



# HELIOGRAM

The Military Officers Association of America  
Coronado Chapter  
September 2020 Volume 47 Number 7



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## NO MEMBER DINNER MEETING IN SEPTEMBER DUE TO COVID-19

The next Dinner Meeting is tentatively scheduled for  
**October 15, 2020.**

We received the 5-Star Levels of Excellence Award for the 13th year!  
Thanks to all our Board of Directors!

### CORONADO CHAPTER, MEMBERSHIP

- 193 Total Chapter Members
- 164 Regular Members
- 29 Surviving Spouse Members

Let us all work to grow the Chapter in 2020!



**PRESIDENT'S NOTES**

**TOM DAY**

**CHAPLAIN (COL) USA  
(RETIRED)**

I hope this Heliogram finds everyone well after a trying Summer dealing with the challenges of COVID-19! Earl and Meg Devine had a serious bout

with it and from what I hear are doing better. Let me know if you know of any other members who are dealing with COVID-19.

We will not have a September Member Dinner Meeting due to the COVID-19 situation. I miss seeing you all and hope that we can see an easing of restrictions soon. A big thank you to Jim Clenney who has been filling in for me while I am in Wyoming as Chaplain at a couple horseracing tracks. He led our Board of Directors (BOD) meeting and even finished in one minute under an hour!

Our Chapter once again earned a 5-Star Levels of Excellence (LOE) Award from National MOAA. As Bob Covalucci reminded the BOD, we have now earned it for 13 years straight! Only 26% of Chapters earned a 5-Star LOE Award, so thank you to all our Officers, Directors and Deputy Directors who have done a great job providing awesome leadership for our Chapter!!

At this month's BOD meeting we approved Bob Kellock as our Treasurer, thank you Bob for accepting that position and congratulations. We also thank Samantha Carlson, who will continue performing an excellent job as accountant in conjunction with our Treasurer, Bob. We have honored Samantha for her contribution by making her an Honorary Member, our only Honorary Member and as far as I know our first Honorary Member. Congratulations, Samantha.

We will have our election of some Officers this Fall and we still need to find volunteers for nomination for Public Relations Director and for Membership Director. Contact Bob Covalucci if you are interested or have someone you would like to nominate.

Welcome to our newest members, Dick Larry, COL, USA (Retired) and Jeffrey Buchanan, LTG, USA (Retired). We also welcome to Susan Struck, LtCol, USAF (Retired) and Bill Purciello, LTC, USA (Retired). Our other new members are fea-

tured in this Heliogram. Thanks again to Bob Covalucci and Jim Clenney for faithfully recognizing the Honor Students at Fort Huachuca.

Good News! The BOD approved \$1,500 for the JROTC of Tombstone High School to assist them in purchasing an electronic shooting range. In February, the team placed second in a regional competition and fourth in the nation, thus qualifying them for National Competition. COVID-19 kept them from going, but this target range will give these motivated and talented young people a chance to excel in the future.

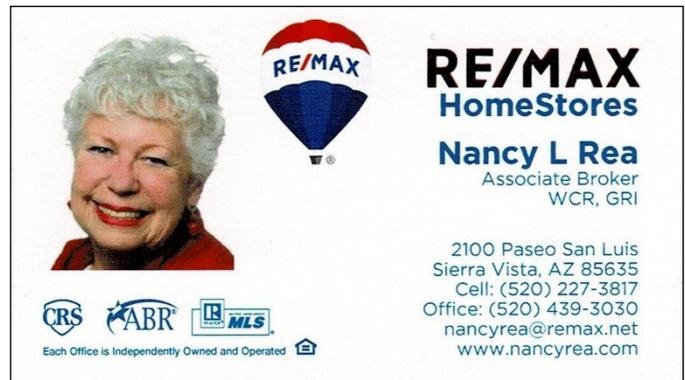
Our BOD also supported joining "Be Connected" as a partner. As we become partners, we will need to identify volunteer Direct Service Team members and identify our military/Veteran Resource Scout. Several of us that have been trained in and are serving Be Connected already and this partnership will enable us to better serve our veterans and military in our community.

