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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



In my very first formal correspondence with the Green Valley Chapter, I would like to thank all of you for your initial support and humbly request your continued support in the future.

Having inherited a vibrant and successful chapter, I wish to especially thank my immediate predecessors Jim Knox and Dick Newman whose guidance and suggestions I will be happy to continually solicit.

You may note some new names and faces on this year's Board of Directors. Hopefully this demonstrates a growing trend in new membership and participation. I personally appreciate the effort of members of the Board of Directors past and present and I have every faith that this year's BOD will be as productive as their predecessor.

Just a reminder to all our members that 2019 Chapter dues were due as of Dec 31, 2018. If you have not already brought your membership up-to-date, we ask that you please do so.

Some upcoming events to note for 2019: A Membership luncheon on Jan 16th at Quail Creek, March 19th Mix and Mingle, and May 1st the JROTC Scholarship Awards Dinner. On Jan 18th the local chapter of MOWW will host a "Massing of Colors" at the Sahuarita Unified School District at noon. All are invited to attend this thought-provoking ceremony. Attendance is free.

As a special note please be advised that the Green Valley Chapter will host the 2019 Chamber of Chapters annual meeting this fall in Green Valley. More details as they become available.



Again, thank you for your support and cooperation and consider me always available for suggestions and ideas to improve our Chapter. Pictured (left) are the 2019 Chapter board members.

Joseph Longo, 1LT USA (Former)
2019 Chapter President
Green Valley Chapter, MOAA

"Never Stop Serving"

LIFE AND WAR ON THE EDGE OF THE SPANISH COLONIAL FRONTIER

Peggy McGee

Our Chapter will start its 2019 program events with a luncheon on Wednesday, January 16 in Quail Creek's Madera Clubhouse. A social period will begin at 11:30 with lunch being served at noon.

The luncheon will feature a choice of Penne Pasta with roasted chicken and roasted vegetables with tomato basil sauce, Mozzarella and Parmesan cheeses, garlic bread or an Oriental Chicken Salad with mixed greens with snow peas, red peppers, carrots, Bok Choy and Napa cabbage with sliced marinated grilled chicken breast, Mandarin oranges, sesame soy dressing and crunchy Won Ton strips. Cost for the meal will be \$20. Reservations can be made by calling Barbara Brown at 520-625-8066 by January 7.

The guest speaker will be Rick Collins, a National Park Ranger with Tumacacori National Historical Park. His presentation, *Life and War on the Edge of the Spanish Colonial Frontier*, will address the presence of the Spanish colonial military in the middle of the 18th century along the frontier.

However, Rick will not only discuss the army, but he'll also include facts about the civilians and life in general.

Usually when one thinks of Arizona in Spanish Colonial times, images of crumbling adobe walls with ragged settlers cowering in fear, just waiting to suffer slow, tortured deaths at the hands of hostile Indians tend to surface. The truth is actually something quite different. The settlers of the frontier we know as the American Southwest were as tough and resourceful as any Davy Crocket or Daniel Boone. Danger and disease were always lingering about and the challenges of survival were many, but the settlers lived a good, successful life. Life was rough, but these colonists persevered and carved out settlements that impact every part of our lives today.

In addition to being a Park Ranger at the Tumacacori Mission, Rick also works with the Tubac Presidio State Park creating exhibits and interpretive programs. He served 6 years as the President of the Board of the Tucson Presidio, managing the takeover of the Presidio from the City and professionalizing programs. He coordinates the volunteers of the Juan Bautista de Anza Historic Trail's color guard providing public activities to promote the amazing trail.



Military Officers Association of America

Green Valley Chapter · Desert Duster Newsletter · January 2019 issue



January 16, 2019 Reservation Form - Social: 11:30 a.m. Luncheon: 12 p.m. Quail Creek Madera Clubhouse

Please make your reservations by January 7th!

Please reserve _____ places.

