



THE TERRITORIAL

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



SEPTEMBER 2026

National MOAA and the Tucson MOAA Chapter are non-partisan



FROM THE EAGLES NEST

By Polly Parks

President, Tucson Chapter MOAA

Welcome to Fall in the Sonoran Desert and foothills. Overall, the monsoon has been decent where I live, a little south of downtown. Last year, we were basically in what the neighborhood calls the donut hole. We can smell rain, and we can see rain, but we don't feel rain

The monthly membership luncheon meeting takes place the second Thursday of the month at the American Legion Post 36, 5845 E. 22nd Street, east of Craycroft on the north side of 22nd,

The room's ambiance and table layout fostered camaraderie before and after the program. Unfortunately, a technical glitch led me to make a poor decision: for the business part of the meeting, I projected a PowerPoint instead of using a microphone. The issue was that their system could not support both computer projection and a microphone at the same time. We will get this worked out before the next meeting.

The buffet was ample and delicious for our non-vegan members who need substantial plant-based protein or legumes, along with fruits and vegetables. If anyone has dietary restrictions that the October menu cannot accommodate (see the Menu box on page 2)

and plans to attend, please let me know. I will work with Chef Louie Gonzalez to accommodate. Also, I need a headcount of attendees by October 1. He will then get the ingredients. Please RSVP.

The luncheon cost will be **\$25**, which includes the honorarium for the Chef and his crew. You can pay in cash, by check, or by credit card at the chapter's [CHEDDAR UP portal link](#); just designate it as Other Donation. The Chapter is now listed with other Arizona chapters on the MOAA website

Mike Becker, a contractor and Senior Program Manager at the 355th Wing Program Integration Office, gave an excellent presentation on the need for the proposed VA/D-M Health Care Clinic and how the CHIP -IN Act would help facilitate its construction in a timely and cost-effective manner. Outreach to the veteran community in this area is underway. If you are a member of another veteran-related group and would like him to speak, let me know.

In October, the speaker will be the Honorable Paul Cunningham, City of Tucson Ward 2 Councilmember, who is retiring at the end of his term next year. He is a native Arizonan and longtime community activist with 30 years of professional and volunteer public service. He is a 12-year veteran of the Pima
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Upcoming Tucson Chapter Meetings

Venue Change: American Legion Post 36
5845 E. 22nd Street, Tucson, AZ 85711 / Time: 1130

October 8, 2026 @ 1130

Speaker: Honorable Paul Cunningham
City of Tucson Councilmember, Ward 2

November 12, 2026 @ 1130

Matthew Langseth, Tucson Veteran Program Coordinator

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Menu October 8: \$25

Mix green salad with appropriate toppings and three dressings
Fruit display
Garlic bread
Penne pasta with mushroom sauce
Seasonal vegetables
Chicken piccata with lemon and capers sauce
Beef lasagna
Assorted desserts

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 Eagles Nest *continued from page 1*

County Juvenile Probation Department and served in the Army Reserve and National Guard from 1993-2001, attaining the rank of E-5. He has been teaching in Tucson public schools for ten years.

The speaker at the November 12 luncheon meeting is Matthew Langseth, the Military Veteran Program Coordinator in the City of Tucson Human Resources Department.

MOAA Tucson Chapter Fund: Vice President John Davee has secured a commitment from Mr. Jim Click to donate an additional \$1,000 if the MOAA Tucson Chapter Fund sells \$1,000 Millions for Tucson raffle tickets. The annual raffle is open to eligible 501 (c)(3)'s, which keep all proceeds. The chapter uses the funding for its UofA ROTC Scholarship Program. I strongly urge you to participate. In addition, Mr. Click will donate an additional \$1,000 to sponsor an Army ROTC Scholarship in the name of his father, Jim Click, a US Army veteran.

Tickets are \$25 each or five for \$100. This year's grand prize is a 2026 Nissan Frontier Pro-4X Roush® Edition. Second prize is two round-trip, first-class airline tickets to anywhere in the world (some restrictions apply), and third prize is \$5,000 in cash! Check out the flyer on [page 7](#). To purchase, contact John Davee at kiddavee@gmail.com or (520) 275-7864.

MOAA National member, Isabel Lynn Carnes, surviving spouse of US Army veteran George Carnes, has donated \$500 to the Scholarship Fund.

