-17:** Sen. Justine Wadsack, 602-926-3106, [JWadsack@azleg.gov](mailto:JWadsack@azleg.gov); Rep. Rachel Jones, 602-926-3558, [rachel.jones@azleg.gov](mailto:rachel.jones@azleg.gov); Rep. Cory McGarr, (602) 926-3630, [CMc-Garr@azleg.gov](mailto:CMc-Garr@azleg.gov). **LD-18:** Sen. Priya Sundareshan, (602) 926-3437, [PSundareshan@azleg.gov](mailto:PSundareshan@azleg.gov); Rep. Nancy Gutierrez, (602) 926-4134, [NGutierrez@azleg.gov](mailto:NGutierrez@azleg.gov); Rep. Christopher Mathis, (602) 926-3138, [CMathis@azleg.gov](mailto:CMathis@azleg.gov). **LD-20:** Sen. Sally Ann Gonzalez, (602) 926-3278, [SGonzalez@azleg.gov](mailto:SGonzalez@azleg.gov); Rep. André Cano, (602) 926-3027, [ACa-no@azleg.gov](mailto:ACa-no@azleg.gov); Rep. Alma Hernandez, (602) 926-3136, [AHernandez@azleg.gov](mailto:AHernandez@azleg.gov). **LD-21:** Sen. Rosanna Gabaldón, (602) 926-3424, [RGalbaldon@azleg.gov](mailto:RGalbaldon@azleg.gov); Rep. Consuelo Hernandez, (602) 926-3523, [CHernandez@azleg.gov](mailto:CHernandez@azleg.gov), Rep. Stephanie Stahl Hamilton, (602) 926-3279, [SStahlhamilton@azleg.gov](mailto:SStahlhamilton@azleg.gov).

# Surviving Spouse & Personal Affairs

By Polly Parks, *Surviving Spouse Liaison*

There is no D-RAO report this month. I got sick from COVID and could not make the meeting. But read about the gate closures on next page.

TRICARE beneficiaries with prescriptions for specialty drugs through a retail pharmacy may need to make new arrangements to receive their medication after a March 1 TRICARE policy change that expanded the list of maintenance medications beneficiaries must refill through home delivery or at military treatment facilities (MTFs).

Patients taking medications newly added to TRICARE's [maintenance drug list](#) as of March 1 will have a limited time – two refills – to move their prescription to either a military pharmacy or TRICARE Home Delivery, according to a [Feb. 6 TRICARE.mil article](#). The move comes as [Accredo](#), a specialty pharmacy, takes over all specialty prescriptions filled via the home delivery option. This change impacts fewer than 1% of TRICARE beneficiaries. Those impacted have been notified by mail.

**Read here:** [Veterans' Caregivers Can Appeal VA Eligibility Decisions, Court Rules](#). The decision could pave the way to retroactive pay and future compensation for thousands of caregivers.

# D-M Gate Closures

Projected Gate Operations  
(4 Mar – 31 May 24)

## **CRAYCROFT**

- Projected long term closure from 4 Mar 24 – 31 May 24
- VISITOR CENTER (located outside Craycroft) - Mon-Sun / 24 hours
  - No hour changes
- Expect traffic flow delays during Craycroft closure

## **SWAN - Mon-Sun / 24 hours**

- Change of hours will start when Craycroft closes for construction on 4 Mar 24  
Mon-Fri / 0600-1800
  - Closed on holidays

## **N. WILMOT - Mon-Fri / 0600-1800**

- Closed on holidays
- Change of hours will start when Craycroft closes for construction on 4 Mar 24 and may adjust based upon utilization rate.

## **S. WILMOT - Mon-Fri / 0500-0900 & 1330-1800**

- Long term construction projected to start – May 2024

NOTE: These hours are subject to short notice changes in order to meet emerging requirements or construction timelines.

## **WHO CAN JOIN MOAA?**

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/>.

## **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.

## **EDITORIAL POLICY**

This MOAA newsletter, published monthly except June and July is solely for the benefit of members of the Tucson Chapter. The opinions expressed herein are those of the authors/editor and do not necessarily reflect those of the MOAA National Organization, or any official government policies or agencies.



# MOAA's Spring Advocacy Push

By MOAA Staff

The three issue areas comprising this year's Advocacy in Action (AiA) campaign show the range of MOAA's legislative priorities – not just for officers, not just for retirees, and not wavering on our commitment to long-term advocacy goals. Here's a quick look at each of the issues, which were approved by MOAA's board of directors Jan. 19. Get involved! [Click here for details.](#)

**CONCURRENT RECEIPT What's at Stake:** The Major Richard Star Act (H.R. 1282/S. 344) would end an unjust offset for combat-injured veterans who lose a dollar of service-earned retirement pay for every dollar of VA disability compensation. The bill has a supermajority of bipartisan support – more than 325 House co-sponsors and more than 70 in the Senate – thanks in part to past grassroots efforts from MOAA and partners in [The Military Coalition](#).

