



The Sentinel

Arizona's First Chapter

The Arizona Chapter Scottsdale, AZ 85250



JANUARY 2022

CHARTERED Oct 1956 65 YEARS OF SERVICE TO COUNTRY

JANET LANGE, EDITOR

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President's Perspective by Tom Sheets



In my first President's message to you, I want to first say that I am honored and humbled to serve as your Chapter President and look forward to working with you and our leadership team during my term.

I approach this first article the same way we approached being the "incoming commander" at a military change of command ceremony—keep your comments short and sweet. You will have plenty of time to say plenty of things during the tenure of your command.

In that same vein I want to give a hard-earned and well-deserved big shout-out to our "outgoing commander," Pete Berger, for his nearly three years of service as our Chapter President. Pete provided steady and inspiring leadership during a challenging period that began with the tragic illness to Mike Rogers and followed by the COVID pandemic. It has been a challenging couple of years and Pete rose to the occasion. Thank you, Pete. Please give Pete your personal thank you the next time you see him. He will continue to serve on the Board as the Immediate Past President.

It was great to see everyone who was able to participate in our annual holiday party. Thank you to Pete and his devoted elf, Barbara, for overseeing a great and entertaining gift exchange.

Continued on Page 3



February 23, 1929

US Army
June 14 1775

US Navy
Oct 13 1775

US Marine
Corps
Nov 10, 1775

US Coast
Guard
Aug 14 1790

US Public
Health
Service
Jan 4 1889

US Air Force
SEP 18 1947

National
Oceanic and
Atmospheric
ADMINISTRATION
Oct 3 1970

US Space
For ce
Dec 20 2019

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.



Bob Fiegl,
AZ Chapter Membership Chair
FieglR869@gmail.com

A BIG Happy New Year greeting to you! As we begin the new year it is a great time to make a resolution or two. Since this is your first monthly chapter newsletter of 2022, I am going to make two suggestions for your consideration: First, I urge you to help with our membership recruiting efforts. We need new members – always! We need your help! I am happy to report we finished 2021 strong with five new members, our membership is approaching 160! Our goal is to sustain that growth trend. Please advertise our chapter and MOAA to any of your eligible friends, family & neighbors. (Eligible = active, past, retired members of the uniformed services.) Our prospective members will be treated to a complimentary meal at our monthly membership meeting (11 am on the 3rd Saturday each month at McCormick Ranch Golf Club). Please bring a prospective member with you so they can learn what we are about and hear about the good work YOUR chapter does.

My second recommendation is to mark your new 2022 planning calendar for our membership meetings throughout the coming year right now. We regularly meet every month with the exception of

June, July and August. Some of our members can never make it to our Saturday meetings due to other commitments. Our Board of Directors is looking at some changes to hold a meeting or two on a weekday night in the coming year. More on this in the Sentinel soon!

Please check your personal profile information on the MOAA.org website this month. Update anything that has changed since your last visit/update on the website. If things have changed, please send me an email with your updated information to enable me to keep our chapter's roster up to date. A big thank you in advance for that!

Finally, your chapter dues are now due by January 1, 2022. Many members have already paid their dues. Thank you to those who have paid! Dues may be paid by check to our treasurer Charlie Bitner (see the form below) or online with your credit card at this website: <https://www.azmoaa.org/membership/renew-your-membership/>

I am looking forward to seeing you at our Saturday, January 15th luncheon member meeting.

Warm regards,
Bob Fiegl



Arizona Chapter MOAA Membership DUES RENEWAL FORM

2022 DUES are payable on JANUARY 1.

Dues become DELINQUENT on March 1, 2022.

