



THE TERRITORIAL

TUCSON CHAPTER OF THE ARIZONA COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS
MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA



APRIL 2023

National MOAA and the Tucson Chapter are non-partisan



FROM THE EAGLES NEST

By Tom Owens, Col, USAFR, (Ret); Tucson Chapter President

The overarching framework of the April 2023 MOAA Advocacy in Action will be the critical need to continue and protect the All-Volunteer Force. The annual event will gather 225 state council leaders, National Board members, and HQ staff in DC where they will visit all 535 Senate and House offices to spread the word. Two additional issues will be highlighted: the need to shore up the Basic Housing Allowance and stem continuing erosion of medical benefits through cuts to the Tricare Pharmacy Network. Keep abreast of these developments at MOAA's [2023 Advocacy in Action](#) website portal.

If you have not already done so, I am asking all members to send in the letters to key Congressional leaders inserted into April's edition of the MOAA magazine.

Last month Luis Salgado spoke to us about "Rainwater Harvesting". It was very informative. As I drove around Tucson after the meet-

ing, I noticed several areas where I saw his information in action. Several medians were transformed into beautiful plantings.

The Tucson chapter also added a new member, Judy Smith, a Surviving Spouse.



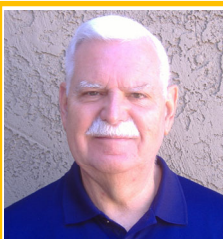
L to R: Tom Owens, Luis Salgado, and Brenda Hughey.

On April 27, we will be presenting scholarships to the University of Arizona ROTC cadets from the Air Force, Army, and Navy units. This is always a pleasure to see the next generation arise and follow in our footsteps.

On May 25, we plan to visit Pima Air & Space Museum. Arrive at about 1000 and meet in the cafeteria. We have requested a speaker. Then we will tour the grounds. We are still working on transportation needs.

designated the chapter as a 501(c)(19) organization. A 501(c)(19) organization is a veterans' organization. The 501 designation refers to subsection 501 of the United States Internal Revenue Code. Within that subsection nonprofit organizations—501(c) organizations—are exempt from paying Federal income taxes. Under 501(c) there are many organization options—listed as sub-subsections—that a nonprofit can operate under and be exempt from paying Federal income taxes. Catalina Mountains Chapter

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Catalina Mountains Chapter

By Chuck Vaughan, CAPT, USN, (Ret) President

Greetings everyone!

The Catalina Mountains Chapter recently received the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) letter we've been waiting for; the IRS has officially

Upcoming Tucson Chapter Meetings

April 27, 2023: UofA ROTC Awards and Scholarships.

Join us in honoring outstanding Air Force, Army, and Navy ROTC cadets from the University of Arizona units. 11:30 a.m., Vivace Restaurant, 6440 N Campbell Ave. Reservations required. Call Jim Whipp at 520-751-6356.

May 25, 2023: Tour and Lunch at the Pima Air and Space Museum.

Arrive at about 1000 and meet in the cafeteria. We have requested a speaker. Then we will tour the grounds and finish with lunch at the Flight Grill. We are still working on transportation needs.

We will be sending out a survey on meeting/luncheon venues for fall-spring. Please provide your input.

Tucson Chapter Activities

The Tucson MOAA Board meets the first Wednesday of the month, at 2p.m. via ZOOM. Members are invited to submit items for consideration to the Secretary: pam.devine@azmoves.com, not later than one week prior to the meeting. If you desire to participate, please email rorvik@orvik.com to receive the access link.

Membership meetings are 11:30 am, each fourth Thursday at the Vivace Restaurant, 6440 N Campbell Ave, September through May. Reservations required. Call Jim Whipp at: 520-751-6356

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Tucson MOAA Mission

1. Advocate and support MOAA national goals.
2. Advocate and support the Arizona and metro Tucson programs, activities, and proposed legislation.
3. Encourage and promote a spirit of volunteerism and participation in programs and activities beneficial to Tucson civic and military communities.