The Arizona Council of Chapters voted to send \$1,000 to project "Task Force 48" for the Navajo Nation due to the extent that COVID 19 has affected the Nation. A donation of \$100 was made on behalf of our chapter. If you would like to give additional funds you can send it to: Fort Veteran, 1181 W. Sunrise Pl, Chandler, AZ 85248. Make checks to "Fort Veteran" and write "Task Force 48" in the memo line. Since the Navajo nation has a large number of veterans per capita much of these funds will aid veterans.

Stay safe and hope we can all get together again before very long.

Tom

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**HISTORIAN'S REPORT**

**Susan Atchison-Day, Ed D.**

**BIOGRAPHY  
GEORGE R. KIRMSE**

While he may look distinguished today, one of George R. Kirmse's first jobs in the military was as Company Mailman in the Navy. Born in New York City on December 29, 1927, he started his career at Camp Perry, then shortly left with the rank of Seaman 2nd. From there he attended Medical Corp School at Bethesda Naval Hospital. After graduation, he was assigned to the U.S. Naval Hospital at Chelsea, MA, where he helped with war casualties. At Chelsea he advanced to Pharmacist Mate 3rd class, the became a senior Lab Tech at his last duty assignment.

Discharged in Oct. 1947, George was once again a civilian! Wasting no time, he enrolled in pre-med at Fordham University, back home in Bronx, N.Y. While there, he still found time to enroll in the R.O.T.C. where he learned that, because of his High School at Xavier, a military school, and because of prior Navy Service, he could be commissioned in only two years. About the same time, he learned that medical schools were overwhelmed, so changed career directions to Economics/Business.

When in his junior year, he was called to Active Duty, George asked for a deferral to finish his studies. The time was allotted, but only until the day after his graduation in June 1951. After being appointed to Regular Army, the next 71 years of his life began. He married

in 1950, and, with his wife Helen and two sons Brian and Kevin, traveled the world, to Ft. Bliss, TX, Alaska, For Lee, Virginia, Germany and, finally Fort Huachuca. His jobs were wide and varied, from commander of a 180-Gun Battery to Quartermaster Advisor in Iran and Vietnam. His most memorable assignment was with MDW DCSLOG QM Service Div. where: (1) he had the honor of being the last person to see President Eisenhower, closing his casket and giving the train engineer signal to depart; (2) he earned an MBA from George Washington University; and (3) also spent four years at Texas A&M. His "final hurrah" was at Ft. Huachuca, 1974, serving as Garrison XO and lastly DPCA.

In April 30, 1979, George retired to a whole new life and became an active member of the Sierra Vista community. This era began sadly as Helen, his wife of 32 years, passed away. The Lord was GOOD to him in the form of Mitzi, whom we all know and love. She was a widow and he was a widower. They have now been together 39 years, putting a new Happy Twist to Retirement. George has been busy an Economics Instructor and Flight Instructor at Cochise College; Magistrate in Sierra Vista, Huachuca City and Tombstone, and was elected Sierra Vista Justice of the Peace 1991-2003. He served on the old Hospital Auxiliary Board, as a member of the Forgach House and Catholic Community Services (SOAZ) for 26 years. He is active in his church, Our Lady of the Mountain, and is a chaplain of the "1200" Club. Currently, of course, he is the Chaplain of our local MOAA Chapter, and was recently inducted into the Arizona Veteran's Hall of Fame 2006.

We have been blessed to have him in our community.

Susan

\*\*\*\*\*

**SCHOLARSHIPS**

**Susan Atchison-Day, Ed D.**

As another school year begins, I would like to thank all of you who have contributed to our Scholarship Fund. An extremely talented group of graduates received scholarships. It is sad that COVOD-19 regulations prevented our MOAA members, scholarship

recipients, and their families from meeting each other over dinner, as has been our tradition.