If you become delinquent, you can still pay your Past Dues by completing your information below and send it with your check — **\$20/year for a Regular Member** or **\$10/year for a Surviving Spouse Member** payable to "AZ Chapter MOAA" and mail to: **Charlie Bitner, 134 E. Northview Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85020.**

Dues for **2021** \$ _____

Dues for **2022** \$ _____

Member OR Surviving Spouse Member _____

Spouse Name _____

Please make any *CHANGES* to your Contact Information below:

Address: _____

Phone number: _____ Email: _____

President’s Perspective Continued from Page 1

**Colonel Tom Sheets, USMC (Retired)
59th Chapter President**

I hope you all had a joyous and safe holiday season. By the time you read this we will be past two big holidays and ushering in a new year, attendant with all the hopes and aspirations of better times. I hope you all had a joyous and safe holiday season. Several months ago, we probably thought the worst of the pandemic was behind us but now we are not so sure. We will continue to track its effects and consult with our members should the need arise to reconsider our activities.

After graduating from Gettysburg College in 1973, Tom was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the Marine Corps. During his career, Tom commanded units at Company through Regimental levels. He also commanded a Marine Corps Recruiting Station and held a command billet at Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C. In addition, Tom held numerous operational and high-level staff positions. His final assignment was as Chief of Staff 2d Marine Division. Tom served 26 years before retiring on February 1, 1999.

Several months ago, we probably thought the worst of the pandemic was behind us but now we are not so sure. We will continue to track its effects and consult with our members should the need arise to reconsider our activities.

Tom holds a BA in Political Science from Gettysburg College and a MA in Public Administration from Shippensburg University. His professional military education includes the US Army Infantry Officer Advanced Course, the Marine Corps Command & Staff College and the Army War College. His personal decorations include the Legion of Merit with gold star, Meritorious Service Medal with two gold stars, Navy Commendation Medal and Navy Achievement Medal.

I would like to “pile on” Bob Fiegl’s challenge to all of us at the Holiday party—for each of us to recruit one new member in 2022. We need to continue to recruit new members to grow our organization and bring new and fresh perspectives to all that we do. Additionally, I want to emphasize Pete Berger’s request for volunteers to join our committees that he published in his last perspective.

After retiring from the Marine Corps, Tom worked in the resort development and management industry and served as the President of Sunterra Pacific (Bellevue, WA) and RPM, two wholly owned subsidiaries of Sunterra Corporation, a publicly traded international corporation. He was recruited to Phoenix by private-equity owners of DBT Defense to serve as its Chief Executive Officer. Tom is also the Founder and President of The Stonewall Group, an organizational performance improvement consulting firm and serves as the Executive Director of the Southwest Veterans Chamber of Commerce and its charitable arm, the Southwest Veterans Foundation.

Again, I look forward to working with our great leadership team and to hearing from you about our future.

Most sincerely and with my personal wishes for a safe, healthy and productive 2022.

Tom Sheets
AZ Chapter President

January 15 Member Luncheon Meeting Reservation Form

Please reserve _____ meals for name(s): _____

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ (\$30.00/person) for the January 15 Member Luncheon Meeting payable to: **AZ Chapter MOAA** and mailed to arrive by January 11, 2022 to: **Charles Bitner, 134 E. Northview Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85020**, or contact: **Charles@Bitner36.com, 602-943-0028**. Credit cards will not be accepted.

Member reservations or call-ins **WILL NOT** be accepted after **January 11, 2022 @ 4pm**

Cancellations after January 11, 2022 after 4 pm will be charged and not refunded.



November 20, 2021

Speaker

Songs and Sounds of the War Years

Bill Quehrn, Docent

Airbase Arizona Flying Museum



Bill Quehrn was our guest speaker at the November luncheon. He is one of over 300 volunteers that make the Airbase Arizona Flying Museum at Falcon Field one of the largest wings of the National Commemorative Air Force.

He gave our membership a wonderful presentation on the "*Songs and Sounds of the War Years.*" Popular music of the '40s gave comfort and strength to our troops fighting overseas and to the workers who won the "manufacturing victory" at home. He told the story about the people and music of our Greatest Generation that speaks volumes about who they were. We were treated to selected segments of '40s hits that tell their dramatic stories in song. From 'Rosie the Riveter' to President Roosevelt. Bill's program presented an amazing story in a most entertaining way. Accompanying Bill was JK Wight, Docent & Speaker's Outreach coordinator at the Airbase Arizona Flying Museum.

