



The Sentinel

Arizona's First Chapter



The Arizona Chapter, P.O. Box 7644, Cave Creek, Arizona 85327

NOVEMBER 2003

CHARTERED IN 1956 - OVER 47 YEARS OF SERVICE TO COUNTRY

PAGE



President's Message

I ask everyone to mark three dates on their calendars. I will explain the significance of each date as we go along.

The first date is November 22 (our Chapter Luncheon). Two very important events will be happening at that luncheon. First, we will be presenting the Chapter Meritorious Service Award to several people and, the second is, the people in attendance will be electing the Chapter officers for 2004. If it will affect your decision to attend, remember, at this luncheon Jim Seidl has negotiated a complimentary glass of wine for each person in attendance.

The second date is December 18 which will be the Chapter's Annual Silent Auction. This will be held at 7:00PM at the Sunshine Hotel located at 3600 N. Second Ave, Phoenix (the corner of 2nd Ave and Osborn). This is a reminder to get any items that you may want to put in the auction to Dan Conway who again is the Chapter's person in charge. At this year's dinner we will have a special presentation of a pin to all that have been awarded the Chapter Meritorious Service Medal/Award. The Board of Directors authorized a pin to be awarded to all current and past people being awarded the Meritorious Service Award. However, acquiring them took longer than expected and they won't be available till December. The pin will either have a clutch so it can be worn on an article of clothing or have a smooth back so it can be glued over the shield on the name tag. The size is just right so it will fit on the Name Tag.

The third date is May 29th, 2004. I know this appears a long way off, but this will preclude a scheduling conflict with a very important

event: the dedication of the WW-II Memorial. Yes, the actual Memorial will be located in Washington, DC. However, it was decided that there are many that can't make the trip for the dedication; therefore, each state will schedule their own ceremony. The person responsible for arranging the ceremony for the State of Arizona briefed the attendees at the October United Arizona Veterans (UAV) meeting and outlined his initial plan. It will start off with a breakfast (probably at the Phoenix Civic Center), to be followed by various events and culminating with a ceremony at Bolin Plaza at about Noon. This is just my observation, but there also may be many booths located in the vicinity where food will be served and that will have information pertaining to Veterans Affairs. It hasn't been discussed yet, but the State Council of Chapters may have a booth where MOAA information and chapter applications for membership can be handed out.

It was fortunate that I was able to attend the last UAV meeting with Dan. Not only did I get the information about the WW-II Memorial ceremony there, but a representative got up and made a presentation on the importance of Veterans being visible. This means being involved with various veterans organizations and attending events while displaying some patriotic attire that distinguishes you as a veteran. This could be something like the MOAA pocket patch or your MOAA name tag. If the meeting calls for something more visible, then an organizational hat would be appropriate. Along with being visible to the eye you should be active by talking or writing to your Congressmen or the President, or your local leaders if it is a local issue.

Another very noticeable way of making a statement as a veteran is displaying a Veteran License Tag on your vehicle. It does have an effect on the thoughts of people that see it. I not only have a Veteran's Tag on my vehicle but have several veterans' organizational decals displayed and if anyone is interested in the effect this can have in how others treat you - just talk to me. I have a firsthand experience I can recount to you.

The first opportunity for being visible is to attend the Veterans Day parade in downtown Phoenix on November 11. From what I have heard the parade is getting smaller each year and instead it should be growing. If a member manages to break loose to watch the parade, please call me at (480) 595-8693 and brief me on your observations and how I might be involved in next years parade.

The speaker at our dinner at Treulich's on the evening of October 23 was very enjoyable. It was really good for us to hear first hand of the events in Iraq rather than just relying on the media and the news. First hand accounts are always better than second hand accounts. When watching TV we have to remember that people tend to grandstand in front of cameras, so what you see might not be the true story.

This is getting long, but I want to make a pitch for getting the Sentinel over the Internet if you have a computer and access to email. Not only is the print sharper but you are getting color wherever it is used. I print it out two-sided on my printer and it comes out great. If I want to maintain a complete copy of the Sentinel and still send in the coupon for the dinner/luncheon, etc., I just run off an extra copy of that page. Works GREAT!

