



Catalina Mountains Sentinel

February 2026 issue

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Our February Luncheon

Our February 2026 CMC luncheon speaker was Dr William Myers, COL(R). Dr Myers joined the Army Reserves in 1987 and served as the commander of the 345th Combat Support Hospital from 2001 to 2005. He served two deployments (Iraq and Kuwait) as well as multiple two-week missions in Central and South America and Africa.

Dr Myers topic was "Government Sanctioned Counterfeiting during World War II". Counterfeiting money has been around since the invention of coins. Although illegal, counterfeiting money has been sanctioned as a weapon by governments against their enemies. During World War II, the United States and Great Britain counterfeited the Japanese Invasion Money (JIM) for several occupied Asian nations. The money was to be used to support the actions of operatives and guerrillas against the Japanese to furthering the allied cause. The effect of this counterfeiting was significant.

Many more details on both operations were presented. The presentation was very informative and on a subject that most had not heard before.

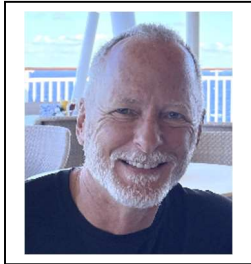
Our Next Luncheon

Our March 2026 speaker will be former White House doctor and retired Navy Admiral, Dr. Connie Mariano.



Dr Mariano's topic will include lessons she has learned from her life starting as a Navy dependent child born overseas in the Philippines, to the first Filipino American in US history to become a Navy Rear Admiral, to the first military woman to become the White House Physician to the President, to her forty-four years as a physician.

President's message



Hello CMC members! So much has happened since our last Sentinel newsletter in October 2025. Here on past, present and future events:

2025 National MOAA Foundation Community Outreach Grant to support EEE:

On Thursday, January 29th this effort culminated with presentation of computer equipment (laptops, desks, chairs, printers and peripherals) to four EEE residents who will soon transition from their EEE residence to independent living beyond the walls of EEE. All of the donation recipients were overwhelmed by the generosity shown by CMC. One of the recipients, very silent when he first arrived at the event venue, eventually told me that he wants to pursue an on-line Arizona State degree in Emergency Medical Technology. He became very emotional about receiving the computer equipment and told me, "This equipment has opened the door for me to pursue this degree". So the supplies and services we provided through this grant were right on target. Thanks to Deb McGeehan and David Bull who helped obtain the supplies, and to Deb, David and Chuck Vaughan who attended the event. And thanks to all members who contributed donations that helped pay costs over-and-above the grant funding.

For your information, the President of the MOAA Public Affairs and Communication Virtual Chapter (MPACOMVC), Mr. Lincoln Smith, is very excited about our collaboration with EEE and the services that EEE provides to homeless veterans. I expect we will eventually see an article about this effort on the MPACOMVC website and possibly the National MOAA magazine. Stay tuned!

2026 National MOAA Foundation Community Outreach Grant to support EEE: The deadline for the next year's grant application is due by the end of February. So here we go again . . . !

CMC Leadership Position Openings: You have all heard us discuss the need for additional volunteers to fill existing (and anticipated) leadership vacancies. But rather than telling you the same information again, I have a question: What really excites you and how can we align it with our CMC mission? Let's have a discussion!

National MOAA LOE / Comms Awards Submissions for CY2025: Our Level of Excellence (LOE) and Communications (Newsletter and Website) submissions were all sent to National MOAA before the end of January. We will probably know the award around the beginning of April.

SaddleBrooke HOA-2 Recreation & Activities Fair: This event took place on February 7th, 2026 at the Mountainview ballroom prior to distributing this newsletter. I hope you had the chance to come by the CMC table!

Since our last newsletter, many of our chapter members participated in the following. Thanks to all CMC members who participated, and we hope to see more members at the 2026 events. If you have any questions about these events, please discuss with any chapter leadership member:

Missing In America Program (MIAP): This event took place on October 18th, 2025 at the AZ Vets Memorial Cemetery in Marana. The ceremony was internment of unclaimed cremated veteran remains.

Folds of Honor Veteran's Day Dinner: Sixteen members, spouses and guests attended the November 11th, 2025 dinner at the SaddleBrooke HOA-1 Clubhouse. All had a wonderful social time and a delicious dinner!

