



# The Sentinel

## Arizona's First Chapter



The Arizona Chapter

7101 E Indian School Road

Scottsdale, AZ 85251

SEPTEMBER 2019 CHARTERED Oct 1956 62 YEARS OF SERVICE TO COUNTRY EDITOR: JANET LANGE

### President's Perspective

by Pete Berger



Greetings to the Arizona Chapter MOAA membership. My name is Pete Berger, Major, USAF, Ret. I was previously your Vice President. I am now serving in the position of acting President due to the severe illness of our President, Mike Rogers.

#### Mike Rogers

As of this writing, Mike is beginning to show signs of recovery from medical complications resulting from his diagnosis of West Nile Virus – primarily meningitis and encephalitis. Mike has been somewhat responsive to family members but still is unable to receive visitors. I will continue to get updates from his brother and keep our chapter membership informed. Mike likely faces a lengthy recovery process.

#### Chapter Focus

Having been thrust into this position early, I am acutely aware and beneficiary of the corporate wisdom of so many of our key officers – past and present. I am grateful for their assistance. The chapter will continue to focus on key initiatives this coming year. Attracting **new members** is a paramount concern along with keeping our members involved. Outreach efforts to prospective members are underway. Planning is underway to continue offering additional **social activities** such as the

Happy Hour event we did last year.

We will also be addressing our **financial situation**, with the assistance of our Treasurer and financial committee, by developing a budget that will allow us to continue to provide scholarships and perhaps other forms of assistance to ROTC students and support to other veteran groups in need.

There is a need to increase **volunteerism** in our chapter with more people assuming positions of responsibility or serving on key committees to ensure mission accomplishment and smooth continuity of functions going forward. Look for more information soon on opportunities to serve.

#### May Chapter Awards

Since our last Sentinel newsletter in May, the chapter received word that our website has received a 5-star award and our newsletter a 4-star award for 2018 as part of the MOAA Communications Awards program. Mike Rogers presented certificates to Webmaster Rob Welch and Newsletter Editor Janet Lange at the May meeting.

#### Memorial Day

Also in May, the chapter participated in the Memorial Day Ceremony at the National Cemetery in Phoenix. Many

thanks to Mike Rogers, Bruce Kosaveach, Jack Farley and Lee Lange for manning the chapter color guard at the ceremony. More thanks to Mike Rogers and his wife, Diane, for participating in the wreath laying ceremony later in the program.

#### August Recognition

In August we learned Paula Pedene and Col Tom Sheets USMC (Ret) were named to the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame Class of 2019. They will be inducted into the Hall of Fame on October 18, 2019. Paula is a Navy veteran and heads the Phoenix Veterans Day Parade. Tom Sheets is our Chapter Vice President. Congratulations to both!

Also in August, word was received from MOAA that our chapter has again been selected to receive a 5-star award for 2018 as part of the Levels of Excellence Award Program. This will be the 16<sup>th</sup> consecutive award for the chapter. In addition, all Arizona chapters have again earned the 5-star award as has the council.

#### Period of Change

Our Chapter, like many other organizations, is going through a period of change which offers challenges and opportunities. I am confident we will meet the challenges, capitalize on opportunities and have fun as we do it.

Let's have a great rest of 2019 and on into 2020.

#### Arizona Chapter Calendar

**Board of Directors**  
meets at 1030 hours  
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:**  
• Sept 5  
• Oct 3

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

**Upcoming meetings:**  
• Sept 21 Luncheon  
• Oct 19 Luncheon

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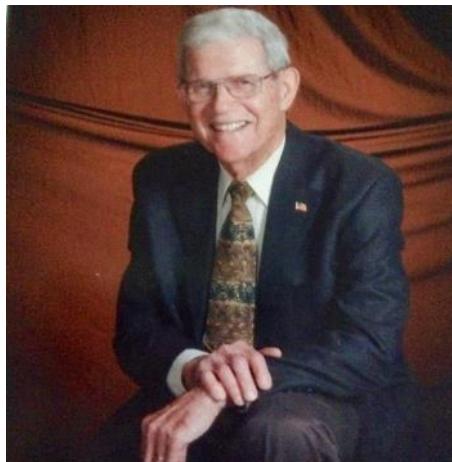
- Treasurer Report on Golf  
Tournament

## Lt Col George MacDonald, Air Force (Ret)

It was December 1941 and Japan had just overrun the Philippines where George MacDonald was living as an 11 year old with his parents. His subsequent three years sets the background for his presentation to us on:

### **"My Life as a POW"**

A part of George's presentation will be the story of their spectacular rescue.