As an added treat, Linda Lundberg attended our meeting as well. Her mother was a "Rosie the Riveter" during WWII working for a defense contractor in Iowa. As a daughter of a Rosie she is known as a "Rosebud". She told us about her mothers' contributions to the war effort and how much pride she had in helping the country during that time.



Bill Quehrn – Airbase Arizona Flying Museum



Linda Lundberg, "Rosebud," as the daughter of a "Rosie the Riveter." JK Wight and Bill Quehrn, Airbase Arizona Flying Museum.



January 15, 2022

“National MOAA Update”

Capt. Frank J. Michael, USN (Ret)
Program Director, Council and Chapter Affairs



Every 2-3 years National MOAA conducts a visit with our chapter to provide an update on the association’s national priorities, membership, and resources available to support the work of the Arizona Chapter.

Capt. Frank J. Michael, USN (Ret), is a 30-year Navy veteran and aviator who has served in command tours at the squadron and major command-at-sea levels. Major staff assignments include a tour on the Joint Staff, CNO Fellow, Chief of Naval Operations Strategic Study Group, and Strategy Branch Chief on the Navy Staff.

Following retirement from active duty in 2015, Michael served as senior vice president for Programs and Membership at the National Defense Industrial Association, and executive vice president at the United States Navy Memorial.

Michael joined MOAA in 2021. His primary responsibility is support of MOAA’s robust nationwide network of active and engaged affiliates to influence legislation, serve their local communities in impactful ways, grow membership at the local and national levels, and increase MOAA brand awareness nationwide.

Michael holds a Bachelor of Science and Master of Public Administration and was recognized with a Doctor of Humane Letters from Misericordia University.

Please be sure to attend!!



January 15th, 2022

McCormick Ranch Golf Club

Luncheon \$30 – Please RSVP **by January 11th** with check to Charlie Bitner 134 E. Northview Ave. Phoenix 85020

By email: Charles@bitner36.com

Or contact Charlie at 602-943-0028

JANUARY 15 Luncheon/Meeting

DATE: January 15, 2022
11:00-11:45 am Meet & Greet Social Hour
11:45 am-12:00 pm Pledge, Invocation, Announcements
12:00-2:00pm Lunch and Program

PLACE: McCormick Ranch Golf Club
7505 E McCormick Pkwy, Scottsdale, AZ 85258

COST: \$30 Per Person
Reservations by 4 PM 1/11/2022

DRESS: Business Casual

MENU: Blackened Mahi Mahi with Roasted Corn and Oregano Chimichurri,
Caesar Salad, Lemon Meringue Pie

PROGRAM: Capt. Frank J. Michael, USN (Ret)
Program Director, Council and Chapter Affairs, National MOAA
"National MOAA Update"

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December 18, 2021 Holiday Party



Sherry Kosaveach gains a bottle of Scotch for Bruce



Sally Brauer finds a basket of gourmet chocolate



Ron Perkins wins a bottle of Makers Mark with Pete Berger and Barbara



Did Gary Fredrick really steal a bottle of Vodka?



Jack Farley is overwhelmed with so many choices!



Federal Legislative Update

by Lee Lange, Legislative Chair

What's in This Year's National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA)

The FY 2022 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) was signed by the president December 27. The bill authorizes \$768.2 billion – a 5% increase from last year, keeping pace with Inflation – and is \$25.1 billion more than requested by the president.

This NDAA did not follow the regular congressional process, where amendments are offered and voted on in each chamber before the bill proceeds to a joint conference committee and a final up-or-down vote in the House and Senate. This year, the Senate ran out of time and chose to accept the House-negotiated version to avoid a vote on amendments.

What's in the Bill?