Another new year is ahead, however. In next month's Heliogram, deadlines and criteria will again be outlined. For now, I want to express extreme gratitude from our scholarship winners to you for your generous support of our scholarship program.

Susan



## LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

**Commander Merle L. Kilpatrick,  
USNR (Retired)**

### The Virtual Storm

The COVID-19 pandemic usurped MOAA's efforts to Storm the Hill in March of this year, so MOAA found solutions around the pandemic situation. One of the positive byproducts of the pandemic constraints was MOAA's Virtual Storming the Hill.

As the pandemic unfolded, it was learned DoD was pausing its congressionally mandated reform to the Military Health System (MHS). This reform consisted of reducing or closing nearly 50 medical treatment facilities. DoD also paused their plan to cut nearly 18,000 military medical billets to help fund an increase in warfighting specialties.

The virtual stormers urged Congress to direct DoD to not only pause, but to halt and fully reassess plans to reform and reduce medical capacity. Leveraging grassroots advocates in the councils and chapter networks a goal of 100% congressional contact within

the month of March was set and accomplished.

MOAA members have been exceptionally busy over this Virtual Storm. In May, MOAA:

- Sent over 20,000 letters to 435 districts and 50 states-covering 100% of Congress.
- Held 253 storming meeting appointments via virtual meeting platforms.
- Shared an educational video garnering more than 18,000 views on Facebook.

The House Military Personnel subcommittee included language relative to MHS reform and DoD reductions of military medical billets consistent with MOAA lobbying efforts. We must ensure these provisions remain in the full committee's mark-up all the way through to the chamber's floor vote.

The Senate Armed Services Committee was silent on both MHS reform and billet reductions. We need to make sure the issue is addressed by the Senate in committee conference and into the final bill. Now is not the time to let up. We need MOAA members and our partners to translate the virtual success into reality by remaining actively engaged.

MOAA will keep you updated, and you can count on at least a couple of calls-to-action to ensure we shepherd this issue all the way to the White House.

Merle

### HOW TO BECOME A MILITARY/VETERAN RESOURCE NAVIGATOR

We are now "Be Connected" Partners. If you would like to participate in training to learn how to assist our Military Active Duty or Veterans check out the link below:

Here is the registration link for the next **Military/Veteran Resource Navigation Training** that will be on Zoom on **September 23, 2020 from 9:00 to 10:30 am.**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2020-militaryveteran-resource-navigation-training-tickets-84648621305>



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**TRANSITION  
LIAISON  
COORDINATOR**

**CW3 HARRY E.  
BOWEN, USA (Ret.)**

The moaatopsaz.org website and reporting are changing. We have started implementing the bi-monthly Transition Group information and are working on restructuring the job site to reflect local and MOAA.

The Transition Group held a virtual job fair which was designed, this time, more towards networking of the participants than any jobs.

Current plans are to have these changes implemented by the end of September.

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

The National Guard has loosened mileage and out-of-pocket expenses but still, with National ESGR not allowing any presentations of visits.

**Cochise Serving Veterans (CSV):**

**CSV has been awarded two COVID 19 Relief Grants**

**Veterans Resource Fair (VRF)**

20 August is the current deadline for finalizing the agreement with the Mall. The new owners were to finalize their transition and then meet with the local coordinators to discuss the potential hosting of the Veterans Resource Fair. The CSV chair meets with them on the 20<sup>th</sup> to solidify the agreement. As a backup, Rothery and the school board are willing to host the Fair.

**Social Services Support (S3):**

The S3 Committee assisted two Veterans in need telephonically during this report period, and 1 veteran in person. Two of these veterans were supported under the COVID 19 Relief Fund while the third one was provided assistance with gas for his car.

The Warrior Healing Center is still closed to meetings so the Chair, S3 will continue to interact with the veterans via telephone and/or limited personal contact.

Otherwise all other activities were suspended until the September timeframe. The CSV will continue to host all meetings, until further notice, via "video teleconferencing."

