



HELIOGRAM

The Military Officers Association of America

Coronado Chapter

March 2022 Volume 49 Number 3



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NOTE: Your BOD suspects that some of the members don't attend our dinners because they can't drive at night. We have a pool of volunteers that are willing to pick up and deliver other members. Let the Director, Personal Support know if you need this help or are willing to help provide this service.



CORONADO CHAPTER, MEMBERSHIP

203 Total Chapter Members

- 99 Regular Life Memberships
- 7 Surviving Spouse Life Memberships
- 69 Regular Memberships
- 26 Surviving Spouse Regular Memberships
- 2 Honorary Members

Thank you all for making Coronado Successful!



PRESIDENT

JAMES CLENNEY
LCDR, USN (Ret.)

The Coronado Chapter (read as “Your”) Board of Directors is going through the steps of renewing our Chapter’s Mission, Vision, and Goals for the coming years. We are interested in what you are interested in! What local efforts or organizations do you support?

Why? What local needs do you see? What individual needs are out there that are being experienced by peers? How can we translate your recommendations into a goal for the chapter? You can help by bringing your thoughts to us. Please contact a Board member before 5 March and give them your ideas. You may contact any Officer or Director through coronado-moaa@gmail.com. Our individual contact information is at the end of this Heliogram.

At our February Members’ Dinner Meeting, Matt McLachlan, Director of Community Development for Sierra Vista presented us with valuable information. His knowledge and explanations, of actions taken to attract businesses and residents to Sierra Vista, were very understandable. He shared the challenges and the rewards that the city experiences when planning and executing sustainable growth. The topics were especially pertinent to attendees who live, shop, or travel in and around Sierra Vista.

Speaking of our meetings, we are aware that there may be members who are unable to make the evening trips to our monthly member meetings for personal reasons. The Chapter is helping to connect people, who are willing to drive, with those who need a ride. Please contact the Personal Support Director (Theresa) if you are interested in providing or receiving help.

I now possess a responsibility to keep in communication with you. That is the only way that I, as a leader of this organization, can feel the pulse of members. In today’s world, that means online/ electronic communications. As a direct example, most of our members receive this Heliogram electronically! I have personally been remiss in making effective use of these free platforms to communicate w/ friends, family, and associates. However, Coronado chapter is not making my mistake; we are online. Our social media footprint has increased in the past several months thanks to the labors and knowledge of Director of Public Relations Angela Hoiston. I encourage you to check out the monthly newsletter on <http://moaacoronado.org>. Check in on your compatriots’ status, events, or observations on Facebook at “SVCoronadoMOAA,” Instagram at [coronado_moaa_sv](https://www.instagram.com/coronado_moaa_sv)” or LinkedIn at “Coronado Chapter of MOAA.”

Stay well. Keep in touch with each other. Thank you for your service to our country and community.

V/R
Jim C

This is a shot of the crew on a blustery February 16th on Columbo Road. We gather for morning bend and reach calisthenics on a once quarterly basis: helping to keep Sierra Vista clean. Join us!



TOMBSTONE COMMUNITY IMPACT

These pictures are thanks to the efforts of Director for JROTC Affairs, Lori Wysong and a lightening of Covid Restrictions.

Lori and Roger and I snuck in a time to photograph and learn about the new Tombstone High School electronic competition pellet rifle range.

This range will pay off in supporting the JROTC's perpetual drive to be champion marksmen in Arizona, and Nationally.

Your Coronado Chapter donations supported this goal in 2021 at Tombstone High School. As a result of this tool, these high school young adults will be exposed to the many life-lessons that a well designed individual/team sport teaches.

They will continue to express their appreciation by winning future competitions! In encourage all members to follow their activities!

V/R
Jim C



ADVOCACY IN ACTION

This year, our Director of Legislative Affairs (Merle) will be leading the Chapter's charge in national legislation through MOAA's Advocacy In Action (AiA) program. Your fellow members and the leaders of MOAA have determined the following three legislative goals will be our lead factors.

Military Pay Raise at 4.6% per the Employment Cost Index (ECI)

MOAA supports the full pay raise for all and will guard against any reductions to fund payable overhauls.

