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

MARCH 2025

National MOAA and the Tucson MOAA Chapter are non-partisan





FROM THE EAGLES NEST

Ann Hollis, USAF LtCol (Ret) Tucson Chapter President

We are having delightful spring weather: warm days, cool nights, and, finally, occasional showers. It won't make up for the drought this winter, but hopefully, it is a harbinger for the Monsoon season.

The February luncheon presentation by Dena Kilgore, MOAA Program Director, Council, and Chapter Affairs, was informative. She reiterated that MOAA is committed to its mission and to maintaining key advocacy and mission. She noted that MOAA was named to The Hill's Top Lobbyist for the 18th consecutive year.

She also stated a goal is to strengthen The MOAA Foundation, which has five areas of support: Crisis Relief, Community Outreach, Professional Education Outreach, Military Spouse Professional Development, and Career Transition. Crisis Relief and Community Outreach grants are open to chapters, and the Tucson Chapter has received grants from both.

A key focus of her department this next year will be to strengthen local chapters and state councils. MOAA National has instituted a module where chapter members can pay their dues online. Catalina Mountains Chapter has successfully moved to the platform and the

Tucson Chapter is looking into it.

MOAA has seven virtual chapters:
the <u>Uniformed Services Nurse Advocates</u>
<u>Virtual Chapter</u>, the <u>Surviving Spouse Virtual</u>
<u>Chapter</u>, the <u>Public Health Service Virtual</u>
<u>Chapter</u>, the <u>Chaplains Virtual Chapter</u>,
the <u>Judge Advocate Virtual Chapter</u>,
the <u>Advocacy for Servicewomen and Military</u>
<u>Families Virtual Chapter</u>, and the new
MOAA <u>Public Affairs and Communication</u>
<u>Professional Virtual Chapter</u>. MOAA's virtual
chapters are growing, successfully executing
their respective missions, and complementing
geographic chapters' efforts and membership
growth.

Upcoming Chapter Meetings: Chapter member **Maj Randy Phelps (USAF Ret)** will give an audiovisual presentation titled "A Vietnam Story" at our **March 27** meeting.

April 24 is our annual presentation of ROTC awards and scholarships to University of Arizona ROTC cadets and midshipmen.

Please join us in honoring these fine men and women who represent the future of our military. If you plan to attend, contact Ann Hollis.

Chapter members will also be attending local JROTC ceremonies in April to award coins and certificates to an exemplary junior that program staff nominate.

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Upcoming Tucson Chapter Meetings

March 27: Major Randy Phelps

A Vietnam Story NOTE: This is a date change

Venue: The Hungry Fox / Time: 1130

4637 E. Boardway

April 24: UofA ROTC Awards

NOTE: This is a date change

May 22: Speaker TBD

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MOAA Tucson / Vail Meeting

MOAA Tucson / Vail will hold its next meeting Saturday, March 15 at 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/

https://www.dellagogolf.net/

TUCSON BOARD MEETINGS

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 annhollis@usa.net. If you desire to participate, please email rorvik@orvik.com to receive the access link.

The Eagles Nest continued from page 1

Meetings through May will be held at <u>The Hungry Fox</u>, 4637 E. Broadway and Swan. It begins at 1130 a.m., and you can order off the menu, which can be found at the above link. There is plenty of parking.

We are still trying to get a presenter for the May meeting. June, July, and August will be a hiatus. Meetings will resume in September.

The **MOAA Vail meeting** is scheduled for Saturday, March 15, at Del Lago Golf Restaurant in Vail. We have added new members and look forward to others joining. The next meeting is on Saturday, April 19, at the same location. Vail members are going to organize a golf tournament. More info next month.

If you have not done so, please renew your 2025 dues. Contact the Membership Chair, Randy Long, Capt USAF (Ret), PhD, at (614) 595-5532 or RLLong@att.net.

