



The Sentinel

Arizona's First Chapter



The Arizona Chapter, 15403 E. Sunburst Drive, Fountain Hills, Arizona 85268

JUNE 2004

CHARTERED IN 1956 - OVER 48 YEARS OF SERVICE TO COUNTRY

EDITOR: Terry Tassin



President's Message

As anticipated, May was a banner month for the Chapter. We held our semi-annual golf outing at Rolling Hills, enjoying a great Arizona day, fostering camaraderie and friendship and contributing to our JROTC scholarship fund. Also, we represented MOAA and our Chapter in providing medals to deserving young JROTC members at 16 high schools throughout the valley. Our May General Membership meeting was devoted to scholarship presentations. Finally, our Chapter Color Guard and Chapter members representing the MOAA AZ Council of Chapters will be featured at the Memorial Day Ceremony at the National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona.

As mentioned, our May General Membership meeting luncheon marked our annual scholarship awards event which is the highlight of our calendar for me. Thanks to a good fund raising effort last year, we were able to once again provide \$1000 scholarships to five outstanding young men and women who are graduating from high school in the Phoenix area this year. Seeing these young folks in uniform and listening to their comments as to the meaning of the award and their plans for it is enough to send chills down your back.

Special thanks go to Chuck Schluter. He arranged for members to meet prior to the luncheon at the home of Barry and Sharon Briskman for the opportunity, as Raymond Deane described it, to look at a car collection that most of us could only dream about. A really great time was had by all. The Briskman hospitality was exceptional and

Barry's tales about each car provided a special significance that simple viewing could not capture.

Forty-six members have returned completed Chapter surveys to date. Thank you very much for this really good response rate and thanks especially to those who made specific suggestions and who volunteered their services. Your Board of Directors will study the results of the survey in some detail and will use them to guide our way over the coming months. In advance of that, I believe I can summarize some trends from the responses you sent in.

Membership is valued most for a desire to remain involved and informed. Not surprising then, are similarly high scores for the *Sentinel* and for relevant state and federal legislative updates. Also highly valued was camaraderie and friendship followed by the scholarship program and entertainment. The best means of communication was evenly spread across the *Sentinel* by mail, the *Sentinel* by email, and monthly meetings. As for meetings, responses were heaviest in favor of luncheon meetings with alternating dinner and luncheon meetings and dinner meetings also well received. Weekday and daytime activities were only slightly preferred to weekend and evening events. A good mix of speakers was preferred with emphasis on military topics, legislative updates and current events. A few things surfaced that we can improve on including keeping the business portion of the meetings short and making sure that new members are warmly welcomed.

We received many more offers for rides to meetings than

requests for them. This was good, and we will match them up to get rides for those who expressed a need. As a final survey comment, your responses verified that the "Best in Class" award received from National by our *Sentinel* was fully justified and endorsed by the membership.

This will be the last *Sentinel* prior to our two-month summer break. I hope you all have a safe and enjoyable summer and that we all come back reenergized in September. I also hope to see you at our last General Membership meeting prior to the summer break. That will be at the Sunshine Hotel on Thursday evening, 17 June. Our speaker will discuss the art of healthy aging. Contrary to the quip of one of our members, it's never too late for this very important subject.

— Gary Friedrichs

June Dinner Program by Jim Seidl

In an attempt to increase attendance at our dinner meetings, we have a special program on 17 June that can be enlightening and even beneficial to us all. The speaker will be Patricia Crenshaw, Vice President of Public Affairs and Education of the Kronos Longevity Research Institute (KLRI) presenting a talk titled "The Art of Healthy Aging".

KLRI is a not-for-profit, 501(c)(3) organization conducting clinical translational research on the presentation of age related diseases and the extension of healthier human life. KLRI tests new strategies to detect and prevent chronic diseases associated with aging and investigates the effects of innovative intervention to slow the aging process and improve health outcomes for older persons. In addition, KLRI helps the medical

Arizona Chapter Calendar

- June 3**
 - BOD Meeting 1:30, American Legion 107
- June 17**
 - General Dinner Meeting 6:30 p.m.
- Sep 2**
 - BOD Meeting 1:30, American Legion 107
- Sep 18**
 - General luncheon Meeting

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

Chaplain's Corner

"Lord hear our prayers, for we are in need of you and You are most helpful. We try to follow in Your ways, but too often we fall short; so look upon us with Your grace and help us." Amen
—*Robert Rutherford, Chaplain*

and lay communities understand important aging issues. KLRI research findings support a healthier quality of life and a robust life style in our senior years. Lets have a good turn-out for this last get-together before the summer break.