Harry

\*\*\*\*\*



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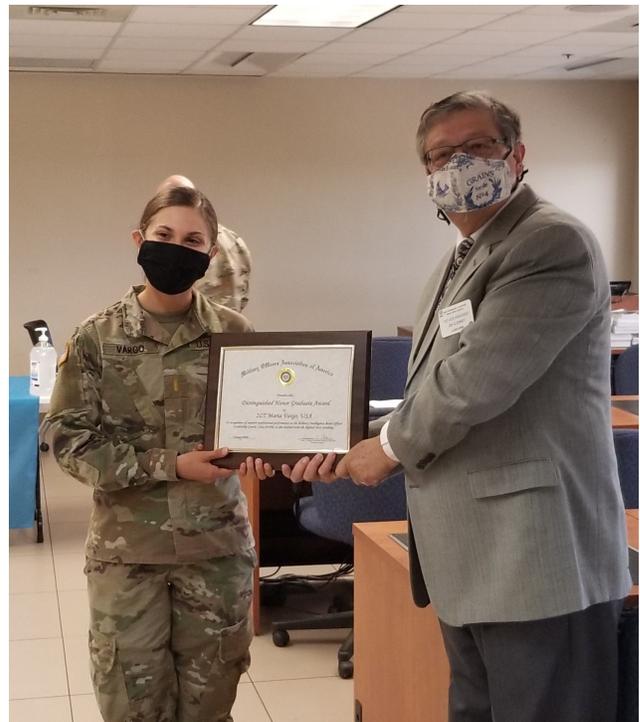
CPT Kelsey L. Evans received the MOAA Distinguished Honor Graduate Award upon completion of MICCC course 20-004 at Fort Huachuca, Arizona from Colonel (Retired) Robert Covalucci.



2LT Brett C. Simmons received the MOAA Distinguished Honor Graduate Award upon completion of MIBOLC Class 20-007 from Colonel (Retired) Bob Covalucci.



CPT Lila M. Garner, received the MOAA Distinguished Honor Graduate Award upon graduation from MICC, Class 20-003, from LCDR Jim Clenney (Retired) at Fort Huachuca.



2LT Maria Vargo was recognized as the Distinguished Honor Graduate of MIBOLC Course 20-008 at Fort Huachuca, Arizona by LCDR (Retired). Jim Clenney.

Not Pictured, WO1 Travis Scott received the MOAA Distiquished Honor Graduate Award upon graduation from for the Warrant Officer's Basic Course 20-002 at Fort Huachuca from LCDR (Retired). Jim Clenney.



CPT Joseph A. Drummond received the MOAA Distinguished Honor Graduate Award upon graduation from MICCC 20-005 from Colonel (Retired) Robert Covalucci at Fort Huachuca,



2LT Jason E. Leman received the MOAA Distinguished Honor Graduate upon graduation from MIBOLC 20-006 from LCDR Jim Clenney (Retired) at Fort Huachuca.

### Public Relations Director Needed

Our current Public Relations Director now lives in Tucson and will need to be replaced in the upcoming election. The Director for Public Affairs function manages the flow of information and news from the membership to all external audiences, such as the local media and the public.

### Membership Director Needed

Assist the Membership Chair in efforts to retain existing members and recruit new ones; Aid in the committee's efforts to establish goals, plan and carry out membership-solicitation drives, and follow up on leads concerning potential members; Recruit committee members who will work together smoothly and productively.

**5-Star Levels of Excellence Award number 13!**



**Let Bob Covolucci know if you have questions about these positions or would like to nominate yourself or someone else!**



**SEPTEMBER SCHOLARSHIP DONORS LIST 2020**

**SUSTAINING LEVEL (Cumulative Donations of More Than \$ 300)**

Day, Tom      Hicks, William      Symmes, Ken      Wysong, Lori

**2020 GOLD LEVEL (Cumulative Donations of \$ 200.00 to \$ 299.00)**

Black, John      Bobar, Janet (In Memory of Bob)      Calwell, Doris      Courtney, Niles      Day, Susan  
 Ehrenberger, Dennis      Lotero, Ron      March, Fred      Puett, Joe