Cost: \$ _____ (\$20 per person)

Select Entrée choice:

(#1) Penne Pasta with roasted chicken and roasted vegetables with tomato basil sauce, Mozzarella and Parmesan cheeses, garlic bread

(#2) Oriental Chicken Salad with mixed greens with snow peas, red peppers, carrots, Bok Choy & Napa cabbage with sliced marinated grilled chicken breast, Mandarin oranges, sesame soy dressing & crunchy Won Ton strips

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 Entrée 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 Myra McCune as soon as possible, or you may pay your dues at the January luncheon.



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 GETS A NEW LEADER



Joe Longo became president of the Green Valley MOA Chapter on January 1, 2019. He was born and raised in Jersey City, N.J. Joe graduated from St. Peters University where he earned a Bachelor's Degree in Marketing and upon graduation received an ROTC Commission in the US Army. Assigned to the 32nd Air Defense Command in Europe, he served as Fire Control Officer, XO and ultimately Interim Battery Commander for A -1-67 (Nike Hercules Battery) in Darmstadt, Germany.

Upon discharge from the Army, Joe enrolled at the American Graduate School of International Management in Glendale, AZ. He received his Master's Degree in International Management and was hired by the American Insurance Group (AIG) for eventual posting abroad. While training for his foreign assignment he spent time in the San Francisco and Seattle AIG offices. Here he met his future wife Diane and shortly after their marriage, they were sent to Monrovia, Liberia from where Joe worked and traveled to various AIG offices in West Africa. Two years later Joe was transferred to the AIG Puerto Rico office where he worked and traveled to almost every major island in the Caribbean and parts of South America.

Tiring of the wanderlust Joe and his family moved back to the United States and eventually settled in Diane's home town, Yakima, WA. After purchasing a small business Joe concurrently worked in the local media and advertising field. In his limited spare time Joe served four years as President of Sun Valley Shooting Park in Yakima and held various positions including President of the Safari Club Central WA Chapter.

After selling his business in Yakima, Joe and Diana became snowbirds in Green Valley for a few years before making the decision to make Green Valley their permanent home. At that time, he was introduced to the MOAA and became an active member of the Green Valley Chapter. Prior to his election to president, Joe served as the Chapter's Secretary and Vice President.

Joe is also currently President of the Pacific Northwest Club in Green Valley and works as a Realtor for Copperview Realty.

Having worked and played in many places in the world the Longo's love being in Green Valley and look forward to the visits of their two sons and six grandchildren. Photo: John McGee

ANNUAL MASSING OF THE COLORS EVENT PLANNED

Peggy McGee

Mark your calendars for the Massing of the Colors program that will be held on Friday, January 18 at noon in the Sahuarita Unified School District Auditorium, 350 W. Sahuarita Road. This year's event will be co-sponsored by the Military Order of the World Wars (MOWW) and the Naval JROTC from Sahuarita High School.



The ceremony will usher in the *2019 Martin Luther King* observance weekend in remembrance of just how far we have come as a nation. Each year the MOWW gathers to celebrate military service and service to the local community and renews a standing commitment to the development of America's youth.



This free event salutes not only currently serving, former and retired members of the military, but also police officers, fire fighters and others who work around the clock to keep us safe to enjoy the quality of life that we as Americans often take for granted.

Photos: Peggy McGee

162ND FOOD LOCKER DONATION

Dick Newman

On December 10th, at the Green Valley AZ. MOAA Chapter meeting, Santa came early to the 162nd Fighter Wing of the Arizona Air National Guard, non-perishable food bank. Mrs. Barbara Gavre, Program Manager of the Airmen and Family Readiness Program of the 162nd is pictured receiving a check for \$2,000 from the chapter. Presenting the check is Dick Newman, President of the Green Valley Chapters' 501 (c) (3) fund. The food bank serves families of enlisted personnel as well as providing food packages for deployed members of the guard unit. A generous grant from the Overwatch Alliance made this support possible.

