

### President's Perspective

by Ron Bright



I was thinking the other day about dedication and the many ways our dedication is tested. I wondered where would you look for it and how would you define it? How much of dedication is personal honor and what part does stubbornness play? When we say a person is dedicated, how do we know that? What attributes do we detect in this paragon that justifies our judgment? I was reminded of the founding fathers who dedicated their lives, fortune and sacred honor to the ideal of self governance and the United States of America. No one can doubt their dedication.

Then, on Saturday, I was standing next to CAPT Archie Kelley, USN (Ret). He was saying how much he was looking forward to

presenting the MOAA scholarships to the ROTC students in April and how important our task of keeping the officer corps effective is to our country. An Annapolis graduate, Pearl Harbor survivor, career Navy, and only days away from his centennial birthday, CAPT Kelley continues to serve by working to inspire excellent leadership and dedication in our young officers by being a living example to them. That's Dedication with a capital D!

Two days later we learned of the heroism of Peter Wang, Florida high school JROTC student, who put himself between an active shooter and his fellow students resulting in his own

death while saving many others. His dedication to his oath and his personal values were demonstrated without question. We mourn his death and are humbled by his sacrifice.

So I've decided that dedication is tangible and observable and is demonstrated by the commitment to an ideal or goal and the constant efforts to keep faith with our own values. Throw in a smidgen of stubbornness and that pretty well defines it.

Doesn't this remind you of someone? It reminds me of every military officer I've ever met.

### 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.

### 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:**

- March 1
- April 5

**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 2.

**Upcoming meetings:**

- March 17
- April 21

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## National Legislative Update

by Lee Lange

### Federal Government Budget Deal – and Continuing Resolution

The federal government briefly shut down and reopened Friday, Feb 16, as lawmakers finalized a two-year spending agreement. The spending package lifts budget caps on defense and nondefense spending, lifts the debt ceiling, and includes disaster relief for regions affected by hurricanes and other natural disasters.

In a win for defense hawks, the agreement provides an additional \$165 billion in defense spending over current budget caps over the next two years. The measure also provides the military with appropriations for the remainder of FY 2018.

The downside is that there is yet another Continuing Resolution for fiscal year 2018 that expires on March 23. Earlier, Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis outlined the dire consequences of passing another continuing resolution. In testimony before the House Armed Services Committee, Mattis said a fifth continuing resolution for the year would mean the services would be unable to recruit the 15,000 Army and 4,000 Air Force troops authorized and needed this year.

### Kicking the Can Down the Road

In a bit of historical irony, current statutory budget caps were imposed as part of the 2011 Budget Control Act, which also hiked the debt ceiling. To suspend the debt ceiling through March 2019, Congress was forced to lift the sequestration spending caps again. But the agreement comes with some very real costs. To help offset the cost of the deal, Congress extended sequestration for an additional two years, out to 2027.

The deal includes a provision establishing a “Joint Select Committee on Budget and Appropriations Process Reform,” which seeks to “significantly reform the budget and appropriations process.” A similar super committee was established in the 2011 budget law. That committee, tasked with reducing \$1.5 trillion from the deficit, led to sequestration. There’s a very real possibility this new super committee could come up with something similar - or worse. This is yet another case of kicking the can down the road instead of solving the tough issues now. All of us know that someday we will have to deal with these problems but Congress’ inaction now means a train wreck

later. Not good news.

### National Debt Rising

The second cost of the budget deal is the national debt. The budget deal assumes federal spending in two years will return to previously agreed on levels. In reality, these new numbers will be the baseline for future government spending. Coupled with nondefense spending increases, the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office projects the budget deal would increase next year’s deficits to roughly \$1.2 trillion; annual deficits would remain over \$1 trillion indefinitely. Congress needs to come to grips with all of this. Go to <https://www.moaa.org> and **click on Take Action** on top bar. Send your legislators a message that you want action, including a final 2018 budget through the end of the fiscal year.

## State Legislative Update

by Lee Lange

### SB 1167 - Veterans; Increased Income Tax Subtraction

The current Arizona tax deduction for military retirement is \$2,500 per year. SB 1167, as amended, would increase that deduction to \$6,250 in 2019 and to \$10,000 in 2020. A similar bill in the House, HB 2236, proposing an increase to \$5,000, was heard in Appropriations Committee Feb 19 and voted down 9-4. Supporters are mulling the next move but veterans will have to get behind this issue to get it passed. More to follow.

#### Primary Sponsor(s): Sen. Gail Griffin, R-Dist. 14

Major Actions: Feb 5, 2018 - Sen. Peterson motion to reconsider action in which SB 1167 failed on Third Reading on Feb 1 adopted. SB 1167 passed Senate 18-11-1 and transmitted to the House.