**June Dinner Meeting
Thursday, 17 June
Sunshine Hotel**

The next Chapter General Meeting is set for Thursday, 17 June at the Sunshine Hotel & Suites.

The hotel is located at 3600 N. 2nd Ave in Phoenix on the corner of 2nd Ave and Osborn Road. The main entrance to the hotel is located on 2nd Ave. Parking is in a covered parking garage just adjacent to and north of the hotel.

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 6:30 p.m., with dinner served at 7:00 p.m. 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 14 June. Come join us for good food and comradeship.

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

New Members

Welcome to new Chapter members since the last newsletter

MAJ Robert G. Gadd USA -FRM
16388 W. Cortaro Point Dr,
Surprise, AZ 85387,
(623) 556-1379, E-mail: None

LTC Edward Kronholm USA (Ret)
65 W. Citation Lane,
Tempe, AZ 85284,
Tele: (480) 730-1388,
E-mail: edkronholm@aol.com

Please take the opportunity to meet our new members at the next meeting.

Membership

Currently the AZ Chapter has 180 members including, 45 auxiliary members and 6 new members for 2004.

- BOD Meeting - 3 Jun - Post 107*
- Dinner - 17 Jun - Sunshine Hotel*
- BOD Meeting - 2 Sep - Post 107*
- Lunch Meeting -18 Sep-McCormick Ranch*
- BOD Meeting - 7 Oct - Post 107*
- Dinner - 21 Oct - Sunshine Hotel*
- BOD Meeting - 4 Nov - Post 107*
- Lunch Meeting -20 Nov-McCormick Ranch*

Fund Donations

One person's generous gift will help strengthen America's future through supporting the education of our youth. Since the last newsletter fund donations have declined. Please consider a generous donation to the General Fund, 50th Anniversary Fund, and/or Scholarship Fund.

Our thanks to all contributors on behalf of all future beneficiaries of the Chapter Funds.



Spring Golf Tournament

by Bernie Conway

The AZ Chapter MOAA Spring weekend Golf Tournament was held on Saturday, May 1st at Rolling Hills Golf Course. Nineteen MOAA members and guests showed up for this beautiful day with temperatures in the mid-80's.

We have certainly been living right to get the good weather with the reduced summer fees' Our new Callaway scoring system was again unable to wrest away first place honors from Roy Anderson. He was the first recipient of our new traveling championship trophy. The trophy is supposed to pass on to the winner of the next MOAA golf event, which should be held in later Oct or early Nov. We will work on a plan to see if we can get it to truly travel. We had an informal presentation at the golf luncheon, and a formal presentation at the monthly luncheon.

Second place honors, and one of the closest to the pin awards went to Pat Clarke, a guest of Ron Green. She also just happened to be the only female in the competition. Must have been something to do with the women's tees!

Other cash awards went to me for the other closest to the pin (Just goes to show you do not have to be good to win a prize at this event). Longest drive went to Ray Deane. Longest putt made went to a repeat winner for this event, Frank Byrne. I guess if he could chip, he wouldn't be as good at long putts!

Chapter Ex-President Ron Green was able to join us again, and took the pressure off on who would wear the "Hat" for the next six months. He will! He also now has at least one oak leaf cluster

\$225 was collected in the Mulligan fund for the scholarship program. Good effort-Good cause. See you in the fall for our weekday tournament at Rolling Hills Golf Course. Stay tuned for details, and keep practicing!



Membership

by Ron Green

If I have counted right, the Chapter has 180 members of which 45 are Auxiliary Members. It seems like it was just two years ago when

the Chapter had 215 members. This is going the wrong way. I am the Chapter's temporary Membership Chairman and I can tell you the best source of new members is personal contact. If you know of someone that is not a Chapter or National member - have them call Ron Green at (480) 595-8693 or e-mail me at BarGRanch@aol.com.

