

The Sentinel

Arizona's First Chapter



The Arizona Chapter,

15403 E. Sunburst Drive,

Fountain Hills, Arizona

85268

MARCH 2004

CHARTERED IN 1956 - OVER 47 YEARS OF SERVICE TO COUNTRY

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President's Message

Arizona General Membership meeting was held on 19 February at the

Sunshine Hotel. Continuing what appears to be a trend for February meetings, turnout for the event was fairly light. However, those who were in attendance were treated to one of the better speakers we have had. Major Doug Patt U.S. Army (Ret), the guest speaker, used his extensive international and intelligence experience and background to trace the U.S. Army's evolution through the Gulf War, Afghanistan and beyond. His observations on where the Army is headed were enlightening and set the tone for a lively question and answer period following his formal remarks.

Our March General Membership meeting will be a luncheon meeting at McCormick Ranch Golf Club. Jim Seidl has lined up yet another speaker with an interesting topic. The speaker is from the Sky Harbor Airport Authority and will be sharing insight as to the changes taking place at Sky Harbor. In this modern age, it is hard to see how these changes won't be effecting all of us to some extent. Please join us for this event on Saturday, 20 March.

There is still a small window of time for you to add your influence to MOAA's major 2004 initiative to correct the inequity of the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) annuity cut at age 62 for our military widows. National is seeking an all-out effort to convince Congressional budget committee members that helping military widows has to be one of its priorities. To that end, please take a few moments of your time to send a message to your Please sign, stamp legislators. and mail the SBP postcards in the most recent issue of Military Officer Magazine. If you are so inclined, email and/or telephone inputs are also requested. For further information please refer to MOAAWeb site (http://capwiz.com/moaa/home/).

Chapter annual Our membership retention effort continues on course. Something over one-third of the members who had not yet renewed their Chapter membership at this time last month have now done so with many more committed to do so. Your membership is vitally important to all veterans. Your Arizona Chapter is very active nationally, at the state level and locally helping to improve veteran's situations and to foster support and understanding for retired, current and future military officers. Oh, by the way, we also have a full calendar of events throughout the year for the enjoyment of our members. The Arizona Chapter of MOAA is indeed well represented at all levels, but it will only remain so as long as it can lay claim to its

Membership Renewal

If you have an *03 behind your name on the newsletter mailing label, we are looking for your renewal. Please use the cut-out slip on page 5 of this bulletin. An *04 or greater on your label means you are paid up through that year. For electronic Sentinel recipients, you should have previously received informational email with your membership expiration year listed.

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 also taken to offering a free one-year Chapter membership in addition - a two for one deal! Now you can't beat that! If you have a candidate for the "chapter freebie program" give Paul Fein our Membership Chairman a call.

March Luncheon Meeting Saturday, 20 March at **McCormick Ranch Golf Club**

The next Chapter meeting is set for Saturday, 20 March at McCormick Ranch Golf Club. Bring a friend to our meeting and introduce them to a great group of people. The meeting will start with a social time at 11:30 a.m., with lunch served at 12:00 Noon. The reservation form is located on page 5 of this newsletter along with a description of the meal. The deadline for reservations to reach Bill Johnson is 12 March. Come join us for food and comradeship.

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

BOD Meeting - 1 Apr - Post 107 Dinner - 15 Apr - Sunshine Hotel BOD Meeting - 6 May - Post 107 Lunch - 15 May-McCormick Ranch includes Auto Museum Tour and

Arizona Chapter Calendar

March 4

 BOD Meeting 1:30, American Legion 107

March 20

 General Luncheon Meeting 11:30 a.m.

• BOD Meeting 1:30, American Legion 107

April 15

 General Dinner Meeting 6:30 p.m.

Golf Tournament Rolling Hills GC

May 15

Auto Tour and General meeting

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Staff

February Chapter the

> greatest resource, membership. —- Gary Fredricks

Free National and Chapter Memberships

Thanks Polly Blecick for your recruiting efforts and great lemon cake.

Chaplain's Corner

"Lord we look to you for salvation; not only in time of need, but in our everyday work. Therefore, give us good guidance that we may follow in Your steps and be ever faithful. Amen"

—Robert Rutherland, Chaplain

Scholarship Presentations.