**20120 SILVER LEVEL (Cumulative Donations of \$ 100.00 to \$ 199.00)**

Abney, Bob      Bell, Gary      Chun, Mert      Devine, Earl      Dolge, Dave      Faulkner, Ron  
 Flynn, Joe      Fyffe, Nancy      Hessler, Tom      Oster, Tamara      Pflipsen, Ron      Scheumann, Steven  
 Walsh, Theresa

**2020 CHAPTER DONORS (Cumulative Donations Up to \$ 100.00)**

Ament, Richard      Bachman, Dennis      Bates, Bill      Bersano, Ray      Breeding, William      Britton, Ruth  
 Brown, Harry      Castle, George      Cannon, John      Devine Earl      Hayes, Charles      Holbrook, Pat  
 Hurd, Danny      Isler, Jack      Jones, Casey      Kilpatrick, Merle      Kirmse, George      Letts, Clifford  
 Linhares, Pat      Newcomer, Marianne      Nickels, Dennis      Puttkammer, Paul      Pryor, Maureen  
 Reynolds, Ernie      Saeger, Ron      Strom, Joan      Van Otten, George      Weston, Kevin      White, Chad  
 Wozniak, Edward

**NO DINNER IN SEPTEMBER DUE TO CORONAVIRUS**

**YOU CAN STILL SUPPORT OUR SCHOLARSHIP FUND!**

**My Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Check Information: Make checks payable to Coronado Chapter, MOAA and mail to: Scholarship Fund, Coronado Chapter, MOAA, P.O. Box 1685, Sierra Vista, Arizona, 85636-1685**

**Amount for Operating Fund** \_\_\_\_\_

**Amount for Scholarship Fund** \_\_\_\_\_

**Check total** \_\_\_\_\_



## News you can use



Tom Hessler



2-VP

## Upcoming Programs

**The 17 September meeting has been cancelled! The remaining dinner meetings and programs for the remainder of 2020 are in limbo and will likely not be held.**

**17 SEP '20** Dr. Linda Denno, Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army (CASA)



**To be rescheduled at a later date.**

**15 OCT '20** Sherriff Mark Dannels County and Border Happenings



**To be rescheduled at a later date.**

**19 NOV '20** Kelly Anne Wilde, Be Connected

Be Connected is a statewide resource for Veterans.



**Likely to be rescheduled at a later date.**

**10 DEC '20** Sierra Vista Community Chorus



**Likely to be rescheduled at a later date.**

An invisible man marries an invisible woman. The kids were nothing to look at either.



Coronado Chapter Website: <http://moaacoronado.org/>

Coronado Chapter Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/MOAACoronadoChapter/>

MOAA: TAKE ACTION <http://takeaction.moaa.org/home?1>

Spouse Issues: MOAA [http://takeaction.moaa.org/spouse\\_issues](http://takeaction.moaa.org/spouse_issues)

Arizona Department of Veteran Services Update <https://dvs.az.gov/legislative-updates>

### MOAA COVID-19 GRANTS UP TO \$500:

Qualifying individuals who have suffered from economic impact may apply for a grant of up to \$500 to assist with household expenses. This is for active duty, veterans, and caregivers who may be eligible and in need. Let Tom Day, Jim Clenney or Harry Bowen know if you are aware of a need and they will facilitate the processing of applications by collecting the applications, verifying service-connection (if possible) and forwarding completed packages to MOAA. MOAA will verify qualification and make the grant decision.

#### Eligibility

Grants are available to currently serving members, spouses of active duty members, veterans with honorable discharges, or caregivers of the same. You'll be asked to prove negative financial impact from the COVID-19 crisis as part of the application process.

National MOAA or MOAA chapter membership is not a requirement, and members won't receive preference.

All ranks are eligible. Preference will be given to those ineligible for other relief programs, such as service relief societies.

#### Eligible Debts

The grant can be used to pay a range of bills to include rent/mortgage, car loan/lease, utilities, telecommunications (cellphone/Internet), and additional categories considered on a case-by-case basis.