### HB 2191, HB2192 - Military Families; Assistance; Subaccounts

Extends the existing Military Family Relief Fund to 2026 and creates a separate sub account like the Military Family Relief Fund for the assistance of “Pre-9/11” veterans and their families who qualify. These actions keep program alive and address concerns that money now can’t be used to help veterans in Arizona who served before 9/11.

#### Primary Sponsor(s): Rep. Heather Carter, R-Dist. 15

Major Actions: Both bills passed the House and transmitted to the Senate. Feb 15, 2018 - First Read and assigned to Senate Commerce and Public Safety Committee, Senate Appropriations Committee, and Senate Rules Committee.



## Personal Affairs

By Lee Lange  
Personal Affairs Officer

### Should You Get the New Veteran ID Card?

*The following article is adapted from a piece authored by fellow veteran Jim Absher and published by Military.com and MOAA.*

In case you haven't heard, the VA is offering veterans a free ID card which can be used to prove your veteran status when needed at businesses and other locations.

The free ID card, which originally rolled-out in late November, was ordered by Congress in 2015 as a way to give veterans proof of service at businesses without carrying a copy of their DD-214 forms. It is available for all honorably discharged veterans, regardless of era or time in service.

If you are retired, your military ID card takes care of this issue. Veterans who are enrolled in the VA healthcare system already have a VA issued ID card. That leaves former officers and the majority of veterans without any valid proof of service that may be required to get special benefits from private firms.

### How Do You Get the Veterans ID Card?

Getting the card is actually pretty easy, at least as easy as dealing with the VA can be. It takes about 15 minutes to log on to VETS.GOV, create an account, enter your service data, and upload a selfie that you can take with your phone. The VA then mails you the card. Back in November when the program started, there were several issues with the website freezing up, in part due to high traffic to the website. According to the VA, those problems have been fixed.

## ... Personal Affairs, cont.

Veterans who sign up, will begin receiving their printed cards in early March. In the meantime, those with approved applications can download an image of their card directly from the VA website to print or use via their mobile phone.

### What Will the VA ID Card Do For Me?

Historically there hasn't been a better time to be a veteran. While the card won't necessarily get you any new federal or state benefits it will possibly get you some special perks like free meals on Veteran's Day, and discounts at many retailers or existing special benefits from the state or local government.

The new IDs will not qualify as official government-issued identification for air travel or other uses. The benefit does not allow shopping at brick and mortar military exchange stores or the commissary and does not include base access. The ID card program is voluntary.

Of course, here in Arizona, you also have the option of going down to your local ADOT office and have your driver's license annotated with your veteran status. You will need your DD-214 to make that happen.

If you have questions about this or any personal affairs matter, call me at (703) 232-3609 or let me know by email at [LFLange48@gmail.com](mailto:LFLange48@gmail.com).

### Welcome New Member

**CDR James Raymond Gwinn, USN (Ret)  
and daughter, Kathy Minckler**

**February 2018**

**Scholarship Donation**

**George W Hadley \$100**

**MARCH SPEAKER**



**Col Thomas H  
Kirk, Jr.  
USAF (Ret)  
Vietnam War  
Hero and POW**

We are honored to have Col Thomas H. Kirk Jr. USAF (Ret) speak at our March luncheon. He is a veteran of the Korean and Vietnam Wars.

He was commissioned through Air Force ROTC at Virginia Military Institute and flew both AT-6 spotter aircraft and F-86 Sabre fighter in the Korean War. After Korea and then being stationed at Edwards Air Force Base, Thomas earned his MBA at the University of Southern California.

Col Kirk flew combat missions over Vietnam in 1967 as the Commander of the 357th Tactical Fighter Squadron and was shot down over North Vietnam. He was captured and taken as a POW and spent 1,964 days in captivity. He was released during Operation Homecoming in 1973. After being stationed at Lowry AFB in Colorado, he served his final duty as Vice Commander of all Special Forces in Europe and retired from the Air Force in 1978. Thomas and wife, Ann, have two sons, Thomas and Robert.



*Star Fire 9th Hole with club house in background*



**MOAA ARIZONA CHAPTER  
ANNUAL**

**SCHOLARSHIP GOLF TOURNAMENT**

**WHEN:** Thursday, April 19th, 2018. Shotgun Start at 8:00 AM - please check-in between 6:30 -7:30 am.

**WHERE:** Starfire Golf Club at Scottsdale Country Club, 11500 N. Hayden, Scottsdale, Arizona.

**COST:** \$85 (golf participants) and \$18 (non golfers)

**WHO:** Members, guests, and anyone wishing to support deserving ASU ROTC Cadets.

**DRESS CODE:** Collared shirts are required. Soft spikes on golf shoes – you may wear sneakers

**WHAT:** Golf and Smoke House Buffet Lunch. Reservations and \$85.00 fee must be received by Thursday April 12th, 2018. Mail form on Page 3 and fees to Pat Dale, 480-661-5204. Email Pat with questions at patrickdale1@cox.net.

