

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



Catalina Mountains Sentinel

December 2024 issue

December 2024 Issue

Page 1

- Chapter luncheon 16 November
- Upcoming luncheons

Page 2

- President's Message

Page 3

- Board members and officers
- Other chapter leadership
- MOAA's Legislative Action Center
- 5-star MOAA award

Page 4

- Legislative update

Page 5

- Join the chapter
- Mission statement
- Fly the flag dates

Pages 6

- Arizona legislative update
- Happy birthday!

Page 7

- Member in the spotlight

Page 8

- Laptops for veterans

Page 9

- How to contact us
- Editorial policy

Chapter luncheon 16 November

The Chapter held its November luncheon on Saturday, 16 November at the Saddlebrooke Ranch Grill. Our speaker was part time SaddleBrooke resident and former Lt. Cdr. Steve White, U.S. Navy. In 1970 Steve was commissioned an Ensign through the Navy ROTC Program at Dartmouth College. Steve earned his Special Warfare Designator and during the ensuing nine years he served in an Underwater Demolition Team (UDT), a reserve UDT-SEAL Team, and a Seabee Detachment.

Steve spoke about his uncle Nick, who enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in 1943 and served in the Pacific Theater, most notably in the battle of Iwo Jima, which was the focus Steve's address. Steve spoke about the battle and had several artifacts to show that his uncle collected. It was a very long and very tough battle, for both sides. Chuck Vaughan, chapter president, is shown presenting Steve with a certificate of appreciation and a challenge coin for his presentation.



Come join us in January for another excellent presentation and lunch.

Upcoming luncheons

The Chapter's Holiday Party will be held on 21 December in place of the monthly luncheon. For tickets contact Don Timian by Friday, December 13 at dontimian@hotmail.com or by phone at 571-216-3679.

President's message

Hello chapter members!. The chapter has been very busy and we've got two events planned for December.



At the October luncheon Chapter member Marty Lenzini presented the life and career of retired U. S. Air Force Colonel Ken Collins, who flew combat missions during the Ko-

orean War and then flew the Lockheed high altitude reconnaissance A-12 aircraft for the CIA and the Lockheed long-range, high altitude, Mach 3+ strategic reconnaissance SR-71 "Blackbird" aircraft for the U. S. Air Force

In October the chapter sponsored a one-week camp for the children of veterans living at Esperanza En Escalante, housing for low-income veterans in Tucson. The camp, which occurred during fall school break, enabled many of these children to go to museums and experience other activities that their parents probably could not afford for them to attend or experience.

On November 11th several of us, with our spouses, gathered at the Saddlebrooke HOA-1 Clubhouse for the 2024 Veterans' Day Dinner Dance. A good time was had by all.

At our November luncheon Steve White gave his talk involving his uncle Nick, a USMC Marine in WW II, and the battle for Iwo Jima. At that meeting I recognized David Bull for all his work to make this chapter what it is today. When I joined the chapter in early 2021 David was the membership chair - and he helped organize the luncheons and did what-



ever he could to help the chapter grow. I presented David with a plaque thanking him for all his efforts.

We have two events scheduled for December. Several chapter members (spouses are welcome too) will gather at the Arizona Veterans' Memorial Cemetery in Marana on Saturday, December 14th for a 10:00 AM ceremony followed by the laying of holiday wreaths on the graves, known as Wreaths Across America. The chapter has purchased several wreaths to support this event. I believe there are almost 4,000 graves to be decorated at the cemetery.

In place of our December luncheon we are having our first holiday party, coordinated by Bill Nagy, COL, USAR (retired) and Don Timian, LTC, USA (retired). This should be a great party!

This is my final president's column as your president. I am stepping down as president because next year I will be the president of the Arizona Council of Chapters of MOAA - and I won't have the time or energy to be president of both organizations. It's been my pleasure to serve as your president; per our bylaws Kurt McMillen will take over as president effective 1 January 2025.

