

## President's Perspective

by Lee Lange



### It Was a Great Day

We had a great picnic in October with more than 50 members and guests showing up to enjoy some fine weather, great BBQ and entertainment from noted country-western singer Ted Newman.

Several new members and a number of prospective chapter members came to the picnic, and we will be following up with them to get them to join our group.

### 5 Stars on the Way

Vice President Ron Bright will be heading to Yuma November 4 to attend the Arizona Council of Chapters meeting. Ron will represent the chapter and receive our 14<sup>th</sup> consecutive MOAA 5-Star Level of Excellence Award.

The award will be presented by MOAA President Lt Gen Dana Atkins, USAF (Ret), who will speak to the group and present Levels of Excellence Awards to all nine Arizona Chapters and the Council.

Congratulations to all Arizona Chapter MOAA members. You made this award possible.

### Meritorious Service

We will be recognizing four chapter members with the Meritorious Service Award (MSA) in November.

They are Charlie Bitner, Donna Bright, Bruce Kosaveach, and Paul Schnur.

I'll have more to say about the contributions these members are making at the November meeting.

Previous MSA winners should wear their ribbons and medallions to November's meeting.

### 2018 Officer Slate

The 2018 Nominating Committee, headed by 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Dave Price, recommended and the Board approved the slate for 2018 chapter officers. The nominees are listed on page 2. We will hold elections for next year's leadership team as part

of the November 18 meeting.

Note that the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President position has no candidate despite the best efforts of the nominating committee. This needs to get fixed to ensure our leadership succession.

Nominations from the floor during the November meeting will be accepted.

### Fundraising

Over the past year our scholarship fundraising campaign raised almost \$14,000, thanks to the amazing generosity of chapter members and other supporters.

Since we are now giving away \$6,000 in scholarships each year, fundraising will remain important to the program.

The Fundraising Committee will be considering ideas for fundraising over the next few months. The committee is also working to help Pat Dale with next year's Scholarship Fund Golf Tournament.

*Continued on page 2...*

### Arizona Chapter Calendar

**Board of Directors** meets at 1030 hours the first Thursday of the month unless noted otherwise

**Location:** National Guard Regional Training Institute, 5636 E. McDowell Rd. Show ID for entry. Members welcome.

**Upcoming meetings:**

- November 2
- December 7

**Member Meetings/ Luncheons** are held on the third Saturday of the month, Social Hour at 1100, Luncheon at 1145, at McCormick Ranch Golf Club unless noted otherwise. See Page 3.

**Upcoming meetings:**

- November 18
- December 16

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**President's Perspective...continued**

**Remember to Renew**

Don't forget your chapter dues for next year. Renew your membership now and save 10%. This offer is good until December 31. See the details on page 3.

Dues go up to the regular price after that date—\$20 for regular members and \$10 for surviving spouses. We now have a new option with MOAA's automated dues renewal program. This program allows you to go online and renew your chapter membership using your credit card.

It is secure and our chapter receives the full amount of your dues. Transaction charges are paid by MOAA. We'll have more details on how to use the program next month.

Have a great Thanksgiving this year!

**MSA Recipients**

Arizona Chapter members who will be honored at the November luncheon with presentation of Meritorious Service Awards are:

**Charlie Bitner**, USAF (Ret). Treasurer, 3rd Award

**Paul Schnur**, USA (Frm), Secretary, 3rd Award

**Bruce Kosaveach**, USN (Ret), Director, Program Co-Chair, 2nd Award

**Donna Bright**, USN, Arrangements Chair, 2nd Award

**Veterans Take Note**

**Shop Online at the Exchanges**

Honorably discharged veterans, not only active duty or retirees, can now shop online at the military exchanges. Veterans must verify their eligibility first. Read Chapter President Lee Lange's Legislative Report on Page 6 for information on how to verify.

Just in time for Christmas shopping.

**The Sentinel** newsletter is published by the Arizona Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA).

MOAA and its affiliate chapters and councils are non-partisan.

**AZ Chapter Officer Slate, Committee Chairs for 2018**

Chapter members will vote on officers for 2018 at the November luncheon. The following slate was presented by the Nominating Committee and approved by the Board. Nominations also will be accepted from the floor at the luncheon.