Local events of interest:

AZ Veterans Memorial Cemetery Foundation Fundraiser at Texas Roadhouse, 170 S. Wilmot Rd, Tucson, 4 pm–8 pm each night. Tuesday, March 4; Monday, March 10; Wednesday, March 19; Thursday, March 27. You must bring a printed flyer to the Cemetery Foundation for the 10% donation of your food purchase.

Tucson Festival of Books, Mar 15, 16 (Sat, Sun). University of Arizona, free.

Francis Gary Powers Jr., the son of Francis Gary Powers, famed U2 Pilot, Air Force Veteran, and CIA employee, will participate in the Tucson Festival of Books. The SaddleBrooke Ranch Veterans Club will host him as a guest speaker at SaddleBrooke Ranch. He is the Founder and Chairman Emeritus of The Cold War Museum.

When: Monday, March 17, 12:30 pm. Book signing before and after the presentation Where: Sol Ballroom, Saddlebrooke Ranch Club House, 31143 South Amenity Drive. RSVP online at www.purplepass.com/sbrvetclubpowers

Davis-Monthan AFB Air Show, March 22- 23 (Sat- Sun), 2025: Featuring the USAF THUNDERBIRDS. There will be no cost to attend, but tickets will be sold for the VIP area and beer garden. For more information, including where to enter the base, parking, and what you may bring into the air show area, go to https://dmforcesupport.com/thunder-lightning-over-arizona/.

The 40th Annual Tucson Folk Festival, April 4-6, is a free and accessible festival celebrating Americana and Folk Music traditions and all their wonderful variations, including bluegrass, blues, country, jazz, Celtic, zydeco, and various Latin and Mexican styles of music! Friday features the kick-off concert with the Stefan George Memorial Songwriting Competition and an evening headliner. The Festival features six stages with over 150 live performances on Saturday and Sunday.

I hope to see you at the March 27 luncheon.

Never Stop Serving: Contact Your Legislator and Urge Them to Support the All-Volunteer Force

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

By Polly Parks, The Territorial Editor

Log onto MOAA's Advocacy Center and weigh in on current campaigns:

- End the 34-Year Wait: Provide Care to Toxic-Exposed Veterans
- Ask Congress to Address the Hazardous Unaccompanied Housing Conditions Rampant in the Military
- Share Your Story: Have TRICARE Pharmacy Network Changes Impacted You?
- Urge Your Representative to Cosponsor the Support Military Families Act
- Parity for Surviving Spouses: Increase Dependency and Indemnity Compensation
- Urge Lawmakers to Resume Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) Operations for Servicemembers

April 9 is Advocacy in Action. Mark your calendars. MOAA leaders and chapter members will canvass the Hill and speak to every congressional office to advocate for five priorities.

- Improving unaccompanied housing to support readiness and quality of life.
- Advancing the report *Ending the Wait for Toxic Exposed Veterans* to ensure timely delivery of earned benefits.
- Passing the Military Spouse Hiring Act to expand employment opportunities.
- Enhancing stability and accountability in the military health system
- Improving caregiving support for families of veterans.

Our voices at the local level amplify the annual Advocacy in Action campaign. You can access an MOAA article on the campaign at this <u>link</u>. The article has links to each priority issue paper and a direct link to Write Your Legislators Today.

From AZCOC Legislative Liaison, Tom Waddell: [February 14], I received a call from Senator Kelly's office responding to an email I recently sent concerning the **ACES Act**. This bipartisan legislation, the Aviator Cancers Examination Study (ACES) Act, seeks to address the disproportionately high cancer rates among aircrew members from the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps. Senator Kelly introduced the act in the last congress but did not receive committee support. I asked Senator Kelly to please reintroduce the legislation in the 119th Congress, and the call this morning confirmed that his Veterans Affairs staff is working on the legislation, and it will be reintroduced. I will be asking MOAA to add the ACES Act to its priority legislation roster. Once it has been reintroduced, I will ask you to support the legislation even if it does not make the cut at MOAA.

The call from Senator Kelly's office this morning confirms that grassroots advocacy works! Please urge your members to register and become active in the MOAA LAC.