The newsletter editor wants your opinion!
What are your thoughts on the recent format changes in The Territorial?
Let me know at moaa@gojo.mozmail.com

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

By Charlene Godec COL, USA (Ret)
Legislative Liaison, Catalina Mountains Chapter

National: S.344, the **Major Richard Star Act** for concurrent relief was reintroduced in the Senate with broad bipartisan support. Currently, there are 62 cosponsors, including Senator Mark Kelly and Senator Krysten Sinema. A companion bill H.R. 1282 was re-introduced in the House on 1 March and currently has 267 co-sponsors including Arizona Representatives Ruben Gallego (AZ-3), Raul Grijalva (AZ-7), Debbie Lesko (AZ-8), and Juan Ciscomani (AZ-6). MOAA urges each of us to contact our senators and representatives and seek their support for this priority issue. Please visit <https://moaa.quorum.us/> to signal your support!

Stay tuned for results from the **MOAA Advocacy in Action(AiA) Campaign** this month. MOAA representatives from across the country will be visiting members of the US Senate and House to push for action on the following issues:

Restore Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) to 100%: Our service members give 100% in service to our country. They should not have to carry the additional burden of paying higher housing costs not covered by their allowance. Please help relieve stress on our military and help support recruitment and retention to sustain a strong all-volunteer force.

Reverse TRICARE Pharmacy Cuts: TRICARE Pharmacy network cuts announced in late 2022 have created barriers to accessing prescription medications, particularly for the elderly, rural families, and those with serious medical conditions such as cancer, epilepsy, and multiple sclerosis.

You can support MOAA AiA and all MOAA legislative initiatives by writing to your elected officials and urging them to support MOAA's priorities. You can use the Advocacy links at <https://moaa.quorum.us/>. Remember that grassroots advocacy is one of the most effective means to influence national and state legislative action!!

Arizona: The current legislative session will adjourn sine die on 22 April though the Governor may call them back for a special session. Stay tuned for progress on: **SB-1206: Military Spouse Tuition:** The Senate Minority Caucus gave the bill a "DO PASS" recommendation. Also, **SB-1375** to amend current law to include NOAA and USPHS active members in the active duty pay exemption in ARS 43-1022: The current language in 43-1022 says "Armed Services". SB-1375 would amend this to "Uniformed Services" granting NOAA and USPHS the same exemption for active duty pay. The current language covers Arizona state Legislative Districts 17, 18, 20, and a part of 21. I have talked to numerous legislators and their staff members over the years. They have all stated that hearing from their constituents (even a few) makes them pay attention to legislation and support what we ask them to do. It is easy to contact them with a call or an email:

LD-17: Sen. Justine Wadsack, 602-926-3106, JWadsack@azleg.gov; Rep. Rachel Jones, 602-926-3558, rachel.jones@azleg.gov; Rep. Cory McGarr, (602) 926-3630, CMcGarr@azleg.gov. **LD-18:** Sen. Priya Sundareshan, (602) 926-3437, PSundareshan@azleg.gov; Rep. Nancy Gutierrez, (602) 926-4134, NGutierrez@azleg.gov; Rep. Christopher Mathis, (602) 926-3138, CMathis@azleg.gov. **LD-20:** Sen. Sally Ann Gonzalez, (602) 926-3278, SGonzalez@azleg.gov; Rep. André Cano, (602) 926-3027, ACano@azleg.gov; Rep. Alma Hernandez, (602) 926-3136, AHernandez@azleg.gov. **LD-21:** Sen. Rosanna Gabaldón, (602) 926-3424, RGalbaldon@azleg.gov Rep. Consuelo Hernandez, (602) 926-3523, CHernandez@azleg.gov; Rep. Stephanie Stahl Hamilton, (602) 926-3279, SStahlhamilton@azleg.gov.

SURVIVING SPOUSE AND PERSONAL AFFAIRS

By Polly Parks, *Surviving Spouse Liaison*

National: The Caring for Survivors Act has been reintroduced by Senators Tester and Boozman and Representatives Hayes and Fitzpatrick. This will bring DIC on par with other Surviving Spouses and dependents programs by raising payments from 43% to 55%. MOAA cautions this is likely to be a multi-year campaign similar to eliminating the widow's tax.

It has become apparent that DFAS has chronic problems around retirement and survivor benefits that won't be fixed by legislation. MOAA wants to track this, so a POC will be designated for recording any incidents. One legislative fix, **DFAS Recoupment of Pay**, has not yet been reintroduced this year as Senator Cornyn (TX), who sits on SASC, is awaiting feedback from DOD on technical concerns on how to fix it; it will then be reintroduced.

