



# Catalina Mountains Sentinel

## Summer 2022 Issue

### Page 1

- Wreaths Across America
- Upcoming luncheons

### Page 2

- President's Message
- Consider volunteering

### Page 3

- Board members and officers
- Esperanza En Escalante camp

### Page 4

- Legislative update

### Page 5

- Other chapter leadership
- MOAA's Legislative Action Center

### Pages 6

- Join the Chapter
- Editorial policy

### Page 7

- Mission statement
- How to contact us
- Fly the flag dates
- Upcoming birthdays

### Page 8

- December luncheon notes
- January luncheon notes

### Page 9

- Member in the spotlight

## Wreaths Across America

On Saturday, 16 December 2023, two chapter members, COL Bill Nagy and COL Char Godec, participated in the Wreaths Across America ceremony at the Arizona Veterans' Memorial Cemetery in Marana. The event was very well attended, and wreaths were placed at the gravesites of those buried or interred there. A few chapter members also participated by contributing to the many wreaths that were placed on Saturday.



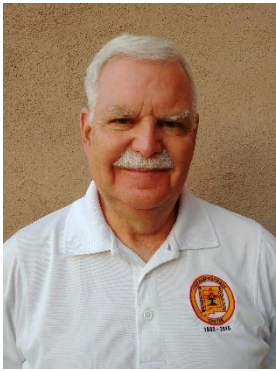
## Upcoming luncheons

20 January (Saturday), Chapter luncheon at Saddlebrooke Ranch Grill. Luncheon begins at noon (not 11:30 AM). Speaker is LTC Dana Allmond, LTC, USA, retired, who is the Director of the Department of Veterans Services for the State of Arizona. See the luncheon notes on page 8 for additional information.

Chapter meetings are held January – April and October – December at Saddlebrooke Ranch, normally on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month.

17 February (Saturday) Chapter luncheon at Saddlebrooke Ranch Grill. Luncheon begins at 11:30 AM. Speaker is Marsha Moon, a Gold Star mother, who will talk about her son Chris Moon, a U. S. Army sniper assigned to the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division who was killed in Afghanistan in July 2020.

## President's message



Happy New Year! Welcome to the inaugural edition of the Catalina Mountains Chapter newsletter, the Catalina Mountains Sentinel. Prior to this issue the chapter published a newsletter jointly with the Tucson Chapter of

MOAA. This chapter became a stand-alone MOAA chapter in July 2022 and has continued to grow ever since. It's time for us to start publishing our own newsletter.

2023 was a great year for the chapter and I hope that 2024 is also a great year. We held 8 monthly luncheons, provided funding for Esperanza En Escalante children to attend a

one-week camp, obtained a grant from the MOAA Foundation to provide new Dell laptops to four residents of Esperanza En Escalante, participated in Wreaths Across America, and participated in Saddlebrooke One's Veterans Day dinner on 11 November.

This summer we received a national MOAA 5-star Level of Effort award for our chapter performance. Five stars is the highest level of award a chapter can earn; I want to thank all of our chapter members for making that happen, especially in our first year of existence..

## Consider volunteering

National MOAA's motto is Never Stop Serving®. Consider serving with the Catalina Mountains Chapter. The Chapter is currently looking for volunteers to serve as the Fund-Raising Chair, the Public Relations Chair, and someone to plan a Holiday Party for December 2024.

Contact president Chuck Vaughan at [chuck.vaughan@comcast.net](mailto:chuck.vaughan@comcast.net) or by phone at 505-553-4364 if interested in volunteering.



**National MOAA and the Catalina Mountains Chapter are nonpartisan.**

Chapter meetings are held January – April and October – December at Saddlebrooke Ranch, normally on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month.

## Esperanza En Escalante camp by Chuck Vaughan

### 2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Charles F. Vaughan, CAPT,  
USN, retired**

*Chairman*

**Bill Nagy, COL, USAR, retired**

*Member*

**Rett Benedict, COL, USAF, re-  
tired**

*Member*

### 2024 CHAPTER OFFICERS

**Charles F. Vaughan, CAPT,  
USN, retired**

*President*

**Kurt McMillen, COL, USA, re-  
tired**

*First Vice President*

**Bruce Huffman, COL, USA, re-  
tired**

*Second Vice President*

**Bill Myers, LT, CEC, USN, for-  
mer**

*Secretary*

**George Bone, LTC, USA, re-  
tired**

## Esperanza En Escalante one-week camp a success!

In the spring of 2023 chapter members were asked to donate funds to support sending children of Esperanza En Escalante (see page 3 for info on Esperanza En Escalante) residents to a one-week summer camp. Several chapter members donated a total of \$2,050.00 to send these children to camp. Esperanza En Escalante staff put together a one-week camp for the children over the fall break in early October. Children and their chaperones can be seen in the photo below.



