

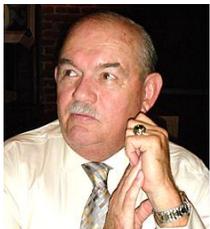
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



As we approach the Christmas holidays and the end of 2018, I suppose I could tell you about all our accomplishments this year, or exhort you to please get your 2019 dues in to Peggy by December 31st. I could talk about our ongoing support for the Fisher House, the VA Hospital, Homeless Vets, or the Women Warriors. Or how we really need donations of small things for the Vets, like toiletries, soap, socks, books, etc., or even those small calendars flooding your mail boxes at this time of year. I could mention our plans for next year. Or perhaps how we really appreciate the many volunteers for our Board of Directors and the several tasks they have to do that require a special skill. Often these tasks they accomplish do not require attending any meetings at all. On that vein, we still need a Board Secretary. Bettie Rundlett has graciously offered to continue on in that position until we find a replacement. Would one of you be interested in that position? You would have to attend the Board meetings for that one.

I would like to thank you (our members) for all the awards and many "Thank You" letters we have received as a MOAA Chapter including our Level of Excellence Award. We will pin the award to our Banner during the December 10th meeting. Many thanks for making a needy Veteran's or child's holiday a little brighter.

What I want to go over is why our October meeting was cancelled and the November meeting was reinstated. Several of our members were still out of town in October and we had a scheduled visit from National MOAA planned for this fall (Lt General Hanlon), so we moved his visit to November 14th. That, plus the fact that we were able to schedule the Christmas Social on December 10th to accommodate everyone that will be out of town for the Christmas holidays. We are trying it this way to see if the members approve.

The Christmas Social will be held at the Madera Clubhouse, at Quail Creek, on December 10th, starting at 5:00 p.m., with supper served at 5:30. There will be a lot of gifts given away by drawn raffle tickets (thanks to Barbara Brown for shopping the last three months.) Note: I have heard that some of the members will be wearing special Christmas ties!



Our 2019 Board of Directors will be sworn in, we will have a presentation for the 162nd AZ ANG's food bank, and then the Christmas gift drawings. As many of you know, this will be my last meeting as president of our Chapter.

Continued next page ...

President's Message, continued ...

I sincerely appreciated the chance to serve you, our membership, and hope that you go on to serve with your new president, Joe Longo, as I pass the gavel to him.



Many thanks to Barbara Brown for her efforts in purchasing and wrapping the many gifts for our members! Check out our website: greenvalleymoaa.org to get your dinner reservation mailed to Barbara Brown no later than Dec. 3rd. We look forward to seeing all of you at the holiday dinner meeting.

Jim Knox, LCDR USN (Ret)
2018 Chapter President
Green Valley Chapter, MOAA

“Never Stop Serving”

HOLIDAY DINNER PLANNED

The gala annual holiday dinner will be held on Monday, December 10 in Quail Creek's Crystal Ballroom #1. A social period will begin at 5 p.m. with dinner being served at approximately 5:30. Cost for the dinner will be \$26. The form to mail in reservations can be found on the Chapter's website: greenvalleymoaa.org and in this newsletter (page 3). Reservations can also be made by calling Barbara Brown at 520-625-8066 **no later than December 3.**

Menu choices include Prime Rib of Beef, served with a flavorful Au Jus and creamy horseradish, served medium rare; or grilled salmon with Béarnaise sauce. Both entrees will include seasonal vegetables and a Field Green Salad Medley with candied walnuts, fresh apple slices, and bleu cheese crumbles followed by a Chocolate Mousse Torte.

The highlight of the evening will occur when one of Santa's Elves makes an appearance handing out holiday gifts to several lucky door prize winners. This is a not-to-be missed event as you will meet those who will be sworn in as your new board of officers.



Mark your calendars for Friday, January 18. This is the date for the annual Massing of the Colors.

There is a change in venue this year. Details will be in the January newsletter.