BOD Meeting - 3 Jun - Post 107

Dinner - 17 Jun - Sunshine Hotel

Scholarship Update

by Richard Horn

The 2004 Scholarship Fund will enable our chapter to award several notable scholarships at the May meeting. In the event any member would like to contribute to the Chapter's Scholarship Fund, please send your contribution to William Johnson, 13410 North 12th Place, Phoenix, AZ 85022-4944.

Last year's scholarship recipients definitely were grateful and expressed their sincere thanks. They also thanked all MOAA members for their service to our great country. The Scholarship Committee appreciates your participation.

Items of Interest from National MOAA

[Source: Affiliate March 04]

The new year has brought a number of significant benefit improvements for members of the military community. But it often takes several months for agencies to implement them so that beneficiaries can take advantage. Here's what we know so far on these benefit upgrades:

Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) for Remarried Widows: Survivors of members who died of service-connected causes can retain DIC if they remarry after attaining age 57. Those who already have remarried (and were age 57 or older when they did so) have until Dec. 16, 2004, to apply for reinstatement of their DIC benefits. Use VA form 21-686c to apply; it is available online at www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/21-686c.pdf.

Military Tax Relief: Information on the new tax benefits in the recently enacted Military Family Tax Fairness Act is

Currently the AZ Chapter has 205 members including, 49 auxiliary members and 5 new members for 2004.

Still Looking For A Few Good Men Or Women

The letters are out notifying sixteen JROTC Units that the Arizona Chapter, Military Officers Association of America, is again awarding medals, ribbons and certificates to selected cadets in their Junior Year for outstanding leadership and achievement in the JROTC program. These award presentations will take place on the dates shown at the school's JROTC award ceremony. It is desired that the presentation be made by members of our Chapter as has been the practice in previous years. The schools involved and their award night dates are listed below.

The members who have volunteered to date to represent our chapter at the awards ceremonies this year are also shown. As you can see we are a "little" short of our goal of 16 presenters. This is a great opportunity to get out and see some wonderful young people at their best. Yes, you will need to give up a couple of hours of your time to make the presentation. However, what would you use the time for if you do not help out watching TV? Let us support these patriotic young men and women. If you can make a presentation let Arthur Parker (602) 997-7913 know you are available and which school.

School	Date	Time	Presenter
North HS	28 Apr	6:00 PM	Harry Farenga
Sunnyslope HS	22 Apr	7:00 PM	
South Mountain HS	05 May	6:00 PM	Bernie Conway
Carl Hayden HS	28 Apr	6:30 PM	•
Cactus HS	06 May	6:30 PM	
Moon Valley HS	06 May	7:00 AM	
Alhambra HS	07-May	6:30 PM	
Central HS	01 May	7:00 PM	
Apollo HS	04 May	7:00 PM	Terry Tassin
Glendale HS	11 May	7:00 PM	·
Camelback HS	12 May	7:00 PM	
Cortez HS	06 May	6:00 PM	
Deer Valley HS	11 May	7:00 PM	Chet Baumer
Greenway HS	05 May	7:00 PM	Raymond Deane
Shadow Mountain	11 May	6:00 PM	William McCollum
Thunderbird HS	12 May	7:00 PM	Ron Green

posted on the IRS Web site at www.irs.gov. Click on the "Armed Forces Tax Benefits" link in the lower right-hand corner, then scroll down to the first two items under "Other Items" for an overview of the tax breaks in the bill and a more detailed explanation - including what forms are needed for filing amended tax returns and special marking requested by the IRS to speed processing. This especially is important for survivors of military members who died on active duty after Sept. 10, 2001; for military homeowners who sold a home after May 6, 1997; and for drilling members of the National Guard and Reserve who incurred overnight expenses attending drills more than 100 miles from their home after 2002.

Long Term Care for "Gray-Area"

Reservists: Gray-area reservists, including guardsmen, now are eligible to participate, if medically qualified, in the Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program. Gray-area reservists are those who have completed at least 20 qualifying vears of service, but have not vet attained age 60 and eligibility for retired pay. LTC Partners, a federal contractor, is developing a marketing plan to reach out to every gray area reservist within the next few months. Importantly, gray area reservists do not have to wait for a letter of notification to apply for enrollment. For more information, members may contact LTC Partners at www.ltcfeds.com or (800) 582-3337.

