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HELIOGRAM

THE MILITARY OFFICERS
ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

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March 2015

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www.moaacoronado.org

Volume 42 Number 3

March 2015

FUTURE MEETING DATES

BOD MEETING 11:30 March 18, 2015 LANDMARK CAFÉ

**Dinner Meeting March 19, 2015
Pueblo Del Sol Country Club
2770 South St Andrews Drive
Social Hour — 1800 Dinner— 1830**

**MENU: Field Greens topped with Grape Tomatoes, Cucumbers, Red Onions, and Crotons, Drizzled with our House Vinaigrette
Slow Roasted Baron of Beef paired with a Red Wine Demi Sauce
Steamed Red Potatoes
Chef's Vegetable
Assorted Pies**

**PROGRAM: Annual Dinner Honoring our
Scholarship Award Recipients**

BOD MEETING 11:30 April 15, 2015 LANDMARK CAFÉ

**Dinner Meeting April 16, 2015
Pueblo Del Sol Country Club
2770 South St Andrews Drive
Social Hour — 1800 Dinner— 1830**

**MENU: Field Greens, Sliced Roma Tomatoes, Onion, And Fresh Mozzarella Cheese. Drizzled with Extra Virgin Olive Oil and a Balsamic Vinaigrette (Preset on Tables)
Chicken Parmesan
Tortellini Alfredo
Roasted Red Potatoes
Chef's Vegetable
Tiramisu with a Chocolate/ Coffee Sauce**

PROGRAM: City of Sierra Vista Update



CORONADO CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

WWW.MOAAACORONADO.ORG

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

What a delight it was to have had our newest US Representative, Congresswoman Martha McSally, at our February dinner meeting. She sits on two very important committees, Armed Services and Homeland Security. She has really been on the move, both here in Cochise County and in DC. She gave a rousing and entertaining, yet informative, presentation. She has accepted our invitation to be the speaker at this year's Memorial Day Celebration hosted by our chapter. I'll expand more on this at a later date.

Congresswoman McSally's presence caused us to have a sellout event. I believe it is the first time we could not accommodate all the reservations. Your Board of Directors has adopted a new policy statement regarding reservations. Be sure you take a close look at the reservation form in this issue of the Heliogram.

Our March dinner will again feature our latest scholarship recipients. We offered eight \$1000 scholarships this year thanks to your generosity. At this point we don't know if they all will be at the dinner.

MOAA has a special membership offer that most of us are probably not aware of. This is a quote from MOAA's response to my enquiry "We do offer a Dual Life Membership for a primary member and a spouse. The pricing for this membership is the cost of a Life Membership plus an additional \$100 for the secondary member. We do ask that any person interested in setting up a Dual Life Membership call our Member Service Center at 1-800-234-6622."

I have been told our chapter is to receive a \$1000 award from MOAA for our outstanding record of having recruited 61 members last year. Thank you Allen Rossow for your outstanding work!



VETERANS LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS by Gene Fensterma- cher, Col, USAF (Ret)

Back in 2008, through our State Veterans Legislation Update petitioning process we were instrumental in eliminating exorbitant interest rate Payday Loans in Arizona.

Now Payday loan industry lobbyists and some misguided Legislators are attempting to ram a so called 'Flex Loan' Bill (HB2611) through the State Legislature. The Bill would permit up to 180% or more in interest and Fees on a new type of open-ended unsecured and potentially revolving loan of up to \$3,000. Some of our Legislators are misguided apparently by the idea of bringing new business to the state without consideration for the impact on vulnerable borrowers that can include Military Retirees, Spouses, Survivors, Veterans and others who can all too easily find themselves in a circle of debt running for years.

While the interest rate on the new 'Flex Loans' would be limited to 36% APR or less as mandated by Arizona Revised Statute (A.R.S.) when payday loans were outlawed in Arizona by Legislative action in 2008, the administrative fees on the new loans can be as high as one half of one percent per day under the proposed Legislation (HB 2611). While on the surface that may appear to be a relatively small amount, that can start out as high as \$450 in additional fees for the first month on a new \$3,000 loan when only, for example, 5% of the principle (\$150) and \$90 interest (36% interest for the first 30 days on the \$3,000 loan) would be due. Amortized over one year that amounts to about 180%.

While this doesn't affect most of us, there are those among us who are vulnerable to this type of industry who need our help in scuttling this Legislation like we did for 'payday loans' in 2008.

If you would like to get involved in this process and are not already on my weekly Veterans Legislative Updates Email list, please send me an Email at fensteg@cox.net and ask to be added to the list.