CMC Holiday Luncheon: On December 12th, 2025, 39 CMC members and guests were present at The Ranch Grille ballroom to fellowship, (continued on page 9)

2026 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kurt McMillen, COL, USA, retired
Chairman

Charles F. Vaughan, CAPT, USN, retired
Member

Bill Nagy, COL, USAR, retired
Member

2026 CHAPTER OFFICERS

Kurt McMillen, COL, USA, retired
President

Bruce Huffman, COL, USA, retired
First Vice President

C. J. Hindman, Brig Gen, USAF, retired
Second Vice President

vacant
Secretary

David Bull, LTj.g., USN, former
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

Cash Striplin, COL, USA, retired
JROTC coordinator

Join 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 previously donated their time to do some exterior painting at Esperanza En Escalante and five chapter members placed wreaths at the Wreaths Across America event last December. If you can make a financial donation, chapter members contributed funds to purchase four laptop computers, four desks and four desk chairs 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 are \$30 per calendar year. You can pay your dues online with national MOAA or pay by cash or check. To pay online, login to MOAA, select Chapters, and select Chapter Dues Payment System. Select the Catalina Mountains Chapter. You can also make a chapter donation at this site.

You can find a membership application at https://www.catalinamountainsmoaa.org/CM_join.html

The Chapter received a 5 star Level of Excellence award for 2024 (our third consecutive 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!



Arizona Legislative Update by Charles Vaughan, AZ Council of Chapters

Help us modify the Arizona Legislature's "Request to Speak" System

The Request to Speak (RTS) system is a website that allows the public to register opinions and voice comments on bills as they pass through the Arizona Senate and House of Representatives. With internet access, the RTS system allows you to voice your legislative opinions online without needing to go to the state capitol. Voicing your support or opposition for a bill can be crucial – it allows state leaders to know where Arizonans stand on an issue.

Unfortunately, to register to use Arizona's Request to Speak system a user must first travel to the state capital to create an account on one of the kiosks in either the House or Senate.

MOAA members of the Arizona Council of Chapters are working to change the requirement that voters must travel to Phoenix to register in-person to use the Request to Speak system. This is not a veteran's legislative issue that the Arizona Council of Chapters routinely supports but an issue that affects all Arizonans and their ability to influence state legislation.

Consider writing or emailing your state representatives or senator to support modifying the RTS system. See the sample letter on page 12.

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, within 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."

MOAA Advocacy and the Legislative Action Center

THE TOP 3 “ABSOLUTELY NEED TO DO” ITEMS WHEN ACCESSING THE NATIONAL MOAA LEGISLATIVE ACTION CENTER (LAC):

1. Log into the National MOAA LAC in accordance with the instructions below.
2. Once you are “Registered”, **DO NOT logout of the LAC domain (<https://moaa.quorum.us/>).** If you do, you will have to register again (in other words, you will see the “Sign Up” button again!).
3. Instead, click on the “More” link at the top of the <https://moaa.quorum.us/> page, then click the “Return to MOAA.org”. Once at the <https://www.moaa.org/> domain, then you can “Logout”.



The optimal location to obtain the most relevant and current legislative information at National MOAA level is on the National MOAA website at: <https://www.moaa.org/>. After logging into the site with your **User Name** and **Password**, click on the “**Advocacy**” link on the page. Here, you can click on any of the secondary links (shown to the left) to navigate all the most relevant and current legislative information at national level.

The most important advocacy information applicable to CMC is within the “**Legislative Action Center**” (LAC) link. You will see the initial LAC webpage. Next, click on the “Sign Up” button and sign into the LAC (**this will [register](#) you in the LAC**).



Featured Advocacy Campaigns

Protect Servicemember Pay During A Shutdown

Write

MOAA's Advocacy By Issue Area



Very important information: Few CMC members are “registered” in the LAC. The final annual 2025 rollup of LAC engagement by all Arizona MOAA chapters is shown below (1/1/25 thru 12/31/25).