2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Charles F. Vaughan, CAPT, USN, retired
Chairman

Bill Nagy, COL, USAR, retired
Member

Rett Benedict, Col, USAF, retired
Member

2024 CHAPTER OFFICERS

Charles F. Vaughan, CAPT, USN, retired
President

Kurt McMillen, COL, USA, retired
First Vice President

Bruce Huffman, COL, USA, retired
Second Vice President

Bill Myers, LT, CEC, USN, former
Secretary

George Bone, LTC, USA, retired
Treasurer

ADDITIONAL CHAPTER LEADERSHIP

Bill Nagy, COL, USAR, retired
Programs Chair

Carol Smith
Surviving Spouse Liaison

Don Timian, LTC, USA, retired
Membership Chair

Jeff Peckron, Capt, USMC, retired
Legislative Liaison

Ed Brogan, Col, USAF, retired
Chaplain

Jeff Peckron, Capt, USMC, retired
Audio/Visual Support

Cash Striplin, COL, USA, retired
JROTC coordinator

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 Chapter received a 5 star Level of Excellence award for 2023 (our second 5-star award), 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!



Legislative update from MOAA website

Bipartisan, MOAA-supported legislation offering comprehensive improvements to veteran and caregiver benefits across the VA – from long-term care to mental health services to employment programs and much more – passed the House on Nov. 18 by a 389-9 vote and heads to the Senate with only a handful of days remaining on the legislative calendar.

The Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act ([H.R. 8371](#)) offers a lifeline for all types of VA beneficiaries and has the support of more than 50 organizations. Its movement through the House is thanks to the dedicated efforts of House Veterans' Affairs Committee (HVAC) leaders along with the work of MOAA and partner organizations

"MOAA is honored to have joined forces with fellow veteran groups and leaders in both the House and Senate to champion the Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act," MOAA President and CEO Lt. Gen. Brian T. Kelly, USAF (Ret), said. "As we celebrate National Family Caregivers Month, we must recognize the profound positive impact this bill will have on the health and well-being of our veterans, their caregivers, and survivors."

Kelly thanked HVAC Chairman Rep. Mike Bost (R-Ill.) and Rep. Mark Takano (D-Calif.), the committee's ranking member, for their work leading the bill through the House.

"The need to pass this critical bipartisan legislation has never been greater," Kelly added, "and now is the time to act."

The Dole Act offers needed improvements for veterans, families, caregivers, and survivors who depend on VA health care and benefits — improvements ranging from claims processing reforms, expansion of veteran caregiving and caregiver support services, and resources for homeless veterans and surviving family members.

MOAA and fellow veterans groups have worked relentlessly in the 118th Congress to secure this omnibus legislation; without it, veterans and their families may face uncertainty and hardship, especially those who rely solely on VA health care and benefits for their livelihood.

Senate Action Needed NOW

Despite bipartisan progress in the House – both [Republicans](#) and [Democrats](#) on the HVAC published press releases lauding the bill's passage – the Dole Act's path to the president's desk is far from guaranteed. It must pass the Senate, which has just 15 in-session days on its schedule after Nov. 22 and a number of competing priorities, to include budget and authorization work.

With the legislative session nearing its end, the Senate must act swiftly to pass the Dole Act. The window to pass significant veterans' legislation is rapidly closing, and immediate action by the Senate is essential.

Passing this legislation during National Family Caregivers Month and enacting it ahead of the holidays sends a strong message of our nation's commitment to the veteran community and provides a gift of hope for a brighter future.

Join the Catalina Mountains Chapter of MOAA

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 lives of some veterans and uniformed personnel. How can you make a difference? Through your gifts of time and money. Chapter members donated their time last year to do some exterior painting at Esperanza En Escalante and two chapter members placed wreaths at the Wreaths Across America event last 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 or by phone at 571-216-3679.

Chapter dues at \$30 per calendar year. You'll have to wait another month or so before you can pay your dues online with national MOAA due to computer software implementation problems. You can find a membership application at https://www.catalinamountainsmoaa.org/CM_join.html

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."