Ronald R. Green,
LtCol USAF(Ret), Chapter President

Arizona Chapter Calendar

- November 4**
 - BOD Meeting 1:30
- Nov 7**
 - Golf Tournament
- Nov 10**
 - U.S. Marine Corps Established 1775
- Nov 11**
 - Veterans Day
- Nov 22**
 - Luncheon Meeting
- December 4**
 - BOD Meeting 1:30
- Dec 7**
 - Pearl Harbor Day
- Dec 18**
 - General Dinner Meeting & Silent Auction 6:30 p.m.

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

Membership Renewal

If you have an *03 behind your name on the newsletter mailing label, an Early Bird insert with a quick and easy renewal slip is included in this issue. An *04 or greater on your label means you are paid up through that year. For electronic *Sentinel* recipients, you should have received an informational email with your membership expiration year listed.

New Members

Welcome to new Chapter members since the last newsletter

COL A. Park Shaw, Jr. USA (Ret) and wife Nancy

A resident of Arizona for the past 30 years, Park Shaw and his wife Nancy reside in Carefree. Col Shaw was with the Army for 25 years plus four more years without pay! Over the years he and Nancy have visited 133 countries and been around the world three times and touched down on all continents. Our golfers will be glad to know Park was a former Director and member of Desert Forest Golf Club for 32 years. He is currently State President for the Association of the United States Army, serving in a final term of four years. He is a Life member of AUSA and Past President of the Arizona Territorial Chapter, which currently has about 750 members. Charter member and Past President of the Infantry Officers Candidate School Alumni Assn. Past President of the Rotary Club of Scottsdale and is still very active in the club as the Military Program Chairman. Nancy serves on the Board of Directors Desert of Foothills Library

LtCol Gordon L. Drake USAF (Ret) and wife Eileen

Gordon and his wife Eileen have lived in Phoenix for the past six years with their two children. Their hobbies include fishing, travel and camping in their cab-over camper which includes a trip to Alaska and annual trips to the Outer Banks of North Carolina. Gordon was stationed at Luke AFB 1971-75 and decided to return here for retirement.

I hope many of you have the opportunity to meet our new members at the next meeting.

Membership

Currently the AZ Chapter has 203 members including, 51 auxiliary members and 15 new members for 2003.

**November Luncheon Meeting
Saturday, 22 November at McCormick Ranch Golf Club**

The third meeting of the season is set for Saturday, 22 November at McCormick Ranch Golf Club. Bring a friend or two to our meeting and introduce them to a great group of people. The meeting will start with a half-hour social time at 11:30 a.m., with lunch served at 12:00 Noon. The reservation form is located on page 7 of this newsletter along with a description of the meal. The deadline for reservations to reach Bill Johnson is 15 November. Come join us for food and comradeship.

Chapter meeting dates through Christmas are listed here for your planning purposes. Please put them on your calendar as a reminder!

Lunch – Nov 22 – McCormick Ranch
Dinner -- Dec 18 – Sunshine Hotel

Fall Golf Tournament

by Bernie Conway, Tournament Director

The MOAA Golf outing on 7 November at Rolling Hills has 16 participants so far, with room for 24. If you "forgot" to send in your reservation, do so now backed up with a message on the answering machine to Bernie Conway at 480-994-0440. We need a final count by 3 November. We are guaranteeing the temperature will be below 100 degrees by then.

The "awards" ceremony will be held immediately after the last group crosses the finish line. The restaurant has good burgers and cold beer. Who could ask for anything more! Hope to see you at this outing.

Do We Have Your E-Mail Address?

The Arizona Chapter of MOAA would like to make sure we have your e-mail address on file if you would like us to communicate with you via e-mail.

There are a few options: 1) we can have your e-mail address on file to contact you specifically about National MOAA items of interest; 2) you can be included in an email list to receive communication about a variety of subjects including those nice to read fun or informative emails that some of you like so much. 3) you can elect to receive your *Sentinel* newsletter via email rather than USPS thereby saving the Chapter the cost of postage, printing, folding, labeling, etc.