Chapter Name	Number of Registrants	Number of Actions Taken
AZ00 - Arizona Council of Chapters	Less than 10	50
AZ01 - Arizona Chapter	93	164
AZ02 - Coronado Chapter	43	451
AZ03 - Green Valley Chapter	22	105
AZ04 - Northern Arizona Chapter	29	55
AZ06 - Luke Chapter MOAA	38	210
AZ07 - Superstition Mountain Chapter	Less than 10	22
AZ08 - Tucson Chapter of MOAA	45	49
AZ10 - Yuma Chapter	Less than 10	28
AZ11 - Grand Canyon Chapter	28	453
AZ12 - Catalina Mountains Chapter	16	97

Please register to help bolster our support of key service member and veteran related legislative issues!

NOTE: Individuals must register themselves. After you click the red “Sign Up” button and register, make sure you select “AZ12 – Catalina Mountains Chapter” in the “MOAA Chapter Affiliation” section.

The initial LAC web page shown is filled with valuable capability! From this page, you can “Write” your congressional representatives on all “Featured Advocacy Campaigns” items and the “MOAA’s Advocacy By Issue Area” items. The emails are pre-written; all you have to do is select the representatives you want the emails to go to, modify the emails (only if you want to) and hit “send”. It is that easy!

Please take advantage of this fantastic online capability so that your voice
can be heard at national level.

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 our members have diverse backgrounds. We think you will appreciate our members’ contributions in their previous careers, and within CMC and outside of our chapter.

Rather than challenging another chapter member to provide me their own background information, I decided to shine this current “spotlight” on myself (I can hear you all saying, “It’s about time!”). I wrote the article in third person to make believe that it wasn’t I who wrote it . . .

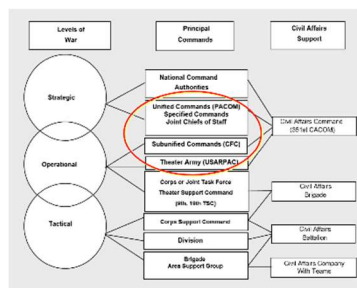
Kurt currently serves as the President of the Catalina Mountains Chapter (CMC). Prior to joining CMC, he completed a 30-year military career in both Active and Reserve components of the U.S. Army, retiring at the rank of Colonel. His primary responsibilities during this timeframe involved Civil Affairs Battalion (Special Operations) command and OSUT (One Station Unit Training) Company command, Civil/Military Planning and Operations support through national command authority level, and deployment lead for Civil Affairs operational teams to the Pacific Command (PACOM) area of operation and elsewhere around the world.

Kurt's primary civilian experience and expertise was gained through working at Texas Instruments in Dallas, Texas from 1984 through 1997, and subsequently Raytheon Corporation from 1997 through his retirement in 2022.

While in the military, Kurt served in the following military organizations and most significant positions (most recent to oldest):

351st Civil Affairs Command, Mountain View, CA:

- As Operational Teams Chief, Kurt ensured that the command headquarters provided responsive and capable Civil-Military planners and other re-



sources in support of our PACOM AOR Combatant Commanders (PACOM HQ, USARPAC, CFC/GCC). He worked extensively with Korean, Philippine and other Joint military partners to plan and execute strategic Civil-Military plans, goals and objectives. Kurt also deployed on extended tours to Iraq and Afghanistan and worked in a Joint military environment to plan and lead required



Civil-Military Operations.

- As Assistant Chief of Staff, G3, Kurt managed all operational and strategic planning, operations, training and force development of the 1,700 member general officer level command.
- As Battalion Commander, 426th Civil Affairs Battalion in Upland, CA, Kurt was responsible for defining the strategic vision, forming the operational focus, developing the leadership and training unit members for a 230-member Special Operations Civil Affairs Battalion.
- As Plans Officer, G-3 Section, 321st Civil Affairs Brigade in San Antonio, TX, Kurt successfully completed an eight-month tour in Bosnia-Herzegovina as CJ9 (Civil Military Operations) Operations Chief and worked with senior officers from approximately 25 different NATO and non-NATO nations. He managed the largest branch of the eight-nation CJ9 staff, prepared the approved theater-level Support Operations Plan for Sustaining Forces (SFOR) and led two military teams that conducted very successful Democracy Seminars in Uganda and Ghana.