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



2004 Arizona Chapter \$1000 Scholarship Recipient's

by Richard Horn

This outstanding group of young people are this year's recipients of the Arizona Chapter's 2004 Scholarships. After each student gave a short report on their future plans, each was presented with a Scholarship Certificate and a \$1000 check to help with their college expenses

Recipients Left to Right and Universities Attending

- Joshua J Freitas - Cactus High to University of Arizona
- Johnathan Gilman - Deer Valley High to ERAU, Prescott, Arizona
- Marina L. Hernandez - Central High to University of Arizona
- Timothy W. Maas - Thunderbird High to ERAU, Florida
- Sharon Preiss - Carl Hayden High to ERAU, Prescott, Arizona

Each of the cadets gave a short acceptance speech. All were equally good. However, Tim Maas's talk summed up what all of the group had to say! "It is an honor to receive this award. An even

greater honor and pleasure though is living in a country where the service members dedicate themselves to the purpose of defending freedom. With a sincerely thankful heart, I applaud and thank every veteran and service member for their dedicated service to the preservation of this nation and its ideals. Thank you for giving of yourselves and to those who have given the ultimate sacrifice so that we may enjoy the freedom we experience today." *Tim Maas, Thunderbird High School NJROTC*

The five candidates attended the awards luncheon with their parents and Military Instructors. The scholarship presentation ceremony on May 17, 2003, was held at the McCormick Ranch Golf Club, Scottsdale, Arizona. During the award process the candidates told about their interesting JROTC experiences and college plans. They expressed great appreciation for the \$1000 scholarships and thanked all veterans for their military service to our country. Chapter President Gary Fredericks and Scholarship Committee Chairman Richard Horn, presented the checks and the framed certificates. Everyone enjoyed this impressive program.

Welcome New Faces

[Excerpt from MOAA Affiliate June 04]

Whenever a member of our national staff or board of directors visits an MOAA chapter, we ask him or her to give us a report on the visit so we can pass any news or ideas along to all other chapters. On occasion, however, the report contains some embarrassing anecdotes that deliver a powerful message.

The following is from one such report and references a letter we sent to all non-chapter MOAA members in a chapter's recruitment area. The letter invited them to come hear what the chapter's national representative had to report:

A younger retiree and his wife who had received the letter arrived. They had moved into the area about eight weeks earlier. I talked with them before the meeting and they indicated they wanted to participate in the chapter activities.

As the meeting started and introductions were made, I found that the new couple had found seats at different tables. None of the widows or widowers at any table offered to switch tables so that the younger couple could sit together. I don't know if the chapter will be able to hold on to them."

"It is a worthy thing to fight for one's freedom; it is another sight finer to fight for another man's." --Mark Twain

Please do your best to welcome any non-members or new members who show up at chapter meetings. Be open and friendly, and make sure they are comfortable. It will make the chapter stronger.

Raffle Winners

Congratulations to the following winners in the "50/50" raffle held at the May meeting: Bob Rutherford, Pat Dale, and Cadet Johnathan Gilman of Deer Valley High School.

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.

JROTC Awards 2004

by Art Parker

Mission accomplished in the presentation of JROTC certificates and medals to the sixteen high schools under the cognizance of the Arizona Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America. The enclosed picture of Chapter member Colonel James Gallo USMC (Ret) making the presentation to C/Ensign Stephen Wlodkowski of Moon Valley High School with Naval Science Instructor CPO Paul Barnett USN (Ret) looking-on is emblematic of what was accomplished at each of the other schools. The volunteerism of each of the presenters is appreciated by all members of the Chapter.

The following letter of appreciation was received from Cadet like to thank your honoring me with the Association medal and on May 6 at our awards night. This the military standards I day. I know that my all the years that you participating in our support our cadets. I hope that you will continue to attend our ceremony for many years to come." ---- Stephen Wlodkowski, Moon Valley High School NJROTC



appreciation was Wlodkowski. "I would organization for Military Officers ribbon that I received NJROTC unit's annual medal encompasses strive to achieve every unit is very thankful for have been annual ceremony to

"The world looked to us -- not just because of our military might -- but because of our ideas of liberty and freedom. And, they knew we were willing to defend and promote those ideas in every corner of the earth. We rebuilt a demoralized, underfunded and unappreciated military. And we made it the most modern and respected force in the world. And who can forget those so-called 'experts' who said our military build-up threatened a dangerous escalation of tensions? What kind of fool, they asked, would call the Soviet Union an 'evil empire'? But as events have shown, there was nothing foolish in my prediction that Communism was destined for the ash heap of history. After decades of struggle, and with the help of the bold leadership of Margaret Thatcher, democracy won the Cold War and the Berlin Wall came tumbling down. The world watched with amazement as we put our house in order and took our rightful place as the most dynamic country in the world. And I firmly believe that history will record our era as one of peace and global prosperity. However, our task is far from over."
 --Ronald Reagan (1994)

Free National and Chapter Memberships

One of the most popular questions MOAA receives concerns what we have come to call the "chapter freebie program." This program really is quite simple. Any Chapter recruiting a new officer into its ranks (that is, an officer who has never before been a member of national MOAA), can offer that officer a free one-year membership in the national organization as a bonus. It's that simple. Join the Chapter and receive a free one-year membership to national MOAA - no strings attached.