Military Officers Association of America

Green Valley Chapter · Desert Duster Newsletter · December 2018 issue



December 10, 2018 Reservation Form · Social: 5 p.m. · Dinner: 5:30 p.m. Quail Creek Madera Clubhouse

Please make your reservations by December 3rd!

Please reserve _____ places.

Cost: \$ _____ (\$26 per person)

Select Entrée choice:

(#1) Prime Rib of Beef with Au Jus and creamy horseradish, served medium rare

(#2) Grilled Salmon with Béarnaise sauce

Both entrees will include seasonal vegetables and a Field Green Salad Medley with candied walnuts, fresh apple slices, and bleu cheese crumbles followed by a Chocolate Mousse Torte.

Check # _____

Attn: **GV MOA Reservation**

Mail your check and this reservation form to: **(NEW PO BOX!)
MOA of Green Valley, PO Box 1535 · Green Valley, AZ 85622-1535**

Rank: _____ Name: (please print) _____

I am bringing guest(s) whose name(s) is/are:

Guest Dinner Choice: #1 or #2

GUEST 1

GUEST 2

GUEST 3

GUEST 4

If you require a ride to the dinner, please check here:

✂ ----- CUT HERE -----

If you cannot get your reservation and check mailed timely, or **if you have made a reservation and find you cannot attend PLEASE CALL BARBARA BROWN. Your chapter is charged for all ordered meals even if they aren't served.** Please bring a check or exact cash amount to the meeting. Thank you, Barbara Brown 625-8066.

Hearing Aid Assist Device at Quail Creek ⇒ If you are a member with Hearing Aids who still has difficulty hearing the speakers at the meal-plated meetings, Quail Creek does offer a Hearing Aid Assist Loop device. The Hearing Aid Assist is a loop system in the meeting room and can be turned on and individuals would wear a device around their neck which helps amplify the sound through their hearing aids. In order for this assist device to work the individual must have a Hearing Aid or Cochlear Implants with TeleCoil (T-Coil) capability. This device only works with hearing aids with this capability and will not work on individuals with no hearing aid at all.

If you or a guest would like to utilize this service at Quail Creek for future meetings, I ask that you notify us in advance so we can have it available for you. You can notify us by writing your request on your meeting reservation form or contact Barbara Brown **625-8066** or **barbara.brown3@cox.net**.



CHAPTER DUES ARE DUE

Please get your 2019 dues to Peggy no later than December 31st. Thank you.



**Military Officers Association of America
Green Valley, Arizona Chapter
P.O. Box 1535
Green Valley, AZ 85622-1535**

2019 Chapter Membership Dues

Chapter Dues: (Regular-\$25; Auxiliary-\$15)

Membership Dues \$ _____

Make check payable to: Military Officers Association of Green Valley or GV MOAA.

PLEASE PROVIDE THE INFORMATION BELOW:

Name: _____ **New** _____ **Renewal** _____

Rank: _____ **Branch of Service:** _____ **National #** _____

Auxiliary _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip _____

DOB _____ **(Month/Day/Year)**

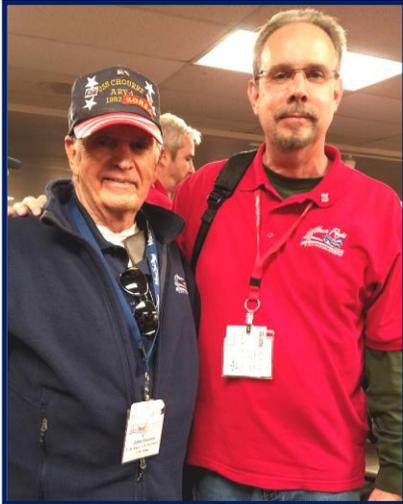
Phone: _____ **E-Mail:** _____

Scholarship & Military Assistance Fund \$ _____ Donation.

