

#### THE TERRITORIAL

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



SEPTEMBER 2023

National, Tucson, and Catalina Mountains MOAA Chapters are non-partisan





### FROM THE EAGLES NEST

#### **Tom Owens, Tucson Chapter President**

MOAA just announced the Tucson Chapter achieved another <u>Level of Excellence 5-Star</u> rating for 2022. In addition, all 10 Arizona Chapters and Council of Chapters were also awarded a 5-star rating. Congratulations to all for a job well done. Tucson also was awarded a 4-Star award for our Website. Thanks to CAPT Chuck Vaughan for his leadership.

I trust you all had a nice summer break. We have started to schedule our slate of speakers

for this year. The September 28 luncheon features a presentation by Charles Schable, (CAPT, PHSCC, Ret), the Director of the D-M Retired Activities Office (RAO). **NOTE:** The luncheon will be held at **Poco and Mom's** restaurant, 7000 E Tanque Verde in Santa Fe Square between N Kolb and N Sabino Canyon Rds. The cuisine is Mexican and a buffet is available for \$25. Please call Toni Owens, at 520-760-3476 for reservations. Jim Whipp currently has some health issues and will attend if possible.

Gary Pettett will be stepping down as Treasurer/Membership Chairman at the end of the Continued on page 4



#### CATALINA MOUNTAINS CHAPTER

## Chuck Vaughan, CAPT, USN (Ret) Catalina Mountains Chapter President

Greetings everyone. September is finally here! We made it through the hot days of summer although we could still experience some days with temperatures at or above 100 degrees—but hopefully not above 110 degrees. But I, for one, am ready for some cooler days.

I want to welcome several new members to our chapter who have joined us over the past six months.. These include, in no particular order, Jerry Sharp, LTC, USA, retired; Ken Miller, CW3, USA, retired; Steve Didio, LCDR, USN, retired; Joe Harris, LTC, USA, retired; Clarence Hindman, BGen, ANG, retired; Richard "Ritt" Schiano, CAPT, USN, retired; Leneille Hudgins, surviving spouse; Todd Hawkinson, CDR, USN, retired; and Ray Malaski, Maj, USAF, retired. To all of you, welcome aboard!

I want to also thank Don Timian for volunteering to be our membership chairman. Don replaces David Bull who was our membership chairman. Contact Don if you have any membership questions.

One of the highlights of the summer for our chapter was presenting four new Dell laptops to four residents of Esperanza En Escalante

Continued on page 4

#### **Upcoming Tucson Chapter Meetings**

September 28: Speaker is Charles Schable (CAPT, PHSCC, Ret),
Director of the DMAFB Retired Activities Office.

Location: <u>Poco and Mom's</u>, 7000 E Tanque Verde Road Time: 11:30 AM. RSVP: Toni Owens at 520-760-3476.

October 26: Speaker: Daniel Blevins, Boulder Rest, Veterans Trauma Center. Location: <u>Trattoria Pina</u>, 5541 N Swan, near Sunrise.

No November meeting. December dinner is scheduled for Thursday, December 14 at Tucson Country Club.

#### **Tucson Chapter Activities**

The Tucson MOAA Board meets the first Wednesday of the month, at 2p.m. via ZOOM. Members are invited to submit items for consideration to the Secretary: pam.devine@azmoves.com, not later than one week prior to the meeting. If you desire to participate, please email rorvik@orvik.com to receive the access link.

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# Tucson & Catalina Mountains MOAA Mission

- 1. Advocate and support MOAA national goals.
- 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 IS PUBLISHED MONTHLY FROM SEPTEMBER THROUGH MAY IS SOLELY FOR THE BENEFIT OF MEMBERS OF THE TUCSON AND CATALINA MOUNTAINS CHAPTERS. THE OPINIONS EXPRESSED HEREIN ARE THOSE OF THE AUTHORS/EDITOR AND DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THOSE OF THE MOAA NATIONAL ORGANIZATION, THE EDITOR, OR ANY OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT POLICIES OR AGENCIES.

