



# THE TERRITORIAL

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



SEPTEMBER 2024

National MOAA and the Tucson MOAA Chapter are non-partisan



## FROM THE EAGLES NEST

**By Col Tom Owens,  
Tucson Chapter President**

It has been a wet and sizzling summer. We did survive. Several of our members had medical issues. Kristy Scully fell and broke her hip. She is in recovery. Shirley Phillips has continuing breathing problems and is on oxygen. John Davee's brother passed away at the age of 62. He lived in Albuquerque.

September starts the Arizona political election process. We plan to invite candidates for various offices to address our members at our September 26 luncheon meeting at Trattoria Pina. This is a good opportunity for them to address our members and gives us an opportunity to hear their ideas.

We plan to continue monthly meetings in the Vail area. The first meeting is September 21 at Del Lago Golf Restaurant at 1100. There are over 100 MOAA members in this area and we hope they will join us.

We were able to receive two MOAA Grants from the MOAA Foundation and a MOAA Crisis grant this cycle.

A grant of \$1000 was awarded to Esperanza En Escalante to repair the roof on one of their buildings. Ann Hollis accompanied EEE workers to Home Depot to purchase necessary materials. Work is ongoing.

The excellent work of Esperanza en Escalante was featured in this *Arizona Illustrated* [10-minute video](#) produced in May which ran on AZPM, the local PBS station.

A \$1,080 grant for office supplies and software for the volunteer on-site Davis-Monthan VSO office was also secured. The VSO office participates, along with MOAA, on the D-M RAO Board. The certified VSO was able to get a year license to the software program, VetPro, and printer cartridges. The VSO office serves both active and retiree populations, including Surviving Spouses, to access VA benefits without charge.

The MOAA Crisis grant of \$1500 was awarded to Air Force Staff Sargent Clyde Fujimoto, to help with his medical recovery and living costs.

In other news, Polly Parks, Surviving Spouse Liaison and Territorial Editor, is taking over from Barbara Estes as the Editor of the quarterly D-M RAO Retiree Newsletter. Polly also represents the Tucson Chapter on the D-M RAO Board.

Capt Randy Long has transitioned to be our Membership Chair. CAPT Chuck Vaughan has taken over the Treasurer Chair. Chuck's year is going to get busy; he takes over as President of the MOAA Arizona Council of

*Continued on page 3*

# Upcoming Tucson Chapter Meetings

The September Luncheon is scheduled for  
1130 Thursday, September 26

## Candidate Forum

Venue: [Trattoria Pina](#), 5541 N Swan, near Sunrise.

October 24: Speaker TBD  
November 21: Speaker TBD  
December 19: Holiday Luncheon  
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

## Table of Contents

- 1 The Eagles Nest
- 2 Tucson/Vail Chapter Activities
- 3 Vail Meeting Agenda
- 4 2025 MOAA NDAA Priorities
- 5 Legislative Update
- 6 Legislative Update cont.
- 7 Surviving Spouse & Personal Affairs
- 8 Tucson Chapter info

## MOAA Tucson / Vail Meeting

MOAA Tucson / Vail will hold its next meeting Saturday, September 21 at Del Lago Golf Restaurant, in Vail, at 1100. 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 including a non-partisan September candidates forum.

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](mailto:pam.devine@azmoves.com). If you desire to participate, please email [rorvik@orvik.com](mailto:rorvik@orvik.com) to receive the access link.

## **From the Eagles Nest...***continued from page 1*

Chapters (AZCOC) in November.

The AZCOC meeting will be held November 8 in Phoenix. The following weekend, November 15-16 MOAA National will convene a West Chapters meeting in Reno. Dena Kilgore, MOAA Program Director, Council and Chapter Affairs, will visit Tucson in February and is scheduled to be February 27 luncheon speaker.

We will be holding chapter elections in December/January. Please let us know if you are interested in helping our chapter. Most current officers have served for many years. We welcome new volunteers to join us.

Finally, if you have not done so, please log-on to MOAA.org and vote: next Board class, 2024-2026 resolutions, and a proposed by-law change by August 31.

## **MOAA Vail Meeting Agenda September 21, 2024 Del Lago Golf Restaurant**

### **Pledge**

#### **Meetings scheduled:**

- September 26: Candidates Forum (Tucson 1130)
- October 19 at 1100
- November 16 at 1100
- December 21 at 1100

**Vail Voice** – schedule meetings / articles

**Recruitment:** MOAA says there are over 100 MOAA members in this surrounding area; seven MOAA members interested; one joined so far

**Esperanza En Escalante:** (sbond@eeeveterans.org): Veterans Homeless organization, adjacent to DMAFB; needs donations, household goods, automobile donated, etc

#### **MOAA Tucson Awards:**

- MOAA Level of Excellence: 5-STAR
- MOAA Newsletter: 5-STAR
- MOAA Chapter website: 5-STAR

#### **Tucson Chapter Organization**

44 current MOAA Members

MOAA Grant to Esperanza En Escalante (\$1000); roof repairs

MOAA Grant to D-M on-site VSO office (\$1,080); office supplies and software

# 2025 MOAA NDAA Priorities

Maj Gen April, Vogel, USAF (Ret), MOAA's Vice President of Government Relations sent an urgent email last week to press our elected representatives to support MOAA 2025 NDAA Priorities.

