



# THE TERRITORIAL

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



MAY 2023

National MOAA and the Tucson Chapter are non-partisan



## FROM THE EAGLES NEST

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

### ROTC Scholarships:

At our April luncheon we awarded scholarships of \$1776 each to three outstanding cadets from the University of Arizona.

USAF: Cadet Jaiden Culberson  
USA: Cadet Matthew Bassetti  
USN: Cadet Justin Myers

They are to be congratulated for their accomplishments and future success in their military careers. Photos of the event are on page 4.

### Next meeting May 25:

For our May 25 meeting, we plan to visit the

Pima Air and Space Museum, May 25 at 1000. Tickets are \$15.25 each. After you get your ticket, meet in the cafeteria area.

We are working to have a museum speaker and then take individual tours of museum buildings or remote exhibits. Our member, Don Campbell, has been able to arrange free transportation via tram to visit remote exhibits within the museum area.

### Next year's meetings:

Most of us have seen the prices of food go up tremendously this past year. Restaurants have correspondingly raised their prices. We are looking for an economic venue to host our luncheons for next year. We will advise what choices we will have from September 2023 through May 2024.



## CATALINA MOUNTAINS CHAPTER

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

By the time you read this my wife and I will be traveling in Europe. Thinking about our upcoming trip makes me realize how lucky we are. I worked hard for many years to be able to travel in retirement, and then COVID-19 hit.

My wife and I are now traveling again outside the U.S.

My wife and I are lucky because I have a military retirement which includes a cost-of-living adjustment which, for 2023, was 8.7%. We also have Tricare medical coverage which is a

*Continued on page 6*

# Upcoming Tucson Chapter Meetings

## 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. Reservations required. Call Jim Whipp at 520-751-6356.

This is the last chapter meeting until September 2023. We will be published a **Territorial** newsletter in late July and then resume regular publication in September.

We will be sending out a survey on meeting/luncheon venues for fall 2023 to spring 2024. 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](mailto:pam.devine@azmoves.com), not later than one week prior to the meeting. If you desire to participate, please email [rorvik@orvik.com](mailto: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 & 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.

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](mailto:moaa@gojo.mozmail.com)

# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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

\*MOAA Members from across the country attended the Advocacy in Action Day on Capital Hill in late April, meeting with legislators to discuss the importance of our 2023 initiatives. Please take a look at the actions at [MOAA - Advocacy in Action](#). You can also sign up for updates with easy ways to contact our legislators from this page.

\*Major Richard Star Act – Currently 67 Senators and 290 Representatives have signed on including all from our districts in the Tucson area. We need to keep letting Washington know that this is important legislation to support. The MOAA website states the following:

“Advocacy for the Star Act has grown across a coalition of military and veteran service organizations (MSO/VSOs). MOAA has played a key leadership role in The Military Coalition’s Star Act working group, which has continued to engage House and Senate offices throughout the year via in-person meetings and social media campaigns. At one recent coalition visit, a senator’s military legislative assistant acknowledged: **“No other piece of legislation has jammed up my inbox more than the Major Richard Star Act, and I think the Senator will sign back on.”**”

Keeping up the pressure on your lawmakers is making an impact. Grassroots advocacy works.

## Star Act Talking Points

Stress these details about the Star Act when asking your lawmakers or their staff members to co-sponsor H.R. 1282 or S. 344: **Two Different Pays, Two Different Purposes:** Retired pay is paid by DoD for completed years of service. Disability compensation is paid by the VA. Using one to offset the other is an injustice to those who’ve served, even more so to those injured in combat.

**Proven Support:** This legislation had two-thirds of Congress on board last year and likely will surpass that number this session. We need to act now before we run out of time.

**The Wrong Message:** The purpose of the offset is to save the government money. Achieving such savings on the backs of combat-injured veterans is the wrong approach, especially as services struggle to fill their ranks. What message does this send to potential future servicemembers?”

\*At the State Level I am happy to report that Governor Hodges signed the following into law last month: HB2064: property tax exemption for disabled veterans. The bill provides tax relief based on VA disability ratings, income, and property tax rates. It appears that this may not apply to many of our members due to these qualifiers.