Grant Orvik, Editor, Tucson Chapter, MOAA MOAA@GOJO.MOZMAIL.COM; 202-681-5295

#### **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

#### By Charlene Godec COL, USA (Ret) Legislative Liaison, Catalina Mountains Chapter

Just a reminder...Monday, September 11th, 2023 marks the 22 year anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City, the Pentagon, and United Airlines Flight 93 which crashed in suburban Pennsylvania. Patriot Day serves as a remembrance of the lives lost on that September morning.

By a joint resolution approved 12/18/2001, (Public Law 107-89) has designated September 11th of each year as "Patriot Day" which also directs the flags be lowered to half-staff for the entire day on September 11.

#### Don't Miss the September 30th Deadline

Post-9/11 combat Veterans: If you were discharged or released before Oct. 1, 2013, you may be eligible to enroll in VA health care during a special enrollment period ending Sept. 30, 2023. Learn more and apply today: <a href="https://www.VA.gov/PACT">https://www.VA.gov/PACT</a>

The US Senate and House will be in Session from 12 September to 14 December 2023. See below for upcoming priorities.

#### From the 7 September MOAA Newsletter:

Ongoing MOAA advocacy efforts to preserve the value of earned benefits for the entire uniformed services committee – past and present servicemembers, their families, and their survivors – led a list of priorities for the annual defense authorization bill outlined for congressional leaders in an Aug. 24 MOAA letter.

"This upcoming fiscal year will be challenging for our nation and the all-volunteer force," wrote Lt. Gen. Brian T. Kelly, USAF (Ret), MOAA President and CEO, "and we believe the way through these challenges is to prioritize and care for our nation's servicemembers."

The full letter can be accessed at this link <a href="https://www.moaa.org/uploadedfiles/moaa-conferee-letter-ndaa-2023.pdf">https://www.moaa.org/uploadedfiles/moaa-conferee-letter-ndaa-2023.pdf</a>. It was sent to the chairmen and ranking members of the House and Senate Armed Services Committees and will be sent to all members of the conference committee set to meet and produce the final version of the FY 2024 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).

#### How do I find what bills MOAA supports in the current session of Congress?

Click the "MOAA-Supported\_Legislation" button on the homepage of the Legislative Action Center to see what bills MOAA has publicly supported for the current session of Congress. The organization's endorsement process is deliberative; MOAA will not keep or oppose any legislation without a thorough review of its potential effects, positive or negative (MOAA.org).

MOAA is looking at all contingencies if the House and Senate cannot reconcile the National Defense Authorization and Appropriations bills by September 30. Click here for MOAA's latest NDAA Update and what happens next.

....RECRUITING IS EVERYONE'S JOB....
.....Never Stop Serving....

#### EAGLES NEST Continued from page 1

year. We thank him for his many years of service. We will need someone(s) new to fill his positions. Let me know if you are interested. Also, Col John Davee will take over ROTC programs, and Bette Ludlow has stepped up to be our Chaplain. Bette is the Surviving Spouse of Major Roy Ludlow, the long-time chaplain for the chapter, who passed away last year.

Several of our members, Major Randy Phelps, Major Jim Whipp, and Shirley Phillips, have health issues. We wish them well in their recovery.

#### CATALINA MOUNTAINS Continued from page 1

(EEE). Earlier this year I applied for a chapter grant from The MOAA Foundation. The chapter received a grant from them to purchase laptops for four EEE residents. The community outreach grant was provided to improve the quality of life of veterans living at EEE, specifically in the area of community reintegration. Catalina Mountains Chapter leadership worked with EEE leadership to identify four residents who were working to move out of EEE and reintegrate into Tucson and surrounding communities. The four recipients were using EEE's computer lab computers or an old laptop that, one recipient told me, took a long time to boot up.

On Tuesday, 15 August, new laptops were presented to Joe Chiebowski, Javier Duron, Edward Gonzales and Daniel Williams of EEE. Daniel Williams (EEE) was unable to attend the luncheon and received his laptop later that afternoon. A special thanks to Phil Amburn of our chapter who coordinated this project and purchased the four laptops. Thank you also to Suzanne Bond of EEE

who helped make this event hap-

pen.

Last month we did lose one former chapter member, Al Melvin, CAPT, USN, retired. Al graduated from the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy and the American Graduate School and held a diploma from the U.S. Naval War College in Newport, R. I. Al was also a former Arizona state senator. Al is survived by his wife Kou.