**Officer Slate**

President, Ron Bright, USA

1st Vice President, No Candidate

2nd Vice President, Dave Price, USN

Secretary, Dave Boyd, USAF

Treasurer, Charlie Bitner, USAF

Directors, Jack Farley, USN; Bob Hinton, USN;

Bruce Kosaveach, USN; Joh Shawl, USN; Pete

Veitenhans, USA

Lee Lange, USMC, will continue on the Board as Immediate Past President

**Committee Chairs**

Chaplain, Don Butler, USCG

Legislation, Lee Lange, USMC

Legislative Liaisons, Lee Lange, John Ady, USA

Newsletter Editor/Advertising, Janet Lange, USMC Spouse

Membership, Dave Price, USN

Surviving Spouses, Susan Farrell, USA  
Surviving Spouse

Arrangements, Lee Lange

Programs, Bruce Kosaveach, USN

Scholarships, Jon Shawl, USN

Golf Tournament, Pat Dale, USAF

Webmaster, Rob Welch, USA

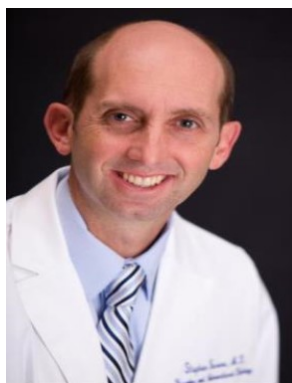
Transition Liaison, Jim Draper, USN

JROTC Medals, John Simmons, USAF  
ESGR, Vacant

Historian/Photographer, Jim Cullison, USAF  
Public Affairs, Vacant

Personal Affairs, Lee Lange

Electronic Communications, Jim Cullison



Saturday – November 18, 2017

***Extreme Medical Interventions in Austere Environments: Disaster Relief to the Battlefield***

**Steve Ferrara, MD CAPT, MC, USN (Ret)**

Steve Ferrara is a Scottsdale native who recently retired from the Navy after a distinguished 25-year career culminating in his role as the Navy's Chief Medical Officer and Director of Clinical Operations. Upon retiring in 2016, Dr. Ferrara transitioned to caring for veterans and his community in his newly created role as Chief of Interventional Radiology at the Phoenix VA Medical Center. A combat doctor, Captain Ferrara transformed military medical practice by introducing life and limb-saving endovascular therapies to the battlefield of Afghanistan as well as the disaster relief environment of the apocalyptic 2004 Asian tsunami. He will speak to us on combat medicine and the work being

McCormick Ranch Golf Club - REGISTRATION must be received by 4:00 p.m. Tuesday, Nov 14, \$22 per person includes lunch. Make check payable to: AZ Chapter MOAA and mail to: Charlie Bitner, 134 E. Northview Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85020. 602-943-0028 or Charles.bitner@gmail.com

**Don't Forget to Renew for 2018!**

If you haven't renewed your 2018 chapter membership, there's still time to get the Early Bird Special. Just fill out the form below and send it with your check — \$18 for a Regular Member or \$9 for Surviving Spouse Member until **December 31**, when dues return to their regular price. Send your check to Treasurer Charlie Bitner at the address below.

Thanks to those who have renewed already!

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CLIP HERE AND MAIL RENEWAL FORM WITH YOUR CHECK

**Arizona Chapter 2018 Membership Renewal Form**

Member Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Regular Member Renewal: \$20 (\$18 if paid by **Dec 31**)

Surviving Spouse Member Renewal: \$10 (\$9 if paid by **Dec 31**)

Provide any Changes in your address, phone number, e-mail, etc.

Make check payable to: **AZ Chapter MOAA**

Mail renewal application and check to: Charlie Bitner, Treasurer  
134 E. Northview Ave.  
Phoenix, AZ 85020

# It's a Beautiful Day; Let's Have a Picnic

October 21 dawned as another beautiful Arizona fall day, perfect for the chapter's annual picnic barbecue at McCormick Stillman Railroad Park. More than 50 members and guests gathered at the park to socialize, enjoy a hearty meal and listen to songs by western balladeer Ted Newman. Overall, it was a great afternoon overseen by Arrangements Chair Donna Bright and husband Ron, with assistance from many chapter members.



*The audience showed their enthusiasm in enjoying the entertainment provided by Ted Newman.*

*Below, Al Crawford shared stories with Tracy and Steve Kirby.*





## Personal Affairs

By Lee Lange  
Personal Affairs Officer

### VA Pre-Need Burial Eligibility

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has implemented a Pre-Need Eligibility determination program to assist anyone who would like to know if they are eligible for burial in a VA national cemetery.