The Arizona Legislature adjourned in April for the current session. Some work is still scheduled at the committee level. I am looking at how we may reach out to our area legislators for meetings with them or their staff members.

**....RECRUITING IS EVERYONE'S JOB....**

**.....Never Stop Serving....**

# ROTC/JROTC AWARDS 2023



Above left: USAF: Commander rep: Ltc Singiser; Scholarship: Cadet Jauden Culberson; Medal Cadet Jack Weeks

Center top: USA: Commander Capt Hernandez: Scholarship Matthew Bassetti (absent); Medal Cadet Olivia Hajdys;

Center lower: USN: Commander rep 2Lt Sean Mohan; Scholarship Justin Myers (absent); Medal Natalie Pait.

Right top: Desert View High School JROTC award winner, Jayde Vaughan, presented by Capt Tom Eiff. Right bottom: Cholla High School JROTC award winner, C/CPT Elijah J. Webber. Presented by Polly Parks.

## TUCSON CHAPTER OFFICERS

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

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

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**Chaplain:** Vacant



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

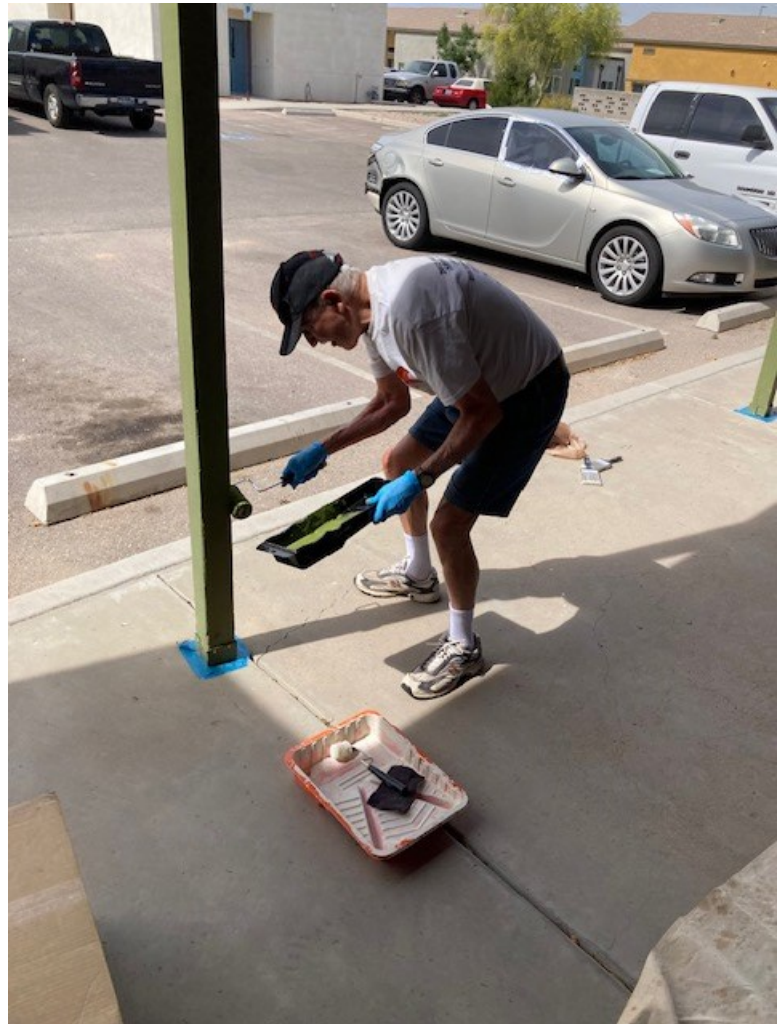
huge benefit. I mention how lucky we are because one of my wife's friends, who recently retired, has very little savings and relies on Social Security for her income. My wife and I have more than just Social Security to rely on.