Board Notes: Gary Pettitt has volunteered to serve as Secretary; however, due to cataract surgery, he cannot take on the

position until November, so Chuck will continue to wear both hats. The Secretary is an elected board position. Thank you, Gary!

Vail: In sobering news, after 26 years the Del Lago golf course and restaurant shut down unexpectedly in August. As the Vail satellite was meeting at the Restaurant, we will have to reconnoiter.

2026 Veterans Day Parade: The Tucson Veterans Day Parade has been scheduled for November 11 at 11:00 a.m. I would like the chapter to participate. The Parade is taking new route that wends through the downtown Presidio neighborhood.



Let me know if you are interested in participating. Previously, we rode with Tom Owens in his convertible. If anyone has a similar car or truck, let me know. Tom gave me some metallic banners to hang.

Hope to see you on October 8. Don't forget to RSVP by October 1.

Budget & Legislative Update

By Polly Parks

The Territorial Editor

BUDGET: Disappointingly, rather than passing appropriation bills before the end of September, House and Senate leadership opted to enact a Continuing Resolution (CR) that will run from October 1 to December 11. The President signed the CR on September 2. MOAA continues to state this type of irresponsibility by the legislative and executive branches undermines the country's national security and endangers the members of the service branches.

The CR will keep funding generally level across all 12 appropriation bills at \$1.701 trillion in discretionary spending. If Congress does not enact the 12 appropriation bills by December 11, or if another CR is not enacted, the government will shut down.

The CR included Agency, Account, and Program-Specific Provisions, known as "anomalies." For the Department of Defense (DoD), Section 102 prohibits "new starts," increased production rates, and certain multi-year procurements. Section 126 authorizes the Navy to allocate CR funds "up to the rate for operations necessary to fund prior-year shipbuilding cost increases." Section 128 authorizes continued Navy funding for the Maritime Administration's National Defense Reserve Fleet.

After the CR passed, House Speaker Mike Johnson released House members for September 3-13. After four days, he released them early on September 17. The House will not reconvene until after the midterms, despite plenty of unfinished business. The Senate is not scheduled to break for recess until October 2. Once in recess, both houses may be called back into session on an emergency basis. Thus far in 2026, the Speaker has kept the House in session only 72 days, or 27% of available scheduling.

LEGISLATION: The 2027 National Defense Authorization Act remains stalled in the Senate and is unlikely to pass before the fiscal year ends.

On March 23, 2026, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) issued a cost estimate for the Major Richard Star Act (HR 2102, introduced in the House on March 14, 2025) that complicated the passage of the popular bipartisan legislation. The CBO projected the cost of HR 2102 at \$78 billion, rather than the accepted \$10 billion, which had been the projection since the Major Richard Star Act was introduced in March 2023 (the 118th Congress). The rationale for the change was that the number of potential recipients rose from less than 60,000 to potentially 255,000, based on figures the DoD Actuary Office provided to the CBO. The CBO and the Actuary Office have since refused to substantiate their methodology. This exponential increase contributed to House leadership pulling the scheduled June 12, 2026, vote on the Take Care of American Veterans Act (TCAVA), which the Star Act had been rolled into.

Congresspeople and The Military Coalition, including MOAA, believed the CBO assumptions were incorrect and pushed back. It was a large factor in rolling the over 60 veteran related provisions into the Take Care of American Veterans Act (TCAVA), with any savings from proposed VA disability ratings on sleep apnea and tinnitus dedicated to paying for implementation.

A discharge petition to force a House vote on the stand-alone Major Richard Star Act was filed in May, and the necessary 218th signature was secured on September 15. Once a discharge petition secures the necessary signatures, After a waiting period of seven legislative days, a floor vote must take place within two days.

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Budget and Legislative News

Continued from page 4

However, Speaker Mike Johnson dismissed the House early on September 16, ostensibly to avoid a vote on a privileged resolution by Cong. Thomas Massie, to impeach Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth. The House had been scheduled to work September 22-25 and September 28-October 1 before breaking for a pre-election dismissal from October 2 to November 9.

This means that, if House Speaker Mike Johnson doesn't hold another early dismissal

in November, the House will be in session for only 20 days before the end of the year. If the vote is positive, it is unclear whether the Senate will take up the legislation, which has been blocked twice by leadership. After the Senate breaks on October 2, it has scheduled 20 days in session before the end of the year.

