



THE TERRITORIAL

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



AUGUST 2023

National, Tucson, and Catalina Mountains MOAA Chapters are non-partisan



FROM THE EAGLES NEST

Tom Owens, Tucson Chapter President

I hope you are enjoying your summer. The Tucson chapter will start its regular monthly luncheon in September. We are looking forward to a new year of meetings for our membership. Vivace's Restaurant raised their prices, so we will change meeting locations. Meetings are still the 4th Thursday of the month, starting at 11:30 am.

The September meeting will be at Poco &

Mom's Restaurant, <https://pocoandmoms.com>, on Tanque Verde near Sabino Canyon. For easy access, park around in the back of the restaurant. You can check out the menu at the above link. The speaker is Capt Charles Schable, DMAFB Reserve Activities Office.

The October meeting is scheduled at Trattoria Pina, <https://trattoriapina.com/>, 5541 N. Swan, near Sunrise. You can check out the menu at the above link. Speaker is Daniel Blevins, Boulder Rest, Veterans Trauma Center.

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CATALINA MOUNTAINS CHAPTER

Chuck Vaughan, CAPT, USN (Ret) Catalina Mountains Chapter President

Last week national MOAA hosted an online workshop, held Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings. Topics included legislative advocacy, chapter management, surviving spouse training, and chapter communications. The new CEO of MOAA, Lt. Gen. Brian "BK" Kelly, USAF, (Ret), spoke to the group for almost an hour. From all the sessions I attended three things stand out in my mind.

First, grassroots legislative advocacy works. Contacting our national legislators through MOAA's Legislative Action Center or through the letters included in MOAA's *Military Officer magazine* is effective at getting legislation passed that benefits active-duty, reserve, retired, and former uniformed service members and their dependents. (I know it is also effective at the state level.) It is something we all need to do and it is something MOAA is very good at.

Second, MOAA is an association of officers that works not just for officers but for all ranks, all services, and all statuses—active duty, reserve, retired, former, and dependents. MOAA's advocacy actions are not done just for

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Upcoming Tucson Chapter Meetings

September 28: Speaker is Capt. Charles Schable, DMAFB Reserve Activities Office. Time: 11:30 AM. Location: Poco & Mom's Restaurant (<https://pocoandmoms.com>), 7000 E Tanque Verde Road.

RSVP: Maj Jim Whipp at 520-751-6356.

October 26: Speaker is Daniel Blevins, Boulder Rest, Veterans Trauma Center. Location: Trattoria Pina (<https://trattoriapina.com/>) 5541 N Swan, near Sunrise.

No November meeting. December dinner is scheduled for Thursday, December 14 at Tucson Country Club.

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.

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Tucson & Catalina Mountains 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.

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@GOJO.MOZMAIL.COM; 202-681-5295

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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

I hope you are all enjoying your Summer, and staying cool in this 100+ weather!

National: S.344, the Major Richard Star Act for concurrent relief was reintroduced in the Senate with broad bipartisan support and has moved to the House. The Star Act has cleared the House Armed Services Committee and will be a stand-alone bill on the floor. The Senate will introduce it as an amendment to the NDAA. The issue in both houses is funding. You can read the article on the MOAA Website: <https://bit.ly/3D1SEf>. Senators Kelly and Sinema and Representatives Gallego, Grijalva, Lesko, Ciscomani, Stanton, and Gosar are currently cosponsors

MOAA continues to request our assistance to support several initiatives in Congress. You can read about them at [MOAA | Retirees](#). You can also easily write to show your support from this page.

Ann Hollis, Col, USAF (Ret),
Legislative Liaison, Tucson Chapter

Arizona: MOAA national does not normally cover state legislative issues. That's why our state-level work is so important in ensuring that Arizona veterans are well represented through our state-level grassroots advocacy.

Military- and veteran-related legislation that Governor Hobbs has signed thus far this year includes:

SB1230 and HB2064 regarding disabled veteran property tax exemptions

SB1454, a veteran's suicide prevention training pilot program (moved into budget) and allocated \$10 million State Park Revenue funds to create a veteran's memorial state park. Site and design currently unspecified.