Fly the flag dates

December

Saturday, December 7 – Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
Friday, December 20 – Space Force Birthday
Wednesday, December 25 – Christmas Day

January

Wednesday, January 1 – New Year's Day
Monday, January 20 – Martin Luther King Jr., birthday

Arizona Legislative update by Tom Waddell, AZ Council of Chapters

Thanks to the hard work of Lt Col Darren L Venters USAF (Ret), Legislative and Transition Director for the Green Valley Chapter, we have both an Arizona state Senator and Representative signed on to reintroduce legislation in support of state income tax parity for USPHS officers serving in Arizona. Senator David Gowan (R), District 19 and Representative Stacy Travers (D), District 12 have expressed their willingness to reintroduce the bill in their respective houses. Hopefully with their bipartisan support, we will get this done this coming session starting in January 2025. I ask that you send a personal note of thanks to Senator Gowan and Representative Travers for their support.

Sen Gowan: DGOWAN@AZLEG.GOV

Rep Travers: STRAVERS@AZLEG.GOV

Governor Hobbs has named John Scott II as the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services Director. You can find Scott's bio at: <https://dvs.az.gov/about/leadership/john-scott> Mr. Scott will be up for Senate confirmation in January.

The ADVS Director is a critical leadership position for protecting the rights of veterans at the state level. It is extremely important to ADVS to have a confirmed and permanent Director to ensure that ADVS serves the needs of Arizona Veterans. The Arizona Senate has established a committee dedicated to overseeing nominations and named AZ Sen. Jake Hoffman as the chairman. I urge you to write to Sen Hoffman and ask him to support Arizona veterans by asking his committee to approve Mr. Scott's nomination when the committee meets in January. You can send emails to Sen Hoffman at: JAKE.HOFFMAN@AZLEG.GOV or calling his office at 602-926-3292.

Happy Birthday!

The following chapter members have a birthday in December:

Don Evans Stuart Kraft Donna McArthur Ken Miller

The following chapter members have a birthday in January:

Ron Anderson Daniel Kaperski Tracy Reingruber

The following chapter members have a birthday in February:

Ray Caryl Jon Chase Gerald Hagin Deborah McGeehan

Don Tyson Chuck Vaughan Michael Waneka

Member in the spotlight - by Kurt McMillen

When our Catalina Mountains Chapter (CMC) publishes the Sentinel newsletter, we enjoy highlighting the accomplishments of our CMC members. All of our members have a diverse military background, civilian background, and they are typically very involved in the local community. We think you will appreciate our members' contributions both within CMC and outside of our chapter.

This "spotlight" shines on our own COL(R) Bill Nagy. Bill was born in Bridgeport, Connecticut. He attended the University of Connecticut and participated in the Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps. Following commissioning in 1966, 2LT Nagy attended Quartermaster Officer School in Ft. Lee, Virginia. From there, he was ordered to St. Louis, MO, where his work concentrated on the Army's procurement of heavy construction equipment.

Eight months later, 2LT was ordered to the 506 Field Depot in Saigon, Vietnam, where he served from September 1967, through September 1968. During this tour he was promoted to 1st Lieutenant. 1LT was then assigned to Fort Ord, CA, as a company commander. He was promoted to Captain in January 1971. CPT Nagy returned to Vietnam in February 1971 with the 101st Airborne Division and served at Camp Eagle in Phu Bai (central Vietnam). Following his one-year tour, he was assigned to Fort Lee, Virginia.

In January 1973, CPT Nagy was assigned to the 8th Infantry Division headquartered in Bad Kreuznach, Germany, where he spent the next four years. CPT Nagy became involved in the US Army's major reduction in force of its active-duty components, which took place in October 1976. CPT Nagy took a civil service position with the Department of Defense while remaining active with the Army Reserve. In 1982, CPT Nagy was promoted to Major as he continued his reserve service with the 163rd US Army Reserve School located in Bronx, New York.