Saturday May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2019

McCormick Ranch Golf Club

**REGISTRATION/RESERVATION must be received by 4:00 p.m. Tuesday, September 17<sup>th</sup>**

**\$25 per person** includes lunch. Make check payable to: AZ Chapter MOAA Send to:

Charlie Bitner, 134 E. Northview Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85020

Or contact Charlie at 602-943-0028 or Charles@bitner36.com



**Robert K. Smoldt, M.B.A.**

**Emeritus Chief Administrative Officer, Mayo Clinic**

Our **May speaker** was Robert Smoldt, Emeritus Chief Administrative Officer for the Mayo Clinic, Scottsdale. June 6, 2019 marked the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day. The Mayo Clinic has had a close connection with the military for many years which reached its peak in WW II. Doctors, along with numerous relatives of Mayo staff, participated in the D-Day invasion. The speaker, several Mayo staff members and their wives made a trip to Normandy for the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2009. Many pictures from then and now were included in the presentation. The trip was highlighted by visits to D-Day related locations in England and France where Mayo Clinic staff and their relatives were involved in the fight. Several doctors from Mayo were important leaders in the effort. Visiting Normandy shows very clearly the sacrifice made by U.S. and Allied troops in

the battle. Howard Anderson, a Mayo clinician, was aboard the destroyer USS Corry when she was sunk by German fire off the landing beaches. He later served in the Pacific with the Marines. Liberty ships including the SS Mayo Brothers supported the D-Day landings. Some 2000 bombers supported the invasion including a future Mayo physician among the pilots. The U.S. airborne troops included numerous gliders in support of their operations. Among the troops was Lt. Booker, a cousin, of a Mayo staff member. He helped lead the assault on a key bridge behind the landing beaches. Numerous aid stations provided medical support to the troops. At least one was headed by a future Mayo doctor. In the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division, just one of the company commanders in the initial assault wave survived. Capt Bob Hurwitz missed his drop zone and that may have saved his life. The Germans had his intended drop zone covered by fire. He was captured but later, friendly shelling helped him escape. Capt Hurwitz survived the war and is related to a Mayo physician. In the Q/A after the talk, chapter member Jack Farley talked about his father flying one of the C-47's that dropped U.S. paratroopers behind the beaches of Normandy on D-Day.



The Board of Directors of the Southwest Veterans Foundation (SWVF)

cordially invites the members and guests of the

***Arizona Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America***

to our **5<sup>th</sup> Annual Patriots Ball** to help us

***Remember Those Forgotten—the Veterans of the Korean & Vietnam Wars***

**Saturday October 26, 2019 from 5:30 to 11:00 pm at the**

**Pointe Hilton Tapatio Cliffs Resort 11111 N 7<sup>th</sup> St Phoenix, AZ 85020**

**Tickets: \$125 for Members of the SWVCC; \$150 for Non-members**

Attire: Cocktail Attire/Uniforms--Formal Wear Optional

Tickets: Available at [www.swvfoundation.org](http://www.swvfoundation.org), the September MOAA Luncheon, or at 602.677.2961

Profits benefit the SWVF, an IRS approved 501(c)(3) non-profit that supports Veterans & their families.

## HONORING OUR FALLEN WARRIORS



Our Chapter color guard prepares for the parade of colors at the Memorial Day ceremony; from left, Bruce Kosaveach, Lee Lange, Mike Rogers and Jack Farley.



Color Guard members execute an Eyes Right as they pass reviewing stand.



President Mike Rogers stands with the Chapter Commemorative Wreath at the ceremony.



## Personal Affairs

*Lee Lange, Personal Affairs Officer*

### Tips for Using TRICARE for Life Overseas

Many of us travel overseas and hope we will stay healthy during the trip. But what happens if you get sick while enjoying your vacation? MOAA staff member Amber Monks offers some tips regarding foreign health care.