**Make check payable to: Green Valley MOAA Scholarship and Military Assistance Fund or
GV MOAA S&MA Fund.**

**Dues may be paid at any meeting or mailed to Military Officers Association of
America, Green Valley, Arizona Chapter, P.O. Box 1535, Green Valley, AZ 85622-1535.**

CHAPTER MEMBER HAD EXPERIENCES WITH ALL FOUR SERVICES



A 14-year member of the Green Valley Chapter, LTC John Danner, USA, Retired, was born in Albany, New York, the third of thirteen children. His six brothers all served in the military. At the age of 17, John enlisted in the Navy in which he served from 1951 to 1956. He was stationed aboard the USS Choure and had two deployments to Korea in 1952 and 1953. While on his second deployment he wound up with the First Marine Air Wing in Pohang and was made an Honorary Marine.

After his service in the Navy John enlisted in the Air Force and served at Eglin Air Force Base Florida from 1956 until 1960. After leaving the Air Force John attended the Albany Medical Center School of Nursing. Following graduation, he applied for a Navy commission but the Navy did not commission male nurses until 1965. The Air Force had a waiting list but the Army said he could start immediately so he accepted a direct commission as a 2LT in the Army Nurse Corps. After serving 20 years as a nurse in U.S. Army hospitals in the U.S. and Europe, to include a period when he recruited nurses, John retired as a Lieutenant Colonel at Fitzsimons Army

Medical Center, Denver in 1984. He then worked as an emergency room nurse at St Joseph Hospital in Denver and retired again in 1997.

After his second retirement John moved to Green Valley where he currently volunteers at the VA Hospital and Soulistic Hospice. He is also a driver for Friends in Deed.

John is a life member of the Korean War Veterans Association, MOAA, Fleet Reserve Association, American Legion and Disabled American Veterans as well as the Pikes Peak MOA.

The Chapter sponsored John's Honor Flight to Washington, DC at the end of October. He described the trip as "a very emotional experience." He reported that the most moving sight for him was the Korean War Memorial. It was also his first visit to the World War II Memorial which he described as outstanding.

PHOTO CAPTION: John Danner's son John served as his guardian during his recent Honor Flight.

VIEW ADDITIONAL PHOTOS OF THE OCTOBER HONOR FLIGHT: Go to the website (greenvalleymoaa.org), select Photo Gallery on the right Sidebar.



If there are any Chapter members who served during the Korean War era (June 27, 1950 to January 31, 1955) and would like to go on a future Honor Flight at no cost, please let one of the Board members know. Service in Korea during this period is not required. The extended period was designated by Congress to define a period of eligibility to include a time of uneasy peace negotiations following hostilities.

MAKE A VETERAN'S HOLIDAY A LITTLE BRIGHTER

You know the good feeling you get when you see a package for you under the tree or by the fireplace during the holidays. Now you can give others that same feeling by supporting our veterans. Here are a few suggestions but let your imagination be your guide. Since this is holiday time, it is suggested that only new items be donated at this time. And the good part is that you don't have to gift wrap anything. The folks at the VA will do that when appropriate.

Blind Veterans: White t-shirts in all sizes for tie dye projects, clip style clothespins, wood crafts, and gift cards for restaurants.

Fisher House: The Arizona Fisher House provides temporary housing for family members who are visiting a hospitalized veteran undergoing care at the Tucson VA hospital. Although the building is paid in full and salaries of the staff are ensured, Fisher House must rely on donations from the local community to provide extra comfort items for the guests. Kitchen staples requested include: pot and pan scrubbers, bottle brushes, disposable baking pans and Ziploc bags in all sizes. For their baking needs, especially as the holidays are approaching, they can use: baking soda, brown sugar, powdered sugar, dried fruits, nuts, dessert kits, yeast, and corn starch. The pantry can use all varieties of canned beans. Gift cards to local restaurants so family members can get a bite to eat before visiting their veteran are also greatly appreciated.

Homeless Veterans: Men's underwear, especially sizes 30 and 32. Men's and ladies' jeans; warm socks; backpacks; sweatshirts, sweaters, snack items, gloves, scarves and hats; throws or blankets; hand and feet warmers. Gift cards for grocery stores and restaurants would be a special treat.