90th Army Reserve Command (ARCOM), San Antonio, TX: As Chief, Mobilization and Plans Division, Kurt was responsible for developing the mobilization planning and execution requirements for all subordinate ARCOM units. He provided routine briefings to the ARCOM Commander concerning mobilization planning, risks and mitigating actions and ensured all ARCOM units were mobilization ready.

In parallel to his military career, Kurt served in the following corporations and most significant positions (again, most recent to oldest):

Raytheon Missiles & Defense (RMD), Tucson AZ: As a Capture Management Excellence Director, Kurt managed large, complex captures (both competitive and franchise-level sole source protection) in the Strategic Missile



Defense business unit (SBU) of Raytheon Missiles and Defense. He also mentored both business development and program management leaders on efficiently and effectively winning strategic competitive captures and securing/protecting key sole source franchises. Kurt was also a primary corporate level instructor for business development learning courses.

Raytheon Missile Systems (RMS), Tucson AZ:

- As a Capture Management Excellence Capture Integrator, Kurt worked with cross-Raytheon capture managers and teams to plan and execute required capture activities and events, understand and improve our relative competitive positioning, develop optimized win strategies and provide superior solutions to the customer. Kurt was also a cross-Raytheon Price-to-Win (PTW) and Competitive Intelligence (CI) development Subject Matter Expert.
- As the Paveway™ Proposal Manager, Kurt directed the complex and dynamic proposal development effort across all Paveway™ programs in response to approximately 40 different DoD, FMS and DCS customers. The cross-functional team submitted 150+ significant proposals per calendar year while consistently working 25 to 35 proposal submissions simultaneously.



- As the NLOS-LS (Non-Line of Sight Launch System LLC Systems Software Lead



and PAM (Precision Attack Munition) Energetics IPT Lead, Kurt led the NLOS-LS LLC system software development through software qualification to system integration, flight testing, system qualification and operational deployment across five major software development domains. As the PAM Energetics Lead, he was responsible for the design, development and delivery of the all Energetics components in the PAM system.

Strike Weapons Systems, Raytheon Systems Company, Lewisville, TX:

- As a Software Configuration Management (SCM) manager, Kurt was responsible for the SCM technical and functional activities of three major SCM teams which supported the business success of all software development programs (plus their interface to other engineering and program organizations). He also led SCM organizational improvement initiatives across the site.
- As a Major Subcontracts Engineering Manager in the HARM Division, Kurt was responsible for technical activities associated with major subcontracted components of the HARM system. He provided technical interface between the subcontractors (Motorola, Hughes, Bendix, Northrop, Thiokol, etc.) and the Navy technical / management organizations (e.g; Naval Air Systems Command).

Kurt earned his Masters of Science (Software Engineering) degree from Southern Methodist University in the Dallas, TX area. He also earned his Bachelor of Science (Chemistry) degree from the University of California, Davis CA.

Kurt has lived in SaddleBrooke since mid-2021 with his wife Cheryl. Kurt and Cheryl have four children who live (two with their spouses), in Rhode Island (Michael), Idaho (Deanna), southern California (Daniel) and here in Tucson (Kristin). Kurt is also very proud to brag about their three grandchildren (Aubrey, Hunter and Levi).



Kurt and Cheryl enjoy travelling around the world (now that Kurt is retired and they have the time to do so). As an outdoor enthusiast, Kurt enjoys bicycling (thousands of miles per year), hiking (when he is not bicycling), and swimming (again, when time is available). He is also on the Board of Directors for Senior Village in SaddleBrooke.

President's Message - continued

hear a recap on 2025 CMC accomplishments, and enjoy a great lunch. Attendance increased by 22% over last year!

Wreaths Across America: Five CMC members were at the AZ Vets Memorial Cemetery in Marana on December 13th, 2025, to participate in the ceremony and to lay wreaths at niches and gravesites.

As a recurring reminder, you can read about what is happening at both the Arizona state MOAA level and National MOAA level through the following links:

- Arizona Council of Chapters (A CofC) website: <https://www.azcouncilofchapters.org/>
- National MOAA website: <https://www.MOAA.org>

As far as the most convenient way to submit future CMC dues and donations, please remember that we continue to use the online "Cheddar Up" system at: <https://cmc-moaa-2026-dues.cheddarup.com>.

Happy Birthday!