SB1290, a Department of Corrections (DOC) workforce reentry bill specifying documentation that DOC must facilitate inmates in acquiring, including ensuring military veteran inmates are given contact information for ADVS and the ADVS Veteran Benefits Guide.

HB2090: Continues the Department of Emergency and Military Affairs and the State Emergency Council for eight years.

HB2589: Grants reciprocity and certification to be an emergency medical care technician (EMCT) to a person who received comparable EMCT training in the military.

HB2725: Appropriated \$1 million from the state general fund to the Department of Veterans' Services to distribute to Gila County for the Pleasant Valley Veterans Retreat non-profit; included in signed budget at \$3 million. Both Senators Kelly and Sinema and Representatives Crane and Gosar have introduced companion 2023 legislation (S1015 and HR1829) directing the Secretary of Agriculture to convey 232.9 acres of Tonto National Forest to Gila County for the retreat.

Continued on next page

Legislative Update, continued from previous page

The 56th Legislature, First Regular Session 2023 convened on 31 July. Please contact your state representatives and ask them to pass HB2670 this session. The bill allows ADVS to provide burial services in state veterans' cemeteries for eligible Arizona National Guard and US armed forces reserves and establishes annual appropriation.

SB1375 dealing with USPHS and NOAA active duty pay parity for income tax exemptions is still waiting for further action. Please contact your state senators and representatives and push them to pass SB1375 this session.

We need you to continue to push our state representatives in the Senate and House to support important legislation that supports our Veterans!

The Tucson and CMC member catchment areas are comprised of 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.

...RECRUITING IS EVERYONE'S JOB....
.....Never Stop Serving....

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 long-term programs to widen the recruiting pool.
- Pass meaningful legislation to improve the quality of life of those in uniform and their families.

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December dinner is scheduled for Thursday, December 14 at Tucson Country Club. More information will be sent later.

Recent Past Events:

On **May 25**, we hosted a tour of the Pima Air and Space Museum. This was special because members from three MOAA chapters joined together: Tucson, Catalina Mountains, and Green Valley chapter members participated. We had a tram ride narrated by Gandi Hoffman (below, left) which was very informative.

On **May 29**, our chapter participated in the Tucson Estates, Memorial Day Parade. Col Tom Owens drove his convertible with Capt Tom Eiff and Polly Parks riding along.



**MOAA Memorial Day
2023**

**Poppies on Memorial
Day: 2023**



TUCSON CHAPTER OFFICERS

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

President: Tom Owens, Col, USAFR, (Ret), 520-760-3476/owensttt@gmail.com

Vice President/Program Chair: Vacant

Legislative Chair: Ann Hollis, USAF LtCol (Ret), 520-749-3573; / annhollis@usa.net

Personal Affairs/Veteran Committee Rep.: Ann Hollis, LTC USAF (Ret), 520-749-3573 / annhollis@usa.net

Secretary: Pam Devine 520-401-0001 / Pam.Devine@azmoves.com

Treasurer/Membership Chair: Gary Pettett, COL, USA, (Ret), 520-544-7730, pettett45@gmail.com

Asst. Treasurer: James Whipp, Maj, USMCR, (Ret), 520-751-6356 / jtwhipp@gmail.com

Past President William Wojciechowski, Col, USAF, (Ret), 620-770-0059 / billterriwoj@gmail.com

News Editor: Grant Orvik; 202-681-5295/ moaa@gojo.mozmail.com

Scholarship Chair: Douglas May, LtCol, USAF, (Ret), 520-818-3309 / dougmay@gmail.com

ESGR Chair: Ross Orvik, CDR, USN, (Ret), 510-393-9359 / rorvik@orvik.com

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

ROTC/JROTC/Scholarships: Doug May Lt Col, USAF, (retired) 520-818-3309/
DougMay@gmail.com

Catalina Mountains Chapter *continued from page 1*

the benefit of uniformed service officers but for all ranks, all services, and all statuses. And because of that, MOAA members are advocating for a large contingent of personnel, and legislators listen to MOAA and MOAA has clout.

