



The Sentinel

Arizona's First Chapter



The Arizona Chapter

7912 E. Cactus Wren Road

Scottsdale, AZ 85250

DECEMBER 2019 CHARTERED Oct 1956 63 YEARS OF SERVICE TO COUNTRY EDITOR: JANET LANGE

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

by Pete Berger



DEDICATION TO VETERANS ...

Our Chapter continues to demonstrate our dedication to helping our past, present and future veterans. The response to our Toys for Tots drive and our personal hygiene bags for homeless veterans was excellent. Thank you all for your participation! We continue to solicit your help in volunteering for Chapter positions of service, bringing in new members, keeping up with dues and by sharing your ideas on how to better our Chapter.

See you at our Holiday Party **December 21!**

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:
• Dec 5
• Jan 2

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:
• Dec 21 Holiday Party
• Jan 18, 2020

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GRATEFUL ...

At this writing I am hoping you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving and are anticipating a Joyous Christmas and Happy Holiday Season! I have been grateful for the opportunity to be part of our MOAA Chapter and to fulfill our mission of service to our fellow veterans – past, present and future. I am also grateful for the assistance I have received from so many of you. My job would have been impossible without your help.

ARMY- NAVY GAME ...

We did not have a good turnout from November's Army- Air Force game social and fundraising event so no money was raised. I strongly encourage all who can, to join us for the **Army-Navy game on December 14 at Famous 48, Gainey Village, Scottsdale** to support fund raising but also to have a good time.

HOLIDAY PARTY ...

I hope to see you all at our Holiday Party **December 21**. We will be installing new officers for 2020 but that is our only business. Then on to the annual Chinese Auction. Remember to bring an item for the auction if you want to participate in the gift exchange. It is always a good time and a wonderful way to celebrate the Holiday Season.



BE CONNECTED ...

The "be connected" Program at www.BeConnectedAz.org I mentioned in our November luncheon is worth investigating if you have not already done so.

PTSD ...

In addition the PTSD Foundation of America has an Arizona Chapter and their website is ptsdUSA.org. I would also encourage you to fill out the Arizona Veterans Survey on www.AZVeteransSurvey.org.

CHAPTER EXPENSES ...

Looking ahead, it appears that at some point in the future, we will need to raise our Chapter dues. I do not anticipate this happening in 2020 but believe it will need to happen in 2021. Our Chapter expenses are edging upward in part because with no volunteers, we had to retain a professional to perform the Chapter Webmaster functions. Some good news is that meal prices for our lunch meetings will remain \$25 through May of 2020. Contract negotiations will determine the price for September and going forward.

MEMBERSHIP—Dave Price, Membership Chair

Dues are due 1 January 2020!

I begin this entry to the Sentinel with a reminder for everyone to pay their annual chapter dues. Your chapter dues enable the all-volunteer officers and directors to ensure the chapter remains viable and operating per our charter. We are a very efficiently-run organization on a very tight operating budget that is nail-biter close every year, especially when members fail to pay their dues. Since I've been tracking our dues, we annually have many members who lapse; some perhaps deciding that they're just not interested anymore but some might have simply forgotten to pay. Believe it or not, as I write this, we still have over 30 people who didn't pay their dues for 2019; dues that were due last January 1st! Some of these are relatively new members who might confuse chapter and national dues, though our request for information on their desires for continued membership have gone unanswered. But many on the dink list are members who have been in good standing for years. Unfortunately, our bylaws state that a member who fails to pay dues "shall be classified as 'delinquent' after sixty (60) days and shall be dropped after ninety (90) days." We work long and hard to avoid actually dropping people, but we did drop 17 members who didn't pay dues in 2018 and are now looking at dropping nearly 30 from 2019. Yikes! Please take action on your 2020 dues as soon as possible. If you're not sure if or what you owe, please e-mail me at daveandsusanprice@cox.net.

Who can join MOAA

Eligibility: Men and women who are or have been federally commissioned in one of the seven U.S. uniformed services:

Army

Navy

Air Force

Marine Corps

Coast Guard

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Public Health Services

National Guard or other Reserve Components of those services.

Widows and widowers of deceased individuals who would, if living, be eligible for regular membership in accordance with the above.



MEMBERSHIP/DUES RENEWAL FORM

There's Still Time to **Save on Renewal for 2020!**

It's time to RENEW your 2020 AZ MOAA Chapter membership AND there's still time to get the **Early Bird Special!**

Simply complete your information below and send it with your check — **\$18 for a Regular Member** or **\$9 for Surviving Spouse Member** no later than December 31. Dues return to their regular price of \$20 and \$10 respectively on January 1, 2020. Make check made payable to "AZ Chapter MOAA" and mail to: Treasurer **Charlie Bitner, 134 E. Northview Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85020.**

Member Name _____ Spouse Name _____

Please make any changes to Address:

Phone number: _____ Email: _____



National Legislative Update

by Lee Lange, Legislative Chair

Congress Kicks the Can - Again

President Trump signed another Continuing Resolution (CR) on November 21 to keep the government running until December 20. Without the measure, the government would have shut down at midnight November 21. This gives lawmakers an additional month to finish their work on FY 2020 spending bills.