Cheers, Tom

Arizona Update

<u>SB1155</u>: Income Tax; Subtraction; Uniformed Services, which will codify that active-duty

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Legislative Update continued from page 4

commissioned USPH and NOAA officers who are state residents will be eligible to have their active-duty pay be exempt from state income tax as their retirement pay currently is, has passed the Senate. It was referred to the House, which had its first reading on March 10. It has been referred to the House Ways and Means and Rules Committees. The Bill can be tracked at this link. Please weigh in.

The House Ways and Means Chairman is Justin Olson (LD10), who can be reached at <u>jolson@azleg.gov</u> or 602-926-3376. There are no members in our catchment region.

Lauren Hendrix (LD14) is the House Rules Committee Chairman and can be reached at lhendrix@azleg.gov or 602-926-4209. In our catchment region is Chris Mathis (LD18; Catalina Foothills, northeast Tucson), cmathis@azleg.gov or 602-926-3138, and Teresa Martinez (LD16; Casa Grande and west Tucson), tmartinez@azleg.gov or 602-926-3158.

Budget Update

By Polly Parks, The Territorial Editor

House Speaker Mike Johnson abandoned his "big beautiful bill" on March 8, 2025. The bill passed the House on February 25 with a two-vote margin. The March 14 expiration of the current Continuing Resolution (CR) was looming and Senate leadership had declared that reconciliation would take at least until mid-April.

Unveiling a new strategy, he proposed a CR that would expire on September 30 and keep overall spending levels at FY2024, minus about \$13 billion in non-defense discretionary spending; about \$16 billion would be added to defense spending. The bill would also allow the Administration to move money around for its priorities, thereby punting Congressional fiscal responsibility on a fully funded FY2025 budget.

The House passed the revised Continuing Resolution (CR) 217-213 on Tuesday, March 10. It now goes for a vote in the Senate, which must meet a 60-vote threshold to pass the bill. In an act of brinkmanship, GOP House leadership announced early Tuesday that the House would adjourn and start a week-long district work period earlier than expected. If the Republican majority in the Senate cannot muster the extra votes to pass the CR, the House must call back House legislators to hash out a mutually acceptable spending bill or face a government shutdown of all but essential workers.

The brinkmanship comes amid economic jitters among many sectors, ranging from manufacturing, farmers, education and health care sectors, and blue- and white-collar workers. The President has teed off a global trade war with erratic tariffs, increasing inflation. The federal workforce is reeling from dangerous micromanagement and missteps by the White House Office of the DOGE, inexperienced leadership at the Cabinet level, and erratic plans and implementation of an across-the-board reduction in force.

The President has acknowledged that his monetary, fiscal, and economic policies may inflict pain but views it as a "transition." Asked directly on March 11 whether he thought the country Continued on page 6

Budget Update continued from page 5

was headed towards a recession, he responded, "I don't see it at all. I think this country is going to boom. But as I said, I can do it the easy way or the hard way. The hard way to do it is exactly what I'm doing. But the results are going to be 20 times greater."

After the FY2025 budget standoff is resolved, both Houses have two looming fiscal issues. Since the 2017 Tax Cut and Jobs Act, the government has added an average of \$2 trillion yearly in new debt as income, primarily from income taxes, outpaces revenue. The Senate and House Republicans have not abandoned the extension and expansion of the 2017 tax cut, which will expire in December 2025. But it will have to be a stand-alone bill. The proposed tax cut is closely tied to the debt limit as it is forecast to add a minimum of \$5 trillion to the debt coming primarily from cutting the top 1% and corporate tax rates from those set in 2017.

The Johnson CR keeps FY2024 levels for the rest of FY2025, which might give the Treasury Department some breathing room to employ extraordinary measures before Congress must meet its Constitutional responsibility to raise the debt limit ceiling, currently \$36.1 trillion, or risk default. Since January 17, the Treasury Department has taken extraordinary measures to keep the debt from defaulting. The Treasury Department maintains a <u>debt limit webpage</u> that tracks daily debt subject to extraordinary measures and a short paper, "Description of Extraordinary Measures," dated January 17, 2025.