Pay raise: A 2.7% raise for servicemembers keeps pace with the Employment Cost Index (ECI) but does not address the 2.6% pay gap behind ECI from previous years.

Basic Needs Allowance (BNA): A version of the MOAA-supported BNA is included, but it is not the proposed automatic payment for junior military families falling within a band of the poverty line. The bill's version places a bureaucratic burden on servicemembers and their families who often want to avoid the stigma of seeking help and the risk of losing a security clearance or damaging a career. It also does not address the use of the basic housing allowance when computing eligibility, a move which significantly reduces who may apply for support. More advocacy will be needed next year to support vulnerable families.

Military spouse employment: A pilot program designed to provide direct hire authority for spouses of uniformed servicemembers at OCONUS locations supports First Lady Jill Biden's Joining Forces initiatives to

make "the federal government the employer of choice" for military spouses. The bill also includes language to develop a pilot program to establish employment fellowship opportunities for military spouses.

National Guard and Reserve special pay parity: The NDAA eliminates disparities of incentive pays for hazardous duties and aviators. Servicemembers performing these duties have historically earned pay at a rate of 1/30th of their active-duty counterparts. Implementation is delayed until a report is submitted and Congress and the secretary of defense certifies the change won't cause a detrimental effect on the force structure. MOAA will continue to follow this closely to ensure this disparity is finally closed.

Temporary one-year halt to military medical billet cuts: The NDAA requires a Government Accountability Office (GAO) evaluation on the DoD analyses used to support any reduction or realignment of military medical staffing. DoD is also required to report to Congress on the number of uniformed and civilian personnel assigned to a military treatment facility (MTF) as of Oct. 1, 2019, and a comparable accounting as of Sept. 30, 2022. If the number in 2022 is less than the number in 2019, DoD must provide a full explanation for the reduction to demonstrate compliance with past provisions halting medical billet cuts.

Suicide prevention: The NDAA seeks to improve the ability for those in uniform to seek mental health support; 580 servicemembers died by suicide in 2020, and the numbers continue to increase each year. The bill includes a self-initiated process enabling a servicemember to request a mental health evaluation by asking for one from a commanding officer or supervisor.

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Personal Affairs

by Lee Lange, Personal Affairs Officer



Surviving Spouse Corner: What to Expect in 2022 With the 'Widows Tax' Repeal

Below is an extract from a column written by Nancy Mullen, an MOAA Surviving Spouse Advisory Council member:

This year (2022) marks the second year of a three-year phase out of what is known as the "widows tax," which required forfeiture of a dollar of Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) benefits for every dollar of Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) received. Please note this is only applicable to those surviving spouses who qualify for both DIC and SBP and are in receipt of the Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance (SSIA).

In **Phase 1** (2021), surviving spouse SBP payments were reduced, or offset, by two-thirds of the DIC rather than the full dollar-for-dollar reduction. For many surviving spouses, this resulted in an increase in the amount of SBP paid as the gross amount of their SBP exceeded two-thirds of the DIC. Others have had to wait to see an increase in their benefit.

Phase 2 of the offset elimination starts January 1, 2022. In this phase, the amount of the offset from SBP benefits will be reduced to one-third of the DIC payment. Let's look at an easy example: A COLA of 5.9% for 2022, puts the projected 2022 base DIC amount at approximately \$1,437.66. One-third of that new DIC amount is \$479.22. This is the amount you will subtract from your gross SBP amount. So, if your gross SBP without offset is \$1,000, then you would subtract \$479.22 from \$1,000 to give you a 2022 monthly SBP payment of \$520.78 (\$1,000-\$479.22).

You would also receive the SSIA, which is projected to be approximately \$346. These

new changes will be effective in January 2022, which you will see reflected in the February 1, 2022 payment.

If you do not know your gross SBP amount, look on your annuitant account statements, available in your myPay account from The Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS).