**SPECIAL RULES:** "Scramble" format with four used drives per player, minimum, in each four-some. Raw, actual team score will be used. Teams are grouped into two divisions based on overall index/handicap. Those wishing to eat lunch and not play golf will pay \$18, with those checks also made out to AZ Chapter MOAA, mailed to Pat. This is a very friendly, fun tournament. You do not have to be a super golfer to play and have fun with this group.

**Saturday March 17, 2018**

**McCormick Ranch Golf Club**

**\$25 REGISTRATION must be received**

**by 4:00 p.m. Tuesday, March 13**



**MOAA Arizona CHAPTER**  
**Annual**  
**SCHOLARSHIP GOLF TOURNAMENT**



I WANT TO SUPPORT THE SCHOLARSHIP FUND – HOWEVER, I CANNOT ATTEND, SO HERE IS MY **DONATION** TO THE SCHOLARSHIP FUND! HERE IS MY INFORMATION:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please Print)

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please Print)

Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please Print)

For donations of \$25 or more, your name and organization will be posted on a Golf Hole Tee Box Sponsor Sign for the tournament.

\* Make checks payable to: **AZ Chapter MOAA** Check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\* **Mail Donation** form to: Pat Dale, 12633 E. Kalil Dr., Scottsdale, AZ 85259

Email: [patrickdale1@cox.net](mailto:patrickdale1@cox.net), Phone: 480-661-5204

----- CUT HERE AND MAIL WITH CHECK -----



**MOAA Arizona CHAPTER**  
**Annual**  
**SCHOLARSHIP GOLF TOURNAMENT**



I WANT TO SUPPORT THE SCHOLARSHIP FUND – COUNT ME IN! Here is my REGISTRATION and ENTRY FEE.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please Print)

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please Print)

Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please Print)

USGA Index \_\_\_\_\_ or Estimated Handicap: \_\_\_\_\_

Note: tourney scoring is based on raw, actual team scores

\* Mail entry slip and fees to: Pat Dale, 12633 E. Kalil Dr., Scottsdale, AZ 85259 by **Thursday April 12**

\* Make checks out to: **AZ Chapter MOAA** Check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ included for \_\_\_\_\_ players (\$85 each).

Email: [patrickdale1@cox.net](mailto:patrickdale1@cox.net) Phone: 480-661-5204

## February COL Whit Wright, USA, Fort Huachuca Garrison Commander



COL Whit Wright, was our February luncheon guest speaker. He began his talk by acknowledging the presence of WWII hero, Archie Kelley, who served aboard the USS West Virginia when it received 7 torpedo hits during the Pearl Harbor attack.

COL Wright, in relating his duties, said, "I am like a city manager and mayor kind of swished together. I'm the executive agent for the commanding general Major General Bob Walters. We are responsible for all of the service deliveries to make sure

all service deliveries to make sure all the mission partners have the ability to execute their mission and stay ready for contingencies."

Ft Huachuca is the largest military installation in Arizona and is unique to other bases in that it serves three purposes: as an operational base, training base and testing center. It is a small "city" with a daytime population of 20,000 and 20,000 retirees in its immediate footprint. Ft Huachuca and Sierra Vista (population 45,000) have formed a great partnership.

Ft Huachuca is rich in frontier history. "In the 1870s a couple of small little mining towns, Bisbee and Tombstone, boomed with silver and gold and they brought farmers and ranchers and a whole micro economy supporting those population centers," related COL Wright. Because of the threat of Apache raids, a secure border was necessary. The 5000' elevation made it an excellent observation point of the valleys below. In 1882 the camp was made permanent and renamed Fort Huachuca.

COL Wright mentioned the Buffalo Soldiers from the 9th and 10th U.S. Cavalry, the 24th and 25th Infantry and the 92nd and 93rd Infantry as an interesting and valuable component of Ft Huachuca's his-

tory from 1890 up to today. After WWII, the base was closed and turned over to the Governor of the state of Arizona who made the commanding general's house his summer home. It also became a refuge for the buffalo that roamed on the range there.

Modern history began in 1954 when the Army Signal Corps at Ft Monmouth and other installations on the east coast needed a place to train. The Cold War was kicking off, and technology was extending equipment ranges beyond existing bases.

