



The Sentinel

Arizona's First Chapter



The Arizona Chapter

7912 E. Cactus Wren Road

Scottsdale, AZ 85250

DECEMBER 2020 CHARTERED Oct 1956 64 YEARS OF SERVICE TO COUNTRY JANET LANGE, EDITOR

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President's Perspective by Pete Berger



December

December is the beginning of the end of one of the most difficult years in history ... certainly in the history that I can remember. The hottest summer on record, a turbulent election year, difficult economic conditions and the maddening COVID-19 Virus, whose numbers are once again growing in leaps and bounds. I encourage all of us to be safe during this time.

Attached, you will find the flyer for our annual **Amy-Navy Game** on December 12th. If you wish, you may purchase squares that, ultimately, will benefit our Chapter as well as provide some fun!

2020 Donations

If you are looking for an Arizona tax credit, **Brighter Way** is a dental clinic that provides comprehensive and emergency dental care for our **veterans** as well as homeless and

low-income families and children. To donate, go to: <https://www.brighterwaydentalcenter.org/>

Although our December Membership Meeting cannot be our usual Christmas/Holiday Party, we will have a guest speaker, Erik Berg, whom we think will be very interesting. I might even float the idea of a Christmas Carol Sing-a-Long, led by our own minstrel Bruce Kosaveach. I would like us to sing



"Silent Night" but I suspect Bruce might go for "Grandma Got Run Over By A Reindeer." Anyone who wishes is encouraged to dress in Christmas attire and perhaps we can aim our computers at Christmas decorations during the singing.



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ARIZONA CHAPTER MOAA CALENDAR

Board of Directors — 1st Thursday of the month at 1030 hours unless otherwise noted
Location: National Guard Regional Training Institute 5636 E. McDowell Rd. Phoenix, AZ 85008. Show ID at Gate. Members welcome.

Upcoming Board Meetings:

Zoom BOD December 10 @ 0800

Member Luncheon/Meetings — 3rd Saturday of the month unless otherwise noted. Social Hour at 1100, Luncheon at 1145-1400, McCormick Ranch Golf Club, 7505 E McCormick Pkwy, Scottsdale, AZ 85258 **Reservations are Required.**

Upcoming Membership Meetings:

**Zoom December 17 @ 1630
Speaker, Erik Berg**



President’s Perspective—(Continued from Page 1)

November Annual Business Mtg

We held our annual business meeting on November 18th via Zoom at which our membership unanimously approved the slate of Officers and Directors. Thank you all for attending! It was our largest Zoom attendance to date.

I look forward to serving as your President through 2021 – especially because of the exceptional Board of Directors that serve our Chapter. They are the workhorses and backbone of our Chapter and we all owe them a debt of gratitude.

Four Officers/Board members were awarded **Meritorious Service Awards (MSA)**. I was nominated and told by a Marine that I had to accept. The others are richly deserving of this honor. We are indeed grateful for the extra work they put in.

2020 MSA Awards

- Peter Berger - 1st Award
- Tom Sheets - 2nd Award
- Jack Farley - 3rd Award
- Janet Lange - 3rd Award

Future Meetings

Your BOD will continue to meet and discuss our schedule of activities and meetings for 2021. Part of the decision will be based on whether McCormick Ranch will allow large gatherings. We will also be

Investigating indoor/outdoor venues where social distancing may be more easily arranged. Your suggestions, as always, are invited. Your Board of Directors and I look forward to the coming year when we may be able to meet in person at more normal times. Until then, I wish you a **Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas, and Happy Holidays**. May the 2020 holiday season be a time of good health and happiness for all!

Peter Berger, AZ Chapter MOAA President

Welcome New Members!