The TCAVA, which includes the STAR Act, and the CHIP-IN Act Davis-Monthan needs to move ahead with the proposed VA/D-M Health Care Clinic, is in the same legislative limbo. Please weigh in at the [Legislative Action Center](#).

A 9-11 Remembrance:

Steel and Stone: Engineering the Response to 9/11

By Polly Parks

The Territorial Editor

The National Museum of the United States Army has a new exhibit: [Steel and Stone, Engineering the Response to 9/11](#). Reading about it took me back to 2001. In July of that year, my husband, George, and I drove from D.C. to New York City for the change-of-command ceremony for the USACE New York District Engineer. COL John O'Dowd took command.

At dinner that night at his home in Fort Hamilton, he and George discussed what O'Dowd expected to be his biggest environmental and logistical challenge: dredging the New York Harbor shipping channels from the Verrazzano Bridge to the Port of New York and New Jersey to post-Panamax depth without disrupting transit. He would also have to coordinate with the New York-New Jersey Port Authority and elected officials from two states to manage the complex procurement process.

O'Dowd hailed from Bergenfield, NJ, across the Hudson from District Headquarters in lower Manhattan. He was big and strong, gregarious with a booming Jersey accent, and possessed an inquisitive mind and a quick sense of humor. His father, a plumber, had O'Dowd dig trenches in the Jersey wetlands as a teenager; he knew the Port, the City, the terrain, and the Harbor. He was excited and comfortable with the mission in what he considered his stomping grounds. He was uniquely positioned when the unthinkable happened: the Towers crumbled into a tomb, and the New York District had to manage the monumental deconstruction project while dredging continued.

O'Dowd, one of what George affectionately called his young captains, graduated from West

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Steel and Stone *continued from page 5*

Point, landed at Bragg slotted into the 27th Engineer Battalion (Combat) (Airborne), and became part of what they called the Fort Bragg Mafia, which, at the time, fed into USACE leadership in the mostly civilian Districts and headquarters. But first, they had to learn to jump out of airplanes, master complex logistics, and lead troops in executing airborne combat engineering.

George and his young captains became close friends, bonding during several airborne deployments to Honduras to build infrastructure during what became known as the Iran-Contra Affair period. John especially loved telling stories about how this short Cuban (George), with the help of some crack NCOs, managed to teach them how to command and lead the diverse grab-bag of volunteer Army and Guard soldiers deployed with them.

They loved telling stories about how they avoided engagement with the Contras and the Sandinistas, keeping their heads down enough to execute the mission, with the only known casualty being the local Coca-Cola franchise. Nearly 20 years later, when O'Dowd was on a US Army War College Fellowship at Tufts University's Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, he wanted to write his thesis on what they jokingly called the Coca-Cola War, during which George taught them how to lead and understand the profound repercussions of deploying the military into areas without understanding the cultural, political, and economic environment. The Pentagon told him he couldn't because the whole Honduras operation was still classified. He hadn't known; he got a funny story out of that.

But he drew on his Honduran experience in his assignment after New York. He was deployed to Afghanistan in 2004-2005 as District Engineer for a massive infrastructure project to receive and train recruits and subsequently stabilize up to 70,000 soldiers of the Afghanistan National Army. He concurrently served as the Staff Engineer for Combined Force Command – Afghanistan.

Family matters led him to request a final assignment in New York to raise his youngest daughter, who was in elementary school. There, he served as Chief of Staff, US Military Staff Committee, J5/JCS, US Mission to the United Nations. There, he met a lovely Brit lawyer working for the Quakers Observer Status Mission at the U.N., which led to marriage; with O'Dowd, it turned out the third time was the charm.

After retiring, John O'Dowd worked for a couple of large engineering firms. The cleanup that was set in motion on September 11, 2001, was still ongoing, but he didn't find his niche in the corporate world. He died prematurely at 53, succumbing to a heart attack on a commercial flight from a sales convention to his home.

There was a two-day wake in Brooklyn, with an open casket. George and I were there, along with most of the young captains and their spouses, his children and family...and the three wives. Everyone agreed John would have loved it.

The next day was a funeral Mass at St. Patrick's in Bay Ridge, and you could tell he was beloved by those who had worked with him, including an NYFD Honor Guard accompanied by bagpipes.