Our monthly luncheons resume next month with Major General "JT" Whitehead, USAF, retired, speaking to us on Saturday, 21 October. He will talk about the 18+ years of partnership with the People's Republic of China to create the Flying Tiger Guilin Heritage Park. The General will



Left to Right, Javier Duron (EEE), Chuck Vaughan (Cat Mtns MOAA), Joe Chiebowski (EEE), Char Godec (Cat Mtns MOAA), Edward Gonzales (EEE), Phil Amburn (Cat Mtns MOAA), and Tom Owens (Tucson MOAA).

talk about purchasing a C-47 aircraft in Australia and flying it over "the hump" to honor the "hump pilots". He will also talk about restoring General Chennault's (of the Flying Tigers) command and operations cave up the hill from the heritage park. (The Flying Tigers were a group of American volunteer pilots and support personnel that flew missions against the Japanese in 1941 (before the U.S. entered WW II) and 1942 from China; the Flying Tigers were absorbed into the Army Air Forces as the 23<sup>rd</sup> Fighter Group on July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1942.)

#### **Surviving Spouse & Personal Affairs**

#### By Polly Parks, Surviving Spouse Liaison

September 30 is supposed to be the deadline for passage of the 2024 defense budget. While Reconciliation is ongoing the Senate and House have not reached an agreement yet. While it would be highly unusual, a Continuing Resolution or more on the defense budget may be enacted if the two bodies cannot come to an agreement. But this will need to be resolved by the end of the year to prevent many of the bonus authorities from expiring and give DoD officials at least some time to address deadlines contained in the legislation. MOAA has a <u>timeline</u> of key dates in the negotiations.

**Outstanding differences include the Baseline Authorization:** The Senate FY24 NDAA calls for \$886 billion in accordance with a debt ceiling deal, while the House version calls for \$875 billion. A tough negotiation is expected in the conference given the lower topline number in the House NDAA. Additional areas that need to be ironed out are the Basic Needs Allowance (BNA); CONSU COLA; Family Separation Allowance; Housing; Child Care; Spouse Employment; Pharmacy Network cuts; Military Health System Reform Oversight; and Arlington National Cemetery. More information on these <u>issues</u> is available on MOAA's website.

Disappointingly, the text of the <u>Major Richard Star Act</u> (S. 344/H.R. 1282) – which would authorize receipt of earned DoD retirement pay, without an offset, for those injured in combat and forced to medically retire – has not been included in this year's NDAA. Over two-thirds of Congress cosponsored this legislation, with <u>327 in the House</u> and <u>71 in the Senate</u>. Unfortunately, House and Senate leaders have not allowed a floor vote because they are concerned over cost.

**D-M RAO** monthly meeting resumed on September 11. There is a new Vice Wing Cdr, Col Gabriel Brown. Cpt Jack Ladd, Director of Staff, was Col Brown's representative. If changing out base access card, make an appointment. Walk-ins are only taken from 0700-0730 and if you are in line but not signed up by 0730, you do not get same-day service.

**Commissary** will hold its indoor **Warehouse Sale** from Friday, Sept. 15-Monday, Sept. 18 during regular store hours. **Click'n Go** remains popular with 330 daily slots available from 9 am to one hour before closing. Construction at the **Exchange** is 50-60% complete and they expect to complete construction by Xmas, with a Grand Opening in early 2024. A <u>partnership</u> **between the Exchange and Home Depot** means that major appliances can be ordered at the Exchange and will be supplied and delivered by Home Depot. Items will average 20% less than in-store and no tax. This may expand to cover all items that Home Depot carries. As this gets implemented the local Exchange has some heavily discounted major appliances in stock.

**VITA** needs volunteers to train for next season. The only requirement is a base access card; benefits include free income tax for volunteers and family. **TMC Hospice** is having a thank you celebration and open house at the newly renovated Peppi's House, 2715 N Wyatt Dr, Thursday, Sept. 21, from 4-7 p.m.; light refreshments, Music, Pet therapy dogs, and tour facility. **SAVAHCS** and **D-M** are jointly sponsoring a **5k POW/MIA Run** Sat., September 15 at the SAVAHCS campus starting a 0600. Implementation of the **PACT Act** continues to draw overflow crowds. The campus is pretty much open now and more volunteers are needed. Accredited VSO/VA Consultant, John Roseberry, reported that the VA contractor is no longer doing compensation screening locally. He also warned to watch out for Pay for Assistance schemes. It does not cost anything to put in a claim and that includes Camp Lejeune.





