



The Sentinel

Arizona's First Chapter



THE ARIZONA CHAPTER, P.O. Box 7644, Cave Creek, AZ 85327

MAY 2003

CHARTERED IN 1956 - OVER 40 YEARS OF SERVICE TO COUNTRY

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President's Message



The April Dinner meeting was a huge success. The speaker, General Fogleman, is also a Whitehouse Fellow and knows both Collin Powell and Donald Rumsfeld personally. A very interesting talk and if you missed this one, you missed a real good presentation.

Because of slow service and the hotel wanting to increase the price again (they had increased the price \$2.00 a dinner after our March Sentinel was published) we have decided to try another location for the June dinner. We have three places in mind for future dinners and somewhere along the line we will have those in attendance vote on where they would like to go on a permanent basis. The first place we will try is Treulich's, which is located just west of I-17 & Camelback at 5020 N. Black Canyon Hwy. However, because of a conflict with another group that has been meeting there for years we had to switch to the fourth Thursday (26 June). Mark it on your calendars. We are also considering Beefeaters and the Shrine auditorium, but both of them are at slight cost increases over Treulich's. Jim Seidl will brief you on the proposed locations at the May luncheon and then again at the June dinner.

I hate to miss out on the May luncheon and JROTC Scholarship Awards, but I will be in Branson, Missouri attending a reunion of my first fighter squadron. I think Gary Fredricks will take over and run the meeting. I will be thinking about you all while I'm out on the lake in a WW-II "Duck" for a tour and lunch on that Saturday

The conflict in Iraq seems to be about over, but many troops will be there a long time before the situation is gotten under control. Your Board has discussed the possibility of what we as a Chapter can do to help the families left behind in some Guard Units. This will be discussed more at the May Board meeting. If you have any ideas, and you get this before 1 May, please pass them on to one of the Directors or come and make your input in person at the 1 May Board meeting at 1:30 PM at American Legion Post 107.

I was reading the latest newsletter and update for the 481st TFS reunion in Branson and it ended with a very interesting article. The author is unknown, but I want to quote one paragraph as very fitting for today.

"I would never say military spouses are better or worse than other spouses are. But I will say there is a difference. And I will say that our country asks more of military spouses than is asked of other spouses. And I will say, without hesitation, that military spouses pay just as high a price for freedom as do their active duty husbands or wives. Perhaps the price they pay is even higher. Dying in service to our country isn't nearly as hard as loving someone who has died in service to our country, and having to live without them..... Think about it!"

God Bless you military spouses for all you have given and continue to give; and God Bless America.

Ronald R. Green

LtCol USAF (Ret), President, Arizona Chapter, MOAA

Memorial Day 2003

The Chapter has again signed up for its Color Guard to participate in the Memorial Day ceremony beginning at 8:00 AM on Monday, May 26 at the National Cemetery on Cave Creek Road. The Arizona Council of Chapters will also be participating in the wreath ceremony. This is always a very nice ceremony paying tribute to those veterans who have died. As many members as possible are urged to attend.

Chapter 50th Anniversary

ATTENTION ALL CHAPTER MEMBERS: Since our Chapter's 50th Anniversary celebration will take place in 2006, we need to start contributing now to the Anniversary Fund. Whenever you have a little extra discretionary money available give it to the Treasurer for deposit in the Anniversary Account. Check the box on the form in this newsletter at the bottom of page 7, clip it out and send your contribution to the Chapter Treasurer, Bill Johnson.

Chet Baumer, 50th Anniversary Chairman

Arizona Chapter Calendar

May 3
MOAA Golf Tmx

May 8
V-E Day 1945

May 11
Mother's Day

May 15
Peace Officers Memorial Day

May 17
Luncheon Meeting
Armed Forces Day

May 26
Memorial Day Obs

June 5
BOD Meeting

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SUPPORT OUR TROOPS — REMEMBER OUR FALLEN COMRADES — FLY YOUR FLAG

one that when I heard the name TROA, I immediately assumed that I had to be RETIRED to join. Now that is no longer an issue.

