



THE TERRITORIAL

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



NOVEMBER 2023

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



FROM THE EAGLES NEST

**Tom Owens,
Tucson Chapter President**

We had an excellent speaker, Ryan Kinslow, from BoulderCrest organization at our October luncheon. BoulderCrest helps with the trauma of veterans. Ryan spoke about his own trauma which was very traumatic and heartfelt.

We do not have a luncheon in November due to the Thanksgiving Holiday. For the month of December, we will meet at Tucson Country Club for our annual holiday dinner at 5:00 pm. We have singer Shirley McKinley and a pianist to entertain us. Tucson Country Club is always beautifully decorated during this time of year.

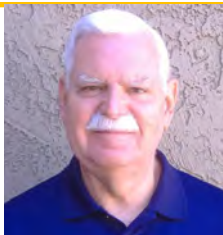
We are still in need of Treasurer and Membership Chairs for 2024. Please step forward to

help our organization. We are trying to expand membership. There are over 100 MOAA members in the Vail area and we plan to schedule a recruiting meeting there in January.

MOAA National has a workshop scheduled in Phoenix in November and invited members from several western states. Tom, Ann, Polly, and John will represent Tucson.

Ann Hollis and I represented the Tucson MOAA chapter in the City of Tucson Veterans Day Parade, Friday, Nov. 10. And, unlike last year, the Arizona Daily Star featured the parade on today's front page.

Have a Happy Thanksgiving.



CATALINA MOUNTAINS CHAPTER

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

Greetings everyone!

In September's newsletter, I reported that the Catalina Mountains Chapter had awarded four laptops to four low-income veterans who were living at Esperanza En Escalante (EEE). Our goal in presenting the laptops was to help the

four veterans transition out of the temporary housing at EEE and be integrated back into society living on their own. I'm happy to report that two of the four recipients have, in fact, moved out of EEE since receiving their laptops.

Javier Duron, one of the recipients, wrote us a short thank you note. He wrote "*Dear MOAA members, I got a job using my new computer. I am so happy with my laptop. Thank you. Javier*".

Edward Gonzales, another recipient, wrote "*I feel honored to be picked for receiving the laptop computer. I will help other veterans who need help navigating the internet. Thank you so much. Edward C. Gonzales*".

Continued on page 4

Upcoming Tucson Chapter Meetings

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

Left: Ryan Kinslow from Boulder Crest Foundation speaking about the group's "Struggle Well — Posttraumatic Growth Training" at the October meeting held at Trattoria Pina. Right: some of the October meeting attendees listening intently to Ryan Kinslow.



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, not later than one week prior to the meeting. If you desire to participate, please email rorvik@orvik.com to receive the access link.

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.

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Tucson & Catalina Mountains MOAA 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.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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

National:

MOAA National is asking that you contact both your Representatives and Senators to urge cooperation and sanity in the appropriation logjam. The Continuing Resolution expires November 17. You can join this campaign by clicking on this link, [MOAA | Ask Your Lawmakers to Avoid a Government Shutdown and Finish the Appropriations Process \(quorum.us\)](#) or contacting your legislators offices directly.

Please look at the MOAA advocacy page at [MOAA | Legislative Action Center \(quorum.us\)](#) to send letters to our legislators in Washington on subjects that MOAA is supporting. A few key issues are: Tricare Pharmacy changes; Tricare fee increases; Concurrent Receipt of retirement and VA Disability pay; Improving Survivor benefits

State:

The first Regular Session of Arizona's 56th Legislature began on 30 October 2023. You can access volumes of information on current activities at [Arizona Legislature \(azleg.gov\)](#). As their work starts you can contact your area Senator/Representatives as follows:

Let me know if you hear of any interesting issues going on in your areas, cmgodec@gmail.com