VA is promoting pre-need eligibility determinations to encourage Veterans and their eligible family members to plan in advance to use VA burial benefits that veterans have earned through their military service. Planning in advance for a veteran's or loved-one's final resting place can eliminate unnecessary delays and reduce stress on a family at a difficult time. Veteran families will have increased confidence that their loved ones are eligible for burial in a VA national cemetery at their time of need.

#### What's Included?

VA burial benefits include burial in any open national cemetery (there are 135 national cemeteries in 40 states and Puerto Rico), a grave liner, perpetual care of the gravesite, a headstone, a burial flag and a presidential memorial certificate. The eligibility requirements can be found at [www.cem.va.gov](http://www.cem.va.gov), and include being discharged under conditions other than a dishonorable discharge.

Interested individuals may submit [VA Form 40-10007](#), *Application for Pre-Need Determination of Eligibility for Burial in a VA National Cemetery*, along with a copy of supporting documentation of military service, such as a DD214, by: toll-free fax at 1-855-840-8299; or mail to the National Cemetery Scheduling Office, P.O. Box 510543, St. Louis, MO 63151.

#### What Happens Next?

VA will review pre-need burial applications and provide written notice of a determination of eligibility. VA encourages you to keep the decision letter with supporting documentation with your important papers in a safe place and to discuss your burial wishes and final arrangements with your loved ones or other representatives.

Applicants may indicate a *preference* for a VA national cemetery on the application form, but a

pre-need determination of eligibility does not guarantee burial in a specific VA national cemetery or a specific gravesite. VA assigns gravesites in cemeteries with available space once death has occurred and the burial is scheduled.

If you pass away, your next-of-kin, funeral home or other representative responsible for making your final arrangements should contact the National Cemetery Scheduling Office at (800) 535-1117 to request burial. VA will locate your pre-need decision letter and validate their determination.

Because laws affecting VA burial eligibility and individual circumstances may change, upon receipt of a burial request, VA will verify pre-need decisions in accordance with the laws in effect at that time.

### Welcome Our New Members

**Archie Kelley, CAPT USN (Ret)**  
of Phoenix

**Victor Conner, LTC USA (Ret)**  
And his wife Sharon of Scottsdale

**Robert L. Stark, CPT USA (Frm)**  
And his wife Nanette of Gilbert

### Eat for Free on Veterans Day

Many restaurants offer free meals to veterans on Veterans Day, November 11. Following are some of the participating establishments.

Applebee's, Chili's, IHOP (red, white and blue pancakes), Olive Garden, Mimi's Café, Golden Corral (5-9 p.m. November 13), Krispy Kreme (free coffee and donut).

Be prepared to show proof of service to receive your meal.

### Donations to Chapter Funds

#### Scholarship Fund

Jim Draper \$35

### Keep Us Informed

Let us know when you change your phone number, address or e-mail so we can keep you in the loop with this newsletter and other chapter communications. Contact any chapter officer with your changes.



## National Legislative Update

by Lee Lange  
Legislation Chairman

### Defense Bill Nearing Finish

The FY2018 National Defense Authorization Bill (NDAA) enters one of its final phases, as lawmakers announced the list of conferees who will iron out differences between the House and Senate versions.

Fifty-eight lawmakers will help determine the fate of a range of national security issues affecting MOAA members on topics like the active duty pay raise, health care fees and survivor's benefits. The list of conferees includes every member of the Senate Armed Services Committee and half of the members of the House Armed Services Committee.

The committees are currently in conference, working to reconcile the two different versions of the defense authorization bill that passed their respective chambers so a final version can be passed by both Houses of Congress and sent to the President for his signature.

They will have their work cut out for them, as the two chambers had different opinions on several issues of interest to MOAA. Some of the top issues;

#### House Bill (HR 2810)

Defense Budget \$621B  
Active Duty Pay Raise 2.4%  
Pharmacy Fees Increases Indexed to COLA  
SBP/DIC Offset Sense of Congress to end Offset

#### Senate Bill (SB 1519)

Defense Budget \$640B  
Active Duty Pay Raise 2.1%  
Pharmacy Fees Fees triple over 10 years  
SBP/DIC Offset Extend SSIA (Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance)

Regardless of the outcome, Congress first will need to come up with a budget agreement. Both bills raise defense spending levels above current statutory limits, which will trigger sequestration, an arbitrary budget-cutting mechanism that has disastrous impacts to the defense budget.