Health Care for Mobilized Reservists:Mobilized members of the Guard and

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>	Impact Ad
Single Card	\$80	\$25	\$15
Double Card	\$160	\$50	\$30
Quadruple Card	\$320	\$100	\$60

Reserve and their families are eligible for TRICARE health care coverage starting up to 90 days prior to the activation date specified on their orders. Since some beneficiaries might receive health care services before the program can be implemented, the Pentagon advises any families whose sponsors are deployed in support of a contingency operation to save health care receipts, claims, and "explanation of benefits" forms for care received on or after Nov. 6, 2003 (the effective date of the new legislative authority).

Spread the Word on Benefit Improvements: Congress approved so many new or expanded benefits for current and former military beneficiaries last year that it will be a major task to get the word out to all of the people who might be eligible for one or more of them. In many cases, the newly eligible people are not members of any military association and might not have received government check in years. Realistically, the government is going to make only limited efforts to publicize these changes. That means members of MOAA and other associations need to take on the challenge of conducting outreach efforts to get this important information to as many people as possible within the limited time available to apply.

Chapter members are asked to pass the word to any friends or neighbors who might be eligible for these new benefits. You might be surprised to find you helped someone you know collect a significant, long-overdue benefit. It's virtually certain that at least somewhere along the line you will find someone who is affected by one or more of the new changes.

Legislative Spotlight

[Source: Air Force Retiree News Feb. 9, 2004] Rep. Miller (R-FL) Introduces SBP Legislation:

Representative Jeff Miller (R-FL) has introduced H.R. 3763, the Military Survivor Benefits Improvement Act of 2004, according to announcements by both The Retired Enlisted Association (TREA) and the Military Officers

Association of America (MOAA).

The TREA report noted that the measure would eliminate the current age 62 annuity reduction from 55 to 35 percent, phased in over a 10-year period beginning in October 2005. The bill also includes a 1-year open enrollment period

"The public cannot be too curious concerning the characters of public men." --Samuel Adams

to allow participation for those who previously did not elect SBP coverage. A companion bill, S-1916, was introduced in November by Sen. Mary Landrieu (D-LA).

MOAA officials said when Rep. Miller announced his introduction of the bill, Reps. Robin Hayes (R-NC), Walter B. Jones (R-NC), Alan Boyd (D-FL), Ken Calvert (R-CA), Mike Burgess (R-TX), Bob Filner (D-CA), Joe Wilson (R-SC) and Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX) joined him at the podium in a bipartisan show of support. There are 227 co-sponsors of this bill.

Other Legislation Important to Members of the Retiree Community

H.R. 1111 (Cass Ballenger, R-NC) Uniformed Services Divorce Equity Act of 2003: To amend title 10, United States Code, to revise the rules relating to the court-ordered apportionment of the retired pay of members of the uniformed services to former spouses. There are currently 21 co-sponsors.

H.R. 1653 (Jim Saxton, R-NJ) to amend title 10, United States Code, to change the effective date for paid-up coverage under the military Survivor Benefit Plan to Oct. 1, 2008. When he introduced the bill, the proposed effective date was Oct. 1, 2003. However, if passed, this date would probably change in the final wording. Currently there are 40 co-sponsors.

H.R. 1726 (Henry Brown, R-SC) Military Surviving Spouses Equity Act, to amend title 10, United States Code, to repeal the offset from surviving spouse annuities under the military Survivor Benefit Plan for amounts paid by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs as dependency and indemnity compensation. There are 37 cosponsors.

H.R. 3474 (Van Hollen, D-MD) Keep Our Promises to America's Military Retirees Act, to restore health care coverage to retired members of the uniformed services. There are 156 cosponsors.

Members of the retiree community who desire more information on these bills may visit the web sites of these two organizations at www.trea.org and www.moaa.org. Links to other organizations of The Military Coalition and National Military/Veterans Alliance are provided at the below site and then click on the links. Web site is:

http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/afretire

Raffle Winners

The following members were winners in the "50/50" raffle held at the February meeting: Dolly Blecick and April Newell.

