



THE TERRITORIAL

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



JANUARY 2025

National MOAA and the Tucson MOAA Chapter are non-partisan



FROM THE EAGLES NEST

By Col Tom Owens,
Tucson Chapter President

Happy New Year.

I have enjoyed leading our chapter for the past several years. However, this month, I will be stepping down as President of the Tucson Chapter. At our January 23 luncheon meeting, you will elect a new President and the rest of the Chapter Board. We will also need a new Secretary and Legislative Liaison, both of which are board positions. Please step forward and volunteer to help us.

Due to schedule conflicts, we moved the meeting to [Poco and Mom's Restaurant](#), 7000 East Tanque Verde, Suite 34. You can click the link and see the menu.

In addition to the Board election, Dustin Williams, Pima County Superintendent of Schools, will be our January guest speaker. Please feel free to invite friends or family who might enjoy his informative presentation. Just remind them that MOAA is a non-partisan organization.

Dustin J. Williams is a native Tucsonan who graduated from Amphitheater High School in 1992. Williams has worked with youth in our community for more than 20 years. Always interested in education, he earned his Bachelor of Education Degree from the University of Arizona and a Master of

Educational Leadership Degree from Northern Arizona University. Williams began his work in youth coaching, was an elementary school teacher for seven years, followed by pursuing school leadership where he served as the assistant principal of a local preparatory high school.



Dustin's passion for education and his desire to improve Arizona's K-12 education system led him to run for public office. He was elected the Pima County School Superintendent in November 2016 and re-elected in 2020 and 2024.

At the February 27 luncheon meeting, Dena Kilgore, MOAA Program Director, Council, and Chapter Affairs, will be visiting and will give an update on national activities.

We have made some progress in recruiting new members from the Vail area. MOAA tells us there are 100 MOAA members in that area. So far, 3 new members have joined. Next meeting is Jan. 18, 1130 AM at Vail's Del Lago Golf Restaurant.

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Upcoming Tucson Chapter Meetings

January 23: Dustin Williams

Pima County Superintendent of Schools

Tucson Chapter Board Elections

Venue: [Poco and Mom's Restaurant](#) / Time: 1130
7000 E Tanque Verde, Suite 34

February 27: Speaker: Dena Kilgore,

MOAA Program Director, Council and Chapter Affairs

March 27: UofA ROTC Awards

April 24: Major Randy Phelps

A Vietnam Story

May 22: Speaker TBD

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MOAA Tucson / Vail Meeting

MOAA Tucson / Vail will hold its next meeting Saturday, January 18 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.

Agenda includes Pledge, Arizona Council of Chapters meeting, MOAA Community Outreach Grants, and future Tucson meetings, and electing new Tucson officers.

Col Tom Owens
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 Secretary: pam.devine@azmoves.com. If you desire to participate, please email rorvik@orvik.com to receive the access link.

The Eagles Nest *continued from page 1*

This issue is a little short and a little late. Our Editor, Polly Parks, has been dealing with sciatica for over a week, which has made it difficult to sit, stand, or sleep. She says it is getting better, and this newsletter is proof of that. She did have a thought-provoking opinion piece published in the Arizona Daily Star on January 11, which we are re-printing for those of you who no longer subscribe.

One final reminder. If you have not sent in your dues, please do so.

Once again, thank you for opportunity to serve you these past few years.

Navy Week Information

The U.S. Navy kicks off their [Navy Weeks/Tucson-2025](#) outreach season in Tucson, Arizona, February 17-23.

The Tucson community and the Navy enjoy a strong and growing relationship, hosting four Navy Weeks in the city since the program's inception in 2005, including the most recent in 2023.

The 2025 Tucson Navy Week will bring 50-75 Sailors to volunteer in the community and interact with the public, striving to inform, educate, and inspire discussions on the Navy's importance to Tucson and the nation's security and prosperity.

The Tucson Navy Week also coincides with the year-long celebration of the Navy's 250th birthday, during which the Navy will host numerous world-wide leadership outreach events, multilateral exercises and community engagements.