Chaplain's Corner

"Almighty God, we lift our hearts in prayer not only for our country but also for those less fortunate. Help our president and congress to work together so that whatever action is taken, it is in the best interest of all mankind, in Your name, Amen." *Robert Rutherford, Chaplain*

If you are interested, please email me at terrytassin@cox.net and let me know your intentions.

Silent Auction

Preparations are well underway for this year's Silent Auction which will be held at our Christmas Party on December 18, 2003. Solicitation letters have been sent out to all prior donors and to several new prospects. Jim Seidl has made arrangements for display tables. Dolly Bleck and Velma Birtciel have volunteered to help set up. Additional preparations consist of the following three actions:

First, if you have some relationship with a business (being an owner, customer, friend of the owner, etc.) which might be willing to make a donation, please send the name, manager's address, and phone

Officer Nominations for 2004

I am pleased to submit the following nominations as candidates for office of the Arizona Chapter of MOAA for the year 2004:

President: Gary Fredericks, Col USAF
1st VP: Paul Fein, CWO3 USN
2nd VP: Tom Houser, Capt USAF
3rd VP: Frank Birtciel, LtCol USAF
Secretary: Terry Tassin, LCDR USN
Treasurer: William Johnson, Maj USAF
Past President: Ron Green LtCol USAF

I submit these individuals to the general membership for election at our Chapter general meeting on Saturday, 22 November 2003 and installation at the January 2004 general meeting. Any additional nominations from the floor will be accepted at the November meeting. All remaining Chapter Officers and Committee Chairpersons will continue to serve in their current positions as an expression of their faith in the new President's leadership abilities.

Submitted, *James Seidl, LT USCG (Ret),
Chair Nominating Committee*

Newsletter Advertising

If you or a business/organization known to you wishes to place an ad in *The Sentinel* please contact the Editor for details. Advertisements will be priced according to size in multiples that approximate standard business card dimensions. Proceeds from advertisements help defray cost of preparing the newsletter. Advertising costs are:

<u>Size</u>	<u>Annual</u>	<u>Quarterly</u>	<u>Impact Ad</u>
Single Card	\$80	\$25	\$15
Double Card	\$160	\$50	\$30
Quadruple Card	\$320	\$100	\$60

number to the Silent Auction Coordinator. He will follow up with a letter and phone call.

Second, check your liquor locker, white elephant storage area, and wherever else to see if you have something which you would like to donate. If you have craft skills, maybe you could put something together for the occasion. We don't want it to be a garage sale, but if you have something nice which you would be willing to part with, this is the opportunity. Maybe a book, a VCR tape, a collectible, a CD, use your imagination. If you would like to purchase something to donate, that is also OK. However, first consider action three.

Third, start stashing a little cash away so that you can be an eager bidder. That was not a problem in the past so I don't expect it to be a problem this year. Don't forget - direct donations of cash to the Scholarship Fund are always welcome.

Daniel M. Conway, Auction Coordinator,

Phone: (480) 368-1427,

E-mail: arizconway@msn.com

Legislative Update

Dan Conway, Legislative Chairman

The following was published in the MOAA legislative update. It is a little complicated, but is a major step forward in the battle for concurrent receipt. House leaders, Senate leaders, and the White House have reached a final agreement on concurrent receipt which will benefit as many as 200,000 disabled retirees in two ways:

First, all retirees with at least 20 years of service and VA disability ratings of 50% or higher will see their military retired pay offsets phased out over a ten-year period starting January 1, 2004.

Second, the recently enacted Combat Related Special Compensation (CRSC) will be expanded to include all combat- or operations related disabilities from 10% to 100% ratings, also effective January 1, 2004. Currently, only those with qualifying disabilities rated 60% or higher or who have a disability associated with a Purple Heart are eligible. In both cases, Guard and Reserve retirees with 20 qualifying years of service (including those with less than 7,200 retirement points) will be eligible.