Surviving Spouse & Personal Affairs

By Polly Parks, Surviving Spouse Liaison

The Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter (SSVC) next meeting will be on **March 18, 2025, at 1 p.m. Eastern time:** Maj Gen. April Vogel, MOAA Government Relations Vice President, will be the SSVC guest speaker. Her topic will be **Advocacy in Action (AiA).** The information she presents should motivate our membership to participate virtually in AiA. Using the MOAA website Advocacy Path, we can influence our congressional representatives concerning issues that the MOAA focuses on this year. Contact MOAA Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter at MSSVC02@gmail.com if you want to join.

I attended the February 21 Military OneSource <u>DoD Survivor Symposium</u> on Zoom with a nation-wide audience. Presenters included the OSD Acting Deputy Assistant for Military Community and Military OneSource, a representative from Casualty and Mortuary Affairs, two senior officials from the DFAS Retired Military and Annuitants office, a senior official from the Office of Survivors Assistance at the VA, and two financial counselors for the US Army that provide advice surviving spouses and surviving children. The three-hour meeting was comprehensive, and I will cover each segment in future newsletters.

D-M RAO March Meeting

Wing Commander office: The **Heritage Flight** went well. Retirees are invited to attend the **March 22-23 Thunder and Lightning Air Show** on base. For more information, including What to Bring, Prohibited Items, Entry and Exit FAQs, and General Event FAQs, please click the link for the official <u>Davis-Monthan 2025 Airshow</u> page.

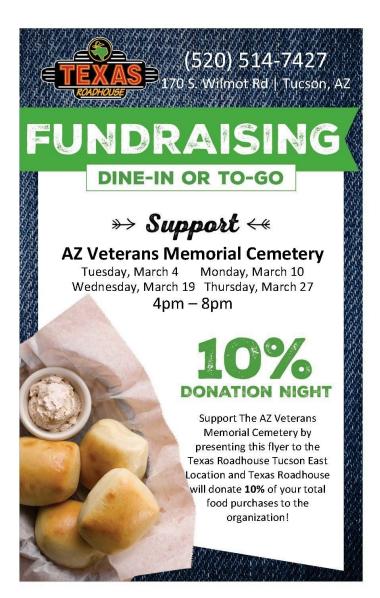
There is a full-on indefinite hiring freeze in effect. With the thrash, assuring civilian employees that they have not lost their jobs. This arose because civilian employees have been included in Continued on page 7

Surviving Spouse and Personal Affairs continued from page 6

the five-bullet point email blast, which originated initially from OPM. After consideration and asking civilian employees to pause responding on February 28, SecDef Hegseth reversed course, though the memos are to be submitted to OSD, which will compile them for OPM. Here is a DoD link to SecDef Hegseth's video explaining the directive March 2. (As a side note, the RAO office staff with .mil addresses were also included in the email blast, even though they are volunteers.)

The 355th Mission Support Group is working with civilian employees to develop a description of how each job on the base contributes to lethality: base support and installation, southern border support, etc. Everyone is here for a purpose. At this point, there is no drop in on-base services, and retirees can—and are encouraged—to access services. While OSD targets for RIF are being considered, they are not yet in place, and it is unclear how they will affect the base.

The pharmacy is still open and has its budget. It will have regular hours during the Air Show. Keep in mind the Pharmacy is closed on Sundays.



MOAA Tucson Chapter Mission

- 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

WHO CAN JOIN THE MOAA TUCSON 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/.