- * **Nan Harvel, Surviving Spouse of Brig Gen Don Harvel, USAF (Ret)**
- * **LTC Daniel Arroyo, USA (Ret)**
- * **LT Michael Gallaway, USPHS**
- * **LTC Kathryn Gallowitz, USA (Ret)**
- * **LTC Richard Zweig, USA (Ret)**

**Please welcome our new members
in person at the next
Luncheon Meeting**



**2020/2021 Arizona Chapter MOAA Membership
DUES RENEWAL**

Dues for 2021 are payable on January 1. Dues become DELINQUENT on February 28, 2021. If you have become delinquent, you can still pay your 2020 Dues by completing your information below and sending it with your check — **\$20/year for a Regular Member** or **\$10/year for Surviving Spouse Member**. Please make your check payable to **“AZ Chapter MOAA”** and mail to: Treasurer **Charlie Bitner, 134 E. Northview Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85020.**

Please check: Dues for **2020** \$ _____ and Dues for **2021** \$ _____

Member OR Surviving Spouse Member _____

Spouse Name _____

Please make any CHANGES to Address/Contact Information below:

Address: _____

Phone number: _____ Email: _____



National Legislative Update

by Lee Lange, Legislative Chair

Work on Defense Bill Continues Amid Budget Debate

The federal government continues to operate under a continuing resolution set to expire December 11. MOAA is urgently pressing Congress to finish up the defense bill authorizing funding for the new fiscal year that began October 1. The FY 2021 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) includes many provisions important to servicemembers past and present, and their families.

The House and Senate versions of the NDAA – H.R. 6395 and S. 4049, respectively – both passed in late July and were referred to a joint conference committee. As of last week, the conferees, which include key members of the House and Senate Armed Services Committees, were in the process of finalizing negotiations to reconcile the bills.

The NDAA is the primary piece of legislation for meaningful DoD reforms and improvements, including many MOAA-supported measures such as:

- A 3 percent pay raise for members of the uniformed services.
- Language that stops military treatment facility (MTF) restructuring and medical billet cuts.
- The addition of three conditions to the list of those presumed connected to Agent Orange exposure.

While both versions of the bill include language that aligns with MOAA's priorities, there is more work to be done to ensure MOAA-supported provisions make it into the final version of the NDAA. MOAA continues to engage with Congress on measures from both versions to keep them at the forefront of conference committee negotiations.

Once the NDAA moves out of conference, the bill will be subject to floor debate in both chambers and a vote will be scheduled. MOAA looks forward to seeing meaningful reform in the final version of this year's defense bill. You can make your voice heard on these improvements by clicking the Legislative Action Center link: <https://takeaction.moaa.org/>. Send a message to your legislators with MOAA's easy to use email message system.

Personal Affairs

by Lee Lange, Personal Affairs Officer



New Federal \$300 Charitable Tax Deduction Available For 2020

For those of you who use the standard deduction, when you fill out your IRS form 1040 for 2020, you will be allowed to write off up to \$300 — cash only — from your income for a charitable deduction. The definition of “charitable organization” will be specific. It appears donor advised funds and certain organizations that support charities won't qualify. This deduction is not available if you itemize.

The 2020 IRS forms have not been released yet, but here is what is known: The IRS Form 1040 will have a new line to insert your charitable contribution. It will be an “above-the-line” reduction in your income and establishes your Adjusted Gross Income (AGI). Current information indicates that you will get only \$300 per Form 1040, not \$600 per joint filing in 2020. Don't count on it repeating next year. Standard deductions for 2020 are \$12,400 for singles and \$24,800 for joint filers.

This provision, provides up to \$300 off your 2020 income. This does not mean big bucks but at least it's something. Consider donating to the Arizona Chapter's charitable efforts as one way to qualify. The exact details and how all the rules will work are not yet known. Consult your tax advisor for details.

2021 Federal Employee Dental and Vision Plan (FEDVIP) Open Season

This year's Federal Employee Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP) open season runs from November 9 to December 14, 2020. This benefit is available to federal employees including active duty and retired military members and their families. The program is sponsored by the federal government's Office of Personnel Management (OPM) and offers 12 dental and 5 vision plans.

Every current FEDVIP dental and/or vision plan holder should take a few minutes to check whether the scheduled 2021 pricing for your current plan provider continues to meet your family's dental and/or vision needs. If you are

Personal Affairs Continued on Page 5



2020 Army-Navy Football Game
Saturday December 12th @ 1:00 pm

To our friends and fellow Veterans at the Arizona Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the SWVCC, I cordially invite you to participate in our **2020 Army-Navy Game** Celebration. The game is scheduled for 1:00 pm on Saturday December 12th. And ... for only the second time in history (I believe) ... the game will be played at West Point.