Hospitalized Veterans: The holidays can be very difficult for hospitalized and homeless Veterans. To make their time at the VA more comfortable, please consider donating gifts that they do not normally receive at the hospital (i.e., no toiletries). For the safety of the veterans, please do not donate items that are breakable, contain glass and/or sharp objects, or food that may compromise their diets. Bring items to the Dec. 10th dinner and one of Santa's helpers will deliver them to the VA Hospital. (Suggested items →)

PTSD victims: Audio Recorders, earbuds, CD players, classical piano/ guitar/and soothing music CD's, spiral notebooks and stationery.

State VA Home: Music CDs with songs from the 40s, 50s and 60s; caps with military logos, e.g., Coast Guard, Marines; jewelry for the ladies'; lap blankets; chocolates.

Substance Abuse Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program can use clear water bottles, clear backpacks, reading glasses, and two-pocket folders. They would also like some PG rated, non-violent movies on DVD to be watched by the group and crafts items, such as paint by number, models, leather crafts, sun catchers, dream catchers, wood and model glue.

Women Warriors: Gift certificates for haircuts, manicures/pedicures, body lotions, full sized shampoo/conditioner; eye shadow, lipstick, purses.

Donations of holiday wrapping paper and greeting cards would also be appreciated. Packages can be opened. Please indicate which program you wish to support unless the donation is obvious to Santa's elves who will be delivering the donations to the Hospital.

Holiday Gift Suggestions for Veteran Patients



- Gift Cards
- Baseball Hats
- Knit Hats
- Back Scratchers
- Watches
- Gloves/ Scarfs
- Book Lights
- Audio Books on CD
- CD players with headset
- Puzzle Books (including large print)
- Playing Cards
- Hand Held Electronic Games
- Calendars
- Note Pads

ANOTHER VA REQUEST

If you hosted a Thanksgiving dinner and have leftover napkins, disposable utensils, cups and plates, rather than letting them clutter your cabinets, please donate them to the VA's homeless program. They will be used for the walk-in veterans who come to the VA to do laundry, get a haircut or receive counseling.

TOYS FOR TOTS "Thanks"



Thanks to all who supported the annual *Toys for Tots* collection at our November dinner meeting. The Representatives from the Marine Corps League were delighted to receive 40 toys, a bag of cosmetics for the teenaged girls plus \$300 in cash. Your thoughtfulness will make some children very happy on Christmas morning.

All items were delivered to the Toys for Tots HQ in Tucson on Nov. 15.

Candidates for MOAA Chapter Board 2019

Joe Longo, 1LT USAR (former)- Chapter President

Elliott Jones, 1LT USAR (former)- 1st Vice President

Peggy McGee, COL USA (ret)- 2nd Vice President

Bettie Rundlett- Secretary

Myra McCune, CDR, USN (ret)- Treasurer

Marianne Rogers Faust, Col USAF (ret)- JROTC Coordinator

Jim Rundlett, CWO3 USCG (ret)- Personal Affairs Officer

Dick Kosnick Lt Col USAF (ret)- ESGR Representative

John Chernoski CDR USN (ret)- Legislative Affairs Officer

Jim Knox LCDR USN (ret)- President, 501(c)(3) Fund

Kelly Galvin CPT USA (ret)- Transition Officer

Peggy McGee, COL USA (ret)- Public Relations Officer

Marianne Rogers Faust, Col USAF (ret)- Historian

Linda Kosnick- Chaplain

Betty Eby-Deardorff- Surviving Spouse Liaison

Election was held at the November 14th dinner meeting. Board members will be sworn in at the December 10th dinner meeting.

VETERANS' DAY HAPPENINGS

Several of our members took part in various programs sponsored by local schools to pay tribute to our Nation's veterans. The grade school children from Continental School sang several patriotic songs and sported colorful hats in red, white and blue. John McGee represented GV MOA at this event.

Bob and Betty Atwater, Bettie Rundlett and Peggy McGee were among the approximately 300 who attended the Veterans Appreciation ceremony at Sahuarita Middle School. Bob Atwater and Peggy McGee were recognized for their military service. While the glee club sang patriotic songs, there was a photo display of many of the veterans in attendance or relatives of students and faculty. The Naval JROTC from Sahuarita High School provided the Honor Guard.