This summer, lawmakers agreed to a two-year budget deal to raise discretionary limits **for defense** and non-defense programs. But disagreements over spending priorities delayed work allocating funds to individual agencies. As a result, the government has operated under a CR since the start of the fiscal year, October 1.

Lawmakers from both parties and defense leaders all agree that continuing resolutions are disruptive to servicemembers and military readiness but they also agree that the resolutions are preferable to a government shutdown. Disagreements over funding priorities last year resulted in a 35-day partial government shutdown that ran from December 22 to January 25. The partial shutdown was the longest in American history and resulted in members of the Coast Guard, U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Corps working without pay.

MOAA fought to ensure the pay and benefits of all servicemembers, active and retired, continued throughout the last shutdown. Those efforts will resume if a fix isn't found but the goal is to pass a long-term legislative solution that includes much-needed reforms to various military and veteran programs.

Learn more about those efforts, and how you can help, via [MOAA's Legislative Action Center](#). Send a message to Congress on the issues most important to you and tell them to do their job.

Fair Lending Ballot Initiative

The **Arizona** Fair Lending Act is a ballot initiative for 2020 to **limit interest rates to 36%** on car title loans in Arizona. This would match what is in federal lending law now for active military members. Currently, title loans in Arizona can go as high as **204%** and potentially affect thousands of veterans in Arizona not on active duty or in a drilling reserve status.

The ballot initiative would allow Arizonans to vote on the issue and, if passed, would become law. A committee called Arizonans for Fair Lending is leading this effort. They are a coalition of veteran's groups, local charities and faith-based organizations. I am a member of the Steering Committee for this group. The Arizona Council of Chapters has endorsed this effort.



Personal Affairs

Lee Lange, Personal Affairs Officer

More Veterans and Caregivers Gain Base Access

The *Military Times* reports new commissary and exchange customers will be granted on-base access in two phases, based on whether they have a Department of Veterans Affairs health insurance card, according to new information released by the Pentagon.

The VA and Defense Department have fleshed out some of their plans to let 4.1 million new customers enjoy access next year to commissaries, military exchanges and recreation facilities located on secure military installations.

Am I eligible?

Purple Heart recipients, former prisoners of war, veterans with any service-connected disability and caregivers registered with the VA's Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers program will be able to shop beginning Jan. 1. Reserve members who fit this description will also have access.

These veterans and caregivers will be able to shop at commissaries and exchanges and use some MWR facilities, such as golf courses, bowling alleys and movie theaters.

Retired service members, Medal of Honor recipients and veterans with a service-related disability rating of 100 percent will continue to have access to on-base facilities and can obtain a DoD identification card to get on base.

I'm an eligible veteran. What do I do to get access?

Veterans with a VA's Veteran Health Identification Card (VHIC) will be able to shop online and get on base to shop in person at commissaries, exchanges and some MWR facilities.

Veterans who don't have a VHIC will be able to shop only online, with access to MWR online and American-ForcesTravel.com, until the DoD figures out how to give them secure access to bases, officials said.

"When DoD and VA identify a credentialing solution for all Veterans eligible under the Purple Heart and Disabled Veterans Equal Access Act of 2018," the guidance states, "DoD will roll out a new phase of access to accommodate current veterans who are not eligible to obtain a VHIC but are eligible for these privileges."

Veterans with a VHIC can check in with the base visitor control center to gain base access beginning Jan. 1. Everyone will have to pass a basic, on-the-spot background check with initial access and have an automated check each subsequent time. Veterans or caregivers with felony convictions, felony arrest warrants or derogatory information related to criminal history or terrorism will be prohibited from entering. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 5**

PEARL HARBOR DAY Commemoration Ceremony

On December 7th (Pearl Harbor Day) the Chapter will be participating in the Pearl Harbor Commemoration Ceremony. The ceremony will be held at 10:55 AM Saturday, December 7, 2019 at Wesley Bolen Plaza near the Arizona state capitol. This year marks the 78th Anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor and Arizona is the only state still conducting a ceremony to mark the event. Ron and Donna Bright will participate in the wreath laying portion of the ceremony with the chapter wreath. Also expected is a fly-over of WW II vintage aircraft. See you there!



A new exhibit, 'Sacred Steel', featuring a section recovered from the sunken battleship USS Arizona will be dedicated in a formal ceremony **2 pm December 7, 2019** at the Commemorative Air Force Airbase Arizona in Mesa. The public is invited to attend the ceremony.