#### Where to Find Emergency Cash for Coronavirus

Hardships: <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2020-news-articles/where-to-find-emergency-cash-for-coronavirus-hardships/?>



### 2020 CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth MM \_\_\_\_ DD \_\_\_\_ YYYY \_\_\_\_\_

National MOAA Number \_\_\_\_\_ Life Member Y/N

Please Circle all that apply:

Status: Active - Former - Retired - Auxiliary/Widow – Surviving Spouse

Service: NOAA – Army – Air Force – Coast Guard – Marine Corps – Navy – USPHS

Branch: Active – Guard – Reserve –

Spouse Full Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth MM \_\_\_\_ DD \_\_\_\_ YYYY \_\_\_\_\_

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

The cost of membership is: Regular \$15 annually; Surviving Spouse \$10 annually. **The remainder of your first calendar year is free to NEW members.**

Make your check payable to: Coronado Chapter, MOAA, P.O. Box 1685, Sierra Vista, AZ 85636-1685

**For further Membership questions contact:  
Membership Director Jim Clenney at 520-234-5286, [j2k2c4@cox.net](mailto:j2k2c4@cox.net)  
Tom Day at 915-588-9281, [tday500@yahoo.com](mailto:tday500@yahoo.com).**



## For 1st Time in 3 Decades, Military Families and Retirees Are Getting Revamped IDs

24 Aug 2020

Military.com | By Bing Xiao

The military is ditching flimsy laminated paper-based ID cards for military retirees and dependents for an all-new card system: the Next Generation Uniform Services Identification Card.

According to a Defense Department announcement published Monday, the cards, which represent the first ID update for these military communities since 1993, will be more durable and more closely resemble the Common Access Cards, or CACs, used by active-duty troops and DoD civilians.

The new IDs are already in circulation: the military quietly began issuing them to retirees, reservists and dependent military family members July 31 at a few ID card facilities, according to the DoD release.

The new USID cards are enhanced with an updated design and security features to deter counterfeiting and fraud, Michael Sorrento, director of the Defense Manpower Data Center, said in a statement.

To date, only about 20 Real-Time Automated Personnel Identification Card System (RAPIDS) sites now offer the new cards; other sites await equipment upgrades in order to make them. All DoD USID card facilities are set to offer the IDs by December 2020, according to the release. The complete transition to

new USID cards is targeted for January 2026.

This transition doesn't affect current card expiration dates and doesn't change the populations who are eligible to get the current USID cards.

In addition to dependents of active-duty troops and reservists and retirees and their dependents, those eligible for these DoD-recognized IDs include [Medal of Honor](#) recipients and their dependents and 100% disabled veterans and their dependents, among others. [A full list of eligible groups can be found here](#). The cards facilitate access to military bases and to other exclusive facilities, such as commissaries and exchanges.

The COVID-19 pandemic has complicated the rollout of the new cards.

Sorrento advised that it would be better to wait to get the new card until next summer unless the holder's current one is expired. Applicants should call ahead for appointments to get the new USID cards.

In April, [Pentagon officials announced that dependent and retiree cards](#) set to expire in 2020 would be automatically extended through September in light of the pandemic, and changed policy to allow some ID updates and new enrollments to be done by mail.

DoD is further developing the ID card process, Sorrento said in the release, and eyeing changes such as a mail-in ID process with online vetting, eliminating the requirement to apply in person at a RAPIDS site.

-- Hope Hodge Seck contributed.

## SUICIDE PREVENTION

The Coronado Chapter has added "Support the United Arizona Veterans in helping to find ways to reduce veteran suicides in Arizona" as one of our five Chapter Goals. Below are ways we can help:

**Publicize "Be Connected,"** a program "Connecting Arizona service members, veterans, families & helpers to information, support and resources." Their website is <https://beconnectedaz.org/> or call 1-866-4AZ-VETS (429-8387). We will soon be "Be Connected" Partners.