Jim Knox and Joe Longo placed the wreath at the Green Valley Cemetery on November 12. Several other Chapter members were also there despite the chilly morning.

Photos of these events are on the next page, or go to the website's Photo Gallery (greenvalleymoaa.org) for direct links to each November event's online photo albums. Photos: Betty Atwater, John McGee, and Peggy McGee.



Nov. 8, 2018

Turkeys for Troops, 162nd AZ ANG

Left to right:

Jim Knox, Barb Gavre (162nd AZ ANG), Dick Newman.

Nov. 9, 2018

Salute to Veterans Ceremony

JROTC Instructor Brad Roberson CDR (CMDR, American Legions Auxiliary) with one of the Cadets greeting visitors to the **Salute to Veterans** at the Sahuarita Auditorium.



Nov. 12, 2018

Veteran's Day Ceremony

Green Valley MOA President Jim Knox, GV MOA Membership Chair Joe Longo lay the GV MOA wreath at the Veteran's Day Ceremony.

Nov. 15, 2018

Toys for Tots Collection GV MOA Dinner Meeting

Left to right:

Jim Connor, Joe Longo, Phil Carper. Jim and Phil are from the Green Valley Marine Corps League Detachment.



2018-2019 EVENTS SCHEDULE

2018: December 10 – Holiday Dinner: Social: 5pm · Dinner: 5:30pm. Location: Quail Creek Clubhouse Ballroom #1.

2019

January 16 – Luncheon Meeting: 11:30am Social · 12pm. Location: Quail Creek Clubhouse Ballroom #1.

March 19 – “Mix & Mingle”: 4:30pm. Location: Quail Creek Clubhouse Lounge & Gold Room.

May 1 – JROTC Scholarship Dinner: Social: 5pm · Dinner: 5:30pm. Location: Quail Creek Clubhouse Ballroom 1 & 2.

September 18 – Luncheon Meeting: 11:30am · Social · 12pm. Location: Quail Creek Clubhouse Ballroom #3

November 13 – Dinner Meeting: Social: 5pm · Dinner: 5:30pm. Location: Quail Creek Clubhouse Ballroom #1.

December 10 – Holiday Dinner: Social: 5pm · Dinner: 5:30pm. Location: Quail Creek Clubhouse Ballroom # 1 & 2.

The Board of Directors meeting is the 1st Wednesday of each month 8:30-10am at the Friends in Deed Building, Green Valley. Members are welcomed to attend... join us!

There will be no Board meetings in June, July or August.

2019 OFFICERS, DIRECTORS and CHAIRS

(Area code is 520 unless otherwise indicated.)

President: 1LT Joseph Longo USA (Fmr) 509-645-4993

First Vice-President and Membership:
1LT Elliott Jones USA (Fmr) 399-3304

Second Vice-President:
COL Peggy McGee, USA (Ret) 207-6188

Secretary: Mrs. Bettie Rundlett 509-389-1696

Treasurer: CDR Myra McCune, USN (Ret) 399-3326

Immediate Past President, President, 501(c)(3):
LCDR James Knox, USN (Ret) 605-941-0335

National MOAA Board Member, Past President, Legislative Affairs:
CDR John Chernoski, USN, (Ret) 625-3909

ESGR Representative:
Lt Col Dick Kosnick, USAF, (Ret) 399-3310

Surviving Spouse Liaison: Betty Eby-Deardorff 625-3545

Director, Personal Affairs:
CWO3 James Rundlett, USCG (Ret) 509-389-4286

Chaplain:
Linda Kosnick

Director/JROTC Liaison:
COL Marianne Rogers Faust, USAF (Ret) 210-861-9440

Historian: COL Marianne Rogers Faust, USAF (Ret)
210-861-9440

Transition Liaison:
CPT Kelly Galvin, USA, (Ret) 393-0037

Public Relations Officer:
COL Peggy McGee, USA (Ret) 207-6188

Webmaster/Newsletter Editor:
Marianne Cobarrubias, webmaster@greenvalleymoaa.org

January 2019 newsletter deadline: DECEMBER 26, 2018

Submit articles/photos to: webmaster@greenvalleymoaa.org

Happy Birthday!