Barbara Gavre, Family Readiness Program Manager for the 162nd Fighter Wing, Tucson Air National Guard, is all smiles as she receives a check for \$2000 from Dick Newman, President of the Green Valley MOA Scholarship and Military Assistance Fund.



Photo: Peggy McGee

KNIT WITS GO ON KNITTING SPREE

Donna Lou Hetler

Throughout 2018, the Green Valley MOAA Knit Wits knit up a storm of handmade items for local and national vets. The six members, Donna Lou Hetler, Lynda Linker, Donna Herrera, Ruth Link, Sharon Rychener and Polly Casey, knit hats, scarves, baby blankets, and afghans for several service organizations to help keep both active military, veterans, and their families warm this winter.

This year the group provided:

- 48 hats for the Black Hand MI Battalion at Fort Huachuca for the troops as they deploy overseas.
- 70 scarves for Operation Gratitude which ships Christmas packages to service personnel overseas.
- 2 adult afghans, 5 baby afghans, 2 car seat afghans, 2 hats for two pregnant homeless vets in the Tucson area.
- 20 afghans, 10 baby afghans, and 4 car afghans were donated to the VA hospital for local veterans.
- 4 homeless veteran mother gift sets to include toiletries were provided for the expectant moms. There were mini-afghans for the babies.



A special thanks to our MOAA chapter for providing funding for a twice a year shopping spree to Tucson for yarn! And a special thanks to Peggy McGee for her organizing the baskets for the homeless women who are expecting. The Knit Wits welcome new members, both knitters and crocheters. We meet twice a month. Even if cannot attend the meetings, items are welcome. We will see they get into vets' hands to use. If interested, contact Donna Lou Hetler at 399-3550.

Photo caption: Baskets for delivery to a very special baby and Mom. Within minutes after she delivered the layette baskets to the VA, Peggy received an email from the deputy of the homeless program at the VA saying "They are absolutely beautiful! Thank you, MOAA Knit Wits". Photo: Peggy McGee

HOMELESS AND HOSPITALIZED VETERANS SEND THEIR THANKS

Peggy McGee

The VA Hospital sent its thanks to the Chapter for all the support we have given them throughout 2018. A special thanks to all who brought in the 8 lbs. of toiletries, 7 lbs. of calendars and greeting cards and two overflowing very large bags of books to our holiday dinner. They were delivered to the VA the following day.

Unfortunately, the need for help doesn't end with the Christmas season, so please keep saving those unopened travel sized toiletries for the homeless veterans and greeting cards and 2019 calendars for the hospitalized veterans. Those in the hospital also appreciate puzzle books, small board games, and books. If you had holiday parties and have leftover paper supplies and disposable utensils, the walk-in section for the homeless will put them to good use. Packages may be opened.

There is also an ongoing need for socks and underwear for both men and women. Sizes small and medium are most needed for the men. These items must be new but packages may be opened.

All donations may be brought to our luncheon meeting on January 16. Thanks for all you do to help those who have served our country.

2019 EVENTS SCHEDULE

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

January 18 – Annual Massing of the Colors at 12pm in the Sahuarita Unified School District Auditorium, 350 W. Sahuarita Road

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. NOTE: The January 2019 board meeting will be on the second Wednesday (the 9th).

Members are welcomed to attend... join us!

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

2019 OFFICERS, DIRECTORS & 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 and Programs:
COL Peggy McGee, USA (Ret) 207-6188

Secretary: Jadine Hilt (414) 350-7821

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 399-3310

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

SPONSORS

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

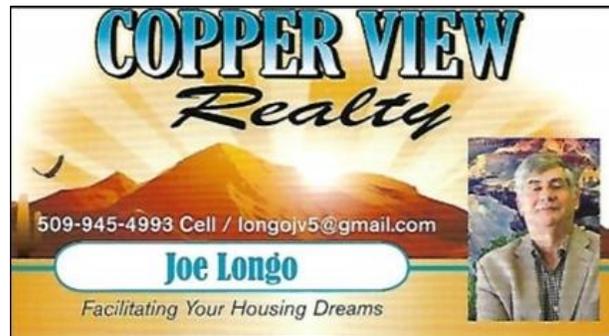


PHOTO GALLERY

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

FROM NATIONAL MOAA

State of the VA: Benefit Upgrades, New Website, and New Offices

True to his word, Secretary Robert Wilkie has been busy calming the waters at Veterans Affairs, implementing reforms to improve the veteran experience, and streamlining the delivery of services he committed to improving when taking office on July 30, 2018.