MAJ Nagy was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in 1987. In November 1990, LTC Nagy's current reserve unit, the 301st Area Support Group, was called to active duty. LTC Nagy arrived in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia in December 1990, to begin his 8-month deployment in support of the Gulf War. In April 1992, LTC Nagy was promoted to Colonel.

COL Nagy's last assignment was with the Army Materiel Command headquartered in Ft. Belvoir, Virginia. In July 1997, COL Nagy retired from the Army Reserve following 31 years of active duty and reserve service.

Bill's military awards include the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star with two oak leaf clusters, the Meritorious Service Medal with oak leaf cluster, the Army Commendation Medal with oak leaf clusters, the Army Achievement, the Vietnam Service Medal with two service stars, and the Southwest Asia Service Medal with two service stars. Bill qualified as an expert in various firearms and received "jump wings" from both the US and German Armies.

In 2013, Bill and his wife Leslie moved to SaddleBrooke Arizona. In the later part of 2014, the Tucson Chapter of MOAA established a satellite chapter in SaddleBrooke (Catalina Mountains Satellite Chapter; CMSC). Bill was among the initial members and, in January 2019, Bill was elected president of CMSC. Although the COVID-19 pandemic significantly challenged the vitality of the organization for the next 18 months, Bill ensured that CMSC prospered. Following the regular 2020 summer hiatus, Bill found a new meeting venue that satisfied social distancing constraints; regular CMSC monthly meetings reconvened in October 2020 at the SaddleBrooke HOA-1 Tennis Center. Meetings continued at the tennis center through March 2021 until we were able to establish permanent indoor meeting locations.

At its March 2022 luncheon meeting, CMSC recognized Bill for outstanding leadership during his three-year tenure as President. Catalina Mountains Chapter continues to excel based upon the foundation that he, and other initial members of CMSC, instituted many years ago.

Thank you, Bill, for your commendable past, present and future contributions to our organization!

Bill
and
Leslie
Nagy



Laptops for veterans – by Chuck Vaughan, chapter president

One of my goals as chapter president has been to get us involved in supporting local veterans. We have done that by supporting the veterans who live at Esperanza En Escalante (EEE) in Tucson, near the North Wilmot gate of Davis-Monthan Air Force Base.

Earlier this year the chapter applied for a MOAA Foundation grant to purchase four laptops for four veterans of EEE. The chapter received MOAA Foundation funds and also applied for a grant from the Arizona Department of Veterans Services for additional funds to purchase the four laptops and two new desktops to replace the desktops in the computer lab at EEE. The chapter also received funds from the Department of Veterans Services.

With funds in hand the chapter purchased four new Dell laptops and two new desktops. EEE selected the veterans who were presented with their new laptops on Friday, October 4th.

One of the recipients, Matthew J, wrote:

Dear MOAA,

Good Afternoon, I was a pleasure having lunch with you last week. I wanted to express how much I appreciate the Dell laptop. I have already put it to good use and it has made things 100% easier for me. I am currently trying to get in a trucking school to obtain my CDL class A license. I was doing everything off of my iphone which was very difficult, with this laptop I know I'll be successful because I am able to download all my personal documents and training manuals and properly update my resumes.

Thank you and The Chapter of MOAA.

Matthew J.

Note – this is the second year the chapter has used grant funds to provide laptops to four veterans.



Chuck Vaughan presenting a new laptop to one of four veterans

How to contact us

To contact the President, email Chuck Vaughan at chuck.vaughan@comcast.net or call him at 505-553-4364.

For membership questions, email Don Timian at dontimian@hotmail.com or call him at 571-216-3679.

For luncheon speaker suggestions, email Bill Nagy at wjnagy@yahoo.com or call him at 520-355-5064.

For Surviving Spouse information contact Carol Smith at carol.chisari.smith@gmail.com or call her at 915-549-6917.

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