NOVEMBER

LTC Fredric E. Roeming
LTC Thelma A. Hendricks
Ruth Link
1LT John E. Bergstrom
Margaret Pahoresky
2LT Raymond W. Stafford
Gloria G. Contreras
Lt Col Richard M. Casey

DECEMBER

LtCol Richard S. Kosnick
LTC Barry N. Blum
Jackie H. Dow



JANUARY (all listed in birthdate order)

COL Marianne R. Faust
Col Dan Cassidy
CDR Irene T. Silverman
LtCol John C. McGee

If we don't have your birthday listed properly, we probably don't have it in our records. Contact Jim Knox at (605) 941-0335 to update the birthday list.

SPONSORS

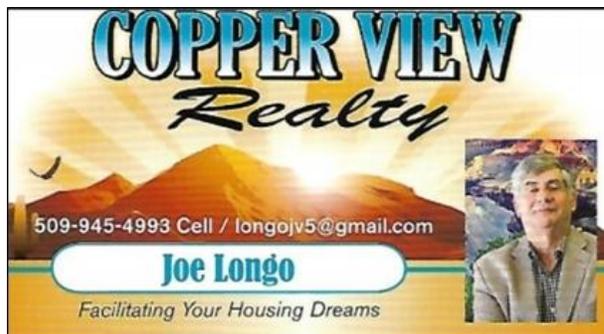
A special "thank you" to our sponsors who support MOAA of Green Valley with a sponsor ad.



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Joe Longo
Facilitating Your Housing Dreams



PHOTO GALLERY

Photos and video clips may be accessed in the Photo Gallery via a link in the website sidebar:

greenvalleymoaa.org

ARCHIVED NEWSLETTERS

Looking for back issues of the chapter's newsletter? Go to the News & Events page on the website:

greenvalleymoaa.org/news-events



TODAY THE WHOLE WORLD IS THE SAME AGE!

There's only one chance every 1,000 years.

Take your age + add your year of birth... every person is = 2018.

It is so strange that even Chinese and foreign experts can't explain it. You figure it out and see if it is 2018. It's a thousand-year wait!

FROM NATIONAL MOAA

SEVEN THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT VA'S NEW WEBSITE

Visitors to VA.gov will now see a new look for the Department of Veterans Affairs website, one VA officials say will improve beneficiaries' experience and increase the odds that they'll find the answers or contact information they're seeking online.

Here's a bit more about the new setup to get web surfers up to speed on the updated site that launched on Veterans Day.

1. **Preview of coming attractions.** Secretary Robert Wilkie told the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee last month that the new site would debut on Veterans Day, and that it would be part of his goal "to make accessing VA services seamless, effective, efficient, and emotionally resonant."
2. **A familiar feel.** The change comes exactly three years after the launch of Vets.gov, which went live in 2015 in an effort to "streamline a Veteran's experience to discover, apply for, track, and manage the benefits they have earned in one place using any device," according to [a 2017 report to Congress from the U.S. Digital Service](#). That site received more than 600,000 applications for health care and education benefits from its launch to the time of the 2017 report, and lessons learned in its construction impacted the new VA site.
3. **Picture perfect.** Just how related are the two platforms? Vets.gov and the new VA site both use black-and-white images representing VA beneficiaries in and out of uniform. In some cases, they're identical.
4. **What changed?** Like Vets.gov, the new VA site no longer spotlights feature stories or uses large photos to direct readers toward news on current events or hot-topic issues. As Marty Jacobs, the executive director of VA's digital services team, [told FCW for an Oct. 2 piece](#), "People don't come to government websites to read things. They come to get a task accomplished."
5. **What else changed?** More links are available on the main page. The old VA site had three categories displayed prominently (health care, benefits, and burials and memorials), but other information was stored in drop-down menus that was difficult to navigate, especially on mobile devices. The new site has four featured areas (health care, disability, education, and records), followed by a dozen clear headers that take visitors to information on career and employment, pension, home loans, and other benefits.
6. **Getting personal.** The new setup also allows beneficiaries to register for their own online account, which will enable them to create a personal page similar to an online banking portal, Jacobs told FCW. This feature, already available at Vets.gov, will allow the user to log on and receive personalized medical updates, check on claims and appeals, view available balances for education-related benefits, and read up on other individualized details.
7. **What's next?** A new tool designed to improve the process for veterans to apply for increased disability compensation is now in beta mode, meaning it's still undergoing tests prior to an official launch. Beneficiaries can use the beta version to file claims, and provide feedback on the process, [here](#).