Esperanza En Escalante (EEE) is a non-profit organization (501(c)(3) formed in 1989 by a group of individuals concerned about the rising number of homeless veterans on the streets of Tucson. They including Betty Slaybaugh, who later became the first Executive Director of Esperanza En Escalante, members of the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 106, and others from various organizations and groups.

Located on approximately 19 acres, EEE is continually being evaluated and updated, always with the needs of our Veterans in mind. We provide housing, social services, programs and transportation to assist a Veteran's transition into everyday life. EEE works closely with the City of Tucson, the State of Arizona, the Veteran's Administration and many other institutions and organizations meeting the physical and social needs of our honored veterans.

EEE receives funding from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Arizona Department of Housing, local county and city governments, churches, non-governmental organizations and private citizens. (Taken from <https://www.eeeveterans.org/our-organization.html>.)



## Legislative update by Tom Waddell, Arizona Council Legislative chair

### The following is from Tom Waddell, Arizona Council Legislative Chair.

On 17 November, I was privileged to represent the Grand Canyon Chapter (GCC) and the Arizona Council of Chapters at the MOAA Leadership Workshop in Phoenix. It was a great experience and got me to focus on my responsibilities as our GCC Legislative Liaison and as the Council Legislative Chair. Part of that awakening, was realizing that our mantra is: *“Never stop serving”* but more importantly our mission is: *“To preserve and protect earned benefits for our uniformed services, veterans, their families, and surviving spouses through advocacy, leadership, education, and service.”* The MOAA Government Relations Team are the trained professionals working tirelessly on the hill but it’s the MOAA members who provide critical support to that team. Through our grassroots advocacy, we make sure our elected representatives both in Washington and at home are aware that we, as voters, support the MOAA mission.

Notice I said voters, not constituents. Those in politics are very aware of the difference as they listen to voters, not constituents! And they know that MOAA members are voters and that they represent the power of the ballot! That is why it is so very important that each of us make our voice heard by actively participating in the MOAA advocacy programs. Take time to go to the MOAA Legislative Action Center, review the MOAA legislative priorities and use the Action Center to make your voice heard!

We are reaching a critical time in both the state and national budget crisis. We are at a point where our representatives have to act and that action will need to include both raising taxes and cutting benefits across all the state and national programs. At the national level, in 1969, 73% of congress were veterans. Today it’s 17%! That is why we, as MOAA members, have to actively support MOAA’s legislative priorities and ensure that those 83% who are non-veterans are educated and that they: *“preserve and protect earned benefits for our uniformed services, veterans, their families, and surviving spouses”!*

Please embrace the MOAA mission and visit the MOAA Action Center, <https://moaa.quorum.us/> and make sure your voice, as a voter, is heard on hill. One tip: if you take time to personalize the letters in the forum, they are more likely to have a positive impact on the member. Thank you for all you do for all of those who are serving, have served, their family members and surviving spouses!

### Arizona Legislature Update:

A primary goal this session will be working to find support for our effort to exempt NOAA and USPHS active-duty personnel from state income tax along with the members of the military services. One of the members of another chapter is using his contacts to ensure that issue will again be brought before the Arizona legislature in 2024. Once a bill is introduced, you will be provided with a suggested letter for your state representatives.

Chapter meetings are held January – April and October – December at Saddlebrooke Ranch, normally on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month.

## MOAA's Legislative Action Center

National MOAA's Legislative Action Center makes it very easy for you to contact your national legislators on legislation that MOAA is advocating for passage. As noted by national MOAA, "your efforts are critical to our success protecting and expanding the earned pay and benefits for the uniformed services and veteran communities".

The purpose of the Legislative Action Center is to get legislation, beneficial to members of the uniformed services, veterans and their dependents, passed into law. MOAA members use the Legislative Action Center to write to their legislators to encourage passage of specific legislation. The Legislative Action Center makes writing to your legislators simple—in fact, very simple—as the letters are written for you, they are addressed to your legislators (based on your mailing address), so all you have to do is select the recipients, edit the letter if you want to, and click submit. Easy-peasy! If you haven't tried it yet, please do.

MOAA's Legislative Action Center is located at <https://moaa.quorum.us/>



The Arizona Veterans Memorial Cemetery – Marana – on 16 December 2023 after placing wreaths on all the graves as part of Wreaths Across America.