Under TRICARE for Life (**TFL**), you are enrolled in Medicare parts A and B and in TRICARE. In the U.S., Medicare acts as your primary payer and TRICARE as your Medicare supplement. However, Medicare does not cover overseas expenses, so TRICARE becomes your primary payer in medical emergencies while you are out of the country.

Overseas, your TRICARE Medicare supplement converts to the TRICARE Select plan. In this case, you will pay TRICARE Select's annual deductible and cost shares. This is different from your familiar Medicare billing process. The bottom line is, expect to pay plenty in out-of-pocket expenses.

If you are fortunate enough to be in an area quickly accessible to a U.S. military base or hospital, you might be able to receive treatment there. Just remember that TFL beneficiaries are seen at a military treatment facility on a space available basis, so have a back-up plan.

### Start Out Healthy

Before you leave for your trip, you will want to make sure that all routine doctor visits are completed and that you have all necessary medication for the duration of your trip. While you will be able to file a claim for emergency visits, TRICARE will not cover any routine care that occurs out of the country.

Be prepared to pay for any service you receive out of the country. You are responsible for paying any amount that exceeds the TRICARE-allowable charge, in addition to your deductible and cost-shares. After you receive the service, you will need to submit a claim. TFL beneficiaries should file claims in the overseas areas where they received care once they return home.

Be sure to save any proof of payment that you receive from your overseas provider as you will be required to submit these with claims for care received overseas. Proof might include a credit card receipt, canceled check, credit card statement, or an invoice from the provider that indicates payment was received.

### Getting Help Overseas

International SOS Government Services is the contractor administering the TFL benefit overseas and will be working with you if you need their services. Contact information to get you connected to the proper agency is listed in the TRICARE Overseas Program Guide at the link below. All claims for care outside the U.S. and U.S. territories must be filed within three years of the inpatient discharge.

The best thing to do is download the **TRICARE Overseas Program (TOP) Guide** by going to <https://tricare.mil> and enter **TOP** in the search block. You can then open or save the Guide. It has detailed information about overseas coverage including contact information for filing claims based on the region where you are traveling. TOP Service Centers (TSC) are located in overseas areas to help you find providers. If you have additional questions regarding your TFL benefits overseas, Premium and Life MOAA Members have exclusive access to subject matter experts through MOAA's Member Service Center at (800) 234-6622. Travel safe.

### Nominating Committee

The Chapter Nominating Committee, consisting of Pete Berger, Ron Bright, Tom Sheets and Lee Lange, has been working over the summer on the slate of officers for 2020. In the past, we've had some great response with members stepping up to serve as officers, board members and committee chairs. We continue to look for more members to participate, especially those who may never have been directly involved. Our elected board of directors and officers are intended to reflect the makeup of our chapter by service and demographics. The ideal succession plan also includes chapter members who have not previously held leadership positions in the organization.

(Continued on Page 5)



## National Legislative Update

*by Lee Lange, Legislative Chair*

### MOAA Launches “Summer Storm”

Members of Congress left Washington August 2 for annual summer recess, heading back to their districts and states to focus on their constituents at home. Congress will be back in session September 9.

This is a great time to coordinate efforts on two pressing issues: repealing “the widow’s tax” and addressing the 18,000 medical billet reductions. MOAA invites you to participate in the 2019 Summer Storm, a campaign for the FY 2020 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). Many of you have received messages from MOAA on this already but have you acted yet?

What is a Summer Storm? Think of it as similar to MOAA’s Storming the Hill (done every April) in Washington. This summer MOAA has coordinated two topics, along with supporting materials and they are asking MOAA’s 350,000 members to engage the 535 members of Congress during the work periods.

This Summer Storm can consist of personal visits, letters, emails, and/or phone calls. Here is an overview of the two most pressing topics, which are the subjects of the storm:

**Widows Tax:** Repealing the widow’s tax has been a goal of MOAA for decades. The growing number of cosponsors for H.R. 553 (372 cosponsors) and S.622 (75 cosponsors) indicates momentum from Congress stemming from active advocacy by MOAA, The Military Coalition and other associations, as well as an army of surviving spouses through various platforms and personal visits.

- While the bills have significant support, the pay-for requirement has repeatedly derailed progress on the Hill.

