



# The Sentinel

Arizona's First Chapter

The Military Officer's Association of America



The Arizona Chapter Scottsdale, AZ 85250

SUMMER 2022

CHARTERED Oct 1956

65 YEARS OF SERVICE TO COUNTRY

JANET LANGE, EDITOR

## In this Issue

- Page 1 Tom Sheets  
President's Perspective
- Page 2 Bob Fiegl, 1st VP & Membership  
Member Dues Form
- Page 3 Sentinel Recognition  
Memorial Day Photos
- Page 4 Freedom Isn't Free text
- Page 5 Freedom Isn't Free (Continued)
- Page 6 Freedom Isn't Free photos
- Page 7 Diamondbacks vs Nationals
- Page 8 Who can Join MOAA?  
May Donations
- Page 9 Federal & State Legislation
- Page 10 Phil and Shar Roos RV Journey  
Welcome New Members
- Page 11 New Member Application
- Page 12 AZ MOAA Officers, Directors  
and Chairpersons

## President's Perspective by Tom Sheets



We are two thirds of the way through our summer "dark period." I know that many of you have had great summer experiences across the entire Country—and a few overseas. Others are traveling now and enjoying cooler places out of our summer blast furnace. Wherever you are as you read this, I hope you are healthy, happy and, not hot!

Although we have not had our Saturday lunches, we have held several activities during June and July to help us stay in touch.

- We co-hosted our two Summer Adventure Auctions.
- We held a "Fantasy Golf Tournament" happy hour at Famous 48.
- We held our annual community service program "Freedom is not Free" packing party.
- We took in an Arizona Diamondbacks-Washington Nationals baseball game.

As July rolled to a close, our annual monsoon season rolled in. As usual, some areas are receiving much more rain than others. I hope you have all escaped storm damage and remained safe.

I also hope this newsletter helps to keep you informed of our members and activities over the three months of no member meetings. We do not have any social events scheduled for August but we are looking forward to seeing you at our September 17th luncheon at McCormick Ranch!

Enjoy the rest of the summer and be safe.

Tom



**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  
FORCE  
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 – 1st VP and Membership Chair  
Fieglr869@gmail.com

### Chapter Membership

A BIG hello after a summer break that is going by much too fast! One of the good parts about the passing of our hot summer months in Phoenix is we'll soon be back on schedule to gather for our monthly membership luncheons. I miss them! I am looking forward to seeing you at our September 17th luncheon.


I have a few updates to provide in this edition. First, our membership numbers are holding steady, thankfully. Earlier this year we received a flurry of applications from new members. Our new members have been recognized in previous editions. Our chapter has 165 members with twenty-four of these fine people being Surviving Spouses. It is wonderful that the spouses of former members choose to stay affiliated with our chapter! Thank you! We are very fortunate to have you!

Attracting new eligible (former/retired officer) members is always a challenge and a high priority for our chapter. I ask your assistance in doing some recruiting work for us! If you have acquaintances that may be interested in joining our chapter, please email me their name and contact information so I can talk with them. Or, better yet, invite them to one of our luncheons! Our chapter will gladly provide a meal for them and we get a chance to meet them in person. Your help attracting new members is crucial to our continued success!


I cannot close without a reminder about the responsibility of members to pay their annual dues (\$20 all members except Surviving Spouses who pay \$10 annually). Thirty-nine members have not paid their dues for 2022 yet. I had the unpleasant duty of recently notifying three members that your Board of Directors terminated their chapter membership due to their non-payment of dues for two years. If you have questions regarding your due's currency status, please send me an email and I will bring you up to date.

Thanks for reading. Let me know if you have any membership questions or prospective new members!

Bob



### TAPS



It is with great sadness that we inform  
you of the passing of our friend and  
chapter member

**Lt Col William C Copperthwait,**  
**USMC (Ret)**

Beloved Husband of LT Nancy, USNR (FMR)

We extend our heartfelt condolences to  
Nancy and family



### Arizona Chapter MOAA Membership

#### DUES RENEWAL FORM

**2022 DUES are payable on JANUARY 1.**      **Dues became 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." 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: \_\_\_\_\_

## SUMMER 2022



May 21 Luncheon—President Tom Sheets gives recognition award to Janet Lange, *Sentinel* Editor



Susan Farrell on Memorial Day



L to R: Dan Conway, Ron Perkins and Jack Farley on Memorial Day



Jack Farley lays the Memorial Wreath on Memorial Day

## MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY



Carol and Claude Culbertson on Memorial Day

## FREEDOM ISN'T FREE

### Arizona Chapter Military Officers Association of America

Anthem Civic Building  
Anthem, Arizona

July 21, 2022

In April 2022 the Arizona Chapter MOAA received a grant of \$5000 from MOAA Foundation designed for chapter member volunteer participation in a project collaborating with three non-profit organizations. The overall goal was to:

“Benefit Arizona service members globally and Arizona veterans locally by packing and delivering items to support local veterans and deployed troops.”