CRSC payments are in the amount of the VA disability compensation paid for whatever percentage of the member's disability rating is due to combat-related disabilities, as determined by the parent service. Retirees must apply to their parent service for CRSC payments, but there is no phase-in period for CRSC. DOD is discouraging all those not currently eligible for CRSC from applying until this provision is signed into law.

Disabled retirees rated 50% and higher

who do not elect CRSC payments should start seeing their retired offset phased out automatically, starting January 1, 2004. No application is expected to be required. For 2004, qualifying retirees should see their retired pay increase by a flat amount, depending on disability, as follows: \$750 for 100% disabled; \$500 for 90%; \$350 for 80%; \$250 for 70%; \$125 for 60%; and \$100 for 50%.

The remaining retired pay offsets would then be phased out over the following nine years. In 2005, they would get back another 10% of any remaining offset; in 2006, they would get back 20% of the remaining offset; in 2007, 30% of the remaining offset; and so on. By January 2014, disabled retirees with 50% and higher ratings will be entitled to full concurrent receipt of military retired pay and VA disability compensation.

Disabled retirees who qualify for both programs would have to choose one or the other. Because the CRSC program provides full payment immediately vs. the 10-year phase-in for concurrent receipt, legislators plan to allow an annual election option for those who are CRSC eligible. This recognizes that a retiree, who is 100% disabled but only 60% of that is due to combat-related conditions, may find it advantageous to elect full CRSC payments for a few years until the concurrent receipt payment rises to a level that exceeds the CRSC payment. Because CRSC payments are tax-free and non-disability retired pay is not, this could also figure into qualifying retirees' election decisions.

Designing specific procedures for retirees to make such elections is but one of the many administrative challenges the Defense Department will have to address in implementing the new authority.

The new agreement also calls for the formation of a special commission to review the VA disability system and recommend any needed changes. Of its 13 commissioners, at least 12 will have to be highly decorated veterans. Four will be appointed by the House, four by the Senate, and five by the Pentagon and/or the VA.

No More Foot-Dragging on Military Tax Fairness

On Wednesday, MOAA President VADM Norb Ryan, Jr., along with representatives from other military associations, joined Congressman Chet Edwards (D-TX) at a Capitol Hill press conference to focus attention on Congress's failure to pass H.R. 1307, the Armed Forces Tax Fairness Act.

The House and Senate each have passed varying versions of H.R. 1307 three times this year (unanimously), but senior leaders have failed to even try to

Fund Donations

One person's generous gift will help strengthen America's future through supporting the education of our youth. Since the last newsletter generous donations have been received for the **50th Anniversary Fund**: Gary Fredericks \$50, Art Parker \$50, Ed Waldmann \$25, **Scholarship Fund** - Art Parker \$50, Ed Waldmann \$25, **General Fund** - Ed Waldmann \$25. Our thanks are offered to contributors on behalf of all future beneficiaries of the Chapter Funds.

work out their relatively small differences. The bill would provide relief from unfair or inadvertent tax penalties imposed on thousands of active duty, Guard and Reserve members and surviving spouses.

It's absolutely outrageous that Hill leaders keep passing hundreds of billions of dollars of politically contentious tax relief for all sorts of others, but refuse to finish action on the military tax bill that every member of Congress has supported on multiple occasions.

This week, MOAA began airing ads on Washington-area news radio, asking listeners to urge House leaders - specifically, Ways and Means Chairman Bill Thomas (R-CA) and House Speaker Dennis Hastert (R-IL) - to get off the dime and finish this bill. You can hear a recording of the advertisement on MOAA's Web site at www.moaa.org/Legislative/WTOPradioad.mp3 (you must have RealPlayer installed on your computer).

To add your voice, use MOAA's toll-free hotline to Capitol Hill: (877) 762-8762. Ask the operator to connect you to Rep. Thomas' and Rep. Hastert's office, and tell the person who answers the phone that you want House leaders to stop the foot-dragging on the Military Tax Fairness Act and get it into law before they go home this year. Military people shouldn't be last in line for needed tax relief. [Source: MOAA's Legislative Update for Friday, October 24, 2003]

MOAA Name Tags

Many members are ordering new nametags sporting the new 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.