KEY INDICATOR POINTS TO LARGEST MILITARY PAY RAISE IN 10-YEARS

The Employment Cost Index (ECI) was released at the end of October. When the administration's budget was released in February, there was quite a buzz regarding the 2.6 percent military pay raise as it was the largest raise in nine years. As the news cycled, the size of the raise became the dominant theme in the press and on Capitol Hill.

Somewhat ignored was a current, detailed explanation as to why the raise was so big. Per Title 37, Section 1009 of U.S. Code, the military pay raise is intended to match the Employment Cost Index for wages and salaries of private industry workers. The FY 2004 National Defense Authorization Act established the ECI percent increase of the third quarter of the calendar year as the metric for the military pay raise. For more details on ECI, see MOAA's assessment of [Military Pay Comparability](#).

The intent of tying military pay raises to private-sector wage growth is to take the guesswork and fiscal wrangling out of the decision process. As the national cost of labor goes up, so too should the military paycheck. Disregard this for several years and it negatively affects not just recruiting, but retention: When servicemembers hear about wage growth for their civilian counterparts as their pay stagnates, it prompts the more skilled and hireable individuals to look outside the fence ... and walk.

Previous pay raise shortages from the early 1980s through 1999 resulted in a staggering 13.5 percent cumulative military-civilian wage-increase gap. The impact to recruiting and retention was palpable, leading Congress to increase raises above ECI between 2000 and 2010 when balance was finally restored.

In FY 2017, MOAA engaged Congress for support to disregard the president's proposed 1.6 percent raise, which would have been the fourth short-raise in a row. Thankfully, with support from the leadership of the armed services committees, Congress passed the full 2.1 percent raise to match ECI, netting an at-par raise for the pay tables but doing nothing to reduce the cumulative 2.6 percent gap lagging from those earlier three years.

The FY 2018 NDAA saw another challenge when the secretary of defense proposed a 2.1 percent raise (presumably to match the previous year's raise), which was endorsed by the Senate. MOAA and The Military Coalition went neck deep into the fray to raise awareness and garner support for the full pay raise per the ECI. In conference, thankfully, the House and Senate agreed and the 2.4 percent raise was signed into law. Of course, the result was the first round of sticker shock: "The largest raise in eight years!"

MOAA and the Coalition again exerted efforts early on with the Armed Services Committees to ensure the full ECI-based 2.6 percent raise made it to the initial draft of the FY 2019 NDAA. The efforts were a success, the House and Senate both agreed and the president [signed into law](#) resulting in ... "the largest raise in nine years!"

Balancing any enthusiasm, we note some indications the number could go down. If the recent 10 years are any indication, the cumulative effect between Q2 and Q3 has a net change of minus 0.2 percentage points, so the straight math would indicate a potential for a drop. And "U.S. job growth slowed sharply in September likely as Hurricane Florence depressed restaurant and retail payrolls, but unemployment fell to a near 49-year low of 3.7 percent, pointing to a further tightening in labor market conditions." Either way, national labor costs need to impact military pay raises, the law says so, and we will remain vigilant in this pursuit.

CONTRIBUTORS

Betty Atwater · Barbara Brown · Tom Contreras
James Knox · John McGee · Peggy McGee

Proofing: Peggy McGee · Editor: Marianne Cobarrubias

VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

greenvalleymoaa.org