### ADDITIONAL CHAPTER LEADERSHIP

**Bill Nagy, COL, USAR, retired**

*Programs Chari*

**Carol Smith**

*Surviving Spouse Liaison*

**Char Godec, COL, USA, retired**

*Legislative Liaison & Chair*

**Don Timian, LTC, USA, retired**

*Membership Chair*

**Jeff Peckron, Capt, USMC, retired**

*Audio/Visual Support*

**Ritt Schiano, CAPT, USN, retired**

*Chaplain*

Chapter meetings are held January – April and October – December at Saddlebrooke Ranch, normally on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month.

## Join the Catalina Mountains Chapter

If you are not a member already, consider joining the Catalina Mountains Chapter. Why should you join our chapter? You should join so you can help us make a difference in the life of some veterans and uniformed personnel. How can you make a difference? Through your gifts of time and money. Chapter members donated their time this year to do some exterior painting at Esperanza En Escalante and two chapter members placed wreaths at the Wreaths Across America event in December. If you can make a financial donation, chapter members sponsored a one-week camp for children of Esperanza En Escalante residents and contributed funds to purchase four laptop computers for Esperanza En Escalante residents.

To join the chapter, you must be eligible to join national MOAA. If you have any questions about joining the chapter contact our membership chair, Don Timian, at [dontimian@hotmail.com](mailto:dontimian@hotmail.com) or by phone at 571-216-3679.

Chapter dues at \$30 per calendar year.

You can find a membership application at [https://www.catalinamountainsmoaa.org/CM\\_join.html](https://www.catalinamountainsmoaa.org/CM_join.html)

The Chapter received a 5 star Level of Excellence award for 2022, shown below. MOAA chapters were graded as 3, 4, or 5 stars based on the performance of each chapter with 5 stars being the highest level of excellence. Thanks to all chapter members for making this happen!



## Editorial policy

**Editorial Policy.** This MOAA newsletter, published periodically throughout the year, is solely for the benefit of members of the Catalina Mountains Chapter of MOAA. The opinions expressed herein are those of the authors or editor and do not necessarily reflect those of the national MOAA organization nor any official government policies or agencies.

Charles F. Vaughan, Editor, Catalina Mountains Chapter of MOAA

Chapter meetings are held January – April and October – December at Saddlebrooke Ranch, normally on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month.

## Catalina Mountains mission statement

The Chapter's mission is clearly spelled out in the by-laws of the Catalina Mountains Chapter, in Section 1.2 as follows:

"The Chapter is organized, and shall be administered and operated, exclusively for the following purposes, with the meaning of Section 501(c)(19) of the Internal Revenue Code: to promote the purposes and objectives of the national Military Officers Association of America (MOAA); foster fraternal relations among active duty, former, and retired officers of the uniformed services and their reserve or national guard components; protect the rights and interests of active duty, former, retired, and reserve and national guard component personnel of the uniformed services and their dependents and survivors; provide useful services for members and their dependents and survivors; and serve the community and the nation."

## How to contact us

To contact the President, email Chuck Vaughan at [chuck.vaughan@comcast.net](mailto:chuck.vaughan@comcast.net) or call him at 505-553-4364.

For membership questions, email Don Timian at [dontimian@hotmail.com](mailto:dontimian@hotmail.com) or call him at 571-216-3679.

For luncheon speaker suggestions, email Bill Nagy at [wjnagy@yahoo.com](mailto:wjnagy@yahoo.com) or call him at 520-355-5064.

For Surviving Spouse information contact Carol Smith at [carol.chisari.smith@gmail.com](mailto:carol.chisari.smith@gmail.com) or call her at 915-549-6917.

## Fly the flag dates

January 1 – New Year's Day  
January 15 – Martin Luther King Jr. Day

February 12 – Lincoln's Birthday  
February 19 – Washington's Birthday/President's Day

## Upcoming birthdays

The following chapter members have a birthday in January:

Daniel Kaperski                  Tracy Reingruber

The following chapter members have a birthday in February:

Ray Caryl	Jon Chase	Gerald Hagin	Deborah McGeehan
Skip Robinson	Don Tyson	Charles Vaughan	Michael Waneka

Chapter meetings are held January – April and October – December at Saddlebrooke Ranch, normally on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month.

## December luncheon notes – by Bill Myers, LT, CEC, USN, former

The Catalina Mountain Chapter (CMC) of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) held its most recent luncheon meeting on Saturday, December 16th, at SaddleBrooke Ranch. The meeting began with a business session presided over by retired Capt. Chuck Vaughan, U.S. Navy, President, during which members were updated on the chapter's current and upcoming activities.