Chapter JROTC Awards

Art Parker, JROTC Awards Chairman

One of the missions assumed by the Arizona Chapter of MOAA is promoting patriotism and instilling a positive image of the military in our community by supporting students in the JROTC program.

In their support of JROTC units, chapter members are providing access to the educational and leadership skills needed to become successful members of the military and the community. There is no obligation for these participants to serve in the military; however, promoting good citizenship, responsibility and leadership in these young people as they venture into their careers has personal importance.

The sixteen high schools supported by the Arizona Chapter of MOAA have a population of approximately 30,000 students and cover Central, South, North, Northwest and Northeast Maricopa County. The presence on campus of JROTC members results in their being highly respected for their dedication to leadership and overall excellence as students.

The supported JROTC members transcend every socioeconomic category and cultural diversity. But the thread binding it all together is "I Am An American" to which they all subscribe. Each year at each school, the Arizona Chapter awards an MOAA medal and certificate to a cadet who displays outstanding potential for military leadership. These awards are highly cherished by the recipients. The selection of those to receive the award is done by the student's JROTC instructor.

The presentation of the MOAA Medal and certificate takes place in April or May at the school's award ceremony. This is the first call for Arizona Chapter members to volunteer to be a presenter at a school awards ceremony. You will feel better for it.

*****The Schools are*****

- Alhambra HS.....Greenway HS
- Apollo HS.....Moon Valley HS
- Cactus HS.....North HS
- Camelback HS.....Shadow Mountain HS
- Carl Hayden HS.....South Mountain HS
- Cortez HS.....Sunnyslope HS
- Deer Valley HS.....Thunderbird HS
- Glendale HS.....Central HS

Thanks for attending to this effort

Are You Eligible For A Bronze Star Medal?

World War II veterans who earned the Combat Infantry Badge (CIB) or the Combat Medical Badge (CMB) are eligible to receive the Bronze Star Medal (BSM). Army Regulation 680-8-22, which

governs Military Awards, states the BSM is authorized for all service-members who earned a Combat Infantry Badge or the Combat Medical Badge. The award of either of these badges is considered as a citation in orders of documentary evidence of exemplary conduct in ground combat against an armed enemy prior to 1 July 1947.

Executive Order 9419 dated 4 February 1944, which was superseded by Executive Order 11046 dated 24 August 1962, established the BSM. The BSM is awarded to any person who, while serving in any capacity in or with the Army of the United States after 6 Decembner 1941, distinguished himself or herself by heroic or meritorious achievement or service, not involving participation in aerial flight, in connection with military operations against an armed enemy; or while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a belligerent party. The BSM based on the award of the CIB or CMB before 1 July 1947 may be awarded by a letter application submitted to National Personnel Records Center, Medal Section (NRPMA-M), 9700 Page Ave, St. Louis, MO 63132-5100. [Source: Based on a Community and Family Support Center news release]

Government Grave Marker Requests Made Easier

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has revised its application form to make requesting a VA grave marker easier. The new form, Application For Standard Government Headstone or Marker (VA Form 40-1330), includes updated information about changes that expand eligibility for a government marker.

For deaths on or after September 11, 2001, Public Laws 107-103 and 107-330 made government markers available for use on veterans' graves that were already marked with privately furnished headstones or markers. Previous law prevented VA from furnishing markers when a grave was already marked.

The laws require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to report to Congress by Feb. 1, 2006, on the effectiveness of this benefit and to recommend whether it should continue. One of the changes made to the application form will allow VA to report on this new benefit by tracking its use.

In January 2002, VA introduced a toll-free fax service for submitting applications. This service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, as an alternative to regular mail. Instructions, as well as the fax number, 1-800-455-7143, are on the VA website at

"Well, the election campaign in the country is picking up speed. The voters are yawning faster. ... All the candidates are talking about health care now. Don't they realize that it's their campaign speeches that make us sick?" -- Bob Hope

www.cem.va.gov. The application form on the website can be filled in and printed for submitting by mail or fax. Questions about a headstone or marker application can be directed to VA's Memorial Programs Service applicant assistance unit at 1-800-697-6947.