#### **TUCSON CHAPTER OFFICERS**

(http://www.tucsonmoaa.org)

<u>President</u>: Tom Owens, Col, USAFR, (Ret), 520-760-3476/owensttt@gmail.com <u>1st Vice President</u>: Gerald Petersen, LTC USA (Ret), 520-250-1914, <u>cactushome1@earthlink.com</u>

<u>2nd Vice President:</u> John Davee, Col, USAF (Ret), 520-275-7864, <u>kiddavee@gmail.com</u> <u>Legislative Chair</u>: Ann Hollis, USAF LtCol (Ret), 520-749-3573; / annhollis@usa.net

<u>Personal Affairs</u>/<u>Veteran Committee Rep.</u>: Ann Hollis, LTC USAF (Ret), 520-749-3573 / annhollis@usa.net

Secretary: Pam Devine 520-401-0001 / Pam.Devine@azmoves.com

Treasurer/Membership Chair: Gary Pettett, COL, USA, (Ret), 520-544-7730,

pettett45@gmail.com

Asst. Treasurer: James Whipp, Maj, USMCR, (Ret), 520-751-6356 / jtwhipp@gmail.com

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

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

<u>Surviving Spouse Advisory Council:</u> Polly Parks, 703-338-6881/ pollyparks@earthlink.net

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

<u>Webmaster:</u> Charles Vaughan, CAPT. USN, (Ret) 505-553-4364/Chuck.vaughan@comcast.net <u>Past President:</u> William Wojciechowski, Col, USAF, (Ret), 620-770-0059 / billterriwoj@gmail.com

#### **CATALINA MOUNTAINS CHAPTER OFFICERS**

http://www.tucsonmoaa.com

<u>President:</u> Chuck Vaughan, CAPT, USN, (retired) 505-553-4364, chuck.vaughan@comcast.net <u>1st Vice President;</u> Kurt McMillen, COL, USA, (retired) 520-420-7475, kmmcmillen@gmail.com

<u>Treasurer</u>; George Bone, LTC, USAR, (retired) 520-314-3595, gfbone39@gmail.com

<u>Secretary</u>: William Myers, LT, CEC, USN, former

<u>Membership Chair</u>: Don Timian, LTC, USA, 571-216-3679,dontimian@hotmail.com <u>Legis. Liaison</u>: Charlene Godec COL, USA (Ret) 208-304-4515 / cmgodec@gmail.com <u>Past President</u>: Bill Nagy, COL, USAR, (retired) 520-355-5064, wjnagy@yahoo.com <u>Programs Director</u>; Bill Nagy, COL, USAR, (retired) 520-355-5064, wjnagy@yahoo.com <u>Audio/Visual</u>; Jeff Peckeron, Capt, USMC, (retired) 520-603-7871, jeffpeckeron@gmail.com

Fundraising; Vacant Chaplain; Vacant

#### CATALINA MOUNTAINS CHAPTER ACTIVITY

CMC membership meetings are the third Saturday of the months of October through April, at 11:30 hours, at locations TBA in Saddlebrooke. Contact: Chuck Vaughan, 505-553-4364.

Spouses are always welcome. Seating is limited to the first forty (40) members and guests who confirm their attendance. A meeting agenda will be provided to all attendees via email.

If you are interested in Catalina Mountains Chapter membership, contact Membership Chair Don Timian, LTC, USA, 571-216-3679, dontimian@hotmail.com. Dues can be paid on-line.

#### **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: <a href="http://www.tucsonmoaa.org/">http://www.tucsonmoaa.org/</a>.

To join the Catalina Mountains Chapter, click the Join Our Chapter button on the Chapter's home page: <a href="https://catalinamountainsmoaa.org/">https://catalinamountainsmoaa.org/</a>.

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

- Use all available tools to combat the growing crises facing the all-volunteer force.
- Create long-term programs to widen the recruiting pool.
- Pass meaningful legislation to improve the quality of life of those in uniform and their families.