**MOAA's Mission:** We need to keep up this momentum and secure the bill's inclusion in the FY 2025 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). It's time for lawmakers to push this long-delayed step toward concurrent receipt for all past the finish line. [Ask Your Legislators to Support Combat-Injured Veterans](#)

**FULL HOUSING ALLOWANCE What's at Stake:** The BAH Restoration Act (H.R. 2537/S. 1823) reverses DoD policy capping the Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) at 95% of local rental and utilities costs – a policy that's placing a financial burden on servicemembers and families in the middle of a nationwide rental shortage *and* ongoing recruiting challenges. Restoring this benefit – it was cut by Congress incrementally beginning in 2015 – would make a difference in the quality of life for all who serve, but especially among junior enlisted members and their families, who rely on this allowance as a large percentage of their compensation. **MOAA's Mission:** Language requiring an incremental increase reached the late stages of the FY 2024 NDAA process but ultimately was not included in the final bill. We must send a message to lawmakers that close isn't good enough – servicemembers deserve a full housing allowance, and more progress must be made this legislative session. [Ask Your Legislators to Support Full BAH for Servicemembers](#)

**TRICARE FOR LIFE What's at Stake:** Protecting TRICARE For Life (TFL) remains a key issue for all MOAA members – those already covered by TFL and Medicare, along with those who'll use the benefit when they turn 65. MOAA remains concerned about a [Congressional Budget Office \(CBO\) report](#) suggesting two measures which would severely weaken the benefit – enrollment fees topping \$1,100 per family, and cost-sharing requirements including an \$850 deductible and up to \$4,675 in potential yearly medical bills. **MOAA's Mission:** Legislators seeking solutions to budget gaps must hear a clear message: Maintaining TFL is not just a national obligation to those who spent decades in uniform, it's also critical to ensuring key influencers in the recruiting process aren't discouraged from recommending uniformed service to future generations. While TFL fees or cost shares aren't part of any current legislation, we must counter CBO's misguided options with our grassroots advocacy efforts. The next CBO release is slated for December of this year, following the elections; MOAA will update our members as soon as we get the report.

**Take Action Online:** MOAA's last online advocacy effort addressing potential TFL fees resulted in nearly 49,000 messages to lawmakers. Register for [MOAA's Legislative Action Center](#) today so you can be part of upcoming campaigns.

# BECOME A VOLUNTEER



**EMPLOYER SUPPORT OF  
THE GUARD AND RESERVE**

## What is ESGR?

Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) is a Department of Defense organization. It is a staff group within the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs, which is in itself part of the Office of the Secretary of Defense.



## What can ESGR do for you?



ESGR provides free education, consultation, and if necessary mediation for employers of Guard and Reserve employees. ESGR's goal is to support America's employers who share their employees with the nation to ensure our national security.

## Our Mission

ESGR Mission is to gain and maintain active support from all public and private employers for the men and women of the National Guard and Reserve, and recognize their support.



## What does ESGR do?

ESGR provides free education, consultation, and if necessary mediation for employers of Guard and Reserve employees. ESGR's goal is to support America's employers who share their employees with the nation to ensure our national security.

ESGR sponsors a rewards and recognition program that recognizes employers for policies and practices that support their employee's participation in the Guard or



Reserves. You can nominate your employer for various awards such as: "The Patriot Award", Local Committee Charis Award", PRO PATRIA Award, and the "National Freedom Award" for nomination.

## Why ESGR?

The success of the nation's defense is dependent on the availability of highly trained members of the "Total Force". Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve's mission is to obtain employer and community support to ensure the availability and readiness of Reserve forces.

ESGR seeks to gain and reinforce the support of America's employers for a strong National Guard and Reserve system.

**What's next - email Rusty Orvik at [Rorvik@Orvik.com](mailto:Rorvik@Orvik.com) or call 510-393-9359**



## TUCSON CHAPTER OFFICERS

(<http://www.tucsonmoaa.org>)

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

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**Secretary:** Pam Devine 520-401-0001 / [Pam.Devine@azmoves.com](mailto:Pam.Devine@azmoves.com)

**Treasurer/Membership Chair:** Gary Pettett, COL, USA, (Ret), 520-544-7730, [pettett45@gmail.com](mailto:pettett45@gmail.com)

**Scholarship Chair:** Douglas May, LtCol, USAF, (Ret), 520-818-3309 / [dougmay@gmail.com](mailto:dougmay@gmail.com)

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

**Past President:** William Wojciechowski, Col, USAF, (Ret), 620-770-0059 /

### 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 a Membership Chair and a Treasurer

Our MOAA programs and their quality depend on the voluntary efforts of our members. Please consider lending your *LEADERSHIP AND VOICE* to the Chapters' teams. Contact Tucson Chapter President Tom Owens at [owensttt@gmail.com](mailto:owensttt@gmail.com) .

## Contact Your Legislator and Urge Them to Support the All-Volunteer Force

### 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** 520-792-1450 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