The Congressional summer recess is nearly over. If everything goes on schedule, after Labor Day the 2025 NDAA will emerge from conference for floor votes in both houses. If you have not done so, log in to [the Legislative Action Center](#) to have your voice heard.

•**Junior Enlisted Pay Raise:** Competitive pay remains critical to the health of the all-volunteer force, and both the House and the Senate seek to address this issue in their respective NDAA versions. With the House bill proposing a 19.5% pay increase and the Senate falling well short of that, it's likely the right answer is somewhere in the middle. We need Congress to ensure there is sufficient recognition that junior enlisted servicemembers need and deserve a once-in-a-generation pay boost beyond the annual pay raise.

•**Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) Restoration:** Access to quality housing and promoting financial wellness are important to sustaining the all-volunteer force. Restoring BAH addresses both issues. I ask that you support the House NDAA's provision restoring BAH to 100% for FY 2025 – a move toward MOAA's goal of fully repealing the BAH reduction.

•**Major Richard Star Act:** Tens of thousands of combat-injured veterans lose a dollar of earned DoD retirement pay for every dollar of VA disability compensation. For three years in a row, over two-thirds of Congress has supported the Star Act, which would end that unjust financial offset. Despite this vast support, neither version of the NDAA includes the bill. MOAA asks that you continue to press leadership for passage of this important legislation.

Thank you again for your time and attention on this important matter.



## Upcoming MOAA Signature Cruises & Tours

*MOAA Signature Cruises/Tours  
benefit MOAA and MOAA Charities*

<p><b>European Holiday Markets River Cruise</b> Danube Holiday Markets – Passau to Budapest <b>Dec. 9-16, 2024</b> From \$3,699</p>	<p><b>Burgundy and Provence</b> Lyon to Arles <b>Sept. 14-21, 2025</b> From \$4,799</p>
<p><b>Tour of Australia and New Zealand</b> South Pacific Tour <b>May 6-21, 2025</b> \$6,799 per person</p>	<p><i>MOAA leadership in attendance:</i> Lt. Gen. Brian T. Kelly, USAF (Ret), President and Chief Executive Officer</p>
<p><b>Greek Isles Cruise</b> Round-trip Athens <b>Aug. 9-16, 2025</b> From \$3,489</p>	<p>Experience unforgettable culture, world-class wine, unique MOAA camaraderie, and elite cuisine on a seven-night cruise!</p>

# **Legislative Update**

**By MOAA staff**

Here is a look at MOAA's priorities, in support of the 50th anniversary of our all-volunteer force and to address the challenges facing our uniformed community. Note: Our advocacy team remains active on many other issues not listed here; our priorities will be shaped throughout the year depending on concurrent successes or emerging issues that warrant an all-hands approach. Additionally, we share many interests with The Military Coalition and other stakeholder groups, and leverage those relationships to expand our reach on Capitol Hill.

## **Compensation and Service-Earned Benefits**

### **Military Housing**

### **Health Care for Currently Serving and Retirees**

### **Health Care and Benefits for Veterans**

### **Service Families**

### **Survivors**

### **Guard and Reserve**

*Editor's Note: This important article is too long to print in The Territorial. I have edited the PROBLEMS out. To read the full article, [click here](#).*

## **Compensation and Service-Earned Benefits Actions:**

- Ensure pay at or above the Employment Cost Index, and ensure all allowances and programs necessary to recruit and retain a quality force.
- Ensure pay continues for all eight uniformed services during a government shutdown.
- Provide for concurrent receipt of military retirement pay from DoD and disability pay from the VA.

## **Military Housing Actions:**

- Restore BAH at 100% of researched housing costs per Military Housing Area.
- Ensure barracks are safe and healthy places to live, verified by the chain of command and government-owned work centers.
- Codify procedures and authorities to increase out-of-cycle housing allowances to address emergencies such as reduced availability of housing and rising utility costs.