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; Rep. Rachel Jones, 602-926-3558, rachel.jones@azleg.gov; Rep. Cory McGarr, (602) 926-3630, CMcGarr@azleg.gov. **LD-18:** Sen. Priya Sundareshan, (602) 926-3437, PSundareshan@azleg.gov; Rep. Nancy Gutierrez, (602) 926-4134, NGutierrez@azleg.gov; Rep. Christopher Mathis, (602) 926-3138, CMathis@azleg.gov. **LD-20:** Sen. Sally Ann Gonzalez, (602) 926-3278, SGonzalez@azleg.gov; Rep. André Cano, (602) 926-3027, ACano@azleg.gov; Rep. Alma Hernandez, (602) 926-3136, AHernandez@azleg.gov. **LD-21:** Sen. Rosanna Gabaldón, (602) 926-3424, RGalaldon@azleg.gov; Rep. Consuelo Hernandez, (602) 926-3523, CHernandez@azleg.gov; Rep. Stephanie Stahl Hamilton, (602) 926-3279, SStahlhamilton@azleg.gov.

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/>.

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

Catalina Mountains Chapter *continued from page 1*

Daniel Williams, another recipient, wrote *“The Dell laptop provided to me from MOAA could not have arrived at a better time. Many of the projects I need to complete before being on my own again can now be expedited with this tool. I cannot express my gratitude enough, a special thanks to any submariners and Seabees.*

LT G. Daniel William, former OIC Seabee unit, Tucson”.

My goal is to apply for another MOAA Foundation grant next year to buy and present four more laptops to low-income veterans.

Looking at my calendar, I see that Veterans Day is about a week away. If you are a military veteran thank you for your service in whatever branch of the military you served. This Veterans Day don't forget there are thousands of active-duty personnel serving our country away from home and loved ones. Being a retired Naval Officer I know there are many sailors and Marines serving at sea around the globe who won't be celebrating Veterans Day or Thanksgiving with loved ones. Please remember these and the other military personnel who are deployed away from home this Veterans Day and Thanksgiving.

Catalina Mountains Chapter Sponsors Fall Camp for Esperanza En Escalante Children

By Chuck Vaughn, Catalina Mountains Chapter President,

With a generous donation from our chapter, Esperanza En Escalante (EEE) recently hosted a five-day fall break camp for children living at EEE. Twenty-two children and three parents participated in the week-long camp held in early October. Nine children were teenagers between 11 and 16 years of age; seven children were between 6 and 10 years of age, and six children were 5 years of age or younger. Right is a photo of the group at the Pima Air and Space Museum.



On four of the five days of camp, the children and chaperons went off-site on field trips to the Desert Museum, the Flandrau Science Center and Planetarium, the Pima Air and Space Museum, and Round1 to see Paw Patrol: the Mighty Movie. Children were provided with lunch, sometimes snacks and breakfasts, and were given a water bottle for their off-site trips.

I suspect that many of these children will remember this week years from now and how much fun

Continued on page 5

Catalina Mountains Sponsors EEE Fall Camp *continued from page 4*



they had. Thank you to all the chapter members who donated funds so this camp could happen. One hundred percent of the participants said they hope EEE will host another camp again. I suspect that many of these children, from low-income families, have never been to these off-site museums or a planetarium before; I hope we can sponsor another camp next year!

Left: a chalk thank you.

Esperanza en Escalante Wish List

Suzanne Bond, CEO of Esperanza is asking our community to please consider utilizing the Arizona Tax Credit to support their program which offers a fresh start for homeless vets and their families. In addition, she is requesting the following items:

- **Operation Enrichment:** wall décor without glass frames, board games, books and playing cards.
- **Operation Keep a Lid on It:** plastic wrap and lidded food storage containers.
- **Operation Chow Time:** fresh produce, bread, meats, non-perishable food.
- **Operation Swab the Deck:** Lime-away and pumice stones, mops and brooms (dollar store quality is fine), cleaning/scouring sponges, dish soap.
- **Operation Mess Hall:** pots, fry pans, cooking utensils, silverware, plates, cups, glasses, silverware holders, knives, coffee pots, toasters, microwaves.
- **Operation Move In:** twin sheet sets & comforters, pillows, twin beds and frames, mattress covers, bedside/end tables, recliners, flat screen TVs.
- **Operation Smells Like a Rose:** bar soap, body wash, shampoo, lotion, and bath tissue.
- **Company Clerk's Needs:** copy paper, phone message books.
- **Non-Mission-Specific Needs:** a harmonica, men's wallets, working natural gas stoves and dryers, good condition refrigerators, boxes of disposable gloves size M & XL.