- This year, Rep. Adam Smith (D-Wash.), chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, included the provision to repeal the widows tax in the House version of the FY 2020 NDAA; the Senate remains silent although Sen. Jim Inhofe (R-Okla.), Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, proclaimed his support.

**Billet reductions:** DoD, due to a requirement in the 2017 NDAA, has initiated a cut of 18,000 medical billets without thinking through the impact this would have on overall readiness, recruiting and retention, graduate medical education and support to beneficiaries.

- MOAA applied a full-court press on the Hill with appropriators and authorizers, which has led to the House including language in the FY 2020 NDAA to stand down from those cuts until proper analysis and assessments are completed.
- The Senate has not included this language in their draft of the defense bill, and the staffers indicate a degree of support for the cuts as authorized in the FY 2017 NDAA.

MOAA’s and many other associations’ interests in the **widow’s tax** and the **billet reductions** are represented in the House version of the NDAA. We want the House version to prevail in final negotiations.

You can support the Summer Storm by accessing MOAA’s supporting materials [here](#) (share the link -- [MOAA.org/SummerStorm](#) -- with your network) starting now through September 9. Send messages to your U.S Representative and Senators as provided by MOAA. Call or visit your legislators if you have a personal relationship with them.

**We need to help MOAA** and help ourselves to ensure the NDAA maintains the language supporting repeal of the **widow’s tax** as well as a halt to the medical **billet reductions** until the impacts are properly analyzed and shared with Congress.

### Nominating Committee (Continued from Page 4)

We have a few openings in 2020 positions critical to our continued smooth operation and success including Arrangements Chair, Board of Directors (2), Chapter Secretary, Membership Chair, Newsletter Editor and Webmaster. If you are interested in serving in any capacity this year or in the future, please contact Chapter President, Pete Berger. Any of the Nominating Committee members can tell you more about the position in which you are interested and answer your questions. Volunteers in leadership positions are vital to having the type of chapter members expect as well as continuing our 16-year record as an MOAA 5-Star Chapter. Your interest in serving is greatly appreciated.

## Summer Fun



We had no meetings during the summer, however, we enjoyed two social events for members, spouses and guests on Dolly Steamboat at Canyon Lake in June and at the Diamondbacks/Brewers game in July.



**The Dolly Steamboat Fun**  
with Southwest Veterans  
Chamber and Foundation  
and Arizona Chapter  
MOAA members on  
Canyon Lake in June 2019

Two Dollies!  
Ronnie Welch and "Dolly"



The SWVCC , SWVF and MOAA  
Canyon Lake Adventurers



After the Steamboat, hungry Canyon Lake travelers pose  
at Tortilla Flats general store & saloon-style eatery



Ron and Donna Bright, Lisa and Tom  
Sheets, Judy Brooks, and  
Diane and Mike Rogers



**The Arizona Diamondbacks**  
welcomed 21 AZMOAA chapter  
members including our newest,  
Robert Fiegl and wife, Deanna,  
for a game against the Milwaukee  
Brewers on July 21. Everyone  
had a good time, even  
though the Diamondbacks lost.



## September 21 Luncheon

**WHEN:** September 21, 2019  
 11:00 am Meet & Greet Social Hour  
 11:45 am Lunch

**WHERE:** McCormick Ranch Golf Club  
 Scottsdale

**COST:** \$25 Per Person reservation by  
 4 PM on 9/17/2019

**DRESS:** Business Casual

**MENU:** Chicken Piccata, Herbed Rice Pilaf,  
 Traditional Caesar Salad, Apple Pie

**PROGRAM:** Lt Col George MacDonald, Air Force (Ret)  
 will talk to us about being captured with his parents  
 as an 11-year-old boy by the Japanese in 1941 and his  
 life as a POW.