The Richard Star Act

This bill would end an unjust offset faced by tens of thousands of combat-injured retirees who were unable to complete 20 years of service due to their combat injuries. Retired pay is for completed years of service paid by DoD, while disability compensation is for lifelong injury paid by the VA. Two different payments for two different purposes. To reduce retired pay because of a disability is an injustice.

The Stop Copay Overpay Act

This bill would reduce mental health copays that were more than doubled through military health system reforms. Mental health is increasingly important and getting attention on the Hill due to pandemic impacts and the effects of social media on children's well-being. This issue impacts currently serving families on TRICARE Select, working age retirees and their families.

Watch for more information between now and our big push that completes by early May. I urge you to monitor the MOAA Magazine (or website), Instagram, and Facebook MOAA related pages. We will do our best to keep you informed on these topics and how you can help.

V/R
Jim



LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

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

**Congress to Consider Appeals Process for
Tier-4/Non-Covered Drugs Under TRICARE**

An appeals process for TRICARE Tier4/non-covered drugs is in the works thanks to report language in the FY 2022 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). The Senate Armed Services Committee (SASC) report for their version of the FY 2022 NDAA includes language directing DoD to establish an appeals process for TRICARE coverage of Tier4/non-covered drugs.

In the TRICARE pharmacy program, any prescription drug found to provide little or no clinical effectiveness over other covered drugs may be excluded from the program. These drugs are known as Tier4 (non-covered). The FY 2018 NDAA authorized DoD to exclude such drugs.

MOAA greatly appreciates the SASC’s response to the call for an appeals process. Although directive report language is not legally binding, agency officials generally regard it as a congressional mandate and respond accordingly. The SASC language directed the Defense Health Agency (DHA) to establish a medical necessity and prior authorization process to allow a beneficiary to request coverage of a Tier 4 drug at the same copay or cost-share as a non-formulary drug and requested a briefing to the Senate and House Armed Services Committees on the appeals process by Feb 1.

MOAA has also worked to get a specific drug, Dexilant, reinstated to the TRICARE formulary. Even with the pending process, the efforts on Dexilant will continue given beneficiary feedback and the research on Dexilant coverage policies, which indicate TRICARE is out of step with commercial plans and other government payers.

MOAA will request an implementation update from DHA and will provide more information as soon as it is available. Thank you to the many MOAA members who shared their stories about the impact of Tier 4. Your contributions played a critical role in the MOAA advocacy efforts.

Merle K.





HISTORIAN

Susan Atchison-Day, Ed D.

Death of Magawa, the Hero Rat

In a previous article, we looked at Stubby the War dog, who was recognized by Gen. John Pershing for his work in World War I. In this month’s article, I would like to present another military hero, though this one’s work came after the war to help people in worn-torn countries in their attempt to return to normal. On January 12, 2022, a landmine-sniffing rodent named Magawa, who had won a medal for heroism for his work in Cambodia, and had retired last June, died at the age of eight.

Cambodia had one of the highest casualty rates in the world from unexploded ordnance. One-third of the casualties were children, mostly boys. This presented a social and economic problem, with few boys and men available in general, which resulted in decreasing ability to cultivate land and feed poor families. It was imperative to find ways to clear the land of explosives.



Initially, land-mine-detection dogs were deployed in Cambodia. The highly-trained dogs were effective but died or retired early because of infections of parasites, such as fleas, ticks, and mosquitoes. Both governmental and private groups worked on solving this problem and found a solution in giant African rats. Since 2016, more than 500 anti-personnel mines and 350 unexploded bombs have been found in Cambodia.

Magawa’s sense of smell was so good he could find landmines and signal his handler of their exact location. Highly efficient, he could search the area as big as a tennis court in 30 minutes, while a human holding a metal detector would need up to four days to do the same. So Magawa, the hero rat’s death in January was a sad event. Thankfully, others have been trained to follow in his footsteps.



SCHOLARSHIPS

Susan Atchison-Day, Ed D.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS ARE DUE

This month on February 7th, the Scholarship Committee participated in Buena High School's Scholarship/College night. Several promising graduating seniors stopped to learn more about the Coronado Chapter MOAA's Scholarships. We now are awaiting the arrival of applications, which must be postmarked no later than March 1st and must be received no later than 6pm on March 6th. For more information contact Susan Atchison-Day at email mtnriddinglady@yahoo.com or text to 915-588-9282.