The House just passed their budget by a narrow margin with the Senate passing theirs earlier. Depending on what the budgets contain

for defense, the defense bill should move quickly through conference.

That means there's little time to influence the outcome on these important issues. MOAA needs our help now to send our elected officials an **MOAA-suggested message** to support key provisions in the defense bill.

Congressional defense leaders intend to have the conference negotiations completed by the end of October, in order to have a final version of the FY18 NDAA brought up for a vote before the Thanksgiving break.

### Veteran Online Shopping Benefit Is Here

Beginning this Veterans Day, November 11, all veterans with an honorable discharge will be eligible to shop at the service exchanges online. Each service exchange - [NEX](#), [AAFES](#), [MCX](#), and [CGX](#) - will have a portal to access the benefit.

First, however, veterans who could be eligible must visit [VetVerify.org](#) to gain access. The process may require several steps for some, so it is recommended you begin the process as soon as possible.

Proof of honorable or general under honorable conditions discharge requires, at least, submission of your full name and Social Security number and some type of discharge form, such as a DD Form 214, DD Form 215, DD Form 256, DD Form 257, or NGB-22. VetVerify has an FAQ with answers to common questions regarding eligibility.

### The Number That Matters Most to You: 2 Percent

An unexpected rise in oil prices in September helped bump up the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the year. This means that the Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) increase for retired pay, survivor annuities and Social Security will be 2 percent, starting in January 2018.

You will see a \$20 increase for every \$1,000 of retired pay received. The final COLA is determined by comparing the average CPI of the final three months of the fiscal year to the same quarter of the prior year. The 2 percent increase is the largest in a number of years.

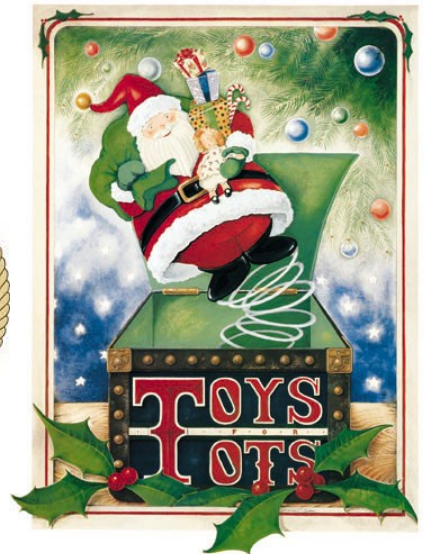
## Bring a Toy, Spread Some Joy

It's not too early to start thinking about the Toys For Tots program for the coming holiday season.

Again this year our chapter will collect new, unwrapped toys from members for delivery to the USMC Reserve Center for their Toys For Tots program at Christmas.

All members are encouraged to bring at least one toy to the November luncheon for donation to this worthy program. Each year, the 9-12 year old age group is the most difficult to accommodate. Please, stuffed animals are not desired.

If you can help, bring your toy donations to the November 18 luncheon meeting. Terry Tassin, who coordinates this project for the chapter, will see that the toys are delivered to the Reserve Center.



U.S. MARINE CORPS RESERVE



### November Luncheon

**WHEN:** November 18, 2017  
11:00 a.m., Meet & Greet Social Hour  
11:45, Lunch

**WHERE:** McCormick Ranch Golf Club  
Scottsdale

**COST:** \$22 Per Person

**DRESS:** Business Casual

**MENU:** Roast turkey breast, sage stuffing, whipped potatoes with turkey gravy, salad, pumpkin pie.

**PROGRAM:** Dr. Steve Ferrara, retired Navy Captain and chapter member, will describe extreme medical care in austere environments, based on his service in Afghanistan.

