

Post Office Box 1685  
Sierra Vista Arizona 85636-1685

# HELIOGRAM

THE MILITARY OFFICERS  
ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

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September 2017

## OFFICERS

**President** COL Bob Covalucci USA (Ret)  
robertjcovalucci@gmail.com. ....456-3503  
**Past President / Colors Sgt** COL Tom Hessler USA (Ret)  
tjhessler@cox.net.....459-0093  
**1st Vice President** vacant  
**2nd Vice President** COL Tom Hessler, USA, (Ret)  
tjhessler@cox.net.....459-0093  
**Secretary** COL Joe Puett ,USA (Ret)  
jmpuett1@aol.com.....895-9292  
**Treasurer** COL Robert Abney, USA (Ret)  
ROAbney@cox.net.....378-0131  
**Chaplain** COL Thomas Day, USA (Ret)  
tday500@yahoo.com.....915-588-9281

## DIRECTORS

Col Gene Fenstermacher, USAF (Ret), Legislative Affairs  
fensteg@cox.net.....378-1471  
CW3 Harry Bowen, USA (Ret), AZTOPS/ESGR  
harrybowen@aol.com..... 458-1058  
COL John Black, USA (Ret), Scholarship  
johnandjoanblack@cox.net .. 378-0209  
LTC George Kirmse USA (Ret), Membership  
kirmsegm@cox.net .....378-2670

## DIRECTORS (cont.)

JROTC  
LTC Norman Patten USA (Ret). Publicity  
patne@cox.net..... 249-7843  
Col Terrie M. Gent, USAF (Ret), Personal Affairs  
tmgent@cox.net.....378-2915  
Mrs. Jan Cole, Surviving Spouse Liaison  
thecolebin2@gmail.com..... .803-6612  
**DEPUTY DIRECTORS**  
COL Duane Brofer, USA (Ret) Database Manager  
brabec@cox.net.....378-2732  
LTC Earl Devine, USA (Ret), Community Liaison  
edevine1@cox.net.....458-5224  
Chapter Historian (Vacant)  
LTC Paul Puttkammer, USA (Ret), Heliogram Editor  
pputt@earthlink.net.....803-0255  
Webmaster — VACANT

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Volume 44 Number 6  
September 2017

## FUTURE MEETING DATES

**BOD MEETING 11:30 Sept 20, 2017**  
**LANDMARK CAFÉ**  
**Dinner Meeting September 21, 2017**  
**Pueblo Del Sol Country Club**  
**2770 South St Andrews Drive**  
**Social Hour — 1800 Dinner— 1830**

**MENU: Field Greens w/orange,grapefruit,**  
**and pineapple w/citrus vinaigrette**  
**Margarita chicken**  
**Spanish Rice Pilaf**  
**Chef'sVegetables**  
**Coffee, Rolls, Iced Tea, Water**  
**Flan**

**Vegetarian Alternative: Marianated**  
**Squash w/ Spanish Rice & Chefs Vegeta-**  
**bles**

**PROGRAM: Mr. Charles Hancock , SW**  
**Association of the Buffalo Soldiers**

**BOD MEETING 11:30 Oct 18, 2017**  
**LANDMARK CAFÉ**  
**Dinner Meeting October 19, 2017**  
**Pueblo Del Sol Country Club**  
**2770 South St Andrews Drive**  
**Social Hour — 1800 Dinner— 1830**

**MENU: Romaine Lettuce w/Cucumbers,**  
**Onion, Water Chestnuts /Dill Vinaigrette**  
**Fresh Salmon in French Pastry**  
**White Cheddar Mashed Potatoes**  
**Chef's Vegetable**  
**Coffee, Rolls, Water**  
**Chocolate Cake**

**Vegetarian Alternative: Grilled Marinat-**  
**ed Portobello Mushroom filled with sau-**  
**téed rice & grilled vegetables**

**PROGRAM: Representative Martha**  
**McSally: Update on Congressional Activi-**  
**ties**



# CORONADO CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

[WWW.MOAA-CORONADO.ORG](http://WWW.MOAA-CORONADO.ORG)

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## **PRESIDENT'S NOTES** by **President Bob Covalucci, COL, USA (Ret.)**

Hope everyone had a most enjoyable Summer. I am very happy to start this season's communications

with our membership.