Spring Golf Tournament

by Bernie Conway

The MOAA Spring golf tournament date has changed and will be held on Saturday,

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:

Dolly Blecick \$15 from January and \$21 for February. Dolly also collected \$28 in donations for the fund.

Jim Seidl \$50

Bette Green \$10

Chuck Schluter \$20

Scholarship Fund:

Mary Jane Hudson \$20

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

1 May at Rolling Hills Golf Course. Details will be provided in the April issue of the Sentinel. Reserve the date, and practice, practice!

Do We Have Your E-Mail Address?

Once again, I stress the importance of providing the AZ Chapter your e-mail address. You miss out on important current information that we send out to the members from time to time.

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. So, come aboard and enter the cyberspace world of our Chapter.

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.

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

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.

More Real, True and Un-Exaggerated Rules of Golf

. When you look up and cause an awful

"It has been pointed out that the days of democracy are numbered once the belly takes command of the head. When the less affluent feel the urge to break a commandment and begin to covet that which their more affluent neighbors possess, they are tempted to use their votes to obtain instant satisfaction. Then equal opportunity at the starting line becomes an extended guarantee of at least a tie at the finish of the race. Under the euphemism 'the greatest good for the greatest number,' we destroy a system which has accomplished just that and move toward the managed economy which strangles freedom and mortgages generations yet to come."

--Ronald Reagan

shot, you will always look down again at exactly the moment when you ought to start watching the ball if you ever want to see it again.

- Any change works for a maximum of three holes and a minimum of not at all.
- No matter how bad you are playing, it is always possible to play worse.
- Never try to keep more than 300 separate thoughts in your mind during your swing.
- When your shot has to carry over a water hazard, you can either hit one more club or two more balls.

A Little History

I love history, and I love those little bits of fact that I find when I poke around the internet. Here are some that I recently found!

1846-German astronomer Johann Galle discovers the planet Neptune.

1890-The United States Congress decrees that nearly 1,200 square miles of public land in the California Sierra Nevada be preserved forever as Yosemite National Park.

1907-Gene Autry, one of the greatest singing cowboys of all time, is born in Tioga, Texas.

1918-Will Rogers' first movie "Laughing Bill Hyde" opens at the Rivoli Theater in New York.

1941-The "Maltese Falcon" starring Humphrey Bogart as hard-boiled detective Sam Spade, opens.

1962-Johnny Carson begins his career as host of The Tonight Show. A career that would span almost 30 years.

Humor

 A little boy was overheard praying: "Lord, if you can't make me a better boy, don't worry about it. I'm having a real good time like I am."

- I had been teaching my three-year old daughter the Lord's Prayer. For several evenings at bedtime, she would repeat after me the lines from the prayer. Finally, she decided to go solo. I listened with pride as she carefully enunciated each word right up to the end of the prayer: "Lead us not into temptation," she prayed, "but deliver us some E-mail. Amen."
- Six-year-old Angie and her four-year-old brother Joel were sitting together in church. Joel giggled, sang, and talked out loud. Finally, his big sister had had enough. "You're not supposed to talk out loud in church." "Why? Who's going to stop me?" Joel asked. Angie pointed to the back of the church and said, "See those two men standing by the door? They're hushers."

Nautical Trivia

Gundecking. In the modern Navy, falsifying reports, records and the like is often referred to as "gundecking." The origin of the term is somewhat obscure, but at the risk of gundecking, here are two plausible explanations for its modern usage.

The deck below the upper deck on British sailing ships-of-war was called the gundeck although it carried no guns. This false deck may have been constructed to deceive enemies as to the amount of armament carried, thus the gundeck was a falsification.

A more plausible explanation may stem shortcuts taken by Midshipmen when doing their navigation lessons. Each Mid was supposed to take sun lines at noon and star sights at night and then go below to the gundeck, work out their calculations and show them to the navigator. Certain of these young men, however, had a special formula for getting the correct answers. They would note the noon or last position on the quarterdeck traverse board and determine the approximate current position by dead reckoning plotting. Armed with this information, they proceeded to the gundeck to "gundeck" their navigation homework by simply working backwards from the dead reckoning position.