### CHAPTER FINANCIAL PARTICIPATION

If you would like to make a donation to one or more of the AZ Chapter Funds, include your check identified with the appropriate fund and mail to: **Charlie Bitner, 134 E. Northview Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85020, 602-943-0028, charles.bitner@gmail.com.**

**General Fund:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Scholarship Fund:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_ [a 501(c)(3) charitable fund]

Name of Donor : \_\_\_\_\_ Identify me as a donor in the next newsletter. YES\_\_\_ NO\_\_\_

### MEAL/RESERVATION FORM

Please reserve \_\_\_ meals for (name): \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$22.00/person) for the November 2017 luncheon

Make check payable to: **AZ Chapter MOAA** or pay by credit card at the luncheon

Send check to: **Charlie Bitner, 134 E. Northview Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85020, 602-943-0028, charles.bitner@gmail.com.**

**Member reservations or call-ins WILL NOT be accepted after November 14.  
Cancellations after November 14 will be charged and not refunded.**

## Celebrate November Special Days

November has two major holidays, Veterans Day on the 11th and Thanksgiving on the 23rd, plus the U.S. Marine Corps birthday (November 10, 1775). And November is Aviation History Month. Less well-known are some of the minor observances in the month.

For instance, the first Thursday of November is Men Make Dinner Day, so get

out the cookbook or fire up the grill, guys. Restaurant reservations don't count. Then there's Clean Out Your Refrigerator Day on the 15th to get ready for space for Thanksgiving dinner leftovers. For those of you who remember the Li'l Abner comic strip, November 13 is Sadie Hawkins Day. Single guys might want to hide that day.

November 17 is Take a Hike Day, and we've got the perfect weather for a hike. Finally, if you've been putting off writing that book, do it now. November is Novel Writing Month.

### The Arizona Chapter MOAA - 2017 Board of Directors and Committee Chairs

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <b>PRESIDENT</b><br>Col Lee Lange, USMC<br>703-232-3609   | <b>NEWSLETTER EDITOR</b><br>Lt Col Jim Cullison USAF<br>602-482-3838          | <b>CHAPLAIN</b><br>COL Daniel Butler, USA<br>480-352-2682   |
| <b>FIRST VICE PRESIDENT</b><br>LTC Ron Bright, USA<br>480-614-9463  | <b>ADVERTISING</b><br>Lt Col Jim Cullison USAF<br>602-482-3838                | <b>PERSONAL AFFAIRS</b><br>Col Lee Lange USMC<br>703-232-3609   |
| <b>SECOND VICE PRESIDENT</b><br>CAPT Dave Price, USN<br>831-233-8131  | <b>ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS</b><br>Lt Col Jim Cullison, USAF<br>602-482-3838 | <b>PROGRAMS</b><br>CAPT Bruce Kosaveach, Chair<br>602-501-9876<br>Col Lee Lange, vice chair<br>703-232-3609 |
| <b>SECRETARY</b><br>CPT Paul Schnur, USA<br>480-443-8201  | <b>HISTORIAN / PHOTOGRAPHER</b><br>Lt Col Jim Cullison USAF<br>602-482-3838   | <b>ARRANGEMENTS</b><br>LTJG Donna Bright, USN<br>480-614-9463   |
| <b>TREASURER</b><br>Col Charles Bitner, USAF<br>602-943-0028  | <b>JROTC AWARDS</b><br>LCDR Terry Tassin USN<br>623-931-1546                  | <b>SCHOLARSHIPS</b><br>CAPT Jon Shawl<br>602-999-8253   |
| <b>IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT</b><br>Lt Col Jim Cullison, USAF<br>602-482-3838  | <b>LEGISLATION</b><br>Col Lee Lange, USMC<br>703-232-3609                     | <b>TRANSITION LIAISON</b><br>CDR Jim Draper USN<br>480-483-7769   |
| <b>DIRECTORS:</b><br>CDR Jim Draper USN, USN; MAJ Janet Stultz, USA;<br>CAPT Bruce Kosaveach, CAPT Jon Shawl USN; Beth<br>Cullison, USAF Spouse | <b>MEMBERSHIP</b><br>CAPT David Price, USN<br>831-233-8131                    | <b>WEBMASTER</b><br>COL Rob Welch USA<br>480-207-6446   |
|   | <b>SURVIVING SPOUSES</b><br>Susan Farrell, Surviving Spouse<br>602-993-8556   | <b>SHARE A RIDE</b><br>CAPT Frank Hoak III, USN<br>480-664-0047   |

Access Arizona Chapter's Internet Web Site at: [azmoaa.org](http://azmoaa.org)

Arizona Chapter  
Military Officers Association of America  
13819 N. 51st Street  
Scottsdale, AZ 85254



azmoaa.org



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