

Catalina Mountains Sentinel

October 2025 issue

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Our October Luncheon

Our October 2025 CMC luncheon speaker was Air Force COL (Retired) Tim Tarris. Besides his very successful educational, military and civilian career, Tim talked about his 2024 "Centennial Flight" commemorating the 100th anniversary of the U.S. Army Air Service's first world circumnavigation (accomplished over the course of six months back in 1924). Tim and a younger aviator companion tried to duplicate the event (but in a more current aircraft and 100 years later, of course . . .). Comprehensive planning worked very well until the two got to South America (Peru) where, after several days, they were stopped bureaucratically. The pair did have State Department approval and official consent from all countries enroute, but officials in Peru "changed their mind" after the flight started. As Tim said, "The situation was very frustrating and very expensive". (Needless to say) Tim and his companion never completed their own circumnavigation. Our luncheon attendees, though, were able to hear "the rest of the story" and appreciated both the excitement and frustration of the unfinished trip..



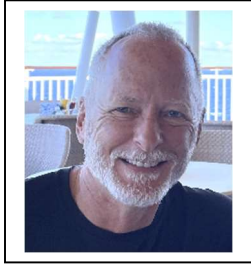
Our Next Luncheon

Our next luncheon is scheduled for Saturday, 15 November at 11:30 AM in the Private Dining Room of the Ranch House Grill & Brewery at SaddleBrooke Ranch.

Our November 2025 luncheon speaker will be our own Phil Osterli. His presentation is titled "Vietnam 1967: How I got there, what my year entailed, and what happened after". Phil is a great speaker and you will be entertained! See page 8 to read more about Phil and his background.

President's message

Hello CMC members, and welcome back to our CMC monthly membership luncheons! Having a pause since last April is a long stretch of time, but our chapter has been moving forward (and continues to move forward) on many exciting and significant activities. Here are updates for your information:



National MOAA Grant to support EEE: As you know, we received notice last April that CMC was awarded a \$3,250 MOAA Foundation Community Outreach Grant. This grant will provide targeted support to EEE (Es-

peranza en Escalante) as we have in the past two years. EEE is a tremendous Veterans Support organization located by DM AFB; EEE provides transition support to veterans (and veteran families) from homelessness to self-sufficiency.

The three critical support areas that Suzanne Bond (EEE CEO) and I identified for CMC support include: 1) Again providing laptops (with a basic level of instruction on most effective use) to transitioning EEE residents that can be used for job searches, resume preparation, family member schoolwork, and other necessary pre- and post-transition responsibilities; 2) Providing computer desks and chairs to supplement the laptops, and; 3) Being mentors / advisors to transitioning EEE residents prior to leaving EEE. We now have volunteers to help identify, purchase and set up the laptops, computer desks and chairs. We also need volunteers, though, to help resident recipients effectively use the laptops and to mentor / advise resident recipients on resume writing, interviewing preparation and other key transition activities (on an "as needed" basis). CMC collaboration with EEE will help ensure greater success for these transitioning residents!

CMC Leadership Position Openings: Your CMC leadership team members devoted significant time over the past three months to identify willing candidates who can fill our critical vacancies. Remember

that "many hands lead to light work!", so your help is essential. The role that remains unfilled is the Secretary position. Please understand that we need your help to keep this chapter thriving. If you would like to discuss the key responsibilities of the Secretary position (which are not that many!), then let's talk. Final election of new leadership members will take place at our November 2025 luncheon meeting.

Folds of Honor Veteran's Day Dinner: You received a "Save the date" notice for this event that takes place at SaddleBrooke HOA-1 Clubhouse on November 11th, 2025. CMC reserved 16 tickets (two tables; eight persons each) for this event. Ticket reservations are going fast! At this time we only have two tickets left. Please provide your name to Don Timian if you would like to attend.

CMC Holiday Luncheon: Please mark your calendars! We are taking RSVPs for this event that takes place from noon to 4pm on Friday, December 12th at The Ranch Grille ballroom.

Upcoming Wreaths Across America Ceremony: This national event takes place across the country on December 13th, 2025. CMC donates wreaths (and will again this year) and participates in the ceremony at the Arizona Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Marana. If you would like to donate to this worthy cause, you can through the "Cheddar Up" link at the bottom of this newsletter section. Also, we would appreciate your involvement in the very meaningful event on 12/13/25. Please put this event on your calendar if you can attend. We will provide additional coordination details at the event date gets closer. For more information on the Marana event, please see the following link: <https://www.wreathsasscrossamerica.org/pages/20921/Overview/?relatedId=0>

Do you enjoy writing grant requests? Our chapter has numerous opportunities to request grants (from National MOAA, the Veterans Organization and others) that significantly help to fund our charitable efforts. (Continued on page 8.)