This new membership focus started last month with the Board of Directors putting their heads together to brainstorm new and creative ways to reach out to Active and Reserve members. Distributing "Today's Officer" magazines to our local active, reserve and Guard units is the first step, with more efforts to come. Our goal is to gain 25 new members, and as many of these from the Active/Reserve/Guard community as possible.

Our membership numbers are looking great, with a number of recent registrations bumping us back up over 200 members. Our recruiting efforts can get a jump-start from **YOU** though through your referrals. Personal referrals are the easiest and most effective recruiting tool, so if you know friends in the Valley area that are not members of our team, please pass on their contact information to me and I will send them information about joining. Also, if anyone has any contacts with any local Active, Reserve or Guard unit, please let us know so we can contact them.

If anyone has questions or has a referral, please contact me any time.

Paul Fein, Membership Chairman
9172 North 117th Way
Scottsdale, AZ 85259-5928
Tele.:602-317-0840

"Peace Through Strength"

Web Spin

The Board of Directors voted to establish a more permanent presence on the worldwide web. By registering our own worldwide web domain name

www.azchaptermoaa.org

we greatly expanded our visibility to on-line users. Our new website name is easier to remember, pass to friends and is now recognizable to Internet search engines. Several new pages have recently been added to our site so check them out. If you have any suggestions on how our web site may be improved, please contact Tom Houser at thomas.houser@ins.com, or 480-595-2041.

Raffle Winners

The following were winners in the "50/50" raffle held at the April meeting: Gary Fredricks, Tom Houser, Pete Magadan and Davis Rohr.

Storming the Hill

The most exciting assignment for the MOAA Council president is the annual Storming the Hill sponsored by MOAA. This year was no exception. It all began on Tuesday, March 15 when all of the Council presidents and most of the national MOAA board of directors arrived in Alexandria, VA. On Wednesday, we received briefings on the issues to be supported. That evening we attended an MOAA awards ceremony in the Cannon House Office Building in which MOAA honored Congressmen and staff who had been supportive of MOAA legislative positions.

Thursday was the day for Storming the Hill. I was teamed up with Arizona's own Chuck Schluter who is a member of the National board. I had previously made appointments with our two Senators and eight Representatives to either meet with them personally or with their Legislative Assistant. At 8:00 AM, we were delivered to the Capitol for a group photo. The photo should be on the cover of the next issue of the Military Officer. There is no prize for finding Chuck, and me but we are both in the photo. Following the photo, we were on our own to meet with our Senators and Representatives.

MOAA had prepared a package on the three issues to be discussed and left with each congressman. The package included discussions on Military Pay Comparability, Concurrent Receipt, and Improvements in the SBP Annuity. The SBP Annuity was the principal issue to be discussed and was supported by a very nice professionally prepared brochure explaining needs of the program. Greatest emphasis was placed on the reduction in survivor benefits from 55% of retiree pay to 35% when the surviving spouse reaches age 62. The three principal arguments for elimination of this reduction were that most retirees were not informed of the reduction when they signed up for the program, that the benefits are less than for other Federal survivor benefit programs, and that as a result of living longer than projected, retirees are paying a larger percentage of program costs than called for in legislative intent for this program. This was also the case in the early 90's when the remedy was to reduce premiums. Rather than another reduction in premiums, it is now proposed that the benefits be improved to eliminate the age 62 reduction.

Chuck and I personally met with five of our Representatives, and with Legislative Assistants of the other three Representatives and the two Senators. Current cosponsors of the SBP Legislation include Senator McCain, and Representatives Franks, Grijalva, Renzi, Hayworth, and Pastor. We are still working on Senator Kyl and Representatives Kolbe, Shadegg, and Flake. We were very cordially received in all congressional offices with nothing but compliments for MOAA. We felt that we had almost walked our legs off when it was over and we returned to our hotel.

I have followed up with a letter thanking each of our Congressmen for making themselves and / or their Assistants available to us, and responding to specific questions. If you have a chance to meet with any of them, please thank them for meeting with us, and feel free to build on our meeting to further encourage them to support the SBP legislation.

I feel that we did make a positive impression on each of our Congressmen whom we met personally, and on their Legislative Assistants. I hope to be able to again repeat the experience next year.