The USS Arizona sank in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii 78 years ago when Imperial Japan bombed the U.S. in a ferocious air attack, catapulting the U.S. into World War II – one of the most consequential periods in world history.

The ceremony includes unveiling the permanent display and a 30-minute program about the inspiring significance of the exhibit. Ceremony participants will include Mesa Mayor John Giles, Mesa High School Junior ROTC, and the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Band. Authentic recordings of the announcement that shocked the American public about the attack and catapulted the U.S. into World War II will be played. A special collection of original war posters calling citizens to unify a response to the attack will also go on display.

Attendance at the special event is included in regular admission (\$15 adults, \$12 seniors and veterans, \$5 kids ages 5 to 12, free for kids under five and disabled veterans. **Group rates of \$10 each are available for adult groups of eight or more. RSVP to Bruce Kosaveach for the \$10/per person group rate offer.**

Commemorative Air Force Airbase Arizona Museum

2017 N Greenfield Road

Mesa, Arizona 85215

480-924-1940

www.azcaf.org

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.



November Speaker, Mario Diaz
Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army - Arizona North
"The role of Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army"

Pete Berger, Mario Diaz and Bruce Kosaveach

Mario Diaz grew up in East Los Angeles and came to Arizona to attend ASU. While he did not serve in the military, Mr. Diaz has family members who served. He has worked for U.S. Representative Ed Pastor and then for Governor Janet Napolitano, as her Deputy Chief of Staff. He was appointed as a Civilian Aide to Secretary of the Army in 2016. This is a three-star equivalent assignment. There are 100 in the nation and two in Arizona. Mr. Diaz tells the Army story in the community and helps allocate ROTC scholarships sponsored by the Secretary of the Army. In a four-minute video, the "Army of Today" was highlighted.

The Army's pillars are loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity and personal courage. One of the most challenging jobs in the Army is recruiting and Phoenix is one of 22 most difficult places to recruit in U.S. The Army's one million soldiers are 82% male and 18% female. Mario works closely with the Phoenix Army Recruiting Battalion. The Army has changed a lot in the 50 years since 1968. They are older and more are high school graduates. More are married and pay and benefits are much improved. The toughest part of recruiting is the parents who are afraid their kids will get hurt. But only one percent of Army jobs are infantry. Selling the Army is about the other 99 percent of jobs and valuable job skills. Army recruiting goals were made last year. But it remains tough because only 3 in 10 of today's youth can meet Army standards. The three components of the Army are: Readiness, Building the Future of the Army and Maintaining the All-Volunteer Force.

Technology is being rapidly developed to give soldiers the best equipment. There are challenges. The Army must better understand its soldiers. Suicides are a major concern. In 2018 there were 541 suicides. Sexual assaults are another major problem and must stop. There is a major focus now in fixing these issues. Major threats include China, Russia and North Korea. The Army offers a special track for cyber security skills – no boot camp. They have two-year enlistments as well as four-year enlistments for cyber security jobs. The Army wants to find a way to say yes to potential recruits.

PERSONAL AFFAIRS by Lee Lange

(Continued from Page 3)

What is the process for a caregiver?

The process for caregivers registered in the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers to access the commissaries, exchanges and MWRs is similar to that of VHIC-holding veterans. However, caregivers will receive a letter issued by the VA Office of Community Care saying they qualify as a primary family caregiver of an eligible veteran.

To be admitted on base and to purchase items from the commissary or exchange, they will need to bring the VA letter plus one of the following types of identification.

- REAL ID-compliant driver's license or other ID issued by a state, territory, possession or the District of Columbia
- U.S. passport or passport card
- Foreign passport bearing an unexpired immigrant or non-immigrant visa or entry stamp
- Federal personal identity verification card
- VHIC

Caregivers who are not a part of the VA's official program do not qualify for shopping privileges. The DoD might expand access to non-registered caregivers in the future, the policy says.



MOAA HOLIDAY PARTY December 21, 2019



'Tis the Season!!

Annual Chapter Holiday Party and Chinese Auction (gift exchange)

If you are attending the Holiday Party and want to participate in the gift exchange, please bring one gift per family. Gifts should be in the \$20-\$25 range and be wrapped and in gift bags or boxes (for mystery).

A focus on things we all like during the holidays — adult beverages (Bourbon, Scotch, Vodka, Whiskey, Wine), Gourmet Cookies, Chocolates, Candy, handy gadgets, etc.

Members attending with a gift will check in on arrival and receive a ticket. That ticket number will be called at random for a turn to select a gift from the gift table. As we have in the past, a few gift swaps are allowed.