This program has been in existence for more than five years and, based on the great results it has produced, it will continue indefinitely.

Our Chapter has been so delighted with recruiting results we have additionally taken to offering a free one-year Chapter membership - a two for one deal! Now you can't beat that! If you have a candidate for the "chapter freebie program" call our Membership Chairman or Chapter Secretary Terry Tassin.

"The constitutions of most of our States assert that all power is inherent in the people; that they may exercise it by themselves in all cases to which they think themselves competent, or they may act by representatives, freely and equally chosen; that it is their right and duty to be at all times armed; that they are entitled to freedom of person, freedom of religion, freedom of property, and freedom of the press."
 --Thomas Jefferson

Memorial Day 2004

Many of us started Memorial Day at the National Cemetery on Cave Creek Road.

The program is really impressive and includes a fly over of bi-planes of the Escadrille Lafayette'd Arizona, a parade of Color Guards, lots of patriotic music, placement of Memorial Wreaths, and much more. If you have never been there, make it a point next year to attend; you will be impressed.

This year the Arizona Chapter was represented by members both in the audience and "on duty". Dan Conway, as President of the Arizona Council of Chapters, had a place on the grandstand. Our Chapter fielded an MOAA Color Guard commanded by Terry Tassin, and consisting of Ron Green, Tom Houser, and Chuck Schluter. Your Chapter did a great job as usual!



"Today, we need a nation of Minutemen, citizens who are not only prepared to take arms, but citizens who regard the preservation of freedom as the basic purpose of their daily life and who are willing to consciously work and sacrifice for that freedom." --John F. Kennedy

Auto Tour

by Chuck Schluter

Early on Armed Forces Day 2004, 30 members of the AZ Chapter of MOAA began their day at the home of Barry and Sharon Briskman. Red, White and Blue symbols of patriotic pride were prominently placed, coffee and refreshments were served, and small knots of friends were engaged in various conversations. But, the garage doors were open, the morning sun was reflecting off familiar chrome shapes, and beckoning us to begin a trip down memory lane.

Our members "infiltrated" the shop and garage bays in groups of two or three. Over 18 cars were present, illuminated display cases held models, trophies, unique chrome emblems and hood ornaments, and much

more. The library itself was simply tantalizing! Our members knew the Packard's well, admired the open LaSalle, commented that they "had never seen MG's like these before", and they reminisced about similar cars they themselves had owned. Sharon was the perfect hostess, and after a while, Barry offered to add an anecdote or two regarding each auto in their collection. It was evident that although the cars were the "stars", Barry's ability to add a personality to each car was simply provocative! He added stories about many interesting items sitting on the shelves and the unique emblems and badges, and signs mounted on the walls, and he really made a special morning that much more interesting.

Certainly this was a much appreciated opportunity for us, and if the cars were really the "stars", then it follows that this charming collection of rolling history is a "constellation" in Scottsdale. Our Thank You to Barry and Sharon reflected the familiar words so often sung by our late friend, Bob Hope, "Thanks for the Memories". Indeed, there were many wonderful memories shared on this day.



Barry Briskman and friends!

Legislative Committee

by Dan Conway

One Down; One to Go.

The House completed action on its version of the FY 2005 Defense Authorization Bill last week which includes a 3 ½ year phase out of the SPB Widows Tax or so called Social Security Offset.

The Senate delayed action on its version until after the Memorial Day break. At that time, Senator Mary Landrieu will be offering an amendment to conform the Senate version of the Bill to the House version. This means that we must continue to get the message to both Senator Kyl and Senator McCain asking them for their support of the "Landrieu SPB Amendment" when it is presented..

You can use the MOAA Capitol Hill hotline at 877-762-8762, or call Senator Kyl direct at 202-224-4521 in Washington or at 602-840-1891 in Phoenix, and Senator McCain at 202-224-2235 in Washington or 480-897-6289 in Phoenix.