Daniel M. Conway, President, Arizona Council, MOAA

Legislative Update

Issue 1: Senators Sponsor Reserve Health Care Bill.
On Thursday, April 10, Senator Mike DeWine (R-OH)

introduced S. 852, the National Guard and Reserve Comprehensive Health Benefits Act of 2003, a bill designed to provide wraparound health coverage options to Guard and Reserve service men and women and their families. Joining Senator DeWine as original cosponsors were Senators Tom Daschle (D-SD), Patrick Leahy (D-VT), and Gordon Smith (R-OR). Senator Tim Johnson (D-SD) has since been added as a cosponsor.

S. 852 would permit National Guard and Reserve service members and their families to join the TRICARE program on a cost-share basis (Reservists have been allowed to participate in the TRICARE dental program on a cost-share basis for a number of years). A reserve service member who took TRICARE coverage under the legislation could expect to pay an annual cost-share of \$420 for personal coverage and \$1450 for family coverage. Alternatively, service members who preferred to retain their civilian plan coverage would be free to remain in it, and during periods of mobilization those premiums would be partially subsidized.

In floor remarks, the Senators emphasized the importance of providing health care for reservists: "Guaranteeing that all reservists have access to health care--either through civilian employers or TRICARE--will ensure that this force is ready to fight at a moment's notice. The bill will not only improve the readiness of the current Reserve Force, but will pay dividends in the future by improving our ability to recruit and retain the best and brightest men and women for the National Guard and Reserves."

The Senators also stressed the importance of the legislation in helping Guard and Reserve families cope with the stresses of ongoing mobilizations. More than 223,000 members of the Guard and Reserve are currently on active duty.

MOAA and The Military Coalition strongly support S. 852 as a major legislative priority for the Guard and Reserve. The bill is posted on the MOAA Web site along with a suggested letter of support: <http://capwiz.com/moaa/issues/bills/>.

[MOAA's Legislative Update for Friday, April 18, 2003]

Issue 2: No Concurrent Receipt in Budget Resolution.

As this update was being written, legislators were moving closer to final agreement on a FY2004 Budget Resolution. On Friday morning, the House passed a compromise version by a slim margin, and it appears that the Republican leadership in the Senate will garner enough votes to ensure passage. Unfortunately, this final version left out the Senate's proposed funding for a partial concurrent receipt provision.

Aside from ever-present cost concerns, legislators are still awaiting the final verdict from DoD on who will qualify for the recently enacted special compensation for combat or operationally disabled retirees. Since we won't know anything new until May or June, they were reluctant to

reprise the divisive battle they fought to a stalemate last year.

Even without a clear road ahead on concurrent receipt funding, we'll continue to work for expansion of the special compensation, and additions to the DoD eligibility criteria - especially the need to include Guard and Reserve retirees. Just as important, we'll continue to gather congressional support for full concurrent receipt. H.R. 303 and S. 392 have 257 and 53 co-sponsors, respectively, remarkable totals this early in the Congressional session. We will continue to push the message to legislators that this issue won't go away until they eliminate the disability offset and provide equity for disabled retirees.

[MOAA's Legislative Update for Friday, April 18, 2003]

Issue 3: More Bills to Improve SBP. On April 2, Rep. Jim Saxton (R-NJ) introduced H.R. 1653, a bill that would accelerate the date at which long-term SBP enrollees may stop paying premiums for coverage.

In 1998, MOAA and our Military Coalition partners were successful in achieving legislation to allow long-term SBP enrollees to stop paying premiums after thirty years. However, for cost reasons, legislators pushed the implementation date back to October 1, 2008. This meant that retirees who signed on when the program first started in 1972 would bear the heaviest burden, with many paying SBP premiums for thirty-six years.

H.R. 1653 would change the implementation date of the paid-up provision to October 1, 2003, thus easing the financial burden for retirees who have been paying in for so many years.

Also, Rep. Henry Brown, Jr., (R-SC) introduced H.R. 1726, a bill to eliminate the offset between Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) and Survivor Benefit Plan Annuities. Brown's bill follows in the footsteps of S. 585, which Sen. Bill Nelson (D-FL) introduced several weeks ago. MOAA believes that SBP and DIC are paid for different reasons, and that survivors whose spouses die of service-connected causes should receive their DIC payments as "double indemnity" compensation from the VA, without having those payments deducted from the SBP retirees paid for. We hope that Congress will agree.

