



THE TERRITORIAL

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



NOVEMBER 2024

National MOAA and the Tucson MOAA Chapter are non-partisan



FROM THE EAGLES NEST

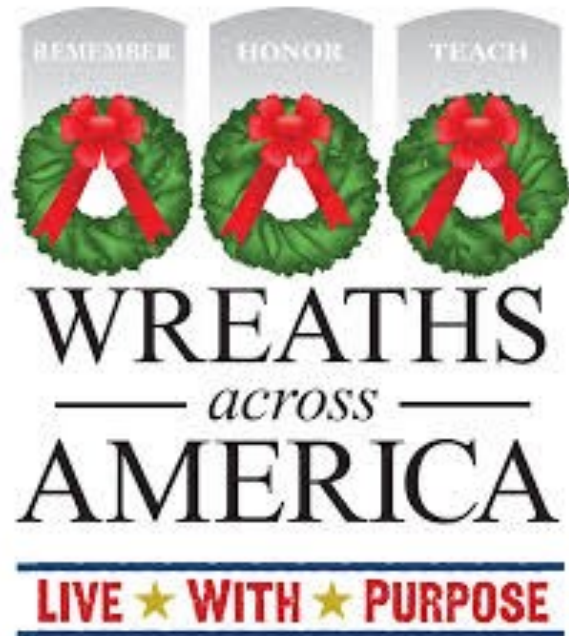
By Col Tom Owens,
Tucson Chapter President

Happy Thanksgiving to all. We have no November meeting due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

We are looking forward to the Christmas Holiday luncheon, Wednesday, December 18, 1130 at the Tucson Country Club. TCC is festively decorated for this event. Menu options are a Parmesan Crusted Salmon Fillet, with spiced potatoes, sauteed spinach, and a parsley pesto cream sauce or a Harvest Salad of organic mixed greens, Granny Smith apples, toasted pecans, bacon bits, cranberries, shaved Parmesan, grilled chicken and a champagne vinaigrette. For members who are vegan, non-vegan items will be removed from the salad. We need to place our order one week prior; please RSVP me. Estimated price is approximately \$40 per person including tax and tip. Deserts and alcoholic drinks are extra. We hope you enjoy it.

November 11 was Veteran's Day; four members participated in the MOAA entrant in the Tucson Veterans Day parade. It was a beautiful sunny day with Tucsonans lining the downtown streets. We followed the USS Tucson submarine, led by Tucson MOAA ESGR Liaison Commander Ross Orvik. Photos are on page 5 and 6.

Chapter participation in Wreaths Across America is coming up on December 14 at Arizona Veterans Cemetery in Marana.



The chapter has donated 5 wreaths. Chapter members are encouraged to participate in wreath-laying. Contact Ann Hollis or myself for more information.

The Nominating Committee has been busy. In December, they will announce a new slate of chapter officers, and the actual election will take place in January. Once the slate is

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Upcoming Tucson Chapter Meetings

No November 2024 meeting/luncheon.

December 19: Holiday Luncheon

Venue: Tucson Country Club / Time: 1130

RSVP: Col Tom Owens

Menu Options:

Parmesan Crusted Salmon Fillet or Holiday Harvest Salad

January 23: Speaker TBD

February 27: Speaker: Dena Kilgore,

MOAA Program Director, Council and Chapter Affairs

March 27: Speaker TBD

April 24: Speaker TBD

May 22: Speaker TBD

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MOAA Tucson / Vail Meeting

MOAA Tucson / Vail will hold its next meeting Saturday, November 26 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.

From the Eagle's Nest *continued from page 1*

announced, members can introduce write-in candidates from the floor if they so desire. However, the proposed candidate must agree to run. Officers will take their position immediately following the election.

I am stepping down. I have been honored to serve as President for over nine years cumulatively, and it is time for new leadership. During my initial tenure, the Tucson chapter formed the Catalina Mountains Satellite, which grew and spun off as a full-fledged chapter a couple of years ago. We have another possible satellite being developed in Vail, southeast of Tucson. We have three members so far and hope to grow it bigger. Growing the Tucson chapter and the Vail satellite will be priorities for the Tucson chapter over the next few years.

Another chapter vote concerns revisions to the by-laws. From my perspective, nothing major is being proposed. However, we will email members the changes and synopsis before taking an emailed vote in December.

MOAA Tucson October Luncheon



Above left: Col Kurt McMillan (USAF, Ret) reports on Kazakhstan at the October luncheon at the Hungry Fox. Above right: Col Tom Owens presents a coin to Col Kurt McMillan following his informative presentation. Right: MOAA members at the October luncheon.



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

By Polly Parks, *The Territorial Editor*

As we go to press, President-elect **Donald Trump** (R) will be inaugurated into office on January 20, 2025. Here in Arizona, the newly elected Senator **Ruben Gallego** (D) will be sworn in on January 3, 2025, for a six-year term; as a House member he has been a staunch advocate for MOAA priorities. In our catchment area, Representative **Raul Grijalva** (D) will take his last two-year tour representing the constituents of US District 7; he has been a staunch advocate for MOAA priorities. As we went to press, **Kirsten Engels** (D) conceded the US District 6 race to **Juan Ciscomani** (R).