Legislative Spotlight

[Source: The Affiliate June 04]

INFO: Items of general interest and feedback.

DIS: Items to disseminate to chapter members for background and clarification on significant issues.

HILL: Items important enough for chapter members to immediately contact their legislators by letter, phone, or other means.

MOAA Raises SBP with President Bush - DIS

MOAA was pleased to be among four veterans' associations whose leaders were invited to the White House April 14 for a 35-minute private meeting with President Bush in the Oval Office.

The main purpose of the meeting was to provide an update on Bush's view of the Iraq situation and his determination not to abandon the U.S. mission to help Iraq establish a democratic government. But Bush also asked the association leaders about their primary concerns.

When it came time for MOAA President Vice Adm. Norbert R. Ryan Jr., USN-Ret., to speak, he cited MOAA's top goal of eliminating the unfair age-62 benefit reduction imposed on older Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) annuitants. Pointing out that no other federal annuitants are subject to such a penalty, he asked for the president's leadership support to end this "military widows tax," as envisioned in Rep. Jeff Miller's (R-Fla.) H.R. 3763

and Sen. Mary Landrieu's (D-La.) S. 1916.

Bush showed familiarity with the issue. He asked about the cost and said he thought the Senate had approved something on this. Ryan cited the relatively small price tag (\$498 million over five years). He acknowledged that the Senate had, indeed, approved budget authority for an SBP fix in the budget resolution, but the issue is far from resolved, and leadership support for military survivors urgently is needed.

While Bush offered no specific commitment, it certainly can't hurt to have had the opportunity to focus his personal attention on this important issue

New Rules for TRICARE Pharmacy Benefits - DIS

In early April, DoD published the final regulations governing the TRICARE prescription drug uniform formulary. The new rules, originally mandated in the FY 2000 National Defense Authorization Act, will eventually add a third tier of drug copayments for specific medications designated as non-formulary drugs. Here's how it will work:

For most medications, beneficiary copayments will stay at \$3 (generic) and \$9 (brand name). For medications that will be designated non-formulary, beneficiaries will see a higher, third-tier copayment:

TRICARE retail pharmacies: \$22 for a 30-day supply;
TRICARE Mail-Order Pharmacy (TMOP): \$22 for a 90-day supply;
Non-network retail pharmacies: \$22 or 20 percent of the cost, whichever is greater.

A newly established DoD Pharmacy and Therapeutics (P&T) Committee will propose which drugs will be put into the non-formulary third tier. They will include only drugs the committee determines do not have a significant, clinically meaningful therapeutic advantage, or are not cost-effective relative to other drugs in a class - considering safety, effectiveness, or outcome.

Before the Pentagon adopts the recommendations, it must consider input from a beneficiary advisory panel, which will include representatives from MOAA and other beneficiary associations.

Even after a drug is put into the non-formulary category, it still will be available for the \$9 copayment if a physician determines it should be prescribed in a particular case for reasons of medical necessity. This will require documentation from the provider that other medications in the formulary aren't effective for the beneficiary or have

unacceptable adverse side effects.

There has been considerable publicity that the new regulations went into effect on May 3, but it will be several more months before beneficiaries actually see any changes. The first meeting of the P&T Committee won't be held until this summer, and it will take several more months for the committee to complete its review of all the categories and make its recommendations. Further, there will be a delayed effective date (up to six months in most cases) once specific drugs are designated for non-formulary status. That will allow beneficiaries currently taking those medications to consult with their doctors about switching to a medication on the formulary or request continued use of that drug for medical necessity reasons.

We'll provide continuing updates on this issue as more information becomes available.

Note: Drugs obtained from military pharmacies will continue to be provided without a copayment.

Reserve GI Bill Upgrades Sought - INFO

Over the past four years, GI Bill benefits for National Guard and Reserve servicemembers haven't kept pace with improvements for active duty members. Congress raised active duty GI Bill benefits by more than 43 percent beginning in 2001 but failed to consider proportional increases to the reserve program.

Sponsored by Reps. Frank LoBiondo (R-N.J.) and Mike McIntyre (D-N.C.), H.R. 4188 would raise benefits under the Selected Reserve Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB) to 50 percent of active duty benefits (compared to the current 29 percent) over a five-year period starting Oct. 1.

H.R. 4188 also would allow reservists who are activated for a cumulative total of 24 months active duty within a five-year period to enroll in the active duty MGIB program. MOAA and The Military Coalition urged implementation of both of these changes before Congress earlier this year.