(cont on page 4)

Tom

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS (cont)

On another State issue, we have started petitioning our Legislators to pass Senate Bill SB 1060 that would increase the current \$2500 exemption from Arizona taxation on Military retired pay to a \$3000 exemption retroactive to Jan 2015. While that would only provide a \$12.95 to \$22.70 savings per year, it could be a first step in eliminating State tax on all Military Retired pay – but probably not soon with the current state of the economy and the State budget, considering that the increase from \$2500 to a \$3000 exemption is expected to cost the state over \$5,000,000 in lost revenue.

Transition Liaison (Formerly TOPS): by CW3 Harry Bowen USA (Ret)

Job Postings:

This past month has seen an increase in employment opportunities all around the State of Arizona. There were **207 new opportunities** posted. Of these 207 positions, **92 positions were within Cochise County, 49 positions at Fort Huachuca, 49 positions posted with the Sierra Vista Regional Hospital, and 17 positions within the Phoenix/Chandler/Tempe/Glendale/Scottsdale/Yavapa County Areas.** Many of these positions are for high level management and engineering with the exception of the hospital which has a mixture of nursing and administrative support positions.

Job Fairs:

There were **3 job fairs posted** this past period, all for the Phoenix area. However, there is a job fair coming up in Sierra Vista on **9 April at the Mall** and another in Phoenix on 10 April that are advertising many large companies looking to hire.

Employer Support to the Guard and Reserves (ESGR)

I had the privilege of presenting two Patriotic Employer Awards this report period. One award was for the Director of the TRADOC Cultural Center, Mr. John Bird and the second one was to the owner of Mason Development, Inc., Mr. Jason Mason. Both of these gentlemen were very deserving of these awards. Both Mr. Bird and Mr. Mason respectively have gone well beyond that normally expected of employers with Reserve and Guards personnel.



PERSONNEL AFFAIRS by Terrie Gent, Col., USAF (Ret)

Volunteers at the VA

The recent newsletter from the VA says that last year alone, volunteers at various VA facilities donated more than 11.3 million hours of service to veterans. Most of the volunteers work at the big VA hospitals. They escort patients, assist with recreational activities, but some are also involved in home-based primary care or hospice care. But volunteers also work at the community based outpatient clinics. I have seen volunteers working in our Sierra Vista VA Clinic.

If you are interested in volunteering at a VA facility, go into the facility and tell the staff you are interested in becoming a volunteer. They will put you in touch with the correct staff member who will interview you to see what would be the best volunteer service fit for you. They will give you an orientation and assignment.

There's an online form you can fill out if you are interested. Go to <https://www.volunteer.va.gov/> then click on Volunteer and Donate. (I guess you can donate at the same website.) If you apply online, someone from the VA will contact you.

I know lots of you are involved in the community in many ways. Thank you for all you do!



CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP

Regular Members	213
Associate Members	29
Auxiliary Members	23

"The next "Missing In America Project" interment will be held at the Southern Arizona Veterans Memorial cemetery on 28 March 2015. The motorcycle cortege should arrive at the cemetery at approximately 1200 hrs and the ceremony will begin at 1300 hrs. There will be approximately 18 veterans interred."

6th ANNUAL TOMBSTONE WILD WEST DAYS

On Saturday, March 14th and Sunday, March 15, 2015 the Wild West Detachment, Marine Corps League will be presenting the 6th Annual Tombstone Wild West Days (A Salute to the Men and Women of the Armed Forces) on Historic Allen Street in the Town "Too Tough To Die".

There will be ongoing Entertainment on Historic Allen Street Saturday, March 14th from 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. followed by a USO Canteen Dance, starting at 5:00 P.M. at BIG NOSE KATE'S Saloon located on Historic Allen Street. There will also be a Silent Auction throughout the evening which will conclude at 7:00 P.M.

On Sunday, March 15, 2015 there will be the 6th Annual Salute to the Troops Parade, which will be combined with Tombstone's Annual St. Patrick's Day so the "Wearing of the Green" is encouraged. The Parade will kick-off at 11:00 AM at the corner of Sixth and Allen Streets and conclude at American Legion Roy Fourr Post 24 located on the corner of Second and Allen Streets. All Bands, Marching Units, Groups, Riding Units, (Motorized/Horse Drawn) Veterans Organizations, Floats, and Individuals are urged to participate. There is "No Entry Fee" to participate in the parade and sign-up for the Parade will be on Sixth and Allen Streets starting at 10:00 AM.



SCHOLARSHIP REPORT by COL John Black, USA Ret

We have an excellent group of Scholarship Applicants this year. The Scholarship Selection Committee will be conducting face-to-face interviews with our applicants on Friday 27 February. Please plan on attending the dinner meeting on 19 March to meet our scholarship winners and their parents.

I am pleased to announce that Doris Caldwell has joined the Scholarship Selection Committee this year. Doris is a welcome addition to our committee. She brings a wealth of experience and concern for the future of our young scholars. I am also pleased that veteran members of the committee, Secretary Ron Pflipsen and Treasurer Bob Abney, will be sitting on the committee again this year.