Although there will be no raucous party as in past years due to COVID-19, the pool, the friendly rivalry and, of course, the trash talk is on.



Similar to past years, Squares are \$5 each; **NO LIMIT** to how many you can buy. We want to fill at least 2 boards -- hopefully 4.

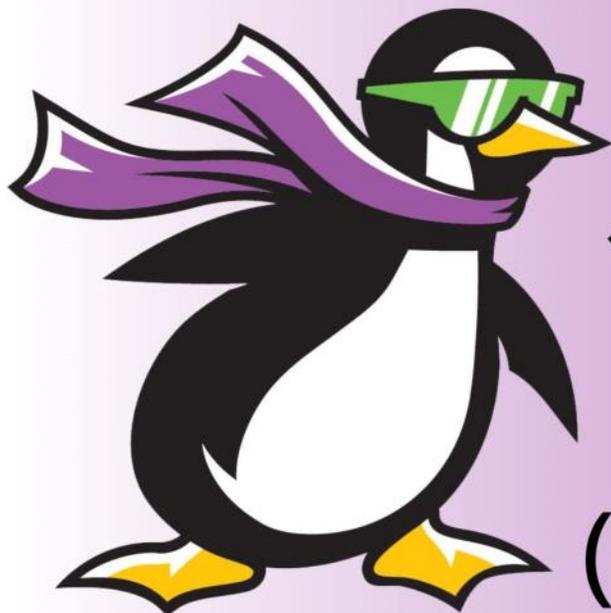
Robin McCombs will again manage the game (referee, announcer, and replay official) Thank you Robin.

Each square costs \$5.00. When you purchase squares, your name will be randomly assigned to an unassigned square. After all 100 squares are purchased and assigned, the row and column numbers will be randomly drawn and assigned.

At the end of each quarter, the owner of the winning square on each board will receive a \$50 payout. Total payout is \$200 per 100 square card. If we can sell out four cards that will be 8 payouts of \$50 each or \$400!

You can purchase your squares online with a credit card at <https://business.swvcc.org/store>, by calling me at 760.213.3705 or 602.677.2961, or by offering to buy me a cup of coffee and I will meet you somewhere and you can pay by cash or check.

Hope to send you many \$50 checks ~ Tom Sheets, AZ Chapter MOAA Vice President



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ANNOUNCEMENT

AZVHOFS Class of 2020 Selectees

AZ Chapter member **MG Albert Crawford, Jr.** USA (Ret) and former AZ Chapter member **CAPT Frank Hoak III, USN (Ret), deceased**, were selected to the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame, Class of 2020. We congratulate Major General Crawford and honor CAPT Hoak, for their support of veterans and extend recognition to Leonore, CAPT Hoak's surviving spouse. Installation of new members will take place in small ceremonies throughout Arizona with limited attendance. Dates have not been determined.

Personal Affairs by Lee Lange (Continued from Page 3)

comfortable with your plan's scheduled premium increase (or decrease, in some cases), then do nothing – your plan will roll over under new premium pricing beginning January 1, 2021.

If you are considering signing up for the first time for dental and/or vision insurance under this government sponsored program, go to www.benfeds.com for information on the benefit and tools to allow you to compare offerings from various providers participating in FEDVIP. New users will be able to enroll during the open season dates noted above.



Please consider making a financial donation to **Toys For Tots**, **MANA House** and **Project Veteran's Pride** this holiday season since we cannot meet to donate our toys this year.

Toys For Tots Mail: <https://www.toysfortots.org/donate/donation-docs/mail-in-donation-form.pdf>

Toys For Tots Online: <https://donate.toysfortots.org/donate/forms/simple/Default.aspx>

We are not capable of collecting hygiene and food bags for our homeless veterans as well. **MANA House** and **Project Veteran's Pride** are wonderful places to donate and receive **DOLLAR-FOR-DOLLAR TAX CREDIT** on your Arizona state tax return for 2020.