SBP Discharge Petition Offered - HILL

Rep. Chet Edwards (D-Texas) held a press conference on Capitol Hill April 28 to announce that, after being open for signature for only two days, 177 House members already have signed his Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) discharge petition on H.R. 548, Rep. Jeff Miller's (R-Fla.) bill that would phase out the age-62 SBP annuity reduction over five years.

"Reducing survivor benefits to those

whose spouses have served their nation in the armed services is an insult," said Edwards. "If just 218 of the 329 cosponsors of H.R. 548 will sign the discharge petition, we can respect the sacrifices of our military widows with our deeds, not just our words."

Edwards was joined at the press conference by Rep. Bob Filner (D-Calif.); MOAA President Vice Adm. Norbert R. Ryan Jr., USN-Ret.; and representatives of numerous other military and veterans' organizations. All expressed the common theme that cosponsorship alone is meaningless and that SBP cosponsors must step up and back their statements of support with real legislative action.

"It's time to get upset about the lack of action," said Ryan. "In the military, we vow to leave no one behind. It's intolerable that the government has left our military widows behind for all these years. We need action this year."

"You [members of the military and veterans' communities] have the power to make this happen," said Filner. "You need to tell your representatives you expect them not just to sign on as a cosponsor, but to sign Representative Edwards' SBP discharge petition and bring it to the floor where they can actually vote for it. If they get enough mail, something will happen."

We encourage all MOAA council and chapter officials to contact their representatives and urge them to support Edwards' H.R. 548 discharge petition. Use the "Sign SBP Discharge Petition" Action Alert on MOAA's Web site (<http://capwiz.com/moaa/issues/alert/?alertid=5712326&type=co>) to send a pre-written message asking your legislator for support.

You also can encourage chapter members to use MOAA's toll-free Capitol Hill hot line, (877) 762-8762. Ask the operator to connect you to your representative's office, and tell the person who answers the phone that you want your Congressman to sign Edwards' discharge petition.

Although the discharge petition might not make it all the way to 218 signatures, we hope it will put pressure on the members of the House and Senate Armed Services committees, who began their work on the FY 2005 Defense Authorization Act in May. If we generate enough attention to this issue, they are going to have a hard time keeping an SBP annuity increase out of the final version of the bill that will be enacted this fall.

DOD Releases New CRSC Guidance - HILL

In late April, DoD finally issued the long-awaited new rules for the processing of Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC) applications. The major change is expansion of eligibility to include all combat-related disabilities and inclusion of dependent compensation.

The new guidance also addresses two previously unresolved issues - namely, Special Monthly Compensation (SMC) and compensation for individual unemployability (IU). Both issues will be assessed after the services have determined which of the applicant's disabilities are deemed combat-related.

In the case of SMC, the services will have to resolve whether any of the combat-related disabilities constitute grounds for the SMC award. To make these determinations, the CRSC processing branches will be assisted by the VA.

Individual Unemployability (IU) determinations will be based on the retiree's overall combat-related disability percentage. If the services award CRSC at 60 percent or greater, and the applicant also has been determined by the VA to be unemployable, then CRSC will be paid at the 100-percent rate.

For a new application and a list of questions and answers about CRSC, visit MOAA's Web Base at www.moaa.org/benefitsinfo/crsc/crsc.asp

Base Decals

The following information is mainly for individuals who utilize LUKE AFB facilities. It is recommended, if your Base Vehicle Decal indicates **04** you should get it updated now, or anytime prior to the end of the year, at either the DRMO (El Mirage Rd & Glendale Ave) or at the Pass & ID Section. The Pass & ID (Bldg 1150, 2d Floor) will only update issued decals, not issue new ones. If your present decal is in serviceable condition, get the number off the decal (DD Form 2220), usually 3 letters and 3 digits, along with proof of insurance, registration and drivers license, and have it updated now or prior to the end of the year when everyone must obtain new decals. The Luke Pass & ID Section phone number is (623) 856-7874 or 7875.

New MOAA Name Tags

Members wishing to order Chapter name tags sporting the MOAA logo

should sign-up on the order form 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 Chapter Secretary and the newsletter Editor updated on your current mailing address, e-mail address, and telephone number.