After a tough race with **John McClean** (D), the LD17 Senate seat appears taken by Vince Leach (R). LD17 House members will be represented by **Kevin Volk** (D) and **Rachel Jones** (R). **Priya Sundareshan** (D) will represent LD18 in the Senate, and **Nancy Gutierrez** (D) and **Chris Mathis** (D) will continue to represent LD18 in the House. LD20 Senator is **Sally Ann Gonzales** (D) and House members **Alma Hernandez** (D) and **Betty Villegas** (D). LD21 Senator is **Rosanna Gabaldon** (D), and House members are **Consuelo Hernandez** (D) and **Stephanie Stahl-Hamilton** (D). Arizona Senate and House will kick off the fifty-seventh legislature, the first regular session in January. MOAA priority is passage of USPHS pay equity.

As the Biden Administration winds down, Congress has failed to pass the FY25 NDAA or budgets. The government is operating on a Continuing Resolution (CR) that is due to expire on December 20th. This CR keeps department budgets at FY24 levels and does not allow for new programs. The Biden Administration and lame-duck House and Senate are expected to prioritize finalizing the NDAA and funding the government through FY25. If those efforts are unsuccessful and there is either a government shutdown or another Continuing Resolution in place when the new House and Senate is sworn in January 3, it will hamper the new Administration's ability to, as the 1921 Budget and Accounting Act deems, propose an FY26 budget by the first Monday in February. The election of John Thune (R) as Senate Majority Leader signals the Senate will not easily cede its Constitutional prerogative to vet Administration cabinet picks.

It is unclear what budget and legislative priorities the new Executive Administration will pursue. During the dueling Presidential campaigns, it appeared many of the ideas tossed out would require hundreds of billions of dollars to implement. The incoming Administration did not propose coherent mechanisms to pay for their proposed actions; therefore, Congress will likely balk. In addition, it is also unclear whether some of the incoming Administration's post-election non-confirmation appointments, such as Elon Musk and Vivek Ramaswamy, to co-chair a Government Efficiency Department, means an unfunded FY25 task force or a placeholder for FY26 to stand up a new Executive Branch Department.

[MOAA's non-partisan advocacy priorities](#) will remain the same: We are an association of officers and surviving spouses carrying out our role and responsibility to represent and support all ranks across all services at every stage of their careers. While advocating a strong national defense, the association believes those matters are best left to those with all the facts available to them, today's actively serving military leadership. MOAA plays an active role in military personnel matters, especially proposed legislation affecting the career force, the retired community, and veterans of the uniformed services. Those priorities will remain.

Never Stop Serving

MOAA Represents at Tucson 2024 Veterans Day Parade



On a beautiful 64-degree day November 11, (left to right) Wayne Finley (Vail satellite chapter), Jerry Peterson, Tucson First Vice President, Tom Owens, Tucson President, Ann Hollis, Tucson Legislative Chair/Personal Affairs/Veteran Committee Representative, and Rusty Orvik, ESGR Chair pose in front of the MOAA entrant to the Tucson 2024 Veterans Day Parade. To the far left is the replica of the USN nuclear-powered submarine, USS Tucson, which was the entrant of the Submarine Veterans of Tucson. The USS Tucson was to be decommissioned in 2025 but will retain active-duty status for another decade. [Link to KOLD video of the USS Tucson entrant](#). The link is on the Tucson MOAA Facebook page. If you are not a member, join, as it is a private page.

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/>.

Sailors from the USS Tucson (SSN 770) conduct city namesake visit



Sailors from the USS Tucson (SSN 770) conduct a city namesake visit with Midshipmen at the University of Arizona NROTC and the Sailors at Navy Reserve Center [Tucson](#). Photos by Ross Orvik



Surviving Spouse & Personal Affairs

By Polly Parks, *Surviving Spouse Liaison*

The COLA watch is on. Social Security has announced a 2.5% increase.

Medicare Part B for single beneficiaries increases to \$185, for Adjusted Gross Incomes (AGI's) under \$106,000 or joint filers for AGI's under \$212,000. These rates increase progressively to a maximum of \$443.90 for single AGI's over \$500,000 or \$628.90 for joint AGI's over \$750,000.

The maximum amount of earnings subject to the Social Security tax (taxable maximum) will increase to \$176,100.

The earnings limit for workers who are younger than "full" retirement age (see [Full Retirement Age Chart](#)) will increase to \$23,400. (SSA deducts \$1 from benefits for each \$2 earned over \$23,400.)

The earnings limit for people reaching their "full" retirement age in 2025 will increase to \$62,160. (SSA deducts \$1 from benefits for each \$3 earned over \$62,160 until the month the worker turns "full" retirement age.). There is no limit on earnings for workers who are "full" retirement age or older for the entire year.

The MOAA-linked article, [VA Hopes to Drop Co-Pay for all TeleHealth Services](#) is reprinted from *Military Times* and highlights a key VA initiative. Implementation may be subject to the FY26 budget battles.

MOAA encourages members to use October to encourage the lame-duck Congress to [enact the bipartisan Dole Act](#).

There is no report on the November Davis-Monthan RAO Board Meeting, as I was unable to attend. Next month....

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

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

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

MOAA Tucson Chapter Mission

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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 520-792-1450 extension 5390

Patient Advocate Office 520-629-1819

Care in the Community 520-792-1450 extension 6555

Women's Health Clinic 520-629-4885

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