#### **VOLUNTEER TO BE A MOAA MOVER:**

Catalina: Fundraising Chair, Chaplin

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 or Catalina Mountains Chapter President Charles Vaughan at chuck.vaughan@comcast.net.

#### **LOCAL VA CONTACTS**

Southern Arizona VA Health Care System (SAVAHCS) 520-792-1450 or 1-800-470-8262 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

Suicide Prevention Coordinator 520-792-1450 extension 64

#### **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



# MILITARY OFFICER ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA TUCSON CHAPTER

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Gary Pettett, M		
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The MOAA Tucson Chapter	r is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt orga	anization. Dues, Donations and travel to meetings may
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Any questions please call Gary Pettett, M.D. (520) 544-7730 or gpettett45@gmail.com.		
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MOAA Tucson/ Membership/Rene	wai Form	Rev September 2023

#### Congratulations to JORDAN ORVIK,

the dependent of one of our MOAA members, who was recently awarded an additional \$500 MOAA Designated Scholarship grant from our sister MOAA chapter in Southwest Oklahoma. Jordan is a sophomore at the University of Arizona majoring in computer science, Well done!



#### POW/MIA Recognition Day

Please join us as we honor the brave men and women of the Armed Forces who remain missing in action or are/were prisoners of war.

#### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2023 | 11 AM

5801 E Grant Road, Tucson AZ 85712

# Marine Corps

Desert Diamond Casino & Resort 7350 S Nogales Hwy • Tucson, Arizona 85756

On the 4<sup>th</sup> of November, 2023

Cocktail hour begins at 5:00 P.M. Ceremony begins at 6:00 P.M.



#### TICKETS ON SALE NOW

Save \$10 if purchased before September 1, 2023

\$60 NCOs and Below - \$70 after September 1 \$100 Officers and SNCO - \$110 after September 1 \$100 Guest

#### Marines

Dress Blue "A" & Blue Trousers

#### Sister Service

Civilian

Dress Blue "A" Equivalent

Reserve your room at our group rate Desert Diamond Casino & Resort

For more information, please contact (520) 228-6300 • TucsonMarineCommittee@gmail.com

Reserve your room at our group rate Desert Diamond Casino & Resort

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# **SEPTEMBER 24 | 0700**

**Shotgun Start** 

4 man scramble

\$90.00 per player

- o Lunch
- o Raffle
- o 50/50 with 3 Mulligans
- o Longest Drive
- Closest to the Pin
- o 1st, 2nd & 3rd Place Prizes

Deadline to register is September 15

520-982-0023

#### Congratulations to the 2023 Inductees for the AVHOF.

Please join me at the VIP Reception the morning of the induction ceremony, Friday, October 13, where we will honor the newest members and their support person. AVHOF members are encouraged to attend this reception. It is a wonderful time to get to know our newest members and share a little about the Society.

The morning reception registration starts at 7:30 a.m. and there is no cost. Please let me know if you will attend. You can purchase your tickets to the Induction Luncheon on the Unified Arizona Veterans website at <a href="mailto:azuav.org">azuav.org</a>

Thank You, Patricia Little-Upah President, AVHOFS

#### **CLASS OF 2023**

Franklin William Alger, Jr., USMC veteran, Casa Grande, AZ Cyril Ernest Bassett, Army veteran, Phoenix Sheree Bigge, Army veteran, Maricopa Stephen Louis Bradford, Army veteran, Phoenix Marcus Lamar Brown, USMC veteran, Gilbert Thomas Leonard Day, Army veteran, Sonoita Sidney Scott Duke, USAF veteran, Peoria John Francis Farley, Navy veteran, Scottsdale Ricardo Juan Leonard, Army veteran, Scottsdale Rose Mary Lloyd, Army veteran, Mesa Christopher Thomas Maloney, Sr., Army veteran, Tucson (Posthumous) Ralph Malcom Milliken, Jr., Army veteran, Sun City Sandra Lanter Raynor, Army veteran, Phoenix Ronnie Dale Smith, USMC veteran, Coolidge Meredeth Ann Stucky, USAF veteran, Litchfield Park Buford Watts, Jr., USMC veteran, Lake Havasu City Wanda Arlene Wright, USAF veteran, Tempe Lorenza Lopez Wysong, Army veteran, Hereford James Edwin Zawacki, USAF veteran, Concho