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Making MOAA Dinner Reservations.

When making a dinner reservation for the monthly MOAA dinner, please submit your reservation request as early as possible. We are limited on the number of members we can accommodate due to meeting room limitations. In the future, when we exceed our capacity to accommodate everyone, we will accept reservations in the order they are received, based on the postmark date. Reservations with the latest postmark will be returned when exceeding our capacity. The Heliogram reservation request form will indicate the date the request must be postmarked by.



Representative McSally delivering her spirited address to an appreciative and attentive audience



John Black addresses a question to Representative McSally during the Q & A



Representative McSally mingling and socializing with the attendees



Representative McSally with Earl Devine, Sierra Vista's Veteran of the Year

FROM THE CHAPTER HISTORIAN

By LTC Tom Fail, USA, (Ret)

Q-Ships and U-Boats (cont)

After the first torpedo struck *Atik*, U-123 turned starboard and proceeded around under her victim's stern. Her captain, Kapitänleutnant Reinhard Hardegen, noted one boat being lowered on the starboard side and men abandoning ship. Still, *Atik* was able to gather steerage way, paralleling her course by turning to starboard as well, dropped her concealment, and began firing from her main and secondary batteries. The first shell dropped short of U-123 as she made off, presenting a smaller target. Other shells were off in deflection. *Atik* was able to reach U-123 with its 50-caliber machine gun fire which ricocheted around the U-boat's decks as she put on speed to escape the trap into which Hardegen had fallen. One bullet mortally wounded a midshipman standing watch on the bridge. Gradually, the U-boat pulled out of range behind the cover of smoke emitted by her straining diesels. Once out of range, the U-boat submerged then again approached *Atik*. At 21:29 the U-boat shot a torpedo into

Atik's machinery spaces. Satisfied that this blow would be fatal, U-123 stood off and watched as *Atik* settled by the bow, her single screw now out of the water. Once again, *Atik's* crew could be seen embarking in her boats as their ship clung stubbornly to the surface. U-123 surfaced at 22:27, confident that

Atik was no longer a threat and continued to watch until 22:50 when a huge explosion blew her to pieces. *Atik's* entire crew perished, either in the blast or during the severe gale that blew up soon after the ship disintegrated.

Early the next morning, an Army bomber was sent to search the area from which *Carolyn* had sent her distress message; the destroyer *Noa* and the tug *Sagamore* were sent to assist. The Army bomber returned without having sighted anything. The tug and the destroyer encountered such heavy weather that *Sagamore* was recalled; *Noa* searched the area until fuel shortage compelled her to return to New York on 30 March. Other flights were unsuccessful until 30 March, when two Army planes and one PBV-5A Catalina flying boat out of Norfolk reported that they had sighted wreckage roughly ten miles south of the original reported position.

Asterion had intercepted the distress messages from *Atik* and proceeded directly to the area, Lieutenant Commander Legwen deeming his orders "sufficiently broad to proceed immediately to her assistance," but *Asterion* encountered difficulties with her steering gear, and only continued the search for 24 hours before being forced to put into Hampton Roads for repairs.

The Norwegian freighter MS *Minerva* was sighted in the vicinity, southbound for St. Thomas, Virgin Islands. On her arrival there, she was boarded and interrogation revealed that her crew had sighted no wreckage and had picked up no survivors.

Twelve days later, CESF reported all known details to COMINCH on the "suspected sinking of the SS *Carolyn*, and concluded: "...it is believed that there is very little chance that any of her officers and crew will be recovered. It is therefore recommended that if no further information is received by 27 April, they be considered lost and that next of kin be notified."

One of the *Atik* crew members was Chief Yeoman Daniel Kosmider. Many of you will remember his son, Colonel Gary Kosmider who served as a member of our Chapter Board of Directors a number of years during which time he was chairman of our Scholarship Committee. A number of books have been written concerning "Q-Ships". One which deals specifically with *Atik* and *Asterion* is titled "Q-ships versus U-boats" written by Captain Kenneth M. Beyer. Gary once loaned his copy to me and on the fly leaf he had written the following: "This book chronicles the exploits and sacrifice of my father which allowed me the opportunity to attend West Point. Gary Kosmider '58 21932 A-2"

2015 DONORS (SCHOLARSHIP & OPNS)

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Dick Orzechowski

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Kenneth Allison

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THURSDAY, MARCH 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 March 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

2015 CHAPTER RENEWAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Last Name _____ First _____ Initial _____ Spouse First Name _____

Rank _____ 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 _____ Date _____

For further Membership questions, Contact COL (Ret) Robert Covalucci , 456-3503, robertjcovalucci@gmail.com