COL Wright noted that Ft Huachuca is a key component of our national defense and the premier site for cyber defense, intel training, doctrine and capabilities development. Ft Huachuca is home to the United States Army Intelligence Center of Excellence (USAICoE), the Network Enterprise Technology Command (NETCOM), the United States Army Information Systems Engineering Command (USAISEC), and the Joint Interoperability Test Command (JITC). It also the headquarters of Army Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS) and the Electronic Proving Ground (EPG). It is also the home of Army & Marine Corps UAS training and manned-unmanned training.

### MEMBERSHIP by Dave Price, Membership Chairman

As with every year at this time, February and March find us trying to finish up the renewals for membership in our chapter. Unfortunately, we find ourselves now almost two months past the renewal due date of January 1 with 60 members who still haven't renewed. Yikes! By the time this Sentinel is published, I will have already had to reconcile our membership roster with National's. If you haven't renewed your membership yet and plan to, please do so as soon as possible. It's not too late!

On a separate note, some time ago Chuck Schluter shared the idea to use our individual copies of the MOAA magazine, Military Officer, as a chapter recruiting tool. We ask that you consider sharing your copy of the magazine after you have finished with it, perhaps by leaving it in a waiting room or reception area at your doctor or dentist office or some other location where it is likely to be seen by those eligible for membership (veteran service organizations, the VA, hospital waiting rooms, etc). Please do ensure it is OK to leave your copy wherever you plan to share it. In that vein, we have created and professionally printed a label to replace the mailing label on the magazine (example below). We will have them available at the monthly Saturday luncheons. If you plan to share your magazine, please pick up a sheet of labels (5 per sheet) at our next meeting. You are our best recruiters. Thanks!

Arizona Chapter

Military Officers Association of America

Open to former, retired and active commissioned  
and warrant officers of the Armed Forces,

Guard and Reserve and U.S. Public Health Service.

Join today at [www.azmoaa.org/membership](http://www.azmoaa.org/membership)

## Meal Price for 2018 Luncheons

McCormick Ranch raised the price in January for our monthly luncheons to \$25 per person—the first raise in price in three years and the only the second in six years!

The sit-down full-meal price includes service, tip, dessert, beverage and reserved room with audio-visual equipment. The meal price is at cost to the chapter. A treasury surcharge is not added. The quality of meals has improved over the last 18 months and excellent menus are in place for 2018.

### March Luncheon

**WHEN:** March 17, 2018  
11:00 am Meet & Greet Social Hour  
11:45 am Lunch

**WHERE:** McCormick Ranch Golf Club,  
Scottsdale

**COST:** \$25 Per Person

**DRESS:** Business Casual

**MENU:** Chicken Cordon Bleu, Herbed Rice Pilaf,  
Sherry Chicken Jus, Traditional Caesar Salad,  
Apple Fruit Cobbler

**PROGRAM:** Col Thomas H Kirk, Jr. USAF 1950-1978  
Vietnam War Hero and POW

## Arizona Chapter 2018 Schedule of Meetings and Events

### January:

Board Meeting on the 4th  
Luncheon on the 20th

### February:

Board Meeting on the 1st  
Luncheon on the 17th

### March:

Board Meeting on the 1st  
Luncheon on the 17th

### April:

Board Meeting on the 5th  
Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament - 19th  
Luncheon and Scholarship Presentations  
on the 21st

### May:

Board Meeting on the 3rd  
Luncheon on the 19th

**June-August:** no meetings but stay tuned  
for possible summer social event

### September:

Board Meeting on the 6th  
Luncheon on the 15th

### October:

Board Meeting on the 4th  
Picnic luncheon on the 20th

### November:

Board Meeting on the 1st  
Luncheon on the 17th

### December:

Board Meeting on the 6th  
Luncheon/Holiday Party on the 15th

### 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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$25.00/person) for the March 2018 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 March 13**  
**Cancellations after March 13 will be charged and not refunded.**



**RECOGNITION AWARDS**

Long-time chapter members, Jim and Beth Cullison, were recognized for their ten years' of leadership and many contributions to the Arizona Chapter, MOAA. Jim is a Past President and was the Sentinel newsletter editor for 10 years. He still serves as Chief of Electronic Communications and as Historian/Photographer. Jim received MOAA's President's Award. Beth has served as Secretary, Membership Chair and on the fundraising committee. She received MOAA's Outstanding Service Award. We thank you for your dedication and service. Congratulations!

**The Arizona Chapter MOAA - 2018 Board of Directors and Committee Chairs**

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

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Military Officers Association of America  
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