



THE ARIZONA CHAPTER
Military Officers Association of America
Arizona's First Chapter



CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES, SATURDAY MARCH 26, 2022:

Meeting held at McCormick Ranch Golf Club, Scottsdale, AZ

SOCIAL TIME: 11:00

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

President Tom Sheets called the meeting to order at 11:45, and then led the group in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

INVOCATION:

The invocation was given by Miriam Rosa-Cummo, the Chapter's Chaplain.

PRESIDENT'S WELCOME:

President Tom Sheets welcomed everyone to the meeting. All guests and new members were recognized. Tom announced that Doug Gray purchased the baseball game tickets, and the proceeds were donated to the Scholarship Fund. Tom also announced the observance of National Viet Nam Veterans Day, and added that these vets finally are getting their "welcome home".

TREASURERS REPORT:

Charlie Bitner gave the following balances: General Fund: \$10,970.90; Scholarship Fund: \$21,823.55.

LUNCH SERVED:

Lunch was served at 11:45 A.M.

INTRODUCTION OF GUEST SPEAKER:

Bruce Kosaveach, Director of Programs, introduced our speaker Linda Wolverton, who is the Surviving Spouse leader at the Luke MOAA Chapter. She received her B.A. in Clinical Care at University of Alabama, and got a Masters degree at Pepperdine University in Health Care Law. Bruce mentioned that Linda has authored many articles on Surviving Spouse issues. Bruce mentioned that Linda's spouse passed away in 2015, and is buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

GUEST SPEAKER:

Linda said the title of her presentation is "Discussion That I Didn't Want". She stated when a spouse dies, we wonder what to do. Many people are anxious to discuss their own mortality. She described how she and her late husband began discussing mortality issues. She and her late husband had some experience being executors when her mother passed. Linda said they did not have knowledge of her bank accounts, did she have a "do not resuscitate order", did she want to have a funeral? This spurred Linda and her late husband to discuss surviving spouse issues. This opened up discussions of issues such as having a Trust, the bank accounts,



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utilities being in both names. She said keep the cell phone of the deceased. Sometimes a bank will send a code to the cell phone (for security purposes) in order to conduct business. Other items to discuss are Long Term Care, who is the pool maintenance man, etc. We also need to know how to stop the military pension, V.A. pensions, etc.

Linda said that the Luke MOAA.org website is a "One stop shop" for Casualty Assistance. Linda mentioned that during illnesses or disability of the veteran, a spouse may apply for DIC benefits, if she is the caregiver. She said the DIC amount has not been raised since 1993. The spouse will need the veterans eligibility letter to apply. Another V.A. program is called Aid and Attendance (same as housebound). Linda mentioned that some states have a death benefit, so please check.

Linda said that people who are not afraid of dying, have a more fulfilling life. She mentioned that Arlington National Cemetery is running out of space. Even if a veteran is approved for burial at Arlington, burial is not immediate. For example, a veteran many have to wait 90 or more days to be buried. What is to be done with the body during the waiting time? If the body is cremated, this is not such an issue. The surviving spouse must have access to the deceased's computer, the trust documents, bank accounts, etc.

Bruce mentioned that Linda has prepared handouts containing the following: Be prepared, End of Life Stressors, and Application for Burial in a V.A. Ceremony. Linda gave a very informative presentation, which was well received.

RAFFLE DRAWING:

Per our usual procedure, a raffle drawing was held.

FINAL REMARKS:

Ron Bright announced that there are 3 ROTC Scholarship winners, whom will be recognized at the next Chapter meeting. He added that we also support JROTC by providing medals to outstanding students.

Bob Fiegl said that we had more people wanting to attend the luncheon, than the number of seats available. He encouraged people to contact Charlie Bitner early regarding attending luncheons.

Tom Sheets announced that members can have input for the Board of Directors, by sending one of them an e-mail.

NEXT MEETING:

The next Chapter members meeting will be April 16, 2022, at the same facility.

ADJOURN:

The meeting was adjourned at 1:44 P.M.



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Respectfully submitted:

David Boyd, Secretary