We ended our last season with our May dinner meeting and an excellent presentation by our fellow member State Senator Gail Griffin. As I anticipated, Gail provided her perspective of our state legislature and the process that must be followed. Although we were unable to advance our goal for tax exemption for veterans, Gail has promised to continue the fight in the next session. We hope to have her return and give us an update next year.

The summer has been a flood of GREAT NEWS for Coronado Chapter. The contributions of our membership is certainly recognized at the National level. For the 11<sup>th</sup> consecutive year we have received the 5 Star Award for Level of Excellence for 2016. Huge achievement that I will bet exceeds the accomplishments of most of the MOAA Chapters.

Additionally we have received for 2016 the 4 Star COL Marvin J. Harris Communications Award for both Printed Newsletter, THE HELIOGRAM, and the Website, <http://moaacoronado.org/>. A

SHOUT OUT to **Paul Puttkammer** and **Joe Puett** for their great contributions to our Chapter.

Not enough! Must share with you some information provided by our Historian, Tom Fail, YOU as members of the Coronado Chapter over the years have contributed \$133,300 in scholarships to young men and women in the Southern Arizona. A SHOUT OUT to each of YOU! Your generosity is greatly appreciated by this proud veteran's community.



## **VETERANS LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS** by **Gene Fenstermacher, Col, USAF (Ret)**

The pace in Congress went from a slow crawl to a dead stop with their departure from Washington; both the House of Representatives and

Senate embarked on their August Recess on 14 Aug and will not return until 5 Sep.

Before the House departed, they passed a four-bill appropriations package that included the Defense bill, but no action was completed in the Senate

September is shaping up to be a busy month. Congress must navigate through funding the federal government in FY 2018, increasing the debt limit, and passing the Defense Authorization bill.

Although there seems to be broad consensus for greater defense spending, Congress will be unable to complete FY 2018 appropriations bills in time for the new FY beginning on October 1<sup>st</sup>. Since the Budget Control Act (BCA) of 2011 imposed statutory limitations on national defense spending far below this year's proposed discretionary spending levels, we can only expect passage of a short-term CR (Continuing Resolution) by October 1st. That will mark 9 years in a row the fiscal year started with partial funding. The most pressing concern is the duration of the CR. Although CRs do provide limited appropriations, the piece meal approach is counter-productive to the military and wasteful to taxpayers. CRs delay the start of new programs, waste money by failing to terminate old programs, and keep spending at the previous year's level.

(cont on Page 4)

Cont on Page 4

## PRESIDENT'S NOTES (cont)

Not finished! The Coronado Chapter has today 22 members who have been inducted into Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame. For the Class of 2017 Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame, I am proud to announce that Coronado Chapter members Allen Rossow, Harry Bowen and Don Price have been selected to receive this most significant and well-earned honor for their meaningful and continuing support to the veterans of Arizona and our community. Send them a note of CONGRATULATIONS!

However, I must also report that I have accepted the resignation of Tom Fail. I for one will miss his spotlights on history and his friendship as a member of our Board of Directors. Tom's final mission is to find his replacement. So make this easy for him and jump in and become a leader in our Chapter.

A SHOUT OUT to Ron Beer for contributing his raffle winning to our Scholarship Fund. And, thank you to Norm Patten for leading the team on our road cleanup program on Charleston Road. Thanks to ALL who participated.

Hope you are ALL PUMPED –UP for our new season. I look forward to see many of you at the 21 September Dinner Meeting. It will be a great opportunity to congratulate our newest members of the Arizona Veterans Hall Of Fame and look at the newest Awards received by the Chapter.

*NEVER STOP SERVING*

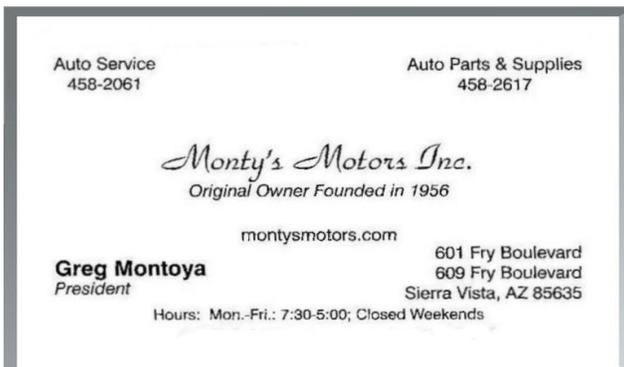
BOB

## LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS (cont)

Deep divisions remain in Congress. An estimated 45 percent of Congress are pursuing an increase in defense spending; 45 percent seek a comparable increase in non-defense spending if defense spending is increased, and 10 percent demand fiscal restraint by keeping lower federal spending at the BCA levels. In the end, either the BCA needs to be amended for the fourth time to authorize and appropriate additional defense money or the defense department will experience increased readiness problems due to inadequate discretionary spending levels.