2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kurt McMillen, COL, USA, retired
Chairman

Charles F. Vaughan, CAPT, USN, retired
Member

Bill Nagy, COL, USAR, retired
Member

2025 CHAPTER OFFICERS

Kurt McMillen, COL, USA, retired
President

Bruce Huffman, COL, USA, retired
First Vice President

vacant
Second Vice President

Bill Myers, LT, CEC, USN, former
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

Ed Brogan, Col, USAF, retired
Chaplain

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

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 three 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 are \$30 per calendar year. Wait until this fall to pay your dues online with national MOAA. 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 Tom Waddell, AZ Council of Chapters

MOAA's Summer Advocacy in Action (AiA) Campaign

MOAA's Summer Advocacy in Action (AiA) campaign is well underway, and with the Senate and House returning to Washington someday (soon?), now is the time to step up our grassroots advocacy through the Legislative Action Center (LAC).

This year's Summer AiA focuses on several critical issues:

- **Major Richard Star Act** (see the August *Military Officer*, pg. 16)
- **Military Spouse Hiring Act**
- **Currently Serving – Access to Care** (with key provisions expected in the upcoming NDAA)

To learn more about these priorities and get the latest updates, visit www.moaa.org/summeraiA.

As General Kelly reminds us: *"Every voice matters. And the more members who participate, the more powerful we can become."*

The latest LAC numbers show that many of our chapter members are not registered with the LAC or using the LAC to contact their national senators and representations. We can do better! Please take a few minutes to log in, support this summer's AiA priorities, and add your voice to other important legislative actions. It's quick, easy, and makes a real difference. **Please personalize your letters by adding your own insights or experiences—they carry more weight with lawmakers.**

Your voice matters—sign in today and take action!

Catalina Mountains Mission Statement

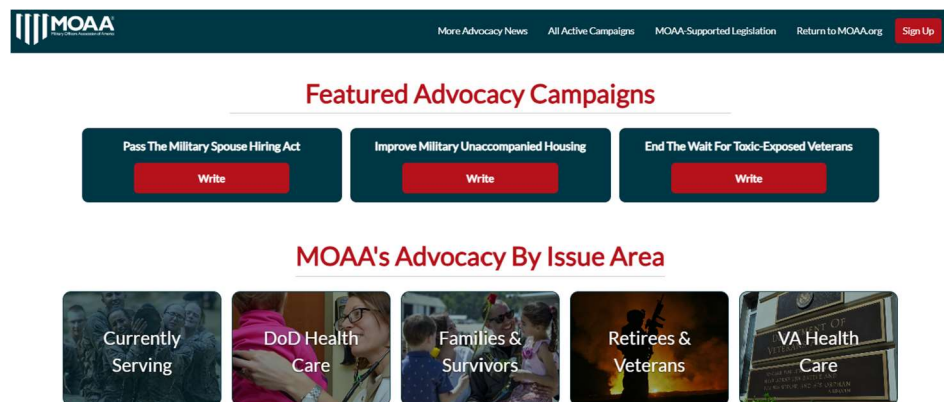
The Chapter's mission is clearly spelled out in the by-laws of the Catalina Mountains Chapter, in Section 1.2 as follows:

"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 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 at top of the page. Here, you can click on any of the secondary links (shown to the left) in order to navigate all the most relevant and current legislative information at the national level. Much of the most important information applicable to CMC is within the **"Legislative Action Center"** (LAC) secondary link. Once you click on it and sign into the LAC, you will see the LAC page header shown below:



Not all CMC members are "registered" in the LAC. **Please register to help bolster our support of key service member and veteran related legislative issues!** **NOTE:** Individuals must register themselves. If you are not registered, click on the red "Sign Up" button in the upper-right corner. Then fill in the "Sign Up" information on the next page. In the "MOAA Chapter Affiliation" **make sure** to select "AZ12 – Catalina Mountains Chapter". Once you are registered, will see the initial LAC web page shown above.

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 must 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!

A strong recommendation: After you register and sign into the LAC, **DO NOT "Logout" of the LAC**. If you do, the next time you enter the LAC you will have to re-register.

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

Bruce Huffman currently serves as the 1st Vice President of the Catalina Mountains Chapter (CMC). Prior to joining CMC, he completed a distinguished 31-year career of military service in both Active and Reserve components of the U.S. Army, retiring with the rank of Colonel. His primary responsibilities involved 25 years of continuous aviation focus, numerous positions in both command and staff, and accountabilities for large complex organizations.

With respect to the details of Bruce's military service, though, I believe his time spent in Vietnam provides some insight of what he (and, of course, thousands of other service members) experienced. And since "a picture is worth a thousand words", please see Bruce for additional context related to the photos!