From this MOAA Foundation grant, all materials were purchased for our event *Freedom Isn't Free* event held on July 21, 2022 at the Anthem Civic Building in Anthem, AZ.

Participating non-profit organizations included:

**Youth for Troops**  
**U.S. Vets – Phoenix**  
**Veterans First LTD**

Twenty-one chapter members of the Arizona Chapter of MOAA participated in addition to volunteers from the three collaborating non-profit organizations.

All materials, food, cleaning supplies, etc. were packaged and distributed by chapter members to the end user organizations.

Our special thanks to **Youth for Troops** for helping make this event possible and successful. **Youth for Troops** volunteers purchased all materials and made all preparations prior to the actual event and did an outstanding job.

Additional thanks to Carl Ulbrich, Jireh Communications, Inc. for his video work of this event: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1ZQoUMAiP54>

This was truly a collaborative event:

**Christeen Verchot, Senior Program Manager, Veterans First LTD** said, “This is phenomenal and so important working with MOAA. This allows the kids to be ready for school and we want to be able to support those veterans’ families who have served for our country.”

- 10 backpacks were given to Domestic Violence Program that house women and children, veteran women are part of this program
- 8 backpacks given to veteran families with disabled children through the TCH Day Program
- 3 backpacks given to a Group Home for disabled children of Veterans.
- 7 backpacks given to Disabled Veterans Children
- 20 backpacks were given to the Washington School District Teachers and Social Workers providing names of known low income veteran families.

**Tonya Piatt, President of Youth for Troops** commented that her organization is proud to work with the other non-profits dedicated to veterans. The care package boxes that are filled today will be sent to deployed troops around the world.

**Gerard Cox, Program Manager U.S. Vets Phoenix** said, “This is going to be a huge help. The veterans need the things that are in the move-in baskets when they are moving into a new apartment. Some of them don’t even have the bare essentials. The move-in kits will get the veterans off to a good start”.

**Tom Sheets, President of the Arizona Chapter MOAA** said, “With these MOAA Foundation funds, we are very proud to be able to support deployed troops overseas, the children of veterans in the community in need, and also veterans transitioning from homelessness to a home”

Continued on Page 5

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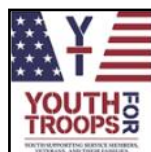


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FOR  
VETERANS  
ON ALL AIR,  
PLUMBING &  
ELECTRICAL  
SERVICE!

**Final impact and summary of Freedom Isn't Free**

100 Care Packages (75 Food/25 Hygiene) – Youth for Troops mailed to deployed troops overseas.



25 Move-In baskets – U.S. Vets Phoenix given to veteran families



42 Backpacks for Children of Veterans in Crisis – Veterans First, LTD



## SUMMER 2022



Doug Gray on a fishing trip in July

### Freedom Isn't Free



AZ Chapter MOAA Members receiving instructions on how to pack the backpacks laundry baskets, boxes for overseas troops, single parent veterans, and veterans moving into residential units.



### Freedom Isn't Free Packing Event

July 21, 2022

Pictured on the left is **Youth for Troops** and several members of **AZ Chapter Military Officers Association** with the backpacks, the shipping boxes and the move-in baskets that were packed in Anthem.

# SUMMER 2022

## Diamondbacks vs. Nationals July 24, 2022



Bruce and Sherry Kosaveach



Top Row: Steve MacDonald and friends  
Lower Row: Beth and Jim Cullison



Middle Row: Pete and Barbara, Cullison Friends, Beth Cullison and Jim's arm  
Lower Left: Gary Fredericks and Micki Morris, Charles and Janet Christoph,  
Lee and Janet Lange



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**Who Can Join MOAA?**

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
- Space Force
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- Public Health Services
- The 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.