[MOAA's Legislative Update for Friday, April 11, 2003]

New MOAA Name Tags

Many members are ordering new nametags sporting the revised MOAA logo. If you would like a new Name Tag, order forms are available at each Chapter meeting. It is requested that you pay for them (\$5) when ordering so if something prevents you from attending the next meeting they can be mailed to you.

Address Info

Just a reminder to please keep the membership chairman and the newsletter editor updated on your current mailing address, e-mail address, and telephone number.

2003 Arizona Chapter \$1000 Scholarship Recipient's and Their Goal Statements



Robert W. Poffinbarger **Apollo HS NJROTC**

I have set and met many goals in my life. However, it is my opinion that I have never set more important goals than the ones I have now. My first goal is to graduate from Apollo High School, with honors. I have spent four years of my life at

Apollo, not only furthering my education, but being actively involved at my school. In those years I have realized that a quality education is very important. I now realize that in today's world a quality education is a requirement for a good career. My next goal is to, with the help of scholarships, attend the University of Arizona. I want to go to the U of A because of the quality of education there. While at the U of A, I plan on majoring in Chemistry. I also plan on meeting new people and broadening my horizons. That will help me to achieve my next goal. That goal is acceptance into the U of A School of Medicine. There I plan to graduate and receive my M.D. While at the School of Medicine I plan on making long lasting friendships; that will allow me to be more open to new ideas and concepts. I have learned that to get the full picture people cannot rely on one idea. I know that I will gain knowledge from others by being open to new ideas while attending these schools. I also plan on volunteering my time in the field I am studying. My final goal is to have a successful career as a doctor. I plan on working in the Emergency Room because that is where I will have the most opportunities to help people. In reaching each goal I will have changed my life for the better and come one step closer to making the lives of others a little better.



Benjamin M. S. Martin **Thunderbird HS, NJROTC**

When I entered high school my plans for my future were dramatically changed as I was faced with new obstacles and opportunities. I knew early on I wanted to complete a college education as no one else in my

Martin—continued:

immediate family of seven had completed a degree program except my deceased father. I saw the importance of education and decided to do whatever it took to get into college and start a career. As I progressed through high school I learned of the many great career fields the Navy has to offer. In particular I became interested in the many different opportunities that a career as a naval officer presented. Therefore, I plan to attend the University of Arizona and major in computer science, and then enter the Navy as a career officer. As a naval officer, I plan to pursue a career as a helicopter pilot or Surface Warfare Officer developing new technologies. My main goal is to develop myself and realize my potential. I also plan on developing many of my hobbies including snowboarding, rocketry, and music. I have made my life meaningful by doing many different things well. I have many interests and many talents and wish to find the best fitting life for all of my characteristics.



Raymond J. Roe **Cactus HS AFJROTC**

My goals and objectives are to attend a service academy and serve my country as a career officer in either the United States Air Force or Army. This has been my goal since a member of the Cactus High School JROTC gave a presentation on the program

when I was in 8th grade. I was so impressed with her presentation; I signed up for JROTC, learned what was expected in an academy candidate, and did everything possible to fit that mold. With the help of my instructors and parents, I have held myself to the same high standards that will be expected of me when I attain my goal. To make myself more attractive to the academies, I have challenged myself with honors courses in school, obtained my private pilot's license and have been as active as I could in my JROTC unit. With the exception of \$3000.00 in scholarships, I paid for my pilot training with money from my part-time job which I have held since I was 15 years old. I have received congressional nominations to the Air Force

Roe—continued:

Academy and the United States Military Academy at West Point as well as the Merchant Marine Academy. I feel very strongly that every citizen owes our country a debt for the opportunities it provides. I will gladly pay mine in the military.

Moody—continued:

Guard and commence active duty. This is a goal confirmed and encouraged by faculty in my Army JROTC program. I will probably request assignment to flight school with a goal of becoming a heavy helicopter pilot. I believe academy life suits me. I am attracted to the regimental lifestyle, the camaraderie, the physical challenges, and the hands-on learning. I look forward to becoming a member of the academy's Brigade of Midshipmen!