Mana House Mail-in Donation: Catholic Charities/Mana House
2422 W. Holly Street, Phoenix, AZ 85009

(If issuing check to Catholic Charities, please write **"Mana House"** on check memo line.

Mana House Online: <https://www.manahouseaz.org/donation/campaign-pages/help-a-veteran-today>

Project Veteran's Pride Mail: Project Veterans Pride, **Attn:** Christine Verchot,
6720 N. 27th Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85017

Project Veteran's Pride Online: <https://pvpjwh.org/donate/>

Thank you for remembering our Military Families and Veterans this Holiday Season.

Kyrsten Sinema Vietnam Veteran Pinning Ceremony

Good Afternoon VSOs and Community Partners,

Senator Sinema is proud to be a commemorative partner of the United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration. As such, we are excited to host virtual pinning ceremonies to thank and honor our Vietnam Veterans and their families for their service and sacrifice to this country.

Upon confirmation of service, registered participants will receive a letter from Senator Sinema, a Vietnam Veterans lapel pin and information about the U.S. Vietnam War Commemorative Program. All participants will also be invited to join Senator Sinema’s Military and Veterans team for a virtual pinning ceremony. We have had tremendous response for this program and already held multiple pinning ceremonies celebrating Arizona Vietnam Veterans.

Please help us spread the word about this opportunity with members of your community. Attached is a flyer with additional information. The link to register for a pinning ceremony is:

<https://tinyurl.com/VietnamVeteransPinningCeremony>

We appreciate your continued service!

Best,

Kelly Mills, MSW | Director of Military and Veteran Outreach
Office of U.S. Senator Kyrsten Sinema of Arizona
202-981-1282
3333 E. Camelback Rd., Suite 200
Phoenix, AZ 85018
Sinema.Senate.Gov

If you are a Servicemember, Reservist, Guardsman or Veteran in crisis:

Please call the Military and Veterans Crisis Line 1-800-273-8255 **PRESS 1** or visit www.veteranscrisisline.net/get-help/military-crisis-line

For **Coronavirus Resources** visit:

<https://www.sinema.senate.gov/corona>



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December 17th, 2020
4:30 PM Zoom meeting

“Arizona's Ghost Towns of the Second World War”

Erik Berg

Erik Berg is an award-winning historian and writer. He wrote a traveler’s guide to World War II historic sites for the book *Arizona Goes to War: The Home Front and the Front Lines during World War Two*. His works have appeared in the Journal of Arizona History, Arizona Highways, Astronomy, the Journal of the Society of Commercial Archaeology, and Sedona Magazine, and he is a past-president of the Grand Canyon Historical Society.

When America entered the Second World War, Arizona’s open spaces, sparse population, and mild weather made it an ideal location for a wide range of military operations. By the time the war ended, more American military pilots had earned their wings in Arizona than in any other state. Erik uses historic and personal photographs of the many military facilities located in Arizona that still have significant features, foundations, or remains from the war period and describes the original purpose of remaining features at the sites and their significance to the war effort



FROM THE TREASURER, Charlie Bitner

Just a quick word to remind members that **2021 Annual Dues are due January 1st**. Chapter dues enable the all-volunteer officers and directors to ensure the chapter remains viable and operating. Our organization is very efficiently run but on a tight operating budget that depends on all members paying their dues. Dues for 2021 remain the same: \$20 for members and \$10 for surviving spouse members. 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 don't want to lose anyone who wants to stay with us and help further the goals of MOAA. Your action on your 2021 dues will help us continue our chapter activities seamlessly. If you're not sure if or what you owe, please e-mail our Membership Chairman, Bob Fiegl at figlr869@gmail.com.

**SCHOLARSHIP DONATIONS
Through October 2020**

Jack Farley	\$556
Pete Berger	\$200
Lyman Schliep	\$168
Ron Bright	\$150
James R. Kidwell	\$140
Gerald F. Lynch	\$140
John Ady	\$100
Bill Roscher	\$100
Ron Perkins	\$50

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

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