Customer service is one of Wilkie's top priorities. This month he rolled out a number of initiatives to honor his commitment to making VA a friendlier and easier place for veterans to be served:

1. [VA.gov Redesign](#). After gathering feedback from over 5,000 veterans, servicemembers, their families, caregivers and survivors, VA took a bold step forward in modernizing its homepage to help veterans navigate the website to get at the content they need, quicker and easier. With 10 million visits a month to the website, customers frequently voice their complaints and frustration with the layout and navigability, saying it focused too much on presenting information about VA as an organization and not what customers need.

“Veterans, their families, caregivers and our many customers have successful online transactions in their day-to-day lives,” Wilkie said. “They should expect the same exceptional digital experience coming to VA. Our customers will receive a more simple and intuitive experience when accessing our online front door - the new VA.gov.”

Tell MOAA know what you think of the website redesign at legis@MOAA.org.

2. Benefits Initiatives. VA also announced some benefit improvements to help servicemembers and veterans in need-see how these improvements may help you or someone you know:

- [Benefits Delivery at Discharge Program](#)- new improvements allow servicemembers filing disability claims between 90 to 180 days before they separate from service to receive a decision on their claim within 30 days of discharge.
- [Veterans Impacted by Super Typhoon Yutu and Hurricanes Florence and Michael](#) - VA declared the typhoon in the Northern Mariana Islands and hurricanes in Florida, North Carolina and Georgia significant disasters to warrant prioritizing and moving veteran benefits appeals claims to the top of the list for resolution.
- [Free Federal Agency Legal Assistance](#) - VA joined with the Departments of Labor, Justice, Defense, Homeland Security, and others, committing to improving and increasing access to free legal services for veterans facing eviction or home foreclosures, driver's license revocations, child support or those with other critical needs that impact their ability to work or seek health care.

3. [VA Health System Realignment](#). Just before the Thanksgiving holiday, VA announced its plan for reorganizing the Veterans Health Administration (VHA). The plan is part of a bigger initiative directed through an [executive order](#) signed last year by President Donald Trump, requiring reorganization of the entire federal government. The plan is to break up dozens of program offices, consolidating them into four offices to provide “greater accountability and clearer governance over these critical functional areas” - an integration and consolidation effort Wilkie says will reduce bureaucracy and help the agency focus on the veteran.

The four new offices are:

- The Office of Population Health. This will focus on health care in a particular region, looking at population segments and markets to eliminate administrative burdens and redundancies, while aligning VA with other federal agencies and private institutions to promote best practices and standards.
- The Discovery, Education and Affiliates Networks (DEAN) Office. This combines two former offices, the Office of Academic Affiliations and the Office of Research and Development. The office is charged with advancing cutting-edge medical care and innovations to address the complex health issues of veterans. It also provides a platform for the next generation of physicians to deliver the most innovative care, thus also improving medical care for all Americans as VA history of [medical innovations](#) has shown.
- Engineering and environment of care functions will merge into a single office to address environmental and safety issues across the system to ensure VA continues to deliver high quality health care.
- Human resources functions delivered through four different offices at VA headquarters will combine into a single office to improve efficiency, transparency and provide more consistent service across VHA.

FEDVIP Enrollment Officially Extended for Three Months

Sign-ups for the Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP) have officially extended for three months, officials at the Office of Personnel Management have informed MOAA.