**Donations Thru May 2022**

**General Fund:**

- JoAnn Reinhardt \$10
- Joseph L. Skibba \$10

**Scholarship Fund:**

- Richard Zweig \$30
- Carol Litten \$35





## Legislative Update

by Lee Lange, Legislative Chair

### Burn Pit Exposure Bill Fails in Senate – Action Needed

Despite the backing of dozens of VSO organizations like MOAA and the support of many lawmakers from both parties, the Honoring Our PACT Act has unexpectedly stalled in the Senate, just weeks after a large majority of the same body approved the critical and life-saving legislation.

A cloture vote to introduce the PACT Act for Senate debate failed July 27 by a vote of 55-42. Sixty votes were needed to advance the legislation and trigger a vote by the Senate. The vote surprised everyone who has been following this legislation. In June, the Senate voted overwhelmingly in support of it (84-14), but a procedural glitch required the legislation to go back to the House, where it was quickly approved, and sent back to the Senate.

But lingering funding concerns for the bill have led 25 Republican Senators to no longer support it. The central issue that caused so many Senators to change their positions was a budgetary fight about whether to categorize the funding as mandatory or discretionary spending. MOAA's position is to support passage of the PACT Act now. Lives are at stake, and we must support our veterans suffering today from exposure to harmful toxins in a combat zone our nation asked them to serve. Funding details can be ironed out after the measure is approved.

MOAA needs our help to send a strong message to Arizona's senators that the time for debate on toxic exposures is over. Although both Sen Sinema and Sen Kelly voted for cloture, we need to again express our strong support and urge them to convince other senators to change their vote to yes.

From burn pits to Agent Orange to chemicals found on domestic bases, toxic exposure touches so many members of the military community. Further delays could mean disaster for this comprehensive package of benefits and expanded VA services. Please send a message today by clicking on this link:

<https://moaa.quorum.us/campaign/41155/>

### State Legislature Ends Session

The Arizona State Legislature adjourned on 25 Jun 2022 around 12:30 am after passing an \$18B budget that funds the state fiscal year starting July 1. Several bills passed by the legislature are of interest to veterans.

**SB1115** In-state Tuition Status for Veterans. Removes the requirement for covered individuals to enroll in a course at Arizona colleges and universities within three years of being discharged to receive in-state tuition.

**SB 1212** Veterans Service Department Commission; Continuation. Continues the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services and Arizona Veterans' Service Advisory Commission for 8 years for the purpose of assisting Veterans and the surviving spouses, minor children, and heirs of Veterans. Contains a retroactive date of July 1, 2022.

**SB1406** Excused Military Absence, Higher Education. Prescribes protections for a person who is a National Guard or Reserve member, and a student at an Arizona institution of higher education and who is ordered to state or federal reserve component duty, or a person who is a student at an Arizona institution of higher education and whose spouse is ordered to reserve duty

**HB2062** Military Purple Heart VLT Exemption. Exempts a veteran who is a bona fide Purple Heart recipient, who has been honorably discharged, from a VLT or registration fee for a personally owned vehicle. The exemption only applies to one vehicle.

## Phil and Shar Roos Continue the Journey

Chapter members Phil (CAPT USN Ret), and Shar Roos have been on the road in their RV for the past 2-1/2 years. This is the third installment in a series of articles on the Roos family travels across America. What started as an attempt by Phil to get Shar to sail around the world, has evolved into a nationwide nonprofit called *A Year to Volunteer (Y2V)* that creates RV-friendly two-week volunteer projects, all over the country, mostly at state and regional parks as well as with other nonprofits such as equine therapy centers, museums and animal rescues.

Since they began their journey in early 2020 (at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic no less), Shar and Phil have completed 26 projects, across 18 states and have provided over 33,200 volunteer manhours with over 350 unique volunteers, all RVers who come from all over the country. “We’ve met some incredible friends on our travels,” says Phil. “It’s great because, through Y2V, we’ve made more friends and see them more often all over the country than we would probably see neighbors living at home. We totally miss our friends at home, but we’ve made so many new ones too.”

Since they started Y2V, Phil and Shar have become steadily more well-known within the nation’s state park systems. “This past April, we were invited to speak to two national state park conferences; a state park volunteer conference in Tennessee and the Rocky Mountain State Park Executive Conference in Omaha NE” says Phil, highlighting that the exposure is helping them book out further in advance. “Yep, the word is out about what we can do and they’re interested,” adds Shar. “We have learned that state parks only have time to run the day-to-day operation of the park and rarely the time to do repairs, restorative work, or enhancements. That’s where we come in. We bring the manpower to get all of that done in a very compressed timeframe.”