Contact information is 3700 S Calle Polar, Tucson, AZ 85730. Phone: (520) 571-8294.
Email: info@eeeveterans.com. URL: www.eeeveterans.org.

Surviving Spouse & Personal Affairs

By Polly Parks, *Surviving Spouse Liaison*

HR 139/S 740, the GUARD VA Benefits Act has been introduced in both houses. The bill aims to protect veterans from claims sharks who seek to collect unreasonable and unauthorized fees for assisting with service-connected disability claims. A veteran should never be charged to file an initial claim, and if an appeal is necessary, a veteran should not be charged excessive fees for that service.

At the D-M RAO meeting on Nov. 6, the VSO and VA representatives stated this is pernicious in the Tucson area. One scam is apparently to promise initial filings for \$50 and no cost unless there is an appeal (fine print). Then insufficient information is submitted to the VA and an appeal is needed. In at least one instance, the cost to appeal was \$5,000. But the non-VSO/VA agent, said, don't worry, if successful you'll get \$4,000 a month. Reminder: maximum benefits are rarely given.

Financial Safety: [MOAA testified on Nov. 2 before a Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs hearing that addressed the financial safety of those in uniform, veterans, and military families.](#) The issue is a Supreme Court case that could hamstring or even dissolve the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB), an agency created in 2011 to fend off deceptive business practices. Among its duties is the enforcement of the [Military Lending Act](#), legislation passed in 2006 to cap some loan rates for servicemembers and offer other financial protections.

"A return to the days where unscrupulous financial predators target servicemembers without fear of repercussions would make a bad situation worse," said Cory Titus, MOAA's director of Government Relations for servicemember compensation and veteran's benefits, during the Nov. 2 hearing.

Titus, who called the potential for the dissolution of the CFPB "frightening," testified alongside representatives from the Association of Military Banks of America and the National Military Family Association. The appearance marked the latest of MOAA's many efforts to support these protections, [including taking part in a Supreme Court amicus brief in support of the CFPB.](#)

Health: MOAA outlined its [veteran health care priorities](#) during the recent Nurses Organization of Veterans Affairs (NOVA) meeting in Las Vegas, topped by two critical bills offering in-home care for veterans and more support for their caregivers.

Housing: The political logjam in the House and looming Nov. 17 default in Washington has deferred action on improving the Basic Allowance for Housing. In a related matter, the GAO has delivered a report on how deplorable barack conditions impact mental health.

"Many of our servicemembers do not come in with chronic depression or a history of suicidal ideations, and many of the problems are rooted in environmental conditions," said Rep. Veronica Escobar (D-Texas), who was forced to resort to using community project funding at Fort Bliss to fix old HVAC in barracks when DoD could not make it a top priority after months of record heat this year.

The GAO found the military culture of toughing out such adversity – the old "suck it up, Buttercup" attitude – contributes to these problems going unsolved. Army senior leaders, dismissive of housing problems, recently stated in a public forum that the key to improving living conditions was "[Adulting](#)," a pejorative term that puts the onus on poor living conditions on the personal habits of soldiers and their families. A similar reaction occurred last year when the Navy's senior enlisted adviser addressed the crew of [USS George Washington \(CVN-73\)](#) after a spike in suicides among those assigned to the aircraft carrier, linked to awful living conditions.

Guard and Reserve: *The Military Times* recently noted a GAO report on how the [National Guard](#) and reserve service members are less likely to get their veteran disability claims approved than their active-duty counterparts because of incomplete military records and inadequate oversight of their injuries.

The disparity comes even as [guard](#) and reserve members continue to take on [traditional active-duty roles](#) across a host of military deployments, bringing with them additional health risks and complications.