Third, and the most important takeaway, is that MOAA members, active and retired, need to think about their surviving spouse or surviving family members they will leave behind when they pass. We, MOAA members, have an excellent tool to help us prepare our spouse or family members for our passing—and it is something created here in Arizona! We have the Surviving Spouse Program website of the Luke Chapter of MOAA that can help us make sure we have our affairs in order.

To find this information search on the internet for the Luke Chapter of MOAA or enter <http://lukemoaa.org> in your browser. On the Luke Chapter's homepage select, under Chapter Programs, Surviving Spouse Program. (You can also go there directly with <http://lukemoaa.org/Surviving-Spouse-Program>.) On the Surviving Spouse Program page, under paragraph 2, click on **Planning**. There will you find almost four pages of be prepared actions to perform so that others are prepared for your passing. This is my project for the next couple of months—make a list of accounts, passwords, names and contact numbers for services, where documents are located, etc. so that my wife is prepared. This does not appear to be an afternoon project but it's something that really should be done. Check it out; the website contains lots of good information. Thank you, Luke Chapter, for posting the information!

Fall is just around the corner and our first fall luncheon meeting is scheduled for **Saturday, October 21st**. We've got a good speaker lined up; Maj Gen JT Whitehead who flew the U-2 aircraft and has experience ft working with Chinese U-2 pilots. I hope to see you there!

CATALINA MOUNTAINS CHAPTER OFFICERS

<http://www.tucsonmoaa.com>

President: Chuck Vaughan, CAPT, USN, (retired) 505-553-4364, chuck.vaughan@comcast.net

1st Vice President: Kurt McMillen, COL, USA, (retired) 520-420-7475, kmmcmillen@gmail.com

2nd Vice President: David Bull, LTJG, USN, former 520-825-0604, maybull23@gmail.com

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

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

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

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.

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.

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

SURVIVING SPOUSE & PERSONAL AFFAIRS

By Polly Parks, *Surviving Spouse Liaison*

Despite this being the 50th Anniversary of the All-Volunteer Force, the fate of the NDAA is up in the air. On July 14, the House barely passed (219 to 210) a contentious NDAA, [HR 2670](#), that included a number of controversial non-defense-related floor amendments. As widely predicted, none of those concerns made it into the Senate's July 27 passage (86-11) of their bill, [S 2226](#). The bills have now moved to a reconciliation conference.

The Defense Appropriations bills have moved out of the House ([HR 4364](#)) and Senate ([S 2303](#)) committees but floor votes are unlikely to be scheduled until the NDAA is resolved. The goal is the passage of the Appropriations Act before the end of September when the fiscal year ends. The Congressional Research Service, a non-partisan staff assigned to both chambers of Congress, has an excellent, three-page primer on the [Defense Appropriations Process](#).

Meanwhile, MOAA continues its vital work with [The Military Coalition](#) and other stakeholders on a wide portfolio of active, retiree, survivor, and veteran issues. MOAA's priorities are to support the 50th anniversary of our all-volunteer force and to address the challenges facing our uniformed community.

In addition to [MOAA Legislative Priorities](#) for the 118th Congress, the MOAA website has a number of factsheets that detail the advocacy goals. Pages include [Survivors](#), [Retirees](#), [Veterans](#), as well as [Active Duty](#), [Families](#), and [Guard & Reserve](#). Following succinct descriptions are links to directly contact your Senators and Congressperson.

The monthly D-M Retiree Committee Meeting will resume in September.

Note: items in light blue are links to websites.

WHO CAN JOIN MOAA?

MOAA membership is open to all officers, commissioned or warrant, whether on active duty, retired, former, reserve or national guard and their surviving spouse of all the eight uniformed services, including the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Space Force, Coast Guard, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Public Health Service.

To join the Tucson Chapter, click the Join Our Chapter button on our Chapter's home page: <http://www.tucsonmoaa.org/>.

To join the Catalina Mountains Chapter, click the Join Our Chapter button on the Chapter's home page: <https://catalinamountainsmoaa.org/>.

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