There are numerous resources available to help you understand the basics of your benefits. You can visit the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) website <https://www.dfas.mil> for the most up-to-date information and other guidance, including the June 2021 survivor SBP newsletter, The SBP-DIC Offset Phased Elimination: What to Expect in the Upcoming Phases <https://www.dfas.mil/RetiredMilitary/newsevents/news/Survivor-SBP-Newsletter/The-SBP-DIC-Offset-Phased-Elimination-What-to-Expect-in-the-Upcoming-Phases/>

Legislative Update Continued from Page 8

Improvement to the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) to address sexual harassment and assault: Sexual harassment will become a punishable offense in the UCMJ as DoD seeks to implement the findings of the Independent Review Commission on Sexual Harassment and Assault.

Arlington National Cemetery (ANC) changes: A House Armed Services Committee (HASC) report on the NDAA expresses the committee's concerns regarding proposed eligibility changes and "directed the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit a report to congressional defense committees no later than March 1, 2022, on potential locations of the next national cemetery."



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Meritorious Service Awards

Each year the Board of Directors identifies chapter members who have made significant contributions to chapter to receive the Meritorious Service Award (MSA). This year's awards were presented at the November and December chapter meetings and include the following chapter members:

Pete Berger - For his continued outstanding leadership of the Arizona Chapter, MOAA on its road back from more than a year of COVID-19 impacts, requiring numerous tough decisions. He also led the Governance Committee review of key chapter/corporate documents. This is his second award.

Tom Sheets - For his tireless work organizing chapter fundraising efforts via online auctions in place of the golf tournament. Tom has also played a significant role in the Governance Committee review of chapter/corporate documents. This is Tom's third award.

Bob Fiegl - For his exceptional work as Membership Chair in energizing the Membership Committee and engaging with MOAA and members on recruiting and retention issues. This is Bob's first award.

Bob Hinton - For his continued outstanding support of the chapter's important governance review effort. His extensive legal knowledge has made significant contributions to getting this done. Second award.

John Simmons_- For excellent support as chair of the JROTC Awards Program supporting 15 schools in the Phoenix area. He is departing the chapter and moving to another state. First award.

Phil Roos - For his exceptional work the last two years in chairing the Scholarship Program while on an extended RV trip across America doing service projects. First award.

Jack Farley – Jack earned his third award in 2020 but did not receive it due to COVID impacts. Jack was recognized for his outstanding efforts as chair of the Scholarship Golf Tournament and adapting to impacts of COVID by moving to an online auctions format. Jack has also been our only link to past president Mike Rogers during his illness and a huge source of support to Mike's family.

Arizona Chapter MOAA

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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), or NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) or U.S. Public Health Services, the National Guard or other Reserve Components of those services, and Surviving Spouses of deceased individuals who would, if living, be eligible for regular membership as defined above.

Full Name: _____

Spouse Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone #: _____ E-Mail address: _____

Branch of Service: _____ Rank: _____

Service Status: Active (includes Reserve/National Guard) Retired
 Former Officer Warrant Officer
 Surviving spouse of deceased MOAA member OR eligible individual

Date of Birth _____

Are you a Member of National MOAA: Yes _____ No _____ Your MOAA Number is: _____

If you are not currently a member of National MOAA, you may request membership at moaa.org

_____ Or you may request the AZ Chapter Membership Chairperson, Bob Fiegl, to enroll you for a no-cost Basic Membership for 3 Years.

Chapter Dues are \$20.00 per year for a Regular Member and \$10 for a Surviving Spouse.

Dues for new members joining: Jan 1–Jun 30 = **\$20**. Jul 1 – Dec 31 = **\$20** (includes following year paid in full).

Amount enclosed: \$ _____ Please mail check payable to AZMOAA with completed application to:
Treasurer Charlie Bitner, 134 E. Northview Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85020

How did you learn about the Arizona Chapter? AZ MOAA Website *The Sentinel* Newsletter
 AZMOAA Member Membership Chairman Other (_____)

Applicant Signature _____ Date _____

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Arizona Chapter
Military Officers Association of America
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