TUCSON CHAPTER OFFICERS

(http://www.tucsonmoaa.org)

President: Ann Hollis, USAF LtCol (Ret), 520-749-3573; / annhollis@usa.net

1st Vice President: Gerald Petersen, LTC USA (Ret), 520-250-1914,

cactushome1@earthlink.com

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annhollis@usa.net

Legislative Chair: Vacant Secretary: Vacant

<u>Treasurer</u>: Charles Vaughan, CAPT. USN, (Ret) 505-553-4364/Chuck.vaughan@comcast.net <u>Membership Chair:</u> Randy Long, Capt USAF (Ret), PhD (614) 595-5532, RLLong@att.net <u>Scholarship Chair:</u> John Davee, Col, USAF (Ret), 520-275-7864, kiddavee@gmail.com

ESGR Chair: Ross Orvik, CDR, USN, (Ret),510-393-9359 / rorvik@orvik.com **Surviving Spouse Liaison; Territorial Editor:** Polly Parks, 703-338-6881/

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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

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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 two Board positions: Legislative Chair and Secretary. Please consider lending your *LEADERSHIP AND VOICE* to the Chapter teams.

Contact Tucson Chapter President Ann Hollis at annhollis@usa.net.

Never Stop Serving: 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 520-629-1822 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

VIETNAM VETERAN'S DAY LUNCHEON



MARCH 29 2025

11 AM

DESERT DIAMOND CASINO 7350 S Nogales Hwy · Tucson AZ 85756

PART OF THE 50TH COMMEMORATION





www.VVA106.org



SAVE THE DATE

Francis Gary Powers Jr.



The son of Francis Gary Powers, famed U2 Pilot, Air Force Veteran, and CIA employee will be participating in the Annual Tucson Book Festival in March. The SaddleBrooke Ranch Veterans Club has the opportunity to have him as a guest speaker here at SaddleBrooke Ranch.

Powers is best known for his involvement in the 1960 U-2 incident, when he was shot down while flying a secret CIA spying mission over the Soviet Union.

Fancis Gary Powers Jr. is the Founder and Chairman Emeritus of The Cold War Museum. Gary founded the museum in 1996 to honor Cold War veterans, preserve Cold War history, and educate future generations about this time period. He worked with the National Park Service and leading Cold War experts to identify historic Cold War sites for commemorating, interpreting, and preservation. In 2015, he consulted for a Steven Spielberg Cold War thriller, *Bridge of Spies*.



<u>When</u>: Monday, March 17, 12:30pm Book signing before & after the presentation <u>Where</u>: Sol Ballroom, Saddlebrooke Ranch Club House, 31143 South Amenity Drive Seating by reservation only.

RSVP online at www.purplepass.com/sbrvetclubpowers

No admission fee - Donations appreciated to assist the SBR Veterans Club defray costs and provide future events.

25th Anniversary

Next Time You Hear Thunder In The Sky Know 17's 19 Marines Yelling



Please Come Out and Show Your Support!

Honoring The 19 Marines

Lost on April 8, 2000

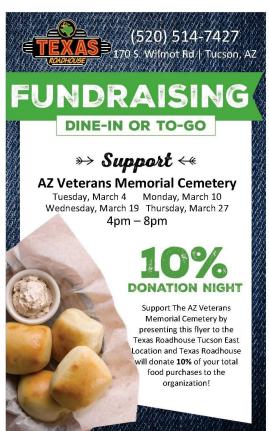
Memorial Service • 10:00 a.m. Candlelight Service • 8:00 p.m.

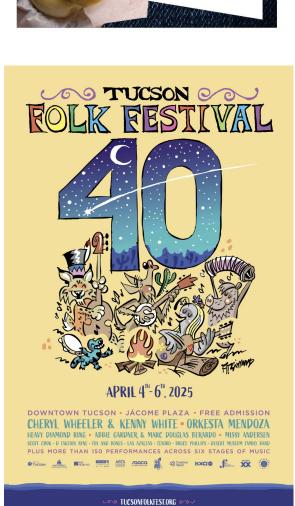
April 5, 2025

Marana Regional Airport Nighthawk-72 Memorial Park



Contact Terry Byron 520-982-0023 or Mike Flynn 520-345-1392 www.Nighthawk-72mcl.org • Facebook.com/MCL1344









Shotgun Start • 4 man scramble

\$100.00 per player / \$125 day of

Raffle • 50/50 Raffle • Ball Launcher Longest Drive • Closest to the Pin Hole In One Prize

1st, 2nd & 3rd Place Prizes

Deadline to register is June 11. 520-982-0023