Tucson Navy Week will include in-person demonstrations, performances, and engagements:

- Senior Navy Leaders – Flag officer with ties to Tucson and the surrounding area.
- Namesake Sailors – Sailors serving aboard the Independence-class littoral combat ship USS Gabrielle Giffords (LCS 10).
- U.S. Navy Band Southwest – Performances and masterclasses with Navy musicians.
- Naval History and Heritage Command – Educational presentations and lesson plans about the deep ties between Tucson and the Navy.
- USS Constitution – Demonstrations about the oldest commissioned ship in the Navy.
- U.S. Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command – Educational presentations on atmospheric and oceanographic science and the overall value of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education to the Navy.
- Navy Talent Acquisition Group – Educational presentations, community service projects and static displays.

For more information on Tucson Navy Week, contact Ensign Jordyn Diomede at (901) 232-4450 or jordyn.s.diomede.mil@us.navy.mil. Follow Navy Outreach on Instagram (@navy.outreach); Facebook, YouTube, and LinkedIn (@navyoutreach); and #NavyWeeks

Btw, Rusty Orvik says: Also note our USS Tucson model is the National cover girl for all submarine club boosters

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

MOAA reports December's URGENT ACTION Worked!

MOAA National Reports: President Biden signed the [Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act](#) into law on Jan. 2, after years of arduous advocacy by MOAA and more than 40 other veterans organizations. This landmark bipartisan bill, representing more than 90 pieces of legislation developed throughout the 118th Congress, provides significant relief to veterans and their families by expanding benefits, enhancing services, and improving long-term care solutions.

“This is a momentous day for the veterans’ community and for the health and well-being of our veterans, their caregivers, and survivors,” said MOAA President and CEO Lt. Gen. Brian T. Kelly, USAF (Ret). “The Dole Act’s passage is a testament to what can be achieved when advocates, policymakers, and the veterans, their families, survivors, and caregivers work together to support those who have served.”

Leaders of both the House and Senate Veterans’ Affairs committees in the 118th Congress — chairmen Rep. Mike Bost (R-Ill.) and Sen. Jon Tester (D-Mont.), along with ranking members Rep. Mark Takano (D-Calif.) and Sen. Jerry Moran (R-Kan.) — played pivotal roles in advancing the Dole Act to its successful conclusion.

Bost praised the law for addressing veterans’ needs, not adding to government bureaucracy.

“From expanding job training opportunities for transitioning servicemembers and veterans, to improving mental health care for caregivers, to protecting veterans’ healthcare options for day-to-day services to more elderly care options, and much more in between – I know this legislation will make a difference for veterans and their families,” Bost said.

VA expands presumptive status for the first Gulf War and post-9/11 conflicts.

MOAA has a link to a [Defense News article by Leo Shane III](#) on the details of expanded presumptive status for leukemia, bladder cancer, and other related illnesses for the first Gulf War and post-9/11 conflicts. Spread the word!

Next Month

The 119th Congress convened January 3rd. All bills not passed by the 118th will need to be re-introduced. MOAA’s stated priorities for 2025 are:

- Currently Serving: Military Housing
- Retirees/Veterans: Toxic Exposure
- Family/Survivors: Spouse Employment
- DOD Health Care: Access to Care
- VA Health Care: Support for caregivers
- Richard Star Act

Other advocacy efforts will undoubtedly arise. More information is available at [Key Goals for the 119th Congress](#).

Continued on page 5

2025 NDAA / FY2025 Budget

On December 7, the House and Senate released the negotiated text of the [2025 NDAA](#), and considerable pressure exists to pass it, though some items remain in contention. The NDAA

Arizona Daily Star Local Opinion: **Reflections on the New Year**

Welcome to 2025.

Next year, the nation will celebrate 250 years since the Second Continental Congress unanimously adopted the Declaration of Independence, announcing the 13 colonies' separation from the Kingdom of Great Britain. The following year, the Congress adopted the Articles of Confederation as the United States of America took form. It took until 1781 for all the states to ratify. But the "League of Friendship" held the former colonies together through the war with Britain until Maryland ratified it a few short months before the defeat of General Cornwallis at Yorktown. It took two more years for the Treaty of Paris to be signed.

The Articles of Confederation was a disaster as a governing document as it gave unfettered power to each state. As the National Archives states in *The Articles of Confederation*, "Congress [each state had one vote] was attempting to function with a depleted treasury; and paper money was flooding the country, creating extraordinary inflation...The states were on the brink of economic disaster; and the central government had little power to settle quarrels between states. Disputes over territory, war pensions, taxation, and trade threatened to tear the country apart."

