



HELIOGRAM

The Military Officers Association of America

Coronado Chapter

March 2021 Volume 48 Number 3



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OUR MARCH MEMBERS MEETING IS BY ZOOM ON MARCH 18TH AT 6:30 PM

**SEE PAGE 3
TIME TO PAY DUES!**



Thanks to all who joined us on Trash pickp on 10 Feb. Pictured are Joe Puett, Jim Clenney, Merle Kilpatrick, Lori Wysong and Tom Day. Norm Patten

CORONADO CHAPTER, MEMBERSHIP

200 Total Chapter Members

171 Regular Members

29 Surviving Spouse Members

Let us all work to grow the Chapter in 2021!



PRESIDENT'S NOTES

TOM DAY
CHAPLAIN (COL) USA
(RETIRED)

It is March already! We had a fantastic Membership Meeting using Zoom 6:30 PM on Thursday, 11 February.

Our speaker was Sharon Douglas, President of the Northern Arizona Chapter MOAA and Arizona State Surviving Spouse Liaison. You can read Jim Clenney's notes to hear about a very informative and useful briefing. Our March speaker will be Merle Kilpatrick, our Legislative Affairs Director. His presentation will cover the early history of Fairbank and the Silver Stamp Mills along the San Pedro River.

Our hearts are saddened to learn of the passing of two wonderful people. **Mitzi Kirmse** passed away on February 7. Mitzi will be missed not just by us but by the entire Sierra Vista Community. She has made a difference for hundreds of people with her amazing organization of the Forgach House "All Star Revue" for 24 years, fund raisers, and many other organizations she was involved with. George, our prayers are with you and your family.

Ron Pflipsen passed away on February 13 after a courageous two year battle with pancreatic cancer. Jackie, his son Matt and daughter Chrissie, were by his side when he moved on to a better place. Ron was a friend of everyone, very active in MOAA and the community, and always had a good word for everyone. He was Secretary for eight years and he served on the Scholarship Committee for 13 years. He was one of the first people who welcomed me to the Coronado Chapter Board of Directors when Joe Gill invit-

ed me to be Chaplain. Jackie, our prayers are with you and your family.

We reinstalled Robert Kellock as Treasurer, Harry Bowen as Transition Director and Lori Wysong as JROTC Director at our 10 February BOD meeting. We still need a **Public Relations Director, Membership Director, and Personal Affairs Director**. I encourage you to consider volunteering to take one of these positions. We have directors who are willing to assist anyone who fills any of these positions in learning the ropes for that position. See the job descriptions in this Heliogram. Remember, **spouses and surviving spouses** are welcome to fill any of these positions.

Many still have not paid their dues. We encourage you to do so soon. Remember, there is strength in numbers and we can better support our military, families and veterans when we remain strong in number. Let us know if because of COVID you are having problems, we would like to keep each of you as a member.

The USO needs volunteers! See the flier on page 6 of this edition of the Heliogram.

Again, for our March Zoom Member Meeting, Merle Kilpatrick will present a very interesting presentation of early history of Fairbank and the Silver Stamp Mills along the San Pedro River. We have gone horseback riding there and I look forward to hearing its history! We hope to see you on Zoom on 18 March at 6:30 PM, or if you are not able to Zoom, there is a way to teleconference by calling us on the phone. See the directions in the next section. Call me at 915-588-9281 if you need assistance signing in. Be safe and stay well!

Tom

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ZOOM INSTRUCTIONS FOR MEMBERS MEETING

You are invited to our 18 March Members Zoom Meeting at 6:30 PM. Please sign in about 5 to 10 minutes early, if possible. **TO SIGN INTO THE ZOOM MEETING ON YOUR COMPUTER CLICK THE BLUE UNDERLINED SECTION HERE:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83187546303?pwd=bVfVREE2b2hRNUp5OXJlVGVtVGREQT09#success>

If you wish to join us by phone instead see the directions below. If you have not downloaded Zoom to your computer you can do that ahead of time at: <https://zoom.us/download>

Meeting ID: 831 8754 6303
Passcode: 698162

YOU SHOULD GET A MESSAGE THAT THE HOST WILL NOW ADMIT YOU INTO THE MEETING. THE MEETING ID AND PASSCODE ARE ABOVE IF FOR SOME REASON YOU HAVE TO ENTER IT.

CALL ME AT 915-588-9281 IF YOU HAVE TROUBLE SIGNING IN.

TO MAKE A TELECONFERENCE CALL ON YOUR PHONE IF YOU CAN'T USE ZOOM:

1. Call +1 253 215 8782
2. Enter Meeting ID: 831 8754 6303 Followed by the # sign.
3. Skip Personal ID, just press # again.
4. Enter Passcode: 698162 followed by the # sign.