The **Love Lives on Act** will be reintroduced by Senators Warnock and Moran and Representatives Dean and Hudson. This bill will allow surviving spouses who remarry to maintain access to VA scholarship programs, retain access to the Commissary and Exchange benefits, retain SBP and DIC at any age, re-access Tricare if the remarriage ends in death, divorce, or annulment, and remove the "Hold Themselves Out To Be Married" clause.

Keep abreast and weigh in on these developments at [MOAA's Legislative Action Center](#). There are boilerplate letters on MOAA's Legislative Action Center [Call to Action](#) page (click "Write" next to a specific issue), When writing, MOAA suggests personalizing your letter. It takes a few minutes more but makes it more likely the appropriate staff member will read it. Another hint from HQ, if you call a legislative office, ask to speak to the member's Legislative Liaison.

The VA has launched [VALife](#), a whole-life, guaranteed acceptance insurance program for all service-connected veterans, any level of service, under 80. VALife has a few exceptions to the age limit. The program has bands of coverage from \$10-\$40k. [Read the pamphlet](#) for more detail and how to apply. For problems with **deceased spouse VA overpayment**, the VA Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors at 800-959-8277 is staffed and can help. VSOs can help with many issues including if VA income limits are limiting respite care. The VHA has a program for **caregiver assistance**. There is no income cap but eligibility is determined by a disability rating of 70% or

VOLUNTEER TO BE A MOAA MOVER:

Catalina: Fundraising Chair, Chaplin

Tucson: Chapter VP/Program Chair, Chaplin

Our MOAA programs and their quality depend on the voluntary efforts of our members. Please consider lending your *LEADERSHIP AND VOICE* to the Chapters' teams. Contact Tucson Chapter President Tom Owens at owensttt@gmail.com or Catalina Mountains Chapter President Charles Vaughan at chuck.vaughan@comcast.net.

D-M RAO MEETING

D-M RAO Meeting, April 3, 2023. This was the last meeting till September. A new volunteer is helping out, LCDR Clark Payton (USN, Ret).

Base News: Maj Peckham reporting for the Commander's office stated the **Air Show** was very successful; they estimate twice as many people showed up as last year. They also wrapped up the **Unit Compliance Audit**. Coming up: USAF Secretary Frank Kendall will be visiting on April 16. In addition, Congressional delegations are expected over the next month. Vice Cdr Col Sheets is transitioning to his next assignment and will be replaced by Col Brown, also a helo pilot. **DFAS:** A1C Savannah Wood is answering reset/change password inquiries for MyPay on-base: (520) 228-4279. **Pharmacy:** Sgt Brace reports the audio refill line is back up. The appointment call-in line now has music as you wait in the queue. Next up will be informing callers where they stand in the queue. **Commissary:** Inventory this month. The Warehouse Sale will be May 11-14. May also will feature Mother's Day flowers and specials for Cinco de Mayo. You can use your Military Star card to pay for goods. Also, the Commissary accepts the Military Star card (with no transaction fee). Outreach is continuing to ensure that eligible patrons from the [Purple Heart and Disabled Veterans Equal Access Act](#) are aware of their eligibility. **Exchange:** Military Child Month. Each weekend will feature an event, with games and snacks, for children. Remodeling has started in the Mall area.

SAVAHCS: Masking is still required but there is no screening at entrances. Some renovation is ongoing. Volunteer Recognition will take place April 16-27 with a circus theme: SAVHOCS Greatest Volunteers on Earth.

PIMA COUNTY VETERANS AFFAIRS

SAVAHCS celebrates its 95 years in Tucson with a special event on **Oct 27**. Due to the recent passage of the **PACT ACT**, the VA has been processing toxic exposure claims--over 14,000 in southern Arizona thus far. This ACT also eliminated the co-pay for Native American veterans.

Interments for the Missing in America Project, April 15, 10 am, Arizona Veterans' Memorial Cemetery-Marana.

There will be a **Golf Tournament for the Arizona Veterans' Memorial Cemetery-Marana, Foundation**, on Sat, May 13, at 6 am, at the Tucson Omni.