## Arizona Chapter 2019 Schedule

### September 2019:

- \* Board Meeting on the 5th
- \* Luncheon on the 21st

### October 2019:

- \* Board Meeting on the 3rd
- \* Luncheon on the 19th

### November 2019:

- \* Board Meeting on the 7th
- \* Luncheon on the 16th

## TAPS

*It is with great sorrow that we  
 inform you of the passing  
 of our good friend and  
 1988 AZMOAA Chapter President*

**LT James C. Seidl, USCG (Ret)**

*Oct 4, 1919 — June 15, 2019*

*Beloved Father of  
 Christine B Simpson*

*Our heartfelt thoughts go out to  
 Christine and the family at this time*

## Save the Date

**October 19. 2019 11 am— 2pm**

**PICNIC**

Rotary Ramada  
 Stillman RR Park  
 McCormick Ranch

## CHAPTER FINANCIAL PARTICIPATION

If you would like to **make a donation** to one or more of the **AZ Chapter Funds**, include a separate check identified with the appropriate fund and mail to: **Charlie Bitner, 134 E. Northview Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85020, 602-943-0028, charles@bitner36.com**.

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

Name of Donor: \_\_\_\_\_

## LUNCHEON RESERVATION FORM

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

Enclosed is my check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$25.00/person) for the **September 21, 2019 Luncheon**.  
 Your check payable to: **AZ Chapter MOAA** can be delivered at the luncheon or mailed to: **Charlie Bitner, 134 E. Northview Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85020, 602-943-0028, charles@bitner36.com** by **September 17**.  
 Credit Cards will be accepted at the luncheon.

**Member reservations or call-ins WILL NOT be accepted after September 17.  
 Cancellations after September 17 will be charged and not refunded.**

## Scholarship Golf Tournament Proceeds by Charlie Bitner, Treasurer

Between the silent auction and the annual golf tournament held earlier this year, the Scholarship Fund netted \$6,469.13 from both events. That amount was critical to helping cover the \$10,000 in scholarships granted this year and is the result of a tremendous effort on the parts of Jack Farley and Beth Cullison, in particular. The Chapter owes them, and all the other volunteers who so willingly donated auction items as well as their time and talents, a big debt of gratitude.



## The Arizona Chapter MOAA - 2019 Board of Directors and Committee Chairs

<b>PRESIDENT</b> Maj Pete Berger, USAF <b>FIRST VICE PRESIDENT</b> Col Tom Sheets, USMC <b>SECOND VICE PRESIDENT</b> VACANT <b>SECRETARY</b> Sherry Kosaveach, USAF Spouse CAPT Judy Brooks, USN <b>TREASURER</b> Col Charles Bitner, USAF <b>IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT</b> COL Ron Bright, USA <b>DIRECTORS:</b> CAPT Judy Brooks, USN; CDR Jack Farley, USN; LT Bob Hinton, USN; CAPT Bruce Kosaveach, USN; CAPT Jon Shawl, USN.	<b>NEWSLETTER EDITOR</b> Janet Lange, USMC Spouse <b>ADVERTISING</b> Janet Lange, USMC Spouse <b>ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS</b> Lt Col Jim Cullison, USAF <b>HISTORIAN / PHOTOGRAPHER</b> Lt Col Jim Cullison, USAF <b>JROTC AWARDS</b> Lt Col John Simmons, USAF <b>LEGISLATION</b> Col Lee Lange, USMC <b>MEMBERSHIP</b> CAPT David Price, USN <b>SURVIVING SPOUSES</b> Susan Farrell, Surviving Spouse	602-739-0586 623-444-7683 602-501-9876 623-810-5790 602-943-0028 480-614-9463	571-722-4348 571-722-4348 602-482-3838 602-482-3838 623-326-5352 703-232-3609 831-233-8131 602-993-8556	<b>CHAPLAIN</b> COL Daniel Butler, USA <b>PERSONAL AFFAIRS</b> Col Lee Lange, USMC <b>PROGRAMS</b> CAPT Bruce Kosaveach, Chair <b>ARRANGEMENTS</b> Col Lee Lange, USMC <b>SCHOLARSHIPS</b> CAPT Phil Roos, USN Ret <b>TRANSITION LIAISON</b> CDR Jim Draper USN <b>WEBMASTER</b> VACANT	480-352-2682 703-232-3609 602-501-9876 703-232-3609 928-420-2130 480-483-7769
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Access Arizona Chapter's Internet Web Site at: [azmoaa.org](http://azmoaa.org)

Arizona Chapter  
Military Officers Association of America  
41122 N. Majesty Way  
Anthem, AZ 85086



**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**