Wanted: Your War Stories

We want to hear your stories . . . your adventures, close calls, failures, successes, wisdom, humorous anecdotes.

Some of these can be published in our monthly Heliogram, and others perhaps could be suitable and developed for publication in MOAA's magazine. Please prepare your stories and submit to Coronado MOAA Historian Susan Atchison-Day at (915-588-9282) or at mtnriddinglady@yahoo.com.

History is made up of real life adventures . . . please share yours with all of us!

SCHOLARSHIP DONORS LIST 2022

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

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

Courtney, Nyles
Faulkner, Ronald

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

Bates, William	Dempsey, John
Bell, Gary	Otsuka, Y
Black, John	Scheumann, Steven
Day, Tom	Wysong, Roger

CHAPTER DONORS (Cumulative Donations Up to \$ 100.00)

Carlson, Samantha	Nickles, Dennis
Kellock, Bob	Pryor, Maureen
Kilpatrick, Merle	Wysong, Lori
Isler, Jack	

TOTAL TO DATE: \$1,590.00 GOAL: \$10,000.00




RAFFLE ITEMS NEEDED

Lori Wysong is collecting Raffle Items

for the Scholarship Fund.

Thank you for your support.

PLEASE READ THIS

We need a 1st Vice President. You will become knowledgeable of the President’s responsibilities and learn a great deal about local/state/national events and goings on. You will learn how to be a chairperson of the membership committee. You will learn how to access the National MOAA database of members. It is a tough job and very rewarding. Oh yes, you will perform, “Other duties as needed.”

Friends at the Member's Meeting Dinner on February 17th at Pueblo Del Sol Country Club.
WE MISSED YOU !!!! Next meeting is March 17th.



Who attends the Chapter Member Meeting dinners?

Local Community Leaders, Spouses, Church Leaders, Realtors, Rotarians, Educators, Flag Officers, Lieutenants, etc. We need you to complete our complement.





Clockwise from top:

- Theresa Walsh is sworn in as Director Personal Services
- Matt McLachan Sierra Vista's Director of Community Development
- Presentation of Coronado Challenge Coin
- Donna Goodman, BG Symmes, and Director Merle enjoying networking




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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>
Summary of VA Dependents and Survivors Benefits at [Summary of VA Education Benefits](#)
A website with pertinent information for Veteran Survivors. <https://www.benefits.va.gov/BENEFITS/docs/VASurvivorsKit.pdf>

ARIZONA #5 IN VETERAN SUICIDES.

Despite studies that show that the *national* rates of Veteran suicide and homelessness have declined, Arizona showed **increases** in both.

First, the Veterans Administration reported in its annual update that Veteran suicides nationally decreased by 399 and the rate per 100,000 decreased 6.3 percent. **In Arizona, however, both the number and rate per 100,000 increased.** As a result of the national decrease and the Arizona increase, **Arizona now has the fifth highest Veteran suicide rate in the nation.** <https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/docs/data-sheets/2021/2021-National-Veteran-Suicide-Prevention-Annual-Report-FINAL-9-8-21.pdf>

Further, another veterans-based study showed that 88% of Arizona's Veteran Suicides are older than 35 years of age. And the largest group is 55-74 years old.

Secondly, in its Annual Homeless Assessment Report, the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) reported that **Arizona is among just a few states where Veteran homeless rates increased** while the national rates and most of the states decreased. <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/sites/default/files/pdf/2021-AHAR-Part-1.pdf>. Michelle Jameson, CEO of US Vets-Phoenix, and Southwest Veterans Chamber of Commerce (SWVCC) Member, provided additional details in a recent AZ Central article: <https://www.azcentral.com/story/news/local/phoenix/2022/02/15/veteran-homelessness-arizona-increased-2021-but-decreased-across-most-country/6670302001/>.

Your willingness to interact with others (in your peer group of veterans) may be vitally important to **one** person! If you see something, do something.



Tom Hessler

2-VP

Upcoming Programs

Social at 1800, Dinner at 1830, and Program about 1915.

17 MAR '22 Honoring Surviving Spouses
Orchestrated by Jennifer Venola

21 APR '22 Honoring Scholarship Recipients
Choreographed by Susan Day

19 MAY '22 Name TBD
Update on our local VA facilities and programs

NOTE: No Dinner Meetings in June, July, or August!