Memorial Day is only once a year but our gratitude is endless.

Please join us as we honor this special holiday.

Ritual Ceremony by VFW Post 4903, Monday, May 29, 2023 | 9:00 A.M. 5801 E Grant Road | Tucson.

EDITORIAL POLICY

THIS MOAA NEWSLETTER IS PUBLISHED MONTHLY FROM SEPTEMBER THROUGH MAY IS SOLELY FOR THE BENEFIT OF MEMBERS OF THE TUCSON AND CATALINA MOUNTAINS CHAPTERS. THE OPINIONS EXPRESSED HEREIN ARE THOSE OF THE AUTHORS/EDITOR AND DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THOSE OF THE MOAA NATIONAL ORGANIZATION, THE EDITOR, OR ANY OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT POLICIES OR AGENCIES.

Grant Orvik, Editor, TUCSON CHAPTER, MOAA MOAA@GOJO.MOZMAIL.COM; 202-681-5295



STAY HEALTHY

TUCSON CHAPTER OFFICERS

(<http://www.tucsonmoaa.org>)

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Surviving Spouse Advisory Council: Polly Parks, 703-338-6881/ pollyparks@earthlink.net

Chaplain: Vacant

Webmaster: Charles Vaughan, CAPT. USN, (Ret) 505-553-4364/Chuck.vaughan@comcast.net

Catalina Mountains Chapter President's Report, cont. from page 1

Leadership looked at those options and determined that a veterans' organization designation—501(c)(19)—would best fit our chapter given our mission and chapter membership.

To qualify as a 501(c)(19) organization we had to meet two requirements of membership: 1) At least **75%** of the members are past or present members of the U.S. Armed Forces, and; 2) At least **97.5%** of all members of the organization are past or present members of the U.S. Armed Forces, cadets (including only students in college or university ROTC programs or at armed services academies) or spouses, widows, widowers, ancestors, or lineal descendants of the above. We met those requirements and filed for 501(c)(19) status.

One of the primary drivers of becoming a 501(c)(19) organization is the chapter can lobby for legislation and regulations that are good for or support active-duty and veteran military members and their families. We CANNOT, however, support or oppose individual political candidates.

Donors making donations to the chapter may deduct those contributions as long as at least 90% of chapter members are considered war veterans, and the chapter continues to be organized and operated primarily for purposes consistent with our status as a war veteran's organization per the IRS.

Chapter dues are NOT considered donations; members should NOT deduct their dues when filing their income tax returns. Donations to the chapter may be deducted on income tax returns.

I noted a couple of paragraphs ago that we can lobby for legislation and regulations that are good for or support active duty and veteran military members and their families. I want to thank 'Char' Godec for being our legislative liaison and helping us to do that. Char sends out email blasts to members to advocate for legislation at the state and national levels. If you haven't been contacting your state and national Senators and Representatives to advocate for the passage of legislation beneficial to active-duty uniformed services, retirees, veterans, and their families, please do so. I have and it doesn't take much time but it can be very influential in getting legislation passed. If you need help contacting your Senators and Representatives, please contact Char Godec and she will assist you. Grassroots advocacy works; do your part!

CATALINA MOUNTAINS CHAPTER OFFICERS

<http://www.tucsonmoaa.com>

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Treasurer: George Bone, LTC, USAR, (retired) 520-314-3595, gfbone39@gmail.com

Secretary: William Myers, LT, CEC, USN, former

Membership Chair: Dave Bull, LTJG, USN, former 520-825-0604, maybull@aol.com

Legis. Liaison:

Charlene Godec COL, USA (Ret) 208-304-4515 / cmgodec@gmail.com

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Programs Director: Bill Nagy, COL, USAR, (retired) 520-355-5064, wjnagy@yahoo.com

Audio/Visual: Jeff Peckeron, Capt, USMC, (retired) 520-603-7871, jeffpeckeron@gmail.com

Fundraising: Vacant **Chaplain:** Vacant

CMC Membership News

By David Bull

Please join me in welcoming the following **2022 new members:** CDR. Bart Rice, USN (Ret); LT Skip Robinson, USN, (Ret); CDR Peter Mehlhorn, USN (Ret); Lt. Don Tyson, USN (Ret); LTC Fred Sheaffer, USA (Ret); CPT Jim Daily, USA (Ret); CPT John Howard, 1st Lt. Linda Howard, Lt Col Phil Amburn, USAF (Ret); LTC Donald Timian, USA (Ret); Lt Col Donna McArthur, USAF (Ret); Lt Col George Gall

agher, USAF (Ret)' LCDR Terry Turner, USN (Ret); Lt Col Marlon Ruiz, USAF (Ret); and Surviving Spouses, Ms. Carol Smith and Mrs. Deborah Rumans.