What’s next for Phil and Shar Roos? “Well, we’ve just gotten started,” says Shar, “and we’re already booking out into 2023.” Phil adds, “we’ve both lived service-oriented lives so this is a natural fit for us. If I think back to when I was trying to get Shar to sail around the world on a sailboat, I now realize that I would have been largely unfulfilled as

well. I think most of us who have served in the military can agree that making an impact is part of our nature and what Shar and I are doing now is a perfect fit.”

If you’d like to see what Phil and Shar Roos have accomplished during their travels, you can find them on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube at “A Year to Volunteer” and you can also check out their website at [www.ayeartovolunteer.com](http://www.ayeartovolunteer.com) to learn more about what they do. On YouTube at [www.youtube.com/ayeartovolunteer](http://www.youtube.com/ayeartovolunteer), you can see videos on their Buck’s Pocket as well as Sam Houston Jones State Park projects as well as the rest of their accomplishments. If you’d like to donate, you can find a link on their website. Proceeds they raise through their nonprofit will go to help other nonprofits who rely on public funding to help them do what they do.



Phil and Shar Roos with their puppy.

## 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](http://moaa.org)

\_\_\_\_\_ Or you may request the AZ Chapter Membership Chairperson, Bob Fiegl, [fielr869@gmail.com](mailto:fielr869@gmail.com)

to enroll you in a no-cost Basic Membership.

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 \_\_\_\_\_

 <p style="font-size: 2em; color: white; text-align: center;">Standing with you at every stage.</p> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: 0.8em;">97017</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em; color: white;">1-800-247-2192 • <a href="http://www.moaainsurance.com/plans">www.moaainsurance.com/plans</a></p>	<p>Licensed Professional Counselor      Licensed Independent Substance Abuse Counselor</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; color: #0070C0;">PETER A. BERGER, MPC, LPC, LISAC</p> <p style="text-align: center; color: #0070C0;">Associated Recovery Counselors</p> <p>7101 East Indian School Rd. Scottsdale, AZ 85251</p> <p style="text-align: right; color: #0070C0;">480-429-6292</p>
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<p><b>PRESIDENT</b> Col Tom Sheets, USMC      760-213-3705</p> <p><b>FIRST VICE PRESIDENT</b> CAPT Bob Fiegl, USN      850-207-9845</p> <p><b>SECOND VICE PRESIDENT</b> CDR Jack Farley, USN      412-779-0372</p> <p><b>SECRETARY</b> Maj David Boyd, USAF      202-617-0337</p> <p><b>TREASURER</b> Col Charles Bitner, USAF      602-943-0028</p> <p><b>IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT</b> Maj Pete Berger, USAF      602-739-0586</p> <p><b>DIRECTORS:</b> LTC Ron Bright, USA; Lt Col Jim Cullison, USAF; CAPT Bruce Kosaveach, USN; Janet Lange, USMC Spouse; Col Lee Lange, USMC</p>	<p><b>ADVERTISING</b> Janet Lange, USMC Spouse      571-722-4348</p> <p><b>ARRANGEMENTS</b> Col Charles Bitner, USAF      602-943-0028</p> <p><b>CHAPLAIN</b> Col Miriam Rose-Cummo, USA      516-521-1511</p> <p><b>ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS</b> Lt Col Jim Cullison, USAF      602-482-3838</p> <p><b>HISTORIAN / PHOTOGRAPHER</b> Lt Col Jim Cullison, USAF      602-482-3838</p> <p><b>JROTC AWARDS</b> Lt Col Jim Cullison, USAF      602-482-3838</p> <p><b>LEGISLATION</b> Col Lee Lange, USMC      703-232-3609</p> <p><b>MEMBERSHIP</b> CAPT Bob Fiegl, USN      850-207-9845</p>	<p><b>NEWSLETTER EDITOR</b> Janet Lange, USMC Spouse      571-722-4348</p> <p><b>PERSONAL AFFAIRS</b> Col Lee Lange, USMC      703-232-3609</p> <p><b>PROGRAMS</b> CAPT Bruce Kosaveach, USN      602-501-9876</p> <p><b>SCHOLARSHIPS</b> LTC Ron Bright, USA      480-614-9463</p> <p><b>SURVIVING SPOUSES</b> Susan Farrell, Surviving Spouse      602-993-8556</p> <p><b>TRANSITION LIAISON</b> CDR Jim Draper USN      480-483-7769</p> <p><b>WEBMASTER</b> Carl Ulbrich Jireh Communications</p>
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