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HELIOGRAM

THE MILITARY OFFICERS
ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

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November 2015

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www.moacoronado.org

Volume 42 Number 8

November 2015

FUTURE MEETING DATES

BOD MEETING 11:30 Nov. 18, 2015

LANDMARK CAFÉ

Dinner Meeting November 19, 2015

Pueblo Del Sol Country Club

2770 South St Andrews Drive

Social Hour — 1800 Dinner— 1830

**MENU; Wedge of iceberg lettuce w/ tomato
Tomato Concasse & Bleu Cheese
Dressing
Twin Medallions of Beef
Red Roasted Potatoes
Sauteed Blend of Fresh Vegetables
Cheese Cake**

PROGRAM; Judge Tim Dickerson, Sierra Vista Justice of the Peace, will talk about his court and especially the newly established Veterans Treatment Court

BOD MEETING 11:30 December 16, 2015

LANDMARK CAFÉ

Dinner Meeting December 17, 2015

Pueblo Del Sol Country Club

2770 South St Andrews Drive

Social Hour — 1800 Dinner— 1830

MENU: Salad, field greens w/julienne carrots, cucumbers, tomatoes & balsamic Vinaigrette.

Rosemary & black pepper Pork Loin, sliced w/red wine demi glace

**Rosemary Roasted potatoes
Fresh selection of vegetables
Chocolate Torte/ berry sauce**

PROGRAM: Annual Community Chorus Concert



CORONADO CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

WWW.MOAAACORONADO.ORG

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PRESIDENT'S NOTES by President Tom Hessler COL, USA (Ret.)

Cochise County Supervisor Pat Call was our October dinner guest speaker. It had been a long time since he last addressed us. He talked on a variety of topics. He presented a slide show explained the workings of the new Cochise County voting system. Besides bringing to the County the latest state-of-the-art system, the new system promises faster and more accurate vote tallies. Of particular interest is that there will be fewer polling places. However registered voters will now be able to cast their votes at any polling place in the County. He noted that you will not be able to vote at one place than run to another to vote again – won't work! Water is always one of his favorite topics. So it was no surprise that he briefed us on a large recharge project that covers many parts of the County. Most of you know that KTAN changed its format from talk radio to country music, due to economics. Pat Call's morning report has aired every Friday morning. Now his program will be expanded by a couple hours. This will not fill our need for national coverage, but will offer more local coverage.

Our November dinner meeting will feature our guest Judge Dickerson who will hopefully inform us of the newly formed Veterans Treatment Court (aka Veterans Court). This will also be our official annual business meeting. We will be electing some new officers and directors that will take office next year. The ballot is in this issue of the Heliogram. Please mail in ASAP, especially if you don't intend to come to the November dinner.

As mentioned last month Col Wanda Wright (USAF Ret), the relatively new director of the Arizona Department of Veterans Services, had to cancel being our October speaker. I am pleased that she is now scheduled to be our guest at our January dinner. This is the same dinner meeting that we will be installing our new chapter officers and directors.

(cont on Page 4)



VETERANS LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS by Gene Fenstermacher, Col, USAF (Ret) (cont. on page 4)

In case you missed it, there will be no 2016 COLA increase in your Social Security earned benefit, Military Retired Pay, SBP and other Veteran benefits. This is the third year of no COLAs in the past 7 years (2010, 2011, & 2016). And some Medicare Part B premiums may increase significantly beginning in January 2016. The loss of the Social Security COLA also means some Medicare beneficiaries could see their Part B premiums increase 52 percent next year. Normally, all Medicare beneficiaries see their premiums increase each year based upon the annual COLA. However, a provision of the law states if there is no Social Security COLA, then premiums cannot be increased **for those who have them deducted from their Social Security benefits**. That means about 70 percent of Medicare beneficiaries will see their Part B premiums remain at about \$104 per month next year. However, someone has to pay for increasing Medicare costs, and that means the remaining 30 percent of beneficiaries – those who are not yet receiving Social Security benefits or who pay their Medicare premiums out-of-pocket (**I hope you are not one of those**) – need to cover the expense. "New recipients into Medicare [next year] are going to bear the brunt of that increase. Their premiums will be about \$159 per month in 2016.