Funeral homes and veteran's service officers are finding they can reduce the time to process a request by up to seven days and avoid postage costs. VA handles more than 1,000 requests daily for veterans' markers.

[Source: *Afterburner* newsletter Sep 03]

Army Trivia

Origin of the term "**Shavetail**". In the old army, the Quarter Master corps was responsible for obtaining replacement horses or mules. The replacement mules would take a few weeks to learn the routines of the post, which was pretty much follow the leader and respond to the bell. Once trained, they didn't require much effort and always fell in line when the column's moved out. On the other hand, the replacements needed extra training - so they were identified by a "shaved tail". By the time the hair grew back, the mule was trained. Needless to say, the term "shavetail" was quickly associated with young lieutenants and others who were "green" - but that's another story.

Old Glory Backwards?

Many sharp-eyed civilians have noted an apparent oddity on the uniform sleeves of American soldiers: backward flag patches. Why is Old Glory flipped around like that?

Only the flag patches affixed to right shoulders of uniforms are reversed, so the blue field of stars faces forward. (Left shoulder patches aren't a problem, as the stars face forward without meddling.) The reversal was inspired by the age-old practice of carrying flags into battle.

"As in the years of the Cold War, much is asked of us and much rides on our actions. A watching world is depending on the United States of America. Only America has the might and the will to lead the world through a time of peril toward greater security and peace. ... And as we've done before, we accept the great mission that history has given us." --Vice President Dick Cheney

When fastened to a standard, the American flag's blue-and-white portion is always closest to the pole. A flag bearer rushing into the fray, then, would naturally lead with the stars. In fact, it would be virtually impossible to lead with the stripes - the flag would simply wilt and wrap around the pole, rather than waving triumphantly in the wind.

For a soldier to lead with shoulder-borne stripes, the, might smack of cowardice and retreat, as if the flag toter were backpedaling away from the conflict. The official Army guidelines on the donning of flag patches add that the forward-facing stars give "the effect of the flag flying in the breeze as the wearer moves forward." So perhaps it's best to think of every soldier as a latter-day flag bearer, leading the headlong charge into battle.

It should also be noted that military flag patches are often trimmed with gold borders. This is in imitation of the gold-fringed flag, also known as the U. S. military flag. According to an executive order signed by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1959, the gold-fringed flag (and, by extension, patch-sized replicas) are to be used exclusively by the armed forces. That order isn't always obeyed, however; many federal courtrooms now feature gold-fringed flags, despite the fact that they should only appear during courts-martial. [Source: VFW AZ News May 2003]

Aviation Centennial Trivia

* Which member of the AZ Chapter was an elite pilot of Air Force One? (Chuck Finch)

* Which auxiliary member of our Chapter had her name painted on the nose of her boyfriend's aircraft? ("Miss Velma" Birtciel)

* March 30th 1920: Contrary to popular opinion, Jim Seidl was not the first U.S. Coast Guard Aviator – that honor goes to Lt Elmer Stone. Jim followed shortly afterward!

* Which two members of our Chapter served in the same unit – three decades apart? (Frank Birtciel and Bill Johnson)

* How many of our Chapter Presidents were aviators? (Jim Seidl, Ron Green, Billy Loos)

* Sep 29th 1918: 2nd Lt Frank Luke was the first US aviator to receive the Medal of Honor. He scored 18 kills in 18 days before being shot down and killed. The Medal was awarded posthumously.

* Commissioned on March 20th 1922, what was the nickname of the United States Navy's first Aircraft Carrier? (USS Langley was nicknamed the "Covered Wagon" due to having the flight deck installed) Eight months later LCDR Whiting made the first catapult launch off of the Langley.

* Lt Tom Selfridge became the first military aircraft fatality when he crashed during a demonstration flight at Fort Myer, VA on Sep 17th 1908.