15 SEP '22 Name TBD
Visit by National MOAA



Upcoming Dinner Menus

March:

SALAD: Dinner Salad preset on tables. Spinach Salad with Apples, Pears and Walnuts drizzled with Balsamic Vinaigrette.

Served with Rolls & Butter

ENTRÉE: London Broil, Twice Baked Potato and Chef's Glazed Baby Carrots

DESSERT: Tiramisu

Vegetarian option available if requested

April:

SALAD: Dinner Salad preset on tables. Southwestern Salad Iceberg paired with Bacon, Tomatoes, Cucumber Slices, Red Onion & Grated Cheddar Cheese. Choice of Ranch or Bleu Cheese Dressing

Served with Rolls & Butter

ENTRÉE: Chicken Cordon Bleu, Rice Pilaf and Roasted Zucchini, Onions, Tomatoes and Mushrooms Medley

DESSERT: Flan with Fresh Berries

Vegetarian option available if requested

PLEASE READ THIS TOO!

We need a Membership Chair. This position has two primary duties. The first is data management (e.g., keeping an Excel spreadsheet up to date). The second is coordinating (and/or performing) communication activities in efforts to retain existing members and recruit new ones. The Nominating committee will help to recruit committee members who will work together smoothly and productively.

Let Bob Covalucci, (520) 370-2998, know if you have questions about this position!

An important note
About Reservations

We MUST give a final reservation count to PDS 5 days before the dinner. Your reservation should be postmarked 14 days prior to the dinner to be sure we receive it in time.

If you even think you will be coming, you should make your reservation as early as convenient. We can take cancelations up to 8 days before the dinner. We can either return the check, destroy it or credit it toward the following dinner.

If for some reason you missed the deadline, give 2nd VP Tom Hessler a call (459-0093) or email him (tjhessler@cox.net) to be placed on a waiting list. We sometimes have an unavoidable last-minute cancellation.

THURSDAY, MAR 17, 2022 DINNER RESERVATION FORM

Pueblo Del Sol Country Club, 2770 South Saint Andrews Drive, Sierra Vista

Social Hour 1800 - Dinner 1830

My Name _____ Guest Name(s) _____

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

Amount for meal at \$26.00 each _____

Amount for Operating Fund _____

Amount for Scholarship Fund _____

Check total _____

Number of vegetarian meals desired (if any) _____

Reservations must be postmarked by MAR 5, 2022

Please change the following information for me: Address _____

Phone: _____ *Email:* _____

For more information about reservations contact Tom Hessler at 459-0093, tjhessler@cox.net

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>.

DoD’s Annual Suicide Report Shows a Troubling Trend By: Mark Belinsky

https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2021-news-articles/advocacy/dods-annual-suicide-report-shows-a-troubling-trend/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=TMNsend&utm_content=NC+AFHRM+1+ERet+L+NC

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/>



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**CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP
APPLICATION/RENEWAL**

Last Name _____ First _____ Initial _____ Rank _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Email Address _____ Phone _____

Date of Birth MM _____ DD _____ YYYY _____ National MOAA # _____

MOAA Life Member? Y/N

Please Circle all that apply:

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

Component: Active – Guard – Reserve

Status: Active - Former - Retired - Surviving Spouse

Spouse's Full Name _____ Date of Birth MM _____ DD _____ YYYY _____

(New Memberships are free for the remainder of this year.)

Regular members: __New Member __\$15 per year __\$50 for five years __\$150 for Life

Surviving Spouse members: __New Member __\$10 per year __\$40 for five years __\$100 for Life

__Scholarship Donation (Indicate amount added if desired): _____

Signature _____ Date _____ Ck Nbr: _____

Make check payable to: **Coronado Chapter, MOAA**

P.O. Box 1685, Sierra Vista, AZ 85636-1685

For any Membership questions contact:**President Jim Clenney at 520-234-5286 or coronadomoaa@gmail.com**

Visit us on these Social Media sites:

Coronado Facebook Page: SVCoronadoMOAA



Coronado Instagram: Coronado Chapter Moaa

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

2022 OFFICERS

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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). MOAA and its affiliated chapters and councils are nonpartisan. Visit www.moacoronado.org, our website. 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. Our email address for general inquiries is coronadomoaa@gmail.com

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.

**NEVER
STOP SERVING!**