If you missed it, some aspects of this are addressed at Issue 2 in my 16 October Legislative Update and in the recommended message to our Legislators at Issue 1 in my 23 October Update. If you have deleted them and want to see what's happening, drop me a line at fensteg@cox.net and ask for a resend of those Updates.

PRESIDENT’S NOTES cont.

I will be soon meeting with our PDS chef concerning our dinner menus. I am sure he will want to discuss meal costs. I will do all I can to keep our meal costs to \$25 without sacrificing quality.

Tom

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS cont.

On the brighter side, even though the president vetoed the 2016 National Defense Authorization Act on 22 October, the 1.3% increase in Active Duty pay will go into effect on 1 Jan 2016. This was covered by his earlier action to cap it at 1.3% vs the 2.3% that it was supposed to be. This will be the third consecutive year of capping military pay raises.

Military Family Relief Fund (MFRF) Reminder: Donations to the MFRF were \$259,274 as of 28 September 2015. With a cap of \$1,000,000 annually there is still time to make that ‘donation’ as an Arizona tax credit (AZ Tax Form 340 - up to \$200/ individual or \$400/couple). However, that donation must be received by 31 Dec 2015 to be credited to your 2015 AZ Tax Return, so don’t hold off too long. **And remember, that donation costs you nothing** if you have an Arizona Tax obligation of that amount or more, and it does not preclude you from making any other tax credit donations. The amount of the contributions are credited to your tax obligation or is refunded to you after you file your Tax Return if you have prepaid your estimated tax or have withholdings that cover your obligation.

And also remember, this **MFRF Tax Credit** can be taken in addition to other Tax Credits such as “Credit for **Contributions to Qualifying Charitable Organizations**” (up to \$400/couple or \$200 per individual); “**Credit for Contributions Made or fees Paid to Public Schools**” (up to \$400 per couple); “**Credit for Contributions to Private School Tuition Organizations**” (up to \$1,070/ per couple for 2015); etc. as long as the total amount of all of your Tax Credits do not exceed your total 2015 AZ Tax obligation.

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS cont.

To make a donation, they need your name and address (for mailing your donation receipt) and the last four digits of your Social Security number (for tax credit reporting purposes). For more information and to download the MFRF Donation Form, go to AZ DVS link: <https://dvs.az.gov/military-family-relief-fund-2015> and click on: **Find the 2015 MFRF Donation Form online here at the bottom of the first paragraph.** Or copy, cut out, or make a facsimile of the donation form below. **Fill it out and mail to the address on the form with your check made out to: “Military Family Relief Fund”**

MFRF c/o Arizona Department of Veterans’ Services

3839 N. 3rd St., Ste. 209

Phoenix, AZ 85012

All donors will be mailed a receipt for tax purposes.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Last Four Digits of SS# _____

Email Address _____

Phone Number _____



County Supervisor Pat Call speaks to the members at our October meeting.



2015-2016 Scholarship Update
by COL John Black, USA Ret. Scholarship Chmn

Bob Abney, Bob Covalucci and I attended the Buena High School “College and Scholarship Night” on the 1st of October. We had a super evening meeting and talking to prospective Coronado Chapter Scholarship Applicants. We were impressed with the interest of the students and their parents. I would rate the evening as a success for getting out information on our Scholarship Program. We passed out over 85 applications to qualified students and provided a large number of Applications for the school’s Guidance and Counseling Office.

Additionally, all High Schools in Cochise County and Patagonia High School will be notified of our Scholarship Requirements and Timelines prior to the end of October. Applications will be due on 19 February 2016, and we will present the winners to you in March 2016.