In June, DoD released its 2018 budget proposal. Unsurprisingly, the document included large increases in TRICARE fees across the board. **Several groups escaped the proposed changes, including TRICARE For Life beneficiaries (no changes), active duty service personnel, medically retired servicemembers, their families, and survivors of those who died on active duty.**

The proposed fee increases will fall squarely on all other categories of beneficiaries not mentioned above. Retirees under the age of 65 and their families are hit hard; to a lesser extent, so are active duty family members who choose not to enroll in TRICARE Prime (for instance, many active duty troops with special needs family members). These fee increases are a direct result of the repeal of the 2017 National Defense Authorization Act's grandfathering clause. The intention of the grandfathering was to keep fees where they currently are for beneficiaries in the service prior to Jan. 1, 2018.



**COL Joe Britton (Ret) Coronado Chapter JROTC Director stood in for President Covalucci at the Buena High School JROTC Recognition Day on 10 May 2017, and presented the MOAA Medal of Excellence for the Academic Year 2017 to Cadet Staff Sergeant Julian Oliveras**

**CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP**

<b>Regular Members</b>	<b>185</b>
<b>Surviving Spouses</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Auxiliary</b>	<b>9</b>
	<hr/>
<b>Total</b>	<b>217</b>



**VETERANS DIRECTORY**

For veterans looking for information there is a website full of information pertaining to veterans. Log onto [www.veteransdirectory.org](http://www.veteransdirectory.org) and see what is available.

**2017 DONORS (SCHOLARSHIP & OPNS)**

**SUSTAINING LEVEL DONORS (\$300 OR MORE)**

Kenneth Allison	John Black
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**CHAPLAIN'S NOTES by  
COL Tom Day, (USA, Ret.)  
Chapter Chaplain**

I hope everyone had a great summer. One of the highlights of my summer was the "Honor our Local Hero" Sunday at Sierra Vista Community Church (UCC) on June 11. Pastor Chuck Carlson and the congregation did a fantastic job honoring our military, veterans and first responders! Thank you Sierra Vista Community Church. Many of you were there and witnessed the fantastic event and meal following the service. I was even able to take some of the food to the firehouse at Sonoita for our firefighters and EMTs after the lunch. As you may know, June was an exciting time out in the Sonoita area with a new fire almost every day!

We were honored to have two WWII veterans at the Hero Service and one shared his experience of being on a ship that was torpedoed and sank. He told of his time in the life raft and his recovery after they were rescued. I was privileged to give honor to our WWII, Korean, Viet Nam, Desert Storm and War on Terror veterans and Active Duty military. There were several other operations in the 80's and 90's whose veterans we also honored. Representatives from the Sierra Vista Fire Department, Border Patrol, Emergency Services and the Sheriff's Office honored those who risk their lives daily for our safety and protection. Thank you Sierra Vista Community Church and the Sierra Vista community for this touching church service.

This year I have become a volunteer dispatcher for the Sonoita Elgin Fire District. This has given me a greater appreciation for our firefighters and EMTs. They work with the Sheriff's Office, State Police and Border Patrol, on a daily basis exhibiting dedication and selfless service to protect and serve. Many of you have worked for or volunteer with our firefighters and law enforcement organizations, thank you for your service to our community.



Chapter President Col Covalucci (Ret) accepts the Communications Award from Col Terri Coles (Ret) MOAA Director of Councils and Chapters



Chapter members clean up trash from the multi-use path on Charleston Road



**TRANSITION LIAISON  
( Formerly TOPS):by CW3  
Harry Bowen, USA Ret, Di-  
rector for TOPS/ESGR**

**Jobs:**

During the period of 17 July to 15 August 2017, we were able to post 116 Jobs plus 3 multiple listings (1 for Yvapai, Pima, Cochise, Maricopa, Pinal, and Graham Counties; 1 for Phoenix, and 1 for Prescott). The multiple listings were for engineering, teaching, and medical positions.

**Expos/Career Fairs:**

During this period, we were able to post 2 job fairs on the web site and 1 job fair announcement via email due to the short suspense of the fair. There were several job fairs in the area but by time I got them, they were over.