Still, the Constitutional Convention did not meet until 1787 to revise the Articles. Instead, they decided to redesign, and after three hot summer months and intense debate, the four-page Constitution emerged and was signed on September 17, 1787.

Twenty-three years after the Declaration of Independence was signed, the first federal Congress convened on March 4, 1789; George Washington, elected by nine state legislatures and popular votes in the remaining states, took office on April 30, 1789.

The Founding Fathers were educated men who knew more of the world than their farms, plantations, and commercial endeavors. They crafted a living document that has, thus far, withstood the test of time. Even in my short lifetime, I have seen Jim Crow abolished with the 1965 Voting Rights Act, even as my uncle, Democratic State Senator John D Long, had the Confederate Battle flag hoisted to the top of the South Carolina State House where it flew until then-Governor Nikki Haley, to her credit, had it taken down in 2015. When I was growing up, I was told by relatives in South Carolina that my uncle was a friend of the working man. Even with a child's eyes, I could see the hypocrisy. So, I am glad I grew up when I did. When I could see and participate in the slow, sometimes stumbling, but measurable progress of the peoples -- and Armed Forces -- of the United States of America.

Today, as I watched the moving state funeral for former President James Earl Carter and listened to a haunting rendition of "Imagine" by Garth Brooks and Trisha Yearwood, I reflected on my life. I often advise having no regrets, but I regret that I am not young again, so I can more fully engage in this next chapter of our country. No matter your temporal political leanings, make no mistake: If we want to hold onto our constitutional federal republic, it is again time for serious debate on how to do so.

Polly Parks is a resident of Barrio Santa Rita-West Ochoa Neighborhood. The widow of a retired US Army Colonel, she cares about her neighborhood, her city, county, and state, her country, and the world.

Printed January 11, 2025

Military/Veteran Helper Training

*Military Culture | Upstream Prevention
C.A.R.E Model | Resource Navigation*

The Be Connected Community Corps equips community members in Arizona with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to provide support and resource connection to service members, veterans, and their families.

Thurs, Jan 16, 2025
11:00am- 3:00 pm

Wheeler Taft Library
7800 N. Schisler Dr.
Tucson, Arizona

*Directions and parking
information will be emailed to
registered participants.*

By attending this training, you will become a part of the **Be Connected Community Corps** and receive ongoing support for your role as a helper from the Be Connected team. Our collective goal is to **extend upstream support** to all who serve and their families, **improve social determinants of health** and **reduce the overall suicide rate** in Arizona's veteran population.

Join us to learn about:

- ✓ Arizona's military & veteran population and risk factors
- ✓ Tools to use as a community helper
- ✓ Who to call when someone is in need of further help
- ✓ The importance of self-care as a helper
- ✓ The **Be Connected Ecosystem of Support** and how to tap into it for yourself as a helper and for those you are helping



Registration is required. Register online by Jan 14th

Register now: bit.ly/BCCCHelperEventbrite
Lunch will be provided

This event is not sponsored or supported by the Pima County Public Library or any of its branches. The Library does not endorse any views or opinions expressed or activities taking place during this event.

There is no cost to participants for this training. Assistance with mileage may be available if the participant would otherwise be unable to attend. Please contact the event team for more information.



Questions? Email BCCC@arizonacoalition.org

Surviving Spouse & Personal Affairs

By Polly Parks, *Surviving Spouse Liaison*

Due to sciatica, I could not attend the D-M RAO meeting this month. However, I am the volunteer editor of the D-M RAO quarterly newsletter (also delayed due to this unbelievably annoying physical condition that has made me really feel my age). If you are not on the distribution list, let me know at pollyparks@earthlink.net and I can put you on it. It is, unfortunately, only distributed electronically.

I hope to see you all at the January luncheon.

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Chaplains
Service,
Feb 2, 2025, 4 pm,
Kino Veterans Memorial Park, Tucson, AZ.

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/>.

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

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.



TUCSON CHAPTER OFFICERS

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

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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. Please consider lending your *LEADERSHIP AND VOICE* to the Chapter teams. Contact Tucson Chapter President Tom Owens at 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 520-629-1822 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