The scholarships are offered to high school graduating seniors for use at a community college, a university or four-year college, or a service academy. The Chapter Board of Directors recently approved funding for nine scholarships this year. This increase in scholarships is a direct result of your generosity and giving to our Scholarship Fund. Thanks for the outstanding support to our students and their futures.

Two scholarships will be awarded to the best-qualified Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) students from Buena High School and/or Tombstone High School.

Additional scholarships will be awarded to the best-qualified students whose parents, grandparents, or legal guardians are on active duty, in an active reservist in a drill status, in the National Guard, or retired from the uniformed services. Students attending schools in the following areas can apply: Benson, Bisbee, Bowie, Douglas, Patagonia, San Simon, Sierra Vista, St. David, Tombstone, Valley Union, or Willcox. For more information you may contact me at johnandjohnblack@cox.net or 227-5173 (cell).

If you know of any qualifying graduating senior that might be interested in applying for one of our scholarships, please contact me.

Additionally, National MOAA’s Educational Assistance Program provides interest free loans and grants to students for up to five years of undergraduate study. For more information log onto the MOAA website at: www.moaa.org/education. If you have any questions concerning the “National” MOAA programs contact MOAA at edasist@moaa.org or 1-800-234-6622.

Thanks again for our outstanding support to our Chapter Scholarship Program.

John

The United Veterans Council of Greater Sierra Vista is looking for an organization to fill the UVC Secretary position starting in January 2016. No minutes are taken, but is responsible for the monthly meeting agenda and posting information submitted in soft copy to the UVC E-mail list and the UVC Facebook page. If anyone is interested in being the Coronado Chapter, MOAA nominee please contact either Tom Hessler or Earl Devine. Contact information is on page 2 of the Heliogram.

CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP

Regular Members	200
Associate Members	12
Auxiliary	19



**PERSONNEL AFFAIRS by
Terrie Gent, Col, USAF Ret**

The Art of Traveling Space A

If you haven't rummaged around the MOAA website for a while, you might find it has changed a bit since your last visit. The following is found under the Benefits tab. It's a great reminder that active duty, Guard, Reserve, retired, and their dependents you can fly free on some military aircraft if you are going where the aircraft is going and you are prepared to fly when the mission needs to depart:

"Space-A" travel is a byproduct of available remaining seats on regularly scheduled DoD missions. The Air Mobility Command (AMC) has reduced waiting time for Space-A flights and redundant document checks to smooth the check-in and boarding process for passengers. Families waiting for flights can relax in recently renovated family lounges. New credit card payment capability allows for payment of any required fees or in-flight meals. Keep in mind, based on mission requirements, some Space-A opportunities at low-volume airfields can be sporadic, and therefore passenger amenities might be very limited, so plan ahead.

The Space-A program is a privilege (not an entitlement) that accrues to Uniformed Services members as an avenue of respite from the rigors of Uniformed Services duty. Dependent family members generally are authorized to accompany their sponsor on Space-A flights. In addition, dependents of retired Uniformed Services members who have died overseas may use Category I Space-A travel to accompanying the remains of the deceased retired member to the continental U.S. Return travel is authorized if it is done within one year of arrival in the U.S. Documentation, certified by DoD mortuary affairs personnel, must be presented to military air terminal personnel and must be in the dependents' possession during travel

The Art of Traveling Space A cont)

Visit the nearest AMC air passenger terminal and review flight schedules displayed in the terminal to find out more about flights leaving from that location. AMC passenger service agents are trained to provide up-to-the-minute information on potential Space-A opportunities.

Find additional details about Space-A travel, including locations, flight schedules, and eligibility requirements, at www.amc.af.mil/amctravel.

- See more at: <http://www.moaa.org/Content/Benefits-and-Discounts/Exclusive-Discounts/Travel/Travel-Tips-and-Resources/The-Art-of-Traveling-Space-A.aspx#sthash.br2wuHLn.dpuf>

CHAPLAIN'S NOTES BY COL Tom Day, USA, Ret

Thanksgiving is one of my favorite days and not just because that was the day I was born! This month we take time to be thankful for our country, our blessings and our freedom. The scriptures tell us to be thankful in all things because being thankful helps us have a good attitude at all times, even when we face hard times. I encourage you to not only have a thankful attitude but take time to share your thanks with those around you.