There will not be a 50/50 raffle, however, year-end donations to the scholarship fund will be gladly accepted. The scholarship fund is an IRS-approved non-profit, and donations are tax deductible.

McCormick Ranch Golf Club

REGISTRATION must be received by 4:00 p.m. Tuesday, December 17th
\$25 per person includes lunch. Make check payable to: **AZ Chapter MOAA**
Send to: **Tom Sheets, 25215 N 42nd Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85083**
(Charlie will be on vacation)

2019 Army vs Navy Football Game Party

(all branches welcome)

Saturday, December 14

Famous 48 (Shops at Gainey Village)

8989 N Scottsdale Rd,

Scottsdale, AZ 85253

Tailgate Party (inside) starts at 12:00 PM

Kickoff at 1:00 PM

www.swwcc.org

602.677.2961

\$5.00 per person Event Support Fee

(Please See Attached Flyer)

December Holiday Party

WHEN: December 21, 2019
11:00 am Meet & Greet Social

HOUR: 11:45 am - 2pm Lunch/Party

WHERE: McCormick Ranch Golf Club
7505 E McCormick Pkwy, Scottsdale,

COST: \$25 Per Person reservation by
4 PM on 12/18/2019

DRESS: Holiday Wear

MENU: Beef Tenderloin, Mash Potato,
Mushroom Gravy, Salad, Cake

PROGRAM: "Chinese" Auction, bring one
gift (\$20-\$25) value per couple
to participate.

DONATIONS

General Fund

Charles Schluter \$50

Scholarship Fund

Gary Fredricks \$100

Charles Schluter \$100

Kathy Upchurch \$100

Arizona Chapter 2019 Schedule

December 2019:

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

January 2020:

- * Board Meeting on the 2nd
- * Luncheon Meeting on the 18th

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**, or contact him at: **602-943-0028, Charles@Bitner36.com**.

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

Name of Donor: _____

HOLIDAY LUNCHEON RESERVATION FORM

Please reserve _____ meals for (name(s): _____)

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ (\$25.00/person) for the luncheon on **December 21, 2019**.

Your check payable to: **AZ Chapter MOAA** can be delivered at the luncheon or mailed to: **Tom Sheets, 25215 N 42nd Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85083** Credit Cards will be accepted at the luncheon.

Member reservations or call-ins WILL NOT be accepted after December 17.

Cancellations after December 17 will be charged and not refunded.

DECEMBER CALENDAR—AZ MOAA

December 5 - AZ MOAA Board Meeting
 December 7 - 10:55 AM Pearl Harbor Observance with B-17 and our C-47 Flyover at Wesley Bolen Center opposite State Capitol
 2 PM section of sunken USS Arizona "Sacred Steel" Dedication Ceremony at Commemorative Air Force Airbase Arizona Museum
 2017 N Greenfield Road, Mesa, Arizona 85215
 December 14 - Army/Navy Game 12 PM at Famous 48 (Shops at Gainey Village) 8989 N Scottsdale Rd, Scottsdale, AZ 85253
December 21 - AZ MOAA Holiday Party @ McCormick Ranch Golf Club
 December 22—30 - Hanukkah
 December 24 - Christmas Eve
 December 25 - Christmas
 December 31 - New Years Eve

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

PRESIDENT Maj Pete Berger, USAF 602-739-0586	NEWSLETTER EDITOR Janet Lange, USMC Spouse 571-722-4348	CHAPLAIN COL Daniel Butler, USA 480-352-2682
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT Col Tom Sheets, USMC 760-213-3705	ADVERTISING Janet Lange, USMC Spouse 571-722-4348	PERSONAL AFFAIRS Col Lee Lange, USMC 703-232-3609
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT VACANT	ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS Lt Col Jim Cullison, USAF 602-482-3838	PROGRAMS CAPT Bruce Kosaveach, Chair 602-501-9876
SECRETARY CAPT Judy Brooks, USN 623-810-5790 Sherry Kosaveach, USAF Spouse 602-501-9876	HISTORIAN / PHOTOGRAPHER Lt Col Jim Cullison, USAF 602-482-3838	ARRANGEMENTS Col Lee Lange, USMC 703-232-3609
TREASURER Col Charles Bitner, USAF 602-943-0028	JROTC AWARDS Lt Col John Simmons, USAF 623-326-5352	SCHOLARSHIPS CAPT Phil Roos, USN 928-420-2130
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DIRECTORS: CAPT Judy Brooks, USN; CDR Jack Farley, USN; LT Bob Hinton, USN; CAPT Bruce Kosaveach, USN	MEMBERSHIP CAPT David Price, USN 831-233-8131	WEBMASTER VACANT
	SURVIVING SPOUSES Susan Farrell, Surviving Spouse 602-993-8556	

Access Arizona Chapter's Internet Web Site at: azmoaa.org

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



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