Military Humor

- "Sometimes I think war is God's way of teaching us geography."
-- Paul Rodriguez
- "A slipping gear could let your M203 grenade launcher fire when you least expect it. That would make you quite unpopular in what's left of your unit."
-- Army's Magazine of Preventive Maintenance.
- "Aim towards the Enemy"
-- Instruction printed on US Rocket Launcher and Claymore mine
- When the pin is pulled, Mr. Grenade is not our friend. (U.S. Marine Corps.)
- Cluster bombing from B-52s is very, very accurate. The bombs always hit the ground. (U.S. Air Force.)
- If the enemy is in range, so are you. (Infantry Journal.)
- It is generally inadvisable to eject directly over the area you just bombed. (U.S. Air Force Manual.)
- Whoever said the pen is mightier than the sword obviously never encountered automatic weapons. (Gen. MacArthur.)
- Try to look unimportant; they may be low on ammo. (Infantry Journal.)
- "You, you, and you . . . Panic. The rest of you, come with me."
(U.S. Marine Corps Gunnery Sgt.)
- Tracers work both ways. (U.S. Army Ordnance.)
- Five second fuses only last three seconds. (Infantry Journal.)
- Don't ever be the first, don't ever be the last, and don't ever volunteer to do anything. (U.S. Navy Sailor)
- Bravery is being the only one who knows you're afraid. (David Hackworth.)
- If your attack is going too well, you are walking into an ambush. (Infantry Journal.)
- No combat ready unit has ever passed inspection. (Joe Gay)
- Any ship can be a minesweeper . . . once. (Admiral Hornblower.)

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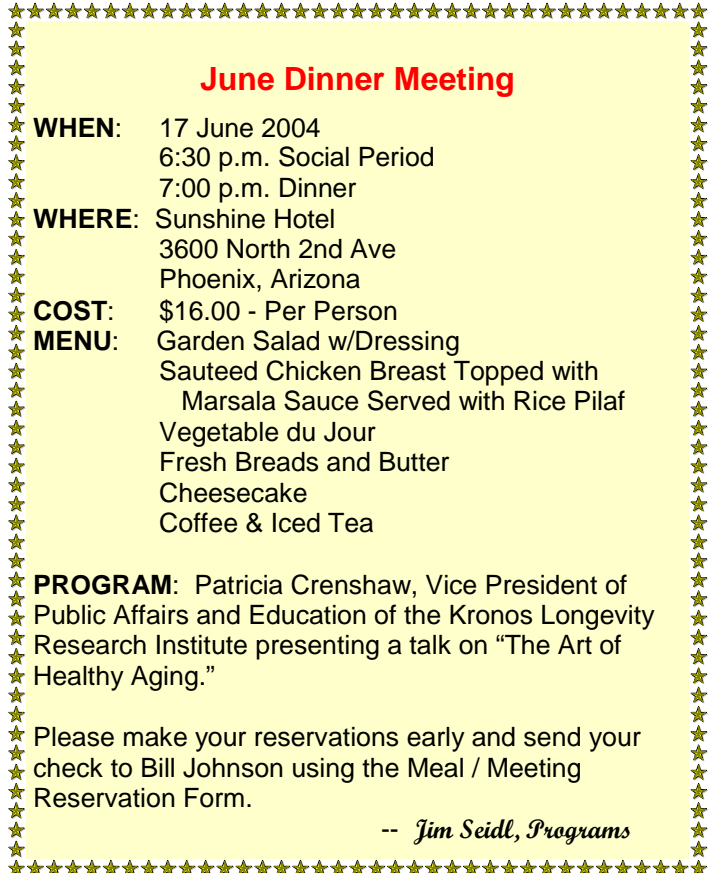

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY
 June 20th, 2004


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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June Dinner Meeting

WHEN: 17 June 2004
 6:30 p.m. Social Period
 7:00 p.m. Dinner

WHERE: Sunshine Hotel
 3600 North 2nd Ave
 Phoenix, Arizona

COST: \$16.00 - Per Person

MENU: Garden Salad w/Dressing
 Sauteed Chicken Breast Topped with Marsala Sauce Served with Rice Pilaf
 Vegetable du Jour
 Fresh Breads and Butter
 Cheesecake
 Coffee & Iced Tea

PROGRAM: Patricia Crenshaw, Vice President of Public Affairs and Education of the Kronos Longevity Research Institute presenting a talk on "The Art of Healthy Aging."

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 North 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) _____

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ (\$16.00 per person) for **17 June 2004.**

Make check payable to: AZ Chapter MOAA **No Later Than: 14 June 2004**

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

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