The second part of the word Thanksgiving is giving. The Chaplain's Office at Fort Huachuca collects food items all year long to help needy military members and their families. We will assist them by collecting food items at the October, November, and December MOAA monthly meetings. They need food such as canned goods, dry boxed goods like cereal, and other non perishable items. Drop them off next to the 50/50 raffle table. The Fort Huachuca Chaplain can also use cash donations for the Chaplain Tithes and Offering Fund and turkeys for Thanksgiving and for the Angel Tree in December. Bring the turkeys one week before Thanksgiving. I encourage you to join us in supporting our needy military members. Have a blessed Thanksgiving!

Tom Day



Are you moving

If you are moving please notify the Coronado Chapter prior to your move. Each issue of the Heliogram has a dinner reservation form and at the bottom of the form is a place to inform us of your intentions to change your personal information including a change of address. Although you may file a change of address with the local postal service, any newsletter that we send to your old address costs the organization a fee to get the address change from the postal service. Your assistance will be greatly appreciated and will not only save the Coronado Chapter time but will also save us postal fees. You may send a note with your new address to pflip1@mac.com or mail the form to the

Coronado Chapter MOAA
P.O Box 1685
Sierra Vista, AZ 85636

Thank you for your consideration.

The teacher asked Johnny if he knew his numbers. "Yes" he said, "My father taught me."
"Good" says the teacher. "What comes after three?"
"Four" said the boy.
"What comes after six" she asked
"Seven" he said
"That is great" said the teacher. "You Dad did a fine job. What comes after ten."
"A Jack".

Courtesy of Premier Advertising

TREASURER'S NOTES. By Col Bob Abney, USA, Ret

As we approach the end of the fiscal year, this is an appropriate time to review our chapter finances. In short, your chapter is in very good financial shape with no debts and slightly more than \$18,000.00 in the scholarship account. This total includes funds for two years scholarships. and allowed the board to approve the award of nine scholarships in 2016, an increase of one over 2015. While the account is certainly healthy, we need your continued support to meet our obligations to Sierra Vista's finest students in the coming year and years that follow. There is also other good news to report. Because of member generosity, the chapter Donated more than \$2,000.00 to the Local Honor flight Program in addition to awarding eight 2015 scholarships. The chapter Board of Directors has been very frugal in chapter operations and I expect that we will have operations funds left at the end of the year that can be moved from the operations account to the scholarship and investment accounts. All chapter operations are conducted by unpaid volunteers with our single major expense being the publication and mailing of the Heliogram. So, congratulations to the board and membership for another very successful financial year.

In other matters, 2016 membership dues will again remain at \$15.00 for regular members and \$10.00 for auxiliary members - among the lowest in Arizona. This represents no change in rates since 2009. Dues are payable as of January 1, 2016, so please include membership checks made payable to **MOAA** with your dinner reservations or use the membership application in the Heliogram. Mailing in your membership dues now, reduces high postage costs associated with reminder mailings. Mail membership payments to:

Treasurer (Dues)
Coronado Chapter, Military Officers Asso
PO Box 1685
Sierra Vista, AZ 85636-1685

Have a happy Thanksgiving everyone and don't forget to remember those who protect us around the world in your prayers.

Bob

FROM THE CHAPTER HISTORIAN
By LTC Tom Fail, USA, (Ret)

JFK – A Remembrance

Prior to a gala to celebrate his 85th birthday on 26 March 1959, Robert Frost gave a press conference at the Waldorf-Astoria hotel in New York City. Among the questions asked was one concerning the alleged decline of New England, to which Frost responded: “The next President of the United States will be from Boston. He’s a Puritan named Kennedy.” Kennedy had not formally declared his candidacy and when he heard about Frost’s prediction wrote Frost, stating: “I just want to send you a note to let you know how gratifying it was to be remembered by you on the occasion of your 85th birthday.”