* First air dropped bombs to hit a target were dropped by Army Lt Myron Crissey in San Francisco harbor on Jan 7th 1911

* The Navy's first pilot completed his training on April 11th 1911 – LT Theodore Ellyson

Veterans' License Plates

The State of Arizona veterans' license plates serve a dual purpose. First, they identify that your family includes a member who has served in one of the uniformed services. Second, they provide support to the Arizona veteran's home with \$17.00 of the \$25.00 cost of the plates dedicated to the home. This is the most important purpose. At the present time, less than 2% of eligible veterans have purchased these plates. Possibly part of the reason is that they don't know that they are available. This excuse is no longer available to you. By purchasing the veterans plates when you registration is due for renewal, you will let your neighbors and other eligible veterans know that they are available by seeing them on your vehicle. Hopefully, that will encourage them to do the same. How about making it our goal to have 100% of our Chapter membership displaying these plates?

Please consider this request seriously when renewal time arrives.

COLA and Medicare Adjustments Begin January 1

Effective Jan. 1, 2004, cost of living adjustments of 2.1 percent will kick in for Social Security payments, military and federal retired pay, VA disability compensation and SBP annuities. This will mean \$19 more per month for an average Social Security retiree, or a rise from \$903 monthly to \$922 for an individual and from \$1,492 monthly to \$1,523 for a married couple. Meanwhile, the premium for Medicare Part B (Medical Insurance) will jump 13.5 percent, for a \$7.90 monthly hike to \$66.60. Because military retirees and spouses must be enrolled in Medicare Part B to be eligible for Tricare for Life, this represents an increase in the cost of participating in TFL. [Source: Armed Forces News October 24, 2003]

Veterans Eat Free on Veterans Day

Bill McCormick and Doug Schmick, founders and managers of McCormick & Schmick's Seafood Restaurants, are offering a free lunch or dinner (with coffee or tea) at their restaurants nationwide on Veteran's Day, November 11. The meals will be available from specially selected menu items for veterans with identification such as a veteran's ID card, discharge paper, or DD-214. The founders offer "to serve veterans for a change (they served us

well!)” at their McCormick & Schmick's family of fresh seafood restaurants in recognition of veteran's courage and spirit." The Portland, Ore.-based company operates restaurants in 19 states and Washington, D.C. The Phoenix restaurant is located at 2575 E. Camelback Road 175 Phoenix. [Source: Armed Forces News October 24, 2003]

Military History

Fifty-eight years ago the United Nations was born of perceived necessity, as a means of better arbitrating international conflict and negotiating peace than was provided for by the old League of Nations. The growing Second World War became the real impetus for the United States, Britain, and the Soviet Union to begin formulating the original U.N. Declaration, signed by 26 nations in January 1942, as a formal act of opposition to Germany, Italy, and Japan, the Axis Powers.

For The Record

"The media have created the impression that the United States is going it alone in Iraq, yet more than three dozen countries have contributed to the rebuilding effort, 19 countries have sent personnel, and recently the Turkish parliament overwhelmingly approved sending peacekeeping troops to Iraq. They created the impression that Saddam had no military arsenal, yet more than 8,200 tons of ammunition have been seized, along with thousands of weapons and grenades, and evidence of WMD research and development. They created the impression that there is still an organized Iraqi resistance, yet 43 of the top 55 most wanted Baathists have been captured or killed. If you watch the news, you'd think that there is no infrastructure, yet electricity and water services have been restored to most Iraqis, and hospitals, schools and businesses are open. All of this and much more have been accomplished in free Iraq during the past six months. Not a bad record for a region where dictatorships are measured in decades. And not a bad story if the news media would care to report it." -- Oliver North

The Gipper

"Consider for a moment the people you'll be sending to Washington...Congress and the president are equal branches of government. When you vote for the Senate or for your local congressional seat, you're voting for the direction of the country and the world as much as when you vote for president. And since we have to ride two horses, Congress and the president, across every stream, shouldn't they both be going in the same direction?" -- Ronald Reagan

AZ Chapter Early Bird Membership Drive and Big Prize Raffle
It's time for the Early Bird Membership Drive and Raffle!! Here's how it works:

The raffle tickets go for \$10.00 each. But, if you renew your membership in the Arizona Chapter of MOAA, - \$20.00 for Members and \$10.00 for Auxiliaries - **before the annual Christmas Dinner (18 December 2002, at the Sunshine Hotel)**, for an additional \$20.00 you will receive 3 raffle tickets - a \$30.00 value. If you want additional raffle tickets for yourself or a friend, they are \$10.00 each.