1st VICE PRESIDENT

**JAMES CLENNEY,
LCDR, USN (Ret.)**

Good February to you. I hope this finds you and your loved ones well and healthy. I did a quick survey of the things that are celebrated in the month of February.

There are 98 "official" holidays that range from "National Get Up Day" to "National Sticky Bun Day!" I present some selected dates (with apologies to those of us who are Tequila aficionados for not including "National Margarita Day" in the below).

February 1st starts the month off with National Freedom Day! This day commemorates the day in 1865 when President Abraham Lincoln signed what would later become the 13th Amendment. This day was envisioned as a way for all to take a moment to appreciate how lucky we are that Freedom is one of the founding principles of the United States of America.

On 10 February, we will celebrate our Surviving Spouses during our Coronado Chapter (Zoom) meeting. As President Tom noted above, we will hear from a speaker on the importance of continuity of information and documentation. I am a firm believer that our role as spouses is to provide our loved ones

with peace of mind about their future. This will be an excellent time to prepare for the next celebration of Valentine's day. I encourage you to join the meeting on the 10th.

Valentine's Day on February 14. A time that we are called to focus on our loved friends' and family's love and affection.

On February 15th we celebrate Presidents' Day in all its patriotic glory. We celebrate our American leaders who have brought us through hard and good times.

Ash Wednesday is observed on February 17. Through sacrifice, fasting, and prayer, followers of Jesus signify their recognition of Christ's 40-day, 40-night fast.

This year, starting on February 25, Jewish people celebrate the festival of Purim. This religious celebration commemorates the salvation of the Jewish people in ancient Persia from the cruel Haman's plot to rid them from the world.

Through the month of February, we recognize freedoms, we remember the people who sustained those freedoms, we celebrate love among the people, and we celebrate the love of our God. Be safe this month and I look forward to returning to a time when we can greet each other face-to-face.

Jim



**TRANSITION
LIAISON
COORDINATOR**

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

Transition Liaison
(formerly TOPS) – February 2020

- ◇ Three Job links (1 for Delaware and 2 for Texas) were posted during this report period.
- ◇ One information message on Veteran Transition Travel Matters, was posted during this report period.

Employer Support to the Guard and Reserves (ESGR):

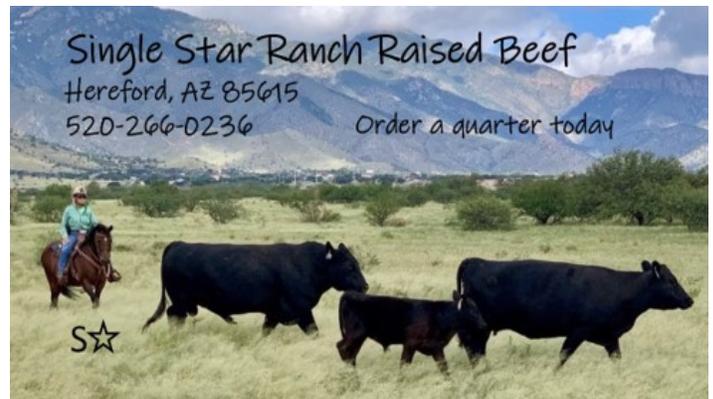
- ◇ The ESGR remains de-energized. Due to the increased number of COVID and deaths, The

National Guard has temporarily suspended any travel or contact again.

Cochise Serving Veterans (CSV)

- ◇ The CSV Board meets tomorrow night to discuss changes to the by-laws, fund raising, and audits. Anyone interested in attending as a representative or interested party for the Silver Chapter is encouraged to attend.
- ◇ The Veterans Resource Fair Committee starts their planning for the upcoming StandDown and Resource fair tentatively scheduled for 27August 2021.
- ◇ Were able to support three veterans, two with utilities, one with his automobile loan: during this report period.

Harry



HISTORIAN

Susan Atchison-Day, Ed D.

Biography for Lorenza Lopez Wysong, PA, CW3, USA Ret

Sitting at the raffle table at our monthly dinner meetings - in pre-COVID days - was a

warm, persuasive vendor of raffle tickets, sold in support of the Scholarship Program. In addition to that role, Lorenza Lopez Wysong (Lori) is the JROTC Director for MOAA's Coronado Chapter and a member of the Scholarship Committee.

Lori was born of Mexican legal immigrants in 1947 in La Mesa, NM, and soon accompanied her parents to Duncan, AZ, in 1950, where she grew up and graduated from Duncan High School in 1965. She won a scholarship to attend the University of Arizona (UA) School of Nursing but had money only for her freshman year, so she joined the Women's Army Corps on 31 March 1967. With the benefit of Basic Medical Corpsman Training and her classes at UA, she made honor graduate and was recommended for the Licensed Practical Nurse (91C) course. She accepted, becoming an LPN upon graduation in 1968, then received an immediate promotion to E-5 because of the Viet Nam War. When, in 1972, the Physician Assistant field was born, successful graduates in this new field became Warrant Officers in the Medical Field, which is usually reserved for doctors. She was accepted into the program in 1975 and graduated as a WO1 in 1977. Increasingly-more responsible positions followed.