March birthday

John Coleman
Steve Didio
Dick Johnson
George Kalman
Lois Kelly
Marty Lenzini
Clara Murry
Jeff Peckron

April birthdays

Bruce Huffman
Ray Malaski
Steve Rizzo
Carol Smith

March birthdays continued

Bart Rice
Kenn Riordan Jr.

May birthdays

Marty Chanik
Tom Grant
Dwight Mears
Bill Myers
Bill Spores

Contact your State Legislators

State Legislators				
District		Name	Email/Phone	Mailing Address
7	Senator	Wendy Rogers	WRogers@AZleg.gov 602-926-3042	Senator Wendy Rogers AZ State Senator 1700 W Washington Street - Senate Phoenix, AZ 85007
7	Representative	Walt Blackman	WBlackman@AZleg.gov 602-926-3244	Representative Walt Blackman AZ State Representative 1700 W Washington Street - House Phoenix, AZ 85007
7	Representative	David Marshall, Sr	DMarshall@AZleg.gov 602-926-3579	Representative David Marshall AZ State Representative 1700 W Washington Street - House Phoenix, AZ 85007
17	Senator	Venden "Vince" Leach	VLeach@AZleg.gov 602-926-3694	Senator Vince Leach AZ State Senator 1700 W Washington Street - Senate Phoenix, AZ 85007
17	Representative	Rachel Keshel	RKeshel@AZleg.gov 602-926-3558	Representative Rachel Keshel AZ State Representative 1700 W Washington Street - House Phoenix, AZ 85007
17	Representative	Kevin Volk	KVolk@AZleg.gov 602-926-3498	Representative Kevin Volk AZ State Representative 1700 W Washington Street - House Phoenix, AZ 85007

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

Contact your Federal Legislators

Federal Legislators				
District	Website	Name	Phone	Mailing Address
	Senator	Mark Kelly	520-475-5177	Senator Mark Kelly
	https://www.kelly.senate.gov/contact/contact-form			Hart Senate Office Building
				Suite 516
				Washington, D. C. 20510
	Senator	Ruben Gallego	520-777-0400	Senator Ruben Gallego
	https://www.gallego.senate.gov/share-your-opinion/			SH-302 Hart Senate Office Building
				Washington, D. C. 20510
6	Representative	Juan Ciscomani	520-881-3588	Representative Juan Ciscomani
	https://ciscomani.house.gov/address_authentication			461 Cannon House Office Building
				Washington, D. C. 20515

Fly the flag dates

March

none

May

Sunday 3rd – Fallen Firefighters Memorial Day **
 Friday 8th – Victory in Europe Day
 Sunday 10th – Mother's Day
 Friday 15th – Peach Officer Memorial Day **
 Saturday 16th – Armed Forces Day
 Monday 25th – Memorial Day ##

** fly flag at half-staff sunrise to sunset

- fly flag at half-staff until noon

April

Sunday 5th – Easter Sunday

June

Sunday 14th – Flag Day
 Friday 19th – Juneteenth Day
 Sunday 21st – Father's Day

Arizona Legislative Update – Request to Speak letter

Here's a proposed letter to forward to your state representatives and senator on Request To Speak.

As a veteran and engaged citizen, I respectfully request your support for modernizing the Request to Speak (RTS) registration process—on behalf of all Arizonans who wish to participate more easily in our state's legislative process.

The RTS system provides citizens with a vital avenue to comment on proposed legislation and request to speak before committees. However, the current requirement that first-time users travel to the State Capitol to register at a kiosk places an unnecessary burden on those living outside the Phoenix area.

No in-person identification or verification occurs at these kiosks—registration is completed entirely online once activated. This creates an artificial barrier that prevents many Arizonans from engaging in the legislative process, despite the state's proven ability to securely manage far more sensitive online transactions such as voter registration, driver licensing, and benefit applications.

Allowing initial RTS registration to be completed online would eliminate this inequity, broaden civic participation, and strengthen transparency—values shared by both parties and essential to good governance.

I urge you and your leadership team to support this simple but meaningful improvement that would benefit all Arizonans.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

How to Contact Us

To contact the President, email Kurt McMillen at kmmcmillen@gmail.com or call him at 520-420-7475.

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.