Two final links from the Surviving Spouse Virtual November 23 newsletter:

- [Act Fast to Meet a New Deadline for Survivor Benefit Plan Enrollment](#)
- [Have Your Say: This Military Family Survey Will Help, Inform Advocacy Work](#)

Davis-Monthan Retiree Activities Office

November 2023

Base: Craycroft gate is scheduled to be closed November 9-12 and hopefully will open after that. Swan will be the primary alternative gate.

December 8 is the base Winterfest.

To get the new I.D. cards (current ones must be replaced by 2026), retirees are strongly cautioned not to walk-in and appointments are for individuals (i.e. separate appointments for spouses and family members).

Base Exchange: The restaurant is now 100% complete; work continues on the Food Court. February will integrate all parts; the target date for renovation completion is March 2024. Veterans Day featured a Coin Event for all veterans of all services.

Med Group: Working to get health info to those transferring or separating. They currently need 90-100 days before separation and it is taking them 4-6 weeks to get information onto cd's.

Commissary: Manager Gary Olin reports 50% off Halloween candy. Xmas candy is available. Everything is in place for Thanksgiving, including the German stuff. There is a 2-turkey limit. There are sales going on all the time.

RAO Activities: VITA gearing up for 2024 tax season; there will be a training the second week of January and tax preparation will begin at the end of January. They are transitioning to new computers and Windows 11 is no longer supported by Microsoft. United Way is loaning three volunteers, but volunteers are always needed.

D-M RAO Newsletter: There are now 494 subscribers; if you want to be added shoot an email to Barb Estes at dm.rao.news@gmail.com.

SAVAHCS: Just wrapped the 95th Anniversary events in October. Veterans Day activities included veteran pins handed out by school children; a Flowing Wells high school photoshoot and filming. On November 9, the 250-member Catalina Foothills Marching Band performed.

VOLUNTEER TO BE A MOAA MOVER:

Tucson: Membership, Treasurer
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.

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.

EDITORIAL POLICY

THIS MOAA NEWSLETTER, 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.



TUCSON CHAPTER OFFICERS

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

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

1st Vice President: Gerald Petersen, LTC USA (Ret), 520-250-1914, cactushome1@earthlink.com

2nd Vice President: John Davee, Col, USAF (Ret), 520-275-7864, kiddavee@gmail.com

Legislative Chair/Personal Affairs/Veteran Committee Rep.: Ann Hollis, USAF LtCol (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

News Editor: Grant Orvik; 202-681-5295/ moaa@gojo.mozmail.com

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

Surviving Spouse Advisory Council; Territorial Editor: Polly Parks, 703-338-6881/ pollyparks@earthlink.net

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

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

Past President: William Wojciechowski, Col, USAF, (Ret), 620-770-0059 / billterriwoj@gmail.com

CATALINA MOUNTAINS CHAPTER OFFICERS

<http://www.tucsonmoaa.com>

President: Chuck Vaughan, CAPT, USN, (retired) 505-553-4364, chuck.vaughan@comcast.net

1st Vice President: Kurt McMillen, COL, USA, (retired) 520-420-7475, kmmcmillen@gmail.com

Treasurer: George Bone, LTC, USAR, (retired) 520-314-3595, gfbone39@gmail.com

Secretary: William Myers, LT, CEC, USN, former

Membership Chair: Don Timian, LTC, USA, 571-216-3679, dontimian@hotmail.com

Legis. Liaison: Charlene Godec COL, USA (Ret) 208-304-4515 / cmgodec@gmail.com

Past President: Bill Nagy, COL, USAR, (retired) 520-355-5064, wjnagy@yahoo.com

Programs Director: Bill Nagy, COL, USAR, (retired) 520-355-5064, wjnagy@yahoo.com

Audio/Visual: Jeff Peckeron, Capt, USMC, (retired) 520-603-7871, jeffpeckeron@gmail.com

Fundraising; Vacant **Chaplain;** Vacant

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
Retiree Activities Office 520-228-5100
VSO 520-275-7633