U. S. History Books



Luke Ortega, Saguaro HS

People often ask me what I want to be when I grow up. Just lately, I figured it out. I want to be a **boldfaced** term in a history book. Many people scoff at this dream, which annoys me. At this juncture, I'm not exactly sure what kind of **boldfaced** term I want to be, but I am hoping that I will be remembered for my virtues rather than my vices. The most important factor in the realization of this goal is attitude. Mine is that there is no other choice but to succeed. I want to be a **boldfaced** term in a history book because I feel that I have attitude that will motivate me to success. It is my most sincere hope that attitude really is everything. If so, I think that the motivation fostered by my attitude of success by default will push me onto the pages of **US History**. I'm not trying to contend that I have some great destiny of success; I don't think I'm some golden boy entitled to the world. I just think that so long as I believe that I have to succeed, I will. I don't want to please mommy and daddy here, only myself. I want to be remembered, to be great for me, for my own well-being. I will not loath myself because I didn't become something, I will loath myself for not becoming me. I believe that Luke Ortega, and in all likelihood everyone else, is only restricted by what they settle for. Well darn, I just won't settle then. If I don't max out my "potential card" in the "department store of life," then I'm not even becoming the ideal Luke. If I'm not Luke, then something's not right. That's why I say there isn't any other option but to succeed, because there isn't; if I don't, then I'm not really me. Although my objective might seem lofty and unreasonable, I sincerely feel that through a combination of hard work, and an unwillingness to settle for anything but my personal best, I can achieve my goal.



**Liana C. Moody
Camelback HS AJROTC**

My siblings and I have been taught that service and duty are the highest of callings. I want my service and duty to be the protection of American interests through secure ports and sea-lanes, and free trade. Hence, I have applied and been accepted to the United States Merchant Marine Academy. USMMA provides not only academic vigor, but also a sea year requirement that places me aboard a variety of seagoing vessels for practical experience under real-world conditions. I am excited about the next four years and the challenge and adventure they will bring. My academy curriculum preference is only partially informed at this stage, but the USMMA program in Maritime Operations and Technology seems a perfect major for the future of both civilian and military naval science. Technological advances in shipbuilding, such as electric drive vessels and unattended engine rooms will require the latest in maritime education. My goal upon graduation is to accept a commission in the U. S. Navy or Coast

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TAPS

We regret to inform you of the passing of one of our members:

2Lt Raymond C. Hitzel USA-Former

April 28, 1913 - March 25, 2003

Our heart felt condolences are extended to the family.

If you know of any member or member's spouse who enters the hospital or passes away, please notify one of the Chapter Officers.

May Luncheon Meeting

WHEN: 17 May 2003
11:30AM Social Period
12:00 Noon Lunch

WHERE: McCormick Ranch Golf Club
7505 McCormick Parkway
Scottsdale, Arizona

COST: \$14.00 Per Person

MENU: Oriental Salad
Teriyaki Chicken Breast
Fried Rice
Steamed Oriental Vegetables
Ice Cream with Almond Cookie
Coffee & Iced Tea

PROGRAM: Honoring our JROTC Scholarship Recipients.

Please make your reservations early and send your check to Bill Johnson using the Meal / Meeting Reservation Form.

Jim Seidl Programs

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CHAPTER FINANCIAL PARTICIPATION

If you would like to make a donation to one or more of the AZ Chapter Funds or renew your chapter membership, include your check identified as the appropriate fund and mail to: **Bill Johnson, 13410 N. 12th Place, Phoenix, AZ 85022-4944.**

Membership Renewal: \$ 20 Full Member: _____ \$10 Auxiliary Member: _____

50th Anniversary Fund: \$ _____

Scholarship Fund: \$ _____ **General Fund:** \$ _____

* It is OK to identify me as a donor in the next newsletter. YES _____ NO _____

Name Full Member: _____ Auxiliary Member: _____

MEAL / MEETING RESERVATION FORM

Please reserve _____ spaces for (Name) _____

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ (**\$14.00** per person) for **17 May 2003**
Make check payable to: AZ Chapter MOAA **No Later Than: 9 May 2003**
Send to Bill Johnson, 13410 North 12th Place, Phoenix, AZ 85022-4944. Phone 602-689-5379