Lori's was first assigned as a physician assistant in a Troop Medical Clinic for McDonald Army Hospital at Ft. Eustis, VA. In 1979, she was assigned as the Brigade Surgeon to the 17th Field Artillery Brigade in Augsburg, Germany, thus becoming the first female Warrant Officer Physician Assistant assigned as a Brigade Surgeon. In 1981, she transferred to the 914th Medical Detachment in Augsburg. Until the arrival of

the new Doctor/Commanding Officer, Congress permitted Lori to hold this command position as a Warrant Officer.

After Germany Lori returned to the States to Ft. Eustis, VA. The Surgeon General of the Army then reopened the Boot Strap Program, allowing Physician Assistants 18 months to obtain a baccalaureate degree in a medical field then become a "hard stripper." Lori earned a BS in Psychology at Old Dominion University (ODU) in Norfolk, VA. Upon graduating, she transferred to Raymond W. Bliss Army Medical Hospital, Ft. Huachuca, AZ, where she and her husband, also a Physician's Assistant, retired in 1989. Since promotions to "hard stripes" came into effect after Desert Storm, Lori retired as a CW3, barely missing the promotion.



After retirement, Lori's life continues her involvement in medicine and the community, first in Family Medicine until she retired in 2004, and was soon asked to work with a local urologist. After nine years and having hours increased to 30+ hours weekly, she retired from medicine completely. Lori remains a member of the Society of Army Physician Assistants, assisting in fundraising for their scholarship fund. She is also a member of the Silver Chapter of the Warrant Officer Association, serves as Sergeant-at-Arms for the local Women's Army Corps Veterans Association-Army Women United, and is the Captain of the National Honor Guard for the national organization.

Lori maintains an Arizona license as a PA and volunteers to do the ultrasounds at the Care Net Pregnancy Center of Cochise County; serves on the board for Rachel's Vineyard, which provides healing weekend retreats for women and men suffering from the effects of having had an abortion; serves on the board of Peaches Pantry, providing food for children; and volunteers in several ministries in her church, St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Susan Atchison-Day, Ed. D.

As of this writing, only one scholarship application has arrived, but by the time you read this, all applications from our talented scholars will have been submitted to the Committee. Scholars will be interviewed on

March 12th and 19th, and awardees will be chosen and notified soon thereafter. For the interviews, we will all call upon our newly acquired Zoom, skills, hoping that by next year our lives will be back to normal. The presentation of this year's winners will be made in our April 15th Zoom Monthly Members Meeting, open to all. Awaiting the outcome



LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

CDR Merle L. Kilpatrick, USNR (Retired)

Looking Ahead: Challenges to expect for 2021

Last year was a turbulent one in many ways for Congress, our military, veterans, and the American people. While the COVID-19 pandemic, national elections, and the austere fiscal climate may have made MOAA's job more difficult, we were able to stave off legislation that would erode our national defense position and service-earned benefits valued by our uniformed service and veterans communities.

The road ahead in 2021 will be just as, if not more, challenging as new government leaders and a new Congress start work. MOAA must remain vigilant to ensure the annual authorizations and appropriations are synchronized to meet the current and future needs of those serving and who have served. Some key areas warranting our continued focus:

- **Protecting the value of the military health care benefit.** Ongoing budget pressures increase the potential threat of proposals for TRICARE fee hikes. MOAA will oppose any proposal for TFL enrollment fees, increases to TRICARE Prime costs for active duty family members, or increases to working age retiree costs that exceed retiree COLA.
- **Protecting burials at Arlington National Cemetery.** The Army secretary has approved draft eligibility changes for interment and inurnment at ANC to extend the life of the cemetery. Unfortun-

nately, if the eligibility changes are approved, many who had planned for an in-ground burial at ANC will have to change plans.

- **Protecting service-earned pay and benefits of the uniformed service and veteran communities.** Pay for servicemembers and support programs and services for military and veteran families are often the first to see cuts when government funding is tight. These benefits are essential to keeping our nation's promise to those who serve or have served and to ensure servicemembers can focus on the mission.
- **Ensuring the impact of COVID-19 on the uniformed services, their families, and survivors and the lessons learned aren't forgotten.** Assess programs relative to our priorities and guarantee a credible accounting of the impact COVID-19 has on servicemembers, families, survivors, and the government entities on which we rely to effect legislation attending to these people and their concerns.