## **Health Care for Currently Serving and Retirees Actions:**

- Reverse cuts to the pharmacy benefit and establish policy guardrails to ensure access to prescription medications and limits on copay increases.
- Fix the TRICARE Young Adult parity issue by extending eligibility to dependents up to age 26 with no separate premium to bring TRICARE on par with requirements for commercial health plans.
- Require DoD to establish a transparent and well-publicized problem reporting system for beneficiaries experiencing MTF access challenges, including an annual report to Congress on the number and types of beneficiary access problem reports by MTF and steps taken by the Defense Health Agency to identify and address systemic access problems.

## **Health Care and Benefits for Veterans Actions:**

- Monitor recent major legislation enacted and seek statutory or policy changes as required.
- Continued on page 6*

## Legislative Update *Continued from page 5*

Compel Congress and the VA to accelerate caregiving and whole health care services, and modernization of the VHA workforce and facility infrastructure.

### Service Families Actions:

Improve congressional support for uniformed services families:

Enhance programs to support spouse employment, ensure implementation of an effective basic needs allowance, and provide accessible, affordable child care options.

Overcome the lack of effective problem-reporting mechanisms and resolution systems in the Military Health System.

### Survivors Actions:

Repeal the recoupment of last month's paycheck after retiree's passing.

Continue to improve SGLI/VGLI updates to match inflation.

Improve DIC baseline to align with other government entitlements' baseline of 55%.

### Guard and Reserve Actions:

Overcome the lack of TRICARE coverage for the reserve component to maintain readiness.

Overcome delayed pay for Guard and Reserve members when they are promoted or when they retire.

Continue to support Guard and Reserve leaders, and advance legislative and policy solutions to support the total force.

### Arizona Legislative News:

[S.B. 1413](#), expanding the individual income tax subtraction for active service compensation to include compensation received for active service in the U.S. Uniformed Services, rather than the U.S. Armed Forces was not passed this legislative session, but is not dead.

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

### Davis-Monthan Commissary Sidewalk Sale, September 27, 28, 29 and 30th.

**Items include: Snacks, such as nuts, chips and candy; Cold cereals; Beverages (including flavored water), juices and energy drinks; International foods; Baking and canned goods; Pet food; Non-food items, such as paper towels, toilet paper, wipes and cleaning products; Baby products; and Health and beauty products.**

# Surviving Spouse & Personal Affairs

## PACT Act Update

The MOAA website has a reprint from *Military Times*, the nation's largest independent newsroom dedicated to covering the military and veteran community. The article, [Veterans' PACT Act Claims Continue to Rise, 2 Years After Law's Passage](#), by Leo Shane III succinctly summarizes the impact of the PACT Act on veterans and their families, as well as the Veterans Administration.



*Left: MOAA Director of Government Relations for Veteran Benefits and Guard/Reserve Affairs Cory Titus speaks at a March 29, 2022, press conference on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., in support of the Honoring Our PACT Act. (Photo by Mike Morones/MOAA) .*

## How DoD Must Protect Patients During the Tricare Contract Turnover

The MOAA website has a comprehensive article by Kevin Lilley on the upcoming [Tricare Contractor Turnover](#). They highlight four key factors DoD must address to ensure a successful changeover to the new provider contract, known as "T-5."

The four factors are: Build Better Networks. Support At-Risk Families. Address Chronic Conditions. Solve Enrollment Problems

Well worth the read.

### 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>)

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

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

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

**Legislative Chair/Personal Affairs/Veteran Committee Rep.:** Ann Hollis, USAF LtCol (Ret), 520-749-3573; / [annhollis@usa.net](mailto:annhollis@usa.net)

**Secretary:** Pam Devine 520-401-0001 / [Pam.Devine@azmoves.com](mailto:Pam.Devine@azmoves.com)

**Treasurer:** Charles Vaughan, CAPT. USN, (Ret) 505-553-4364/[Chuck.vaughan@comcast.net](mailto:Chuck.vaughan@comcast.net)

**Membership Chair:** Randy Long, Capt USAF (Ret), PhD (614) 595-5532, [RLLong@att.net](mailto:RLLong@att.net)

**Scholarship Chair:** John Davee, Col, USAF (Ret), 520-275-7864, [kiddavee@gmail.com](mailto:kiddavee@gmail.com)

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

**Surviving Spouse Liaison; Territorial Editor:** Polly Parks, 703-338-6881/  
[pollyparks@earthlink.net](mailto:pollyparks@earthlink.net)

**Chaplain:** Bette Ludlow, 520-207-3755, [bettyludlow@yahoo.com](mailto:bettyludlow@yahoo.com)

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

**Past President:** William Wojciechowski, Col, USAF, (Ret), 620-770-0059 / [billterriwoj@gmail.com](mailto:billterriwoj@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. Please consider lending your *LEADERSHIP AND VOICE* to the Chapter teams. Contact Tucson Chapter President Tom Owens at [owensttt@gmail.com](mailto: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