**Support "22 a Month to End 22 a Day."** At the Warrior Healing Center, they are fighting this problem innovatively to restore hope. You can get more information at <https://chuffed.org/project/22-a-month-to-end-22-a-day>.

**Emory Healthcare Veterans Program,** free to qualified post-9/11 military servicemembers and Veterans. This program is designed to treat conditions such as **post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), traumatic**

## 2020 OFFICERS

**President:** Chaplain (COL) Tom Day, USA (Ret.)  
tday500@yahoo.com.....(915) 588-9281  
**Past Pres/Colors Sgt** COL Bob Covalucci, USA,  
(Ret.)  
robertjcovalucci@gmail.com.....370-2998  
**1st Vice President** LCDR Jim Clenney, USN (Ret.)  
j2k2c4@cox.net.....234-5286  
**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 Kellock, USAF (Ret.)  
bobkellock@hotmail.com.....394-0177  
**Chaplain** LTC George Kirmse, USA (Ret.)  
kirmsegm@cox.net.....803-1355

## DIRECTORS

CDR Merle Kilpatrick, USN (Ret.), Legislative Affairs  
mlkplk@hotmail.com.....(325) 200-8200  
 CW3 Harry Bowen, USA (Ret.), AZTOPS/ESGR  
harrybowen@aol.com.....458-1058  
 Susan Atchison-Day, Ed.D., Spouse, Scholarship  
mtnridinglady@yahoo.com.....(915) 588-9282  
 COL Bob Covalucci, USA, (Ret.), Membership  
robertjcovalucci@gmail.com.....370-2998  
 CW3 Lori Wysong, USA (Ret.), JROTC  
lolowysong6@gmail.com .....803-1161  
 LTC Norm Patten, USA (Ret.), Public Relations  
patne@cox.net..... 249-7843  
 MAJ Tamara Oster, USA, Personal Affairs  
totamieo@gmail.com..... (202) 468-7886  
 Jennifer Venola, Surviving Spouse Liaison  
slmoaa2@gmail.com ..... (760) 793-4760

## DEPUTY DIRECTORS

LTC Earl Devine, USA (Ret.), Community Liaison  
Edevine1@cox.net.....458-5224  
 Susan Atchison-Day, Ed.D., Spouse, Historian  
mtnridinglady@yahoo.com.....(915) 588-9282  
 Kathryn Covalucci, Webmaster/Facebook Manager  
covalucci@gmail.com.....249-1020  
 Harry Mallory, Spouse, Heliogram Editor  
editor19MOAA@gmail.com.....803-1572

Area codes are (520) unless otherwise noted.

## About the Coronado Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America.

The Heliogram is published nine times each year by the Coronado Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA). We don't publish in June, July, or August. Our chapter is a not-for-profit organization registered with the Arizona Corporation Commission and recognized by the federal Internal Revenue Service under 28 U.S.C. 501 (c) (19). All donations to our chapter may be tax deductible. See your tax consultant for further information. MOAA and its affiliated chapters and councils are nonpartisan. Visit our website at [www.moaacoronado.org](http://www.moaacoronado.org). Look for us on Facebook at: MOAA Coronado Chapter Sierra Vista, Arizona. Visit the MOAA legislative website to "Take Action" and receive legislative updates: <http://www1.MOAA.org/Legislative>. Our post office address is: P.O. Box 1685, Sierra Vista, Arizona, 85636-1685. A complete list of our officers and directors appears on the last page of this issue. We welcome your calls and emails.

According to MOAA Bylaws, our membership shall be composed of: (a). Men and women who are or have been officers — that is, commissioned or warrant officers — of the regular, reserve or National Guard of the United States in one of the seven US uniformed services of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and Public Health Service. (b). Widows and widowers of deceased members or of any deceased individual who would, if living, be eligible for membership. (c). Individuals elected as Honorary Members as set forth in Section 2(e) of this Article. (d). There shall be no discrimination in membership or participation in the affairs of the Association by reason of race, creed, color, national origin, sex, handicap, or age.

**WE NEVER  
STOPPED SERVING!**