Chewing the Fat. "God made the vittles, but the devil made the cook," was a popular saying used by seafaring men in the last century when salted beef was staple diet aboard ship. This tough cured beef, suitable only for long voyages when nothing else was as cheap or would keep as well, required prolonged chewing to make it edible. Men often chewed one chunk for hours, just as if it were chewing gum and referred to this practice as "chewing the fat."

"If there must be trouble, let it be in my day, that my child may have peace." --Thomas Paine

"In times of peace the people look most to their representatives; but in war, to the executive solely."

--Thomas Jefferson

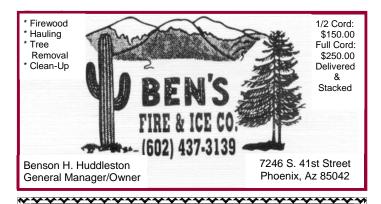
"Knowledge is, in every country, the surest basis of public happiness."
--George Washington

Quotes

- To My Friends. If you should die before me, ask if you could bring a friend.
- --Stone Temple Pilots
- If you live to be a hundred, I want to live to be a hundred minus one day, so I never have to live without you.
- --Winnie the Pooh
- Don't walk in front of me, I may not follow. Don't walk behind me, I may not lead. Walk beside me and be my friend.
 ---Albert Camus
- Strangers are just friends waiting to happen. Friends are the Bacon Bits in the Salad Bowl of Life. Friendship is one mind in two bodies. --Mencius
- A friend is someone who knows the song in your heart and can sing it back to you when you have forgotten the words. --Unknown
- Everyone hears what you say. Friends listen to what you say. Best friends listen to what you don't say. --Unknown
- If all my friends were to jump off a bridge, I wouldn't jump with them, I'd be at the bottom to catch them. --Unknown
- We all take different paths in life, but no matter where we go, we take a little of each other everywhere. --Tim McGraw
- Friends are God's way of taking care of us. --Unknown
- I'll lean on you and you lean on me and we'll be okay. -- Dave Matthews

"We've witnessed, in little over a generation, the swiftest advance of freedom in the 2,500-year story of democracy. Historians in the future will offer their own explanations for why this happened. Yet we already know some of the reasons they will cite. It is no accident that the rise of so many democracies took place in a time when the world's most influential nation was itself a democracy."

--President George W. Bush



TAPS

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

LCDR Robert E. Bracken USCG(Ret)

December 2, 1922 - January 27, 2004 Interment was in Arizona National Cemetary on January 30, 2004

Our heart felt condolences are extended to the family.

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

Advertise In This **Space**

Impact Ad \$15.00 Quarterly \$25.00 Annual \$80.00

March Luncheon Meeting

WHEN: 20 March 2004

11:30 a.m. Social Period

12:00 noon Lunch

WHERE: McCormick Ranch Golf Club

7505 McCormick Parkway

Scottsdale, Arizona

COST: \$16.00 - Per Person MENU:

Tossed Salad Chicken Kiev with Herb Rice Pilaf

Fresh Vegetable Medley Fresh Bread w/Creamy Butter

Peach Cobbler Coffee & Iced Tea

PROGRAM: A representative from the Aviation Department, Sky Harbor Airport will update us on the latest happenings at the airport.

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

-- Jim Seidl, Programs

Advertise In This **Space**

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CHAPTER FINANCIAL PARTICIPATION	IUN
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CHAPTER FINANC	HAL PARTICIPATION
If you would like to make a donation to one or more of the AZ Ch	apter Funds or renew your chapter membership, include your check
identified as the appropriate fund and mail to: Bill Johnson, 1	3410 North 12th Place, Phoenix, AZ 85022-4944.
Membership Renewal: \$ 20 Full Member:	\$10 Auxiliary Member:
50th Anniversary Fund: \$	
	nd: \$,
* It is OK to identify me as a donor in the next newsletter.	YES NO
Name Full Member:	Auxiliary Member:

	MEAL /	MEETING	RESERV	ATION	FORM
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Please reserve	meals for (Name)	
		, ,	

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ (\$16.00 per person) for 20 March 2004.

Make check payable to: AZ Chapter MOAA No Later Than: 12 March 2004

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

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