**Employer Support to the Guard and Reserves (ESGR):**

This was a very light period with one Member Training Session in Phoenix for two days for all ESGR members to learn about any changes forthcoming in the process, and refresh everyone to their peers/counter parts within the Arizona environment.

The balance of the month was devoted to arranging a Breakfast with the Boss in November for several companies whom the ESGR Employer Outreach Coordinator (me) identified as going above and beyond in supporting their reservist and guard members.

**Cochise Serving Veterans (CSV) and the forthcoming Resource Fair:**

The CSV finally was able to submit the application for 501(C)3 certification to the IRS. The IRS has cashed the association's check so that is a good sign.

**TRANSITION LIAISON (cont)**

The CSV Resource Fair is scheduled for 18 August (this Friday) at the old Apache Middle School located at 3355 E. Fry Boulevard. The event will go from 0900 until 1400 and will again provide Pet Care, Benefits, Behavioral Counselling, Medical and Dental Support Services, Advocacy, Legal Support, Showers and Hair Cuts, Clothing, and Miscellaneous Social Services such as Kettle Corn, Christmas Tree sign up, massages, blood pressure testing, and Breakfast and Lunch. There are 56 registered providers, 20 job educators and recruiters (with actual job openings) available. This year, the hope is to have more than 9 Veterans leave with a job offer in hand (last year 9 Veterans left with a job offer).

**Nancy L. Rea, ABR CRS  
Associate Broker**

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**SCHOLARSHIP REPORT by COL. John Black, USA , Ret**  
**Pictures and biographies of scholarship awardees who could not attend the April dinner meeting.**



**Gabrielle Kostur:** Gabrielle will be graduating from Buena High School in the top 8 % of her class of 478 seniors and with a 4.04 GPA. She has displayed leadership and organizational abilities by serving as the Student Body Secretary, the Public Relations Officer and President of the Student-to-Student organization and the Secretary of the Girl's Tennis Team. Additional extra-curricular activities include being active in the Key Club; Reading is Fundamental, the Student Council and the National Honor Society. Gabrielle has been involved in community service locally and at Fort Gordon Georgia. While living in Georgia, she was active in the Family Readiness Group of the 551<sup>st</sup> Signal Battalion and supported both Art in the Park and Kid's Day in Augusta. Locally, Gabrielle supported the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) adoption program for cats and dogs. Her passion is to work in the medical field. To that end, she will be attending the College of Charleston, South Carolina, majoring in Biology, followed by attending the Medical University of South Carolina graduating with a degree in medicine.



**Andrea Bracamonte:** Andrea has truly experienced a stellar career at Buena High School. She is graduating in the top 1% of her class with a 4.42 GPA in tough classes. She is truly a scholar/athlete. Andrea has been on the Varsity Diving and Swim Team all four years in high school. She has been the Captain of the Team and a State Dive Championship Qualifier for the past three years. Her involvement in school and community has been extensive. Andrea has been involved with the student government all four years; serving on the Student Council and as the Freshman and Junior Class President, Student Body Historian, member and President of Reading is Fundamental, three years as a member of the National Honor Society and a member of

Health Occupation Students of America where she competed at the State level in Sports Medicine. In her senior year, Andrea was the Head Student Athletic Trainer treating athlete's injuries and providing first aid and rehabilitation. Throughout high school, she was very active in her church youth group, the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, taught dance to younger dancers and played trumpet in the marching band. Andrea is planning on attending Gonzaga University studying Physics and Astronomy. She hopes to study abroad, specifically in Rome and eventually work with astronomers in the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).



**Sean "Jake" Freeman:** Jake will be graduating from Buena High School with a GPA of 4.0 and is ranked in the top 10% of his class. He has been active in school by playing on the basketball team, volunteering for the American Red Cross and working for the City of Sierra Vista. Jake has been very involved in the school's TV and Film Productions classes and extracurricular activities. He excelled during the recent Buena Film Festival by winning the best in cinematography and the best pre-production award. Additionally, he won the audience's choice award and came in first overall in the festival. Jake is planning on attending the University of Arizona to pursue his interest in music and film. After graduation from the university, he is planning on working

in the film and entertainment industry.