2023 new members to date: LCDR Terry Turner, USN, Ret.; LTC Vincent Gwiazdowski, USA, Ret.; LtCol Ronald Morris, USAF, Ret and COL Bruce Huffman, Col., USA, Ret.

CATALINA MOUNTAINS CHAPTER ACTIVITY

CMC membership meetings are the third Saturday of the months of October through April, at 11:30 hours, at locations TBA in Saddlebrooke. Contact: Chuck Vaughan, 505-553-4364.

Spouses are always welcome. Seating is limited to the first forty (40) members and guests who confirm their attendance. A meeting agenda will be provided to all attendees via email.

LOCAL VA CONTACTS

Southern Arizona VA Health Care System (SAVAHCS) 520-792-1450 or 1-800-470-8262
Caregiver Support Program 520-792-1450 extension 5390
Patient Advocate Office 520-629-1819
Care in the Community 520-792-1450 extension 6555
Women's Health Clinic 520-629-4885
Suicide Prevention Coordinator 520-792-1450 extension 64

D-M AFB CONTACT NUMBERS

Base Welcome Center 520-228-4886
Info and Referral Services 520-228-5690
ID/CAC card processing 520-228-4425
Base Exchange 520-748-7887
Commissary 520-228-3116



Tucson, Arizona

Gold Star Family Memorial Monument Dedication Celebration

Tuesday, May 30th 2023
At 1030am
2773 S Palo Verde Road
Tucson, Arizona 85713



****Please RSVP to Barb Brownlie at barbbrownlie@icloud.com by May 12**



"Dying for freedom isn't the worst thing that can happen. Being forgotten is." Georgie Carter-Krell (Mother of Posthumous Medal of Honor Recipient Pfc. Bruce W. Carter, USMCD - Florida)

Benefitting the Arizona Veterans' Memorial Cemetery in Marana

CHARITY
GOLF
 TOURNAMENT
2023

SATURDAY, MAY 13

6:00 AM REGISTRATION
 7:30 AM SHOTGUN START

TEAMS OF FOUR PLAYERS \$600
 GOLF EXTRAS AVAILABLE ON THE WEBSITE

CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

STAR	<p>\$4500 DONATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 Complimentary Foursomes 2 Tee Box Signs Logo on Golf Tournament Towel Logo on Team's Golf Cart Sign Logo on Check-in Banner Logo on Event Website Logo on Each Table at Lunch 	EAGLE	<p>\$3000 DONATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 Complimentary Foursomes 2 Tee Box Signs Logo on Team's Golf Cart Sign Logo on Check-in Banner Logo on Event Website Logo on Each Table at Lunch
STRIPES	<p>\$2000 DONATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Complimentary Foursome 1 Tee Box Sign Logo on Team's Golf Cart Sign Logo on Event Website Logo on Each Table at Lunch 	BOOTS ON THE GROUND	<p>\$1000 DONATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Complimentary Foursome Logo on Team's Golf Cart Sign Logo on Event Website Logo on Each Table at Lunch

ADDITIONAL SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE ON THE WEBSITE

SCAN FOR REGISTRATION:

Omni Tucson National

AT 7:30 AM **May 13, 2023** SATURDAY

Visit www.avmc-foundation.org for more information

Contact Your Legislators and Urge Them to Support the All-Volunteer Force

- Use all available tools to combat the growing crises facing the all-volunteer force.
- Create longterm programs to widen the recruiting pool.
- Pass meaningful legislation to improve the quality of life of those in uniform and their families, to include the Military Spouse Hiring Act (S. 596/H.R. 1277).