We then trekked to West Point, where he was interred on a bluff overlooking the Hudson. Steel and Stone, and a heart of gold.

Donate to MOAA Tucson Chapter Scholarships



**WIN ONE
OF THREE GREAT PRIZES!**

TICKET PRICE
\$25 EACH OR 5 FOR \$100

Raffle benefiting Tucson charities with 100% of funds raised staying here.

*Image for illustration purposes only

ROUSH.



GRAND PRIZE

NEW 2026 Nissan Frontier Pro-4X Roush® Edition



2ND PRIZE

TWO ROUND-TRIP,
FIRST CLASS AIRLINE TICKETS
TO ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD!*



3RD PRIZE

\$5,000 CASH!

The Jim Click Automotive Team is presenting a NEW 2026 Nissan Frontier Pro-4X Roush® Edition to the entire community to be used as the featured prize in our ongoing effort to raise millions of dollars for non-profit organizations in Southern Arizona. With your \$25 contribution you could win this stunning vehicle or one of two other great prizes! The best part is that 100% of your contribution will support Southern Arizona charities that keep all the proceeds from the maximum 120,000 tickets which will be sold. The drawing will be held on December 10, 2026.

Entries must be received by December 4, 2026 at Raffle Headquarters.

For campaign and ticket information, contact the Millions for Tucson Raffle Management Team at 520.342.5210 or at: jimclickraffle@russellpublic.com

THE JIM CLICK
**MILLIONS
FOR TUCSON**
RAFFLE
MillionsForTucson.org



*Restrictions apply: Please see Millions for Tucson Raffle Rules | millionsfortucson.org | Raffle Management Headquarters: 2713 N. Campbell Ave. Suite 103, Tucson, AZ

D-M RAO & Base News

The Base is moving ahead with plans for the joint VA/D-M Health Care Center. Updates on the TCAVA and the CHIP-IN Act are in the Legislative Action Report. Operationally, the Base is at a high tempo with deployments, bedding down new components, and the 55th Electronic Combat Group reframing.

A tangential issue broke out in the press this past week. A 501(c)(3), [Warbird National](https://warbirdnational.org), has been negotiating with the City to lease about 500 acres south of the Boneyard to build a golf course and STEM center in exchange for a commitment to build a PFAS pump-and-treat plant on base to stem the PFAS plume that emanated from chemicals previously used in fire-fighting foam that has already migrated north of the base to the El Con Center, contaminating a number of city wells in midtown. The contamination has not affected wells used for drinking water on base. If it raises the funds, Warbird National will use some of the reclaimed water for the golf course and water fixtures.



Rendering of proposed Warbird National golf course and CLAW center from warbirdnational.org..

This plume first came to light in 2018 after USAF testing following a national directive; the city shut down the wells and reverted to CAP water. The city has been unable to prioritize cleanup of the plume as a EPA Superfund Site outside the base because the wells were shut down and the water was no longer needed. However, Tucson City Manager Tim Thomure, who rose through the city ranks from head of the Water Department, feels strongly that with looming CAP cuts, the city cannot afford to ignore the issue of the PFAS plume continuing to potentially contaminate city water. Though any treated water will remain at the reclaimed level, not appropriate for drinking water.

In 2024, the EPA published a National Primary Drinking Water Regulation that reduced the parts per million (PPM) limit for PFAS in drinking water. The Trump Administration has proposed two regulations. The first would delay implementation, and the second seeks to reverse the determination entirely. Both rules underwent [public comment in July 2026](#).



TUCSON CHAPTER OFFICERS

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

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

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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: volunteer needed

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 / cctscwbys1@yahoo.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



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**2026 THEME
250 YEARS OF FREEDOM**



**107th
Tucson Veterans Day Parade**

**November 11, 2026
11 AM**

Tucson Convention Center Perimeter



Join Us in Our Mission

Remember ★ Honor ★ Teach



★ **December 19, 2026** ★

National Wreaths Across America Day



**Help Brian A. Terry Detachment
1126 Marine Corps League
honor local heroes!**

Sponsor a wreath today to be placed on a
veteran's grave December 19 at 10 am
East Lawn Palms Cemetery
5801 E Grant Road | Tucson AZ 85712

Scan the QR code to make a donation online.



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