Once in the race, Frost continued to endorse the candidate whenever possible. Kennedy in return quoted from one of Frost’s poems at the close of many of his campaign speeches: “But I have promises to keep, and miles to go before I sleep.”

Following the election Stewart Udall suggested Frost take part in the inauguration ceremonies. Kennedy’s invitation came to Frost by telegraph and the poet answered by the same means the following day:

IF YOU CAN BEAR AT YOUR AGE THE HONOR OF BEING MADE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, I OUGHT TO BE ABLE AT MY AGE TO BEAR THE HONOR OF TAKING SOME PART IN YOUR INAUGURATION. I MAY NOT BE EQUAL TO IT BUT I CAN ACCEPT IT FOR MY CAUSE—THE ARTS, POETRY, NOW FOR THE FIRST TIME TAKEN INTO THE AFFAIRS OF STATESMEN.

Kennedy asked if Frost planned to recite a new poem. If not, could he recite “The Gift Outright” and requested changing the phrase in the last line to “such as she *will* become” from “such as she *would* become.” Frost agreed. As inauguration day approached however, Frost surprised himself and composed a new poem titled “Dedication” specifically for the ceremony as a preface to the poem Kennedy suggested. On the morning of the inauguration, Frost asked Stewart Udall, to have his handwritten draft type scripted for easier reading, to which Udall obliged.

Once at the presidential podium, however, the glare of the sun and snow prevented him from reading his papers. When Frost started reading “Dedication”, he stumbled on the first three lines, squinting at his papers in view of the crowd and cameras. Vice-President Johnson tried to assist by using his top hat as a shade, however Frost waved the offer aside, took the hat and jokingly said “Yeah, let me have that”, sparking laughter and applause from the crowd and President Kennedy. Understanding the immediacy of the situation, Frost stated to the microphones that “this [the poem] was to have been a preface to a poem which I do not have to read” and began to recite “The Gift Outright” from memory.

Before leaving Washington, Frost called on the new President and First Lady at the White House to receive Kennedy’s thanks for participating in the event. He gave the President the advice: “Be more Irish than Harvard. Poetry and power is the formula for another Augustan Age. Don’t be afraid of power.” At the foot of the typed thank-you letter Kennedy sent, he wrote, “It’s poetry and power all the way!”

Frost gave the type scripted version of the undelivered “Dedication” poem to Udall after the ceremony, who eventually donated the document to the Library of Congress where it is stored today. The original manuscript version, personally dedicated by Frost, was provided to the President and currently held by the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library. Mrs. Kennedy framed this manuscript version, writing on the back of the frame: *For Jack. First thing I had framed to be put in your office. First thing to be hung there.*

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As the new year approaches it is time to renew your chapter membership by sending your dues to the treasurer. Renewing your chapter membership prior to the end of December will reduce the number of past due letters our treasurer has to send out. Send it with your dinner reservation or separately, your choice. Thanks for your cooperation.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2015 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 _____

RESERVATIONS MUST BE POSTMARKED by November 11, 2015

(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 Ron Pflipsen, phone 417-0175, email: pflip1@mac.com



CORONADO CHAPTER



2016 CHAPTER RENEWAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Rank _____ Last Name _____ First _____ Initial _____

Spouse's First Name _____ National MOAA Number _____

Street Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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 ___ WIDOW ___ WIDOWER ___

Member Date of Birth: MM ___ / DD ___ / YYYY ___ Spouse Date of Birth: MM ___ /DD ___ / YYYY ___

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

I am currently a member in good standing with MOAA._____,
Renewal Membership is (Reg) \$ 15.00; (Aux) is \$ 10.00

Mail to: Coronado Chapter, MOAA
PO Box 1685
Sierra Vista, AZ 85636-1685

Signature and Date _____

For further Membership questions, contact COL Robert Covalucci, 456-3503, email : robertjcovalucci@gmail.com