Merle Kilpatrick




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SCHOLARSHIP DONORS LIST 2020

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

Atchison-Day, Susan Day, Tom Ehrenberger, Dennis Hicks, William Kilpatrick, Merle Symmes, Ken Wysong, Lori

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

Beer, Ron Black, John Bobar, Janet (In Memory of Bob) Carlson, Samantha Caldwell, Doris Courtney, Niles Dolge, Dave Faulkner, Ron Lotero, Ron March, Fred Puett, Joe Scheumann, Steven

2020 SILVER LEVEL (Cumulative Donations of \$ 100.00 to \$ 199.00)

Abney, Bob Bell, Gary Chun, Mert Demsey, John Devine, Earl Flynn, Joe
 Fyffe, Nancy Hessler, Tom Judson, Bruce Oster, Tamara Otsuka, Y. Patten, Norman
 Pflipsen, Ron Puttkammer, Paul Walsh, Theresa

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

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Gillette, T. K.	Hayes, Charles	Holbrook, Pat	Hurd, Danny	Isler, Jack
Jones, Casey	Kellock, Robert	Kirmse, George	Letts, Clifford	Linhares, Pat
Mallory, Harry	Nelson, Alfred	Newcomer, Marianne		Nickels, Dennis
Pryor, Maureen	Reynolds, Ernie	Saeger, Ron	Strom, Joan	Van Otten, George
Weston, Kevin	White, Chad	Wozniak, Edward		

SCHOLARSHIP DONORS LIST 2021

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

Kellock, Bob Symmes, Kenneth

2021 GOLD LEVEL (Cumulative Donations of \$ 200.00 to \$ 299.00)

Puett, Joseph

2021 SILVER LEVEL (Cumulative Donations of \$ 100.00 to \$ 199.00)

Carlson, Samantha, Day, Susan Ehreberger, Dennis Scheumann, Steven Wysong, Lori

2021 CHAPTER DONORS (Cumulative Donations Up to \$ 100.00)

Day, Tom



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 _____



Tom Hessler



2-VP

Upcoming Programs

SPECIAL NOTE - The following meetings will be virtual via Zoom. They will start at 1830.

SEE PAGE 3 FOR ZOOM INSTRUCTIONS

18 MAR '21 Fairbank and the Silver Stamp Mills of the San Pedro River

Presented by Merle Kilpatrick, our Legislative Affairs Director.

15 APR '21 2021 MOAA Scholars Announced

Presented by Susan Day, our Scholarship Director and Historian.

20 MAY '21 MOAA: Obligations and Benefits

Presented by Jim Clenney. Our 1st V.P.

VA Advisory Committee Seeks Feedback From Gulf War Veterans

<https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2021-news-articles/va-advisory-committee-seeks-feedback-from-gulf-war-veterans/>

MOAA Military Spouse Virtual Career Fair with Hiring Our Heroes

<https://www.moaa.org/content/events/transition-and-career/vcf-moaa-hoh-spouse/>

News you can use

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

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/?fbclid=IwAR2cmCgI8DsT1Swxa8A9p9ScSO_bo0t8n4S61UwW6vMGLd07kWwYgL7U3FU

SUICIDE PREVENTION

The Coronado Chapter has “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 are now “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 brain injury (TBI), military sexual trauma (MST), anxiety,** and **depression** related to past military service. More information can be found at <https://www.emoryhealthcare.org/centers-programs/veterans-program/index.html>.



Suicide Rate Among Veterans Up Again Slightly, Despite Focus on Prevention Efforts <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2020-news-articles/suicide-rate-among-veterans-up-again-slightly,-despite-focus-on-prevention-efforts/>



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.

Let Bob Covalucci, (520) 370-2998, know if you have questions about these positions or would like to nominate yourself or someone else!

Personal Affairs Director Needed

The Personal Affairs Director serves as the primary point of contact for issues associated with military rights and entitlements, with special emphasis on survivor benefits information. IVP Jim Clenney has experience in this position and would be glad to assist the new person in learning their duties.

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.



2021 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– Space Cmd

Branch: Active – Guard – Reserve

Spouse Full Name _____ Date of Birth MM ____ DD ____ YYYY _____

Signature _____ Date _____

The cost of membership is: **Regular members** can now renew at; a) \$15 per year; b) \$50 for five years; or c) \$150 for Life membership. **Surviving Spouse members** can now renew at; a) \$10 per year; b) \$40 for five years; or c) \$100 for Life membership. **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
Tom Day at 915-588-9281, tday500@yahoo.com.



2020 OFFICERS

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Past Pres/Colors Sgt COL Bob Covalucci, USA, (Ret.)
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MAJ Tamara Oster, USA (Ret.) Personal Affairs
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Jennifer Venola, Surviving Spouse Liaison
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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. 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 eight US uniformed services of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Public Health Service, and Space Command. (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!**