**PERSONAL AFFAIRS by  
Terrie Gent, COL, USAF,  
Ret.**

Please let your friends who are veterans, but may not have exchange privileges because they separated from the service before re-

tirement, know that the DoD will open online exchanges to them on Veterans Day this year. DoD leaders said that this change in policy is to "welcome home" and say "thank you" to honorably discharged veterans. The DoD believes this initiative "represents a low-risk, low-cost opportunity to help fund morale, welfare and recreation programs in support of service members' and their families quality of life." DoD officials also expect the increase in customers to allow the service exchanges to have greater bargaining power with vendors which could improve competitiveness with other online outlets.

According to Military.Com, last month, nearly 12,000 veterans were invited to beta test online shopping at the exchanges. They first had to verify their veteran status at <https://vetverify.org>. But not all separation records have been digitized. If the Defense Manpower Data Center lacks information to verify a veteran's honorable discharge, the process may require several steps. Military.Com also reported that AFFES officials are hoping to get 1 to 2 million online shoppers. To ensure access for all those who want to take advantage of this new shopping opportunity, AAFES is building website capacity to allow for 30,000 simultaneous shoppers. And they will "price match" other vendors' lowest prices.

Just like at brick and mortar exchanges, profits will be used to pay staff salaries, fund store operations and ensure website capacity. But "even more" profits will be used to fund MWR activities like child development centers, gyms and outdoor recreation. Invite your friends who are veterans to check out this website site for more information: [AAFES.com](http://AAFES.com).

**Dear Fellow Veterans and Colleagues,**

The President just signed into law the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017, also known as the "Forever GI Bill," named after the American Legion national commander who wrote the original GI Bill language in 1944. This legislation contains 34 new provisions, the vast majority of which will enhance or expand education benefits for Veterans, Servicemembers, Families and Survivors.

Most notably, Veterans who transitioned out of the military after January 1, 2013 will not be limited to the 15-year deadline to use their GI Bill benefits – hence the bill's nickname, "Forever GI Bill." This law also restores benefits to Veterans, who were impacted by school closures since 2015, and expands benefits for our reservists, surviving dependents, Purple Heart recipients, and provides many other improvements.

We see Congress's overwhelming bipartisan support and the President's signing as a major accomplishment for our nation's Veterans. The original GI Bill has long been considered an enormous success by historians, politicians and economists for its impact on the post-war economy and capital investment in our "Greatest Generation." The passage of this bill ensures that generations to come will continue to walk in that greatness.

As you can imagine, VA has a lot of work ahead of us in order to ensure successful implementation of this new law, and as we roll out each provision, we'll keep you updated and informed on our progress.

Thank you all for your continued support of our nation's Veterans, Servicemembers and their families.



**NOTES from your  
Immediate Past President (IPP)  
and Programs Guru**

**Tom Hessler  
COL (USA Ret)**

Great news! Five veterans from our area have been selected to be inducted into the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame (AVHOF), Class of 2017, on 27 October. They are Jose Baeza, Harry Bowen, Allen Rossow, Don Price, and Mike Roberts. Harry, Allen and Don are MOAA members of this chapter.

We are about to start up our Dinner Meetings after our summer break! Our September program will be a presentation by Charles Hancock, the President of the Southwest Association of Buffalo Soldiers (SWABS). Check them out at [www.swabuffalosoldiers.org](http://www.swabuffalosoldiers.org). He will be presenting the history of the Buffalo Soldiers.

Congresswoman Martha McSally will be our speaker in October. We will be distributing a program survey at that dinner as well. It will list about two dozen suggested programs for 2018 that I have received from a variety of sources. You will be asked to select no more than seven that you would like us to schedule. It will also have room for other suggestions for programs or speakers. By the time of this meeting, the proposed slate of officers and directors for 2018-2019 should be published and ready for your votes.

November will be a double-feature with short talks by John Black presentation on the Sheriff's Assist Team (SAT) followed by my presentation on both the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame (AVHOF) and the Joint Service Clubs of Greater Sierra Vista (JSCGSV). See more at [www.cochise.az.gov/sheriff/sheriff-assist-teammotorcycle-escort-team](http://www.cochise.az.gov/sheriff/sheriff-assist-teammotorcycle-escort-team), [www.avhofs@avhof.org](mailto:www.avhofs@avhof.org), and [www.jscgsv.com](http://www.jscgsv.com). This will also our annual meeting that will include the election of new officers and directors and a couple proposed changes to our bylaws.

The Sierra Vista Community Chorus is expected to perform their traditional holiday show for us in December.

One of my duties as IPP is to form our Nominating Committee for new officers and directors. The committee consists of Ken Symmes, Gene Manring, Doris Caldwell and Allen Rossow; with me as chair. If you have any questions at all, or would like to serve on the board, please contact any of us. We could use some new blood. By the way, we will accept your nomination for someone else you feel would be a good board member.