Retired Col. Kurt McMillen, U.S. Army, First Vice President, announced the slate of officers recently elected by the membership for 2024 and 2025. They are as follows: President – Capt. Vaughan; First Vice President – Col. Kurt McMillen; Second Vice President – retired Col. Bruce Huffman, U.S. Army; Secretary – former Lt. William Myers, U.S. Navy; and Treasurer – retired Lt. Col. George Bone, U.S. Army.

Our December speaker was retired Major Gary Goebel, U.S. Air Force, whose service time extended from 1967 through 1987 in a variety of Air Force aircraft from the F-105 Thunderchief and F-111 Aardvark during the Viet Nam Conflict to the A-10 Thunderbolt II.

Maj. Goebel discussed both his military career and that of his father who was a Double Ace (11) victories while flying 61 missions in the then new P-51 Mustang in the European Theater of Operations during WWII. His father then returned home and had not yet turned 21. Maj. Goebel further discussed the book authored by his father, "Mustang Ace," as well Maj. Goebel's own literary endeavors, including "Tinman's Tale," reprising his military flying experiences.

## January luncheon notes – by Bill Myers, LT, CEC, USN, former

The January luncheon CMC meeting will be held at the SaddleBrooke Ranch Grill on Saturday, January 20th beginning at 12:00 noon instead of our usual starting time of 11:30 because of the Activity Fair at SaddleBrooke earlier in the day.

Our speaker will be retired Lieutenant Colonel Dana Allmond, U.S. Army, who is the Director of the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services. Lt. Col. Allmond will detail the important subject of the rights of veterans in our state, as well as legislation that is pending in the state legislature that will affect these rights.

Ms. Allmond's military career began in 1989 by enlisting in the U.S. Army Reserve as an administrative specialist. Ms. Allmond was later commissioned a Second Lieutenant in 1994, having graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York, a Bachelor of Science Degree in individual psychology. She also has a Masters in Counseling and Leader Development from Long Island University and a Master of Business Administration from Arizona State University.



## Member in the spotlight - by Kurt McMillen

We will be highlighting the accomplishments of one of our CMC members in each issue of the CMC Sentinel newsletter. Many of our members are very involved in the local community and we would like to highlight their contributions both within CMC and beyond our chapter!

Our initial spotlight “spotlight” shines on David Bull. In the military, David was a Damage Control Assistant/Repair Officer in the U.S. Naval Reserve from 1968 through 1970. He served as a Lieutenant Junior Grade on the USS Great Sitkin (AE-17) and USS Mullinix (DD-219) during two Mediterranean cruises.

David earned both a Bachelor of Arts from Susquehanna University in Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania and a Juris Doctorate from Quinnipiac University in Hamden, Connecticut. He retired after 30 years as a Litigation Attorney – Defense Counsel for various insurance companies where he specialized in Workers Compensation Law. David was admitted to the Connecticut state court, the New York state court and the U.S. District Court (in Connecticut) and the Mohegan Sun Gaming Disputes Court.

On a personal note, David is a widower with several grandchildren and great grandchildren (who all live back in Connecticut). Since moving from Milford, Connecticut in 2008, he has been a Saddlebrooke resident.

Not only is David former Membership Chair for CMC, but he is also well involved in Saddlebrooke and the surrounding community! He contributes his time and resources by:

- Serving on the Board of Directors for Senior Village (SV) at SaddleBrooke and volunteers on both the SV “Going my Way” team and “Helping Hands/Lockbox” team;
- Being a member and volunteer at Resurrection Lutheran Church at SaddleBrooke;
- Serving on the SaddleBrooke Public Affairs Commission;
- Helping at the SaddleBrooke Pet Rescue Network monthly donation events;
- Volunteering at the Saddlebrooke Health Fair;
- Being a member of the Saddlebrooke Democratic Club;
- Routinely donating blood at Saddlebrooke blood drives;
- Serving on the Saddlebrooke HOA-1 Architecture & Landscaping Committee;
- Volunteering at the Golden Goose Thrift Shop (2009-2010), and;
- Annually volunteering at the Saddlebrooke HOA-1 Employee Recognition Event.

Needless to say, David’s calendar is very full! Why is David motivated to volunteer in many different areas? His parents were his example while growing up. They also were involved in many areas, and David understood that getting involved “was something everyone did”. Work and family life, though, was the number one priority early on. He finally got the opportunity to focus on life after retirement, and it became obvious that David’s next chapter in life involves volunteering. According to David, volunteering is energizing and gets him going each day. He looks forward to meeting new people, helping his neighbors, contributing to his community, and finding fulfillment in ‘making a difference.’ In essence, he found his purpose for the current chapter in his life.

I hope that we can all aspire to be like David!

Chapter meetings are held January – April and October – December at Saddlebrooke Ranch, normally on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month.



David Bull, Catalina Mountains Chapter member