To recap:

Members send \$40.00 for 1-year membership and 3 raffle tickets.

Auxiliaries send \$30.00 for 1-year membership and 3 raffle tickets.

You get a raffle ticket just for renewing your membership early.

Additional tickets are \$10.00 each.

<<**You do not need to be in attendance to win, but it sure would be nice if you were.**>>

Half of the raffle ticket sales will be returned to the membership in the form of cash prizes as follows:

Assume:	80 Members	@ \$20.00 each =	\$1600
	15 Auxiliaries	@ \$20.00 each =	\$ 300
	50 Others	@ \$10.00 each =	\$ 500
	Total		\$2400

50% payout = (estimated) \$1200 as follows: **1st prize of \$500, 2nd prize of \$250 and 6 prizes of \$75 each.**

The amount of payout depends on the amount taken in.

The raffle will be conducted at the annual Christmas dinner, 18 December 2003.

We must receive your check before the dinner! *To make all of this happen, fill-in and return the below form.

Early Bird Membership Drive and Big Prize Raffle

- . Sign me up for membership for 2004 and include me in the raffle \$ _____
 [Dues are \$20.00 for Full Member and \$10.00 Auxiliary, so \$40,00 or \$30.00 respectively]
 - . Only sign me up for 2004 membership \$ _____
 [Dues are \$20.00 for Full Member and \$10.00 Auxiliary, so \$20,00 and \$10.00 respectively]
 - . I am a multi-year member and paid up through or past 2004, but want to participate in the raffle (\$20.00) \$ _____
 - . I want to purchase _____ extra tickets at \$10.00 each \$ _____
- Total remitted \$ _____**
- . I am already a multi-year member past year 2004 and do not want to participate in the raffle _____.

Please fill out the following and return as we are trying to expand our database.

Name _____ Birth date _____
 (mm/dd/yr)

Spouse Name _____ Birth date _____
 (mm/dd/yr)

E-mail Address _____

Hobbies _____

Signature _____ Date: _____

Put your check in the mail right now, made out to "AZ Chapter MOAA" and annotated to show "For 2004 Dues and Raffle", and ship the whole thing off to: Bill Johnson, 13410 N. 12th Place, Phoenix, AZ 85022-4944.

Profit (the other half) will go for Chapter administration and the Scholarship fund.

Well... What are you waiting for? Do It Now!

* Firewood
* Hauling
* Tree Removal
* Clean-Up



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HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

27 November 2003

TAPS

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

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NATIONAL ADVANTAGE
3518-D W. Cactus Road, Phoenix, AZ 85029
EACH OFFICE INDEPENDENTLY OWNED AND OPERATED

November Luncheon Meeting

WHEN: 22 November 2003
11:30 PM Social Period
12:00 Noon Lunch

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

COST: \$16.00 - Per Person

MENU: Chicken Cordon Bleu
Herb Rice Pilaf
Tossed Salad
Fresh Vegetable Medley
Fresh Bread w/Honey Butter
Strawberry Cheesecake
Coffee & Iced Tea
*Complimentary Glass of Wine

DIETARY MEAL OPTION: Deluxe Fruit Plate

PROGRAM: Annual business meeting with presentation of Chapter awards and election of 2004 Officers

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

Residential Sales/Listing/Rentals/
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18 Years of Valley Wide Service

"Failure Is Not An Option"

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 _____ meals for (Name) _____

My Meal Choice is: _____ Beef _____ Fruit Plate (indicate number of each meal for your party)

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ (**\$16.00** per person) for **22 November 2003.**

Make check payable to: AZ Chapter MOAA **No Later Than: 15 November 2003**

Send to Bill Johnson, 13410 North 12th Place, Phoenix, AZ 85022-4944. Phone 602-689-5379



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Access Arizona Chapter's Internet Web Site at: <http://www.azchaptermoaa.org>

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