I invite you to visit the Veterans Heritage Project (VHP) website at [www.veteransheritage.org](http://www.veteransheritage.org). This program is growing rapidly in Arizona. It basically is a program where high school and college students create profiles and stories of Veterans, then write an article. These articles are then gathered and published in book form. There are over two dozen VHP Chapters in Arizona schools, and I suspect our local schools may well be considered for new chapters. I will be asking if any of you would be willing to be interviewed should you be asked.

**The Arizona Department of Veterans' Services is launching a program to help unemployed veterans get the supplies they need to start working.**

Veterans say they're ready to work but need just a little bit of help to make it happen, whether it's a pair of boots, some tools or a bicycle to get to work, said ADVS Director Wanda Wright.

The Veterans department is kicking off a pilot program called the Veteran Tool Kit Program this month that will offer \$150,000 over the next year, with a maximum of \$750 per veteran.

"We wanted to find immediate relief of monetary barriers to employment," she said. "If I can't afford transportation, for instance, I'm close enough to work to ride a bike so maybe a bike might be a tool to support this. We wanted to be more broad about the definition of a barrier."

But the funding is only for veterans who don't yet have a job and not for someone who already has a job and their bike broke down, she said.

Funding comes from a donation fund that is funded through the purchase of veterans license plates.

The ADVS is working with the Arizona Department of Economic Security to find veterans who are seeking employment and need that extra bit of funding to get to work, she said.

"I feel like it's our duty and obligation to make access to resources as easy as possible for our veterans who need them," Wright said. "This is one of those tools that can do that."

Qualifying veterans must:

- . Live in Arizona
- . Be enrolled in an Arizona Department of Economic Security employment program
- . Identify the job they need supplies for

If the one-year grant is successful, ADVS has the option to renew the program for four more years, she said.



State Senator Gail Griffin accepts a Challenge Coin from President Covalucci after addressing the May dinner attendees



WO1 Christopher D. Hurtig receives the MOAA Leadership Award upon his graduation from the Military Intelligence Warrant Officer Course 17-006 from Coronado

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2017 DINNER RESERVATION FORM**

**Pueblo Del Sol Country Club, 2770 South St Andrews Drive, Sierra Vista**  
**Social Hour 1800 — Dinner 1830**

My Name \_\_\_\_\_ Guest Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Check Information

Amount for meal @ \$25 each \_\_\_\_\_  
Amount for Operating Fund \_\_\_\_\_  
Amount for Scholarship Fund \_\_\_\_\_  
Check total \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Vegetarian Meals desired (if any) : \_\_\_\_\_

**RESERVATIONS MUST BE POSTMARKED by SEPT 11, 2017**

(result of post office mail handling changes)

Make check payable to Coronado Chapter, MOAA and mail to: **Reservations, Coronado Chapter, MOAA , P. O. Box 1685, Sierra Vista, AZ. 85636-1685** (Note on envelope “Dinner Reservation” )

Please change the following information for me: Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact person for reservations is Tom Hessler, phone 459-0093, email: tjhessler@cox.net**



Please complete in black or blue black ink RENEWAL WITH NO CHANGES CHECK BOX

For further Membership questions, Contact LTC (Ret) George Kirmse, 378-2670, [kirmsegm@cox.net](mailto:kirmsegm@cox.net)

2017 CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION /RENEWAL



Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First \_\_\_\_\_ Initial \_\_\_\_\_ Rank \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse Full Name \_\_\_\_\_ National MOAA Number \_\_\_\_\_ Life Member Y/N

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Home Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Please circle as appropriate: ARMY---AIR FORCE---NAVY---MARINE CORPS---COAST GUARD---NOAA---PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

Please circle all that apply: REGULAR--- RESERVE--- NATIONAL GUARD--- FORMER OFFICER---ACTIVE--- RETIRED---

MALE \_\_\_ FEMALE \_\_\_ **Surviving Spouse** \_\_\_\_\_

Member Date of Birth: MM \_\_\_ / DD \_\_\_ / YYYY \_\_\_ Spouse Date of Birth: MM \_\_\_ / DD \_\_\_ / YYYY \_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Membership is (Reg) \$ 15.00; (SS) is \$ 10.00. First year FREE to NEW Members

Mail to: **Coronado Chapter, MOAA**

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Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_