Open Season ended Dec. 10, however OPM has granted a "belated enrollment phase" for potential beneficiaries who missed the first deadline. Sign-ups should be granted until about mid-March.

The Military Officers Association of America influenced OPM to grant more time for beneficiaries.

"We kept the spotlight on this by tracking enrollment and communicating whenever our members had feedback or an issue," said Capt. Kathy Beasely, USN (Ret), MOAA's director of health affairs.

Enrollees in the TRICARE Retiree Dental Program are required to sign up for FEDVIP if they wish to maintain dental insurance. FEDVIP provides 10 choices for dental coverage. As of early Dec. 13, about 639,00 beneficiaries had signed up for dental coverage. The target goal is at least 800,000 signups. Vision coverage is also offered, through four carriers. FEDVIP vision plans help pay for routine vision appointments and frames, lens and contacts. As of Dec. 13, about 300,000 people had signed up for vision.

To enroll online visit BENEFEDS.com or call, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Eastern, at 1-877-888-3337.

OPM announced the belated enrollment phase in a Dec. 13 meeting at the Defense Health Agency in Arlington, Va., attended by military and veteran service organizations. Officials said that 80 percent of signups have occurred online and that the overall process has earned a 92 percent satisfaction rating from those surveyed.

OPM will review its Open Season policies and identify changes that might improve the process in 2019.

For those who have signed up: You will not see premiums taken out of your account until February. FEDVIP bills beneficiaries after each month of coverage.

Still Working at 65? Here's What Happens to Your TRICARE Benefits

By law, TRICARE Prime and Select must end at age 65. At age 65, TRICARE converts to a Medicare supplement. To continue TRICARE coverage at age 65 and beyond, you must have Medicare Parts A and B, so TRICARE can supplement the Medicare.

You do not permanently lose TRICARE eligibility by not enrolling in Medicare at age 65. You just delay Medicare/TRICARE coverage. Delaying Medicare enrollment at age 65 carries Part B premium penalties unless you follow the proper procedures for delaying, as explained below.

If you still are working, you have three options:

- Use your employer-sponsored health care plan without Medicare/TRICARE.
- Use Medicare/TRICARE only.
- Use both your Medicare/TRICARE and your employer's plan. You can be enrolled in Medicare Part A alone at age 65 at no cost while using your employer's plan if you delay Part B/TRICARE.

You still must be working and using your employer's health plan to delay Medicare enrollment at age 65. After you stop working, you have eight months to enroll in Medicare before late enrollment penalties kick in. Your eight-month clock starts at the end of your health plan or the end of work, whichever is first. Enroll in Medicare before the end of the health plan or work to ensure your Medicare is in force before your current health plan ends.

Being covered by an employer's *retiree* health plan does not count for penalty-free delayed Medicare enrollment. You must be working and covered by an employer's health plan.

If you are U.S. Family Health Plan (USFHP) members and you enrolled in the plan on or before Sept. 30, 2012, and have remained enrolled, you may receive your care through the USFHP even after you turn 65. If you enrolled in USFHP on or after Oct. 1, 2012, the law requires that you be transferred to Medicare/TRICARE when you turn 65.

However, if you move outside an USFHP area or dis-enroll from the USFHP after age 65 and then enroll in Medicare Parts A and B, you will pay delayed enrollment Part B premium penalties. To plan for worse-case, you might want to enroll in Medicare Parts A and B at age 65 regardless of USFHP coverage.

Medicare Advantage plans are Medicare Parts A and B. TRICARE works the same with Medicare Advantage plans as it does with government-sponsored Parts A and B.

CONTRIBUTORS

Barbara Brown · Donna Lou Hetler · Joe Longo
John McGee · Peggy McGee · Dick Newman

Proofing: Peggy McGee · Editor: Marianne Cobarrubias

VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

greenvalleymoaa.org

March 2019 newsletter deadline: FEBRUARY 27

Submit articles/photos to: webmaster@greenvalleymoaa.org