<- My Khe Beach (a.k.a; "China Beach"); located in Da Nang, Vietnam and served as a rest and recreation area for American servicemen during the Vietnam War:



"Ungaro's Hooch with 107mm "rennovation"->



<-Super Trooper LT Huffman



"NVA Yard Sale": ->



<- The "Doughnut Dollies of Phouc Vinh" in Jan 1969

Bruce is also a Master Army Aviator. His military awards include: The Distinguished Flying Cross, The Air Medal for Valor (3), Air Medal (19), Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal for Valor (2), Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry w/Star, Good Conduct Medal and Mississippi ARNG Medal for Heroism.

From an education perspective, Bruce earned his undergraduate degree from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Professional Aeronautics and his master's degree in Instructional and Performance Technology from Boise State University.

And what has Bruce accomplished on the civilian side? He is a 50-year veteran of Business Aviation, with a record of developing and leading organizations to excellence in operational management. As the President and founder of Flight Assurance, Bruce serves as the principal consultant and has developed a unique line of process templates to provide a host of solutions to the operation of any business aircraft. Prior to founding Flight Assurance in 2009, Bruce held a variety of leadership and executive positions within the aviation community.

Bruce's past assignments have included service as: Director of Aviation at Drummond Company Inc; Director of Operations at Precision Jet Management, LLC; Director of Sales Demonstration Flight Operations for the Bombardier Business Aircraft Division responsible for both Challenger and Learjet units; Senior Vice President of Customer Operations for Avolar (UAL) where his team built the IT and operating infrastructure for a fractional aircraft start up; Senior Vice President (International), Managing Director for European Operation, and Senior Vice President for International Operations at NetJets.

Bruce's civilian credentials include an Airline Transport Pilot certificate in both fixed and rotary wing aircraft, a Certified Flight Instructor rating in both fixed and rotary wing aircraft, numerous aircraft Type ratings, and more than 16,500 flight hours.

Bruce is a member of: The National Business Aviation Association; the VHPA.; Reserve Officers Association (ROA); MOAA; Daedalians; Toastmasters International; Army Aviation Heritage Foundation; Association of the United States Army (AUSA); Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society. Bruce currently serves as the Chairman Emeritus of The Distinguished Flying Cross Society.

Lastly, Bruce is married, has two sons, and currently resides with his wife in Oracle, AZ. For more details about his considerable military and civilian experience, I am sure that Bruce would be happy to tell you all you want to know!

Happy Birthday!

November birthdays	December birthdays	January birthdays
Wayne McCarey	Don Evans	Daniel Kasperski
Charles Meiselman	Stuart Kraft	Lane Miller
Bill Nagy	Donna McArthur	
Steven Reynolds	Ken Miller	
Terry Turner	Brian O'Connor	
Jim Weselis		

President's Message - continued

If you would like to know more about this opportunity to become the CMC Grant Coordinator, please contact Kurt McMillen (CMC President) or Chuck Vaughan (CMC Board of Directors member).

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://my.cheddarup.com/c/cmc-moaa-2025-dues/items?cart>

Our Next Luncheon - continued



Phil graduated from University of California, Davis in 1963 and entered active duty in January 1966 after an educational delay for graduate school. Upon completion of flight school, he was assigned to the 335th Assault Helicopter Company in Vietnam. Phil served as an armed helicopter pilot, aircraft commander, and platoon commander through December 1967. During this time, he compiled 586 combat hours and earned a DFC, Air Medal (20 OLC), ARCOM, Presidential and Meritorious Unit citations, Vietnam Cross of Gallantry and Vietnam Service recognition.

After a year as a Tactics Instructor Pilot, Phil left active duty to return to graduate school prior to accepting an academic position with the University of California Agricultural Extension. He retired after 34+ years of service in 2002 and received Emeritus status. In 1969, Phil joined the California National Guard (later USAR) serving in various flying and command and staff positions. He retired in 2000 at the rank of Colonel.

After his retirement(s), Phil and his wife Linda moved to Poulsbo, Washington. There they cruised the Pacific Northwest in the "Nordic Spirit". During their 18-year residence in Washington, Phil also served as Commodore of the Poulsbo Yacht Club, Trustee of Recreational Boaters of Washington, President of District 1 Blue Gavel, and Trustee of the Poulsbo Sons of Norway Lodge.

Phil is a Life Member of DFCS, MOAA, VHPA, currently resides in SaddleBrooke, AZ and is an active member of the Charles M. Walling Chapter of the DFC Society in Tucson. He and Linda enjoy the active retired lifestyle as well as visiting family and friends scattered around the country.



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

Fly the Flag Dates

November

Nov 4 - Election Day
 Nov 10 – Marine Corps Day
 Nov 11 - Veterans Day
 Nov 27 – Thanksgiving Day

January

Jan 1 – New Years's Day

December

Dec 7 – Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
 (fly flag at half-staff sunrise to sunset)
 Dec 20 – Space Force Birthday
 Dec 25 – Christmas Day

Jan 19 – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

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

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.

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