Why am I telling you all this? Because it's incumbent upon each of us to fight for our retirement benefits, and benefits for uniformed services veterans and their families, and for those serving on active duty. Each of us can and should have an impact on proposed legislation through the national MOAA's advocacy program. If you visit the national MOAA website, at <https://www.moaa.org>, and click on Advocacy, you can pull up MOAA's top priorities on Capitol Hill; concurrent receipt: stay up to date on MOAA's latest efforts on this critical topic; and click on several other advocacy links. MOAA also sends out prepared letters in their Military Officer magazine that you can tear out and mail to your senators and representative. I encourage you to tear these out, put a stamp on them, and mail them to your senators and representative.

Closer to home, you can also have an impact on proposed Arizona state legislation. COL Char Godec, USA, retired, Catalina Mountains Legislative Liaison, has assured me that our contacting our Arizona State senators and representatives can have a significant impact on proposed legislation because very few people bother to contact their state senators and representatives. Please get involved with legislative advocacy at the state and federal levels.

I almost forgot to mention that four-chapter members, Phil Amburn, Lt. Col, USAF, retired; Wayne McCarey, Col., USAF, retired; Jeff Peckron, CAPT, USMC, retired; and I visited Esperanza En Escalante for a couple of hours Monday morning, May 1<sup>st</sup>, completing some exterior painting for Esperanza En Escalante. In keeping with my theme this month, there are many of us lucky to have a good retirement, but many of the residents at Esperanza En Escalante are not so lucky. The next time we paint at Esperanza En Escalante, come join us!

*Here's a photo of Wayne McCarey using a roller to paint one of the poles we painted at Esperanza En Escalante.*



# CATALINA MOUNTAINS CHAPTER OFFICERS

<http://www.tucsonmoaa.com>

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

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

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

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

**Fundraising:** Vacant      **Chaplain:** Vacant

## Memorial Day Events

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

Ritual Ceremony by VFW Post 549  
Monday, May 29, 2023 | 9:00 A.M.  
Garden of Tribute, 5401 S Park Avenue | Tucson

**Memorial Day Parade in Tucson Estates.**  
**Tom Owens will be driving his convertible in the parade.**  
**Come and join him if you want.**

## 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

# **SURVIVING SPOUSE AND PERSONAL AFFAIRS**

By Polly Parks, *Surviving Spouse Liaison*

**Arlington Cemetery** – H.R. 1413 Expanding America’s National Cemetery Act of 2023 Directs the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to expand or otherwise modify an existing national cemetery to ensure that full military honors are provided at the such cemetery, to require the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to jointly submit to Congress a report containing a proposal to increase national cemetery capacity and an assessment of the criteria for interment at Arlington National Cemetery, and for other purposes. Bipartisan; Arizona House members have not signed on.

## **Quality of Life issues Advancing in Congress:**

- **Advancing Toward Impact Aid Full Funding Act** ([H.R. 1591](#) | [S. 871](#)). Bipartisan effort to fully fund public schools that teach military-related children. More than 1,100 school districts and over 10 million students are supported by Impact Aid each year, but Congress has not fully funded the program since 1969.
- Bipartisan Senate bill would amend the **Fair Credit Reporting Act** to expand the definition of those eligible for free credit monitoring to include all in the uniformed services, regardless of duty status, to include members of the National Guard and reserve components. It also would expand the free credit monitoring to their spouses and dependents over 18. House bill is not as expansive.
- H.R. 1045, **The Health Care Fairness for Military Families Act**; expand TriCare coverage for young adults up to 26 to align with commercial plans.

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),

## **MOAA Expanded Resources On-Line:**

- **MOAA Job Board** in partnership with Indeed.com. Civilian positions and private sector jobs.
- MOAA Webinars/publications
- Virtual Chapters
  - Six currently: the [Uniformed Services Nurse Advocates Virtual Chapter](#), the [Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter](#), the [Public Health Service Virtual Chapter](#), the [Chaplains Virtual Chapter](#), the [Judge Advocate Virtual Chapter](#), and the [Advocacy for Servicewomen and Military Families Virtual Chapter](#).
- Long-Term Care Resources
- Financial Planning Resources

## **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](mailto:MOAA@GOJO.MOZMAIL.COM); 202-681-5295

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

**\$4500 DONATION**

- 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

**\$3000 DONATION**

- 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

**\$2000 DONATION**

- 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

**\$1000 DONATION**

- 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](http://www.avmc-foundation.org) for more information