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greenvalleymoaa.org



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Winding down the spring season for 2020, we have two membership events remaining, our annual Mix and Mingle on March 18 and the recently rescheduled JROTC Scholarship Dinner now set for Tuesday, April 28.

With regard to the Mix and Mingle, our resident "gamesters" Jadine Hilt and Peggy McGee are putting together a program we call "Team Trivia". Teams will compete to answer relevant trivia questions in written form and prizes will be awarded. Whether you actively participate as a team member or merely as an observer, I think you will enjoy playing along.

In January our Chapter promoted a MOAA day at the local Mod Pizza. Twenty percent of all sales identified as from MOAA participants was awarded to the Chapter Scholarship Fund. We hope to have similar events in the future. Thanks to all those who participated and especially to Peggy McGee who put this event together. (See page 2 for additional information on the Mix and Mingle, and the MOD Pizza events.)

Joseph Longo 1st LT USA (Former)
2019-2020 Chapter President
Green Valley Chapter, MOAA

**DUE TO THE CLOSURE OF THE
QUAIL CREEK MADERA CLUBHOUSE
FOR RENOVATIONS, THE
SCHOLARSHIP DINNER MEETING
HAS BEEN MOVED TO APRIL.**

Mark your calendars!

**NEW
DATE** **April 28** (a Tuesday!)
Social 5pm · Dinner 5:30pm

Mix and Mingle Coming in March

Peggy McGee, 2nd Vice President/Programs; Public Relations Officer



Our annual Mix and Mingle has been scheduled for Wednesday, March 18 from 4:30-6:30 PM in the Madera Clubhouse Ballroom.

The purpose of the Mix and Mingle is not only to give current members a chance to socialize in a very relaxed setting but also to invite potential members to join them to learn what the Chapter does to help members as well as the local community. Light hors d'oeuvres like meatballs, Pot Stickers, Spinach Artichoke dip and pinwheel sandwiches will be served. **The bar will not be open but wine and beer will be available for purchase. Cash or Quail Creek Credit card only.** The cost for the event is \$15. Your Chapter is paying the remainder of the cost.

A highlight of the evening will be a Trivia game in which attendees will form teams to determine who can recall facts learned in the past most quickly. Prizes will be awarded.

If any of your neighbors or friends is an officer, please invite them to join us on March 18. Spouses of deceased officers are also invited to join our Chapter. Dues are \$25/year for military members and \$15 for spouses.

Reservations can be made by mailing in the reservation form included in this newsletter (page 4) to arrive no later than March 8. If you miss the deadline, please call Phil Lamb at (520) 771-6098 or (503) 730-3664.

MOD Pizza Day Earned Money for Scholarships

Peggy McGee, 2nd Vice President/Programs; Public Relations Officer



Thanks to all that joined the Board at MOD Pizza on January 22 to help raise needed funds for the Scholarship and Military Assistance Fund.

The event earned us \$111.86. We will probably schedule one more date at MOD Pizza before our summer break. MOD Pizza will donate 20% of all sales on that date to our Fund if we tell them that we are there to support the MOAA Scholarship Fund. We will let you know when the event is scheduled.

Introducing New Member, John Green

Peggy McGee, 2nd Vice President/Programs; Public Relations Officer

Former Air Force Captain John Green recently joined our Chapter after moving to Green Valley. While a student at the University of Evansville, Ohio, where he earned a BS in Business, John served as Corps Commander in the AFROTC in the fall 1967 and was the Distinguished Graduate of the AFROTC in 1968. He completed the Air University Squadron Officer School in 1970. After graduating from the University, he served as Air Force Auditor General, USAF Officer (Captain) and Internal Auditor from June 10, 1968 to June 30 1972. He performed managerial audits of defense maintenance supply and finance operations and managed a small detachment staff. John also served one year in Vietnam.



After his release from active duty John served on the audit staff of Arthur Andersen & Company, an international public accounting firm where he specialized in audits of regulated business and performed audits of manufacturing firms and government agencies. He then worked at Hillsdale College where he was responsible for all accounting, business office, data processing and purchasing functions. He was also responsible for budget preparation, insurance management, short-term investments and endowment performance monitoring. He was later employed by Franciscan University of Steubenville (FUS), where over a period of 11 years he served as Vice President for Administration and Treasurer as well as Executive Vice President. While at FUS, John earned a Master in Business Administration degree in 1987.

From there he joined the staff at Ohio Northern University where he was Vice President for Financial Affairs from August, 1993 until his retirement in August, 2008. In this role John was responsible for all financial operations including controller office, purchasing, auxiliary services, investments, and treasury functions. He was also responsible for the physical plant, communication services, security, personnel and construction.

Following John on all his moves was his wife Sandy. Married almost 54 years, John and Sandy currently reside in Quail Creek. John has sung in church choirs, and enjoys sailing, mountain climbing, hiking and golf. He currently volunteers at the Titan Missile Museum.

Military Officers Association of America

Green Valley Chapter · Desert Duster Newsletter · MARCH 2020 Issue



March 18, 2020 · Mix & Mingle: 4:30–6:30 PM Quail Creek Madera Clubhouse – Crystal Ballroom

Please make your reservations by MARCH 8th

Please reserve _____ places for me for the “Mix & Mingle” social event.

Cost: \$_____ (\$15 per person)

Check # _____ Attn: GV MOAA Reservation
--

Mail check and reservation form to:
MOAA 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 1 _____

Guest 2 _____

Guest 3 _____

Guest 4 _____

If you require a ride to the meeting, program or event, 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 Phil Lamb at 520-771-6098 or 503-730-3664. 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.

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 **Phil Lamb at 520-771-6098 or 503-730-3664.**

Lobbying for Military Pension

Dick Newman, GV MOAA Chapter Past-President

As you probably know, the Governor is supporting the exclusion of military pensions from the annual income tax computation. For some 30 years, the exclusion has been limited to \$2,500. It was increased by \$1,000 last year.

While many of us are not receiving a military pension, the "Arizona Exclusion" is pitiful. The "buying power" of that exclusion has been eroded by inflation. Arizona has nearly the smallest exclusion in the country. Perhaps some of you have read my rough draft of my support of the exclusion of the pension from tax computation.

I am confident that if I am the only person to request that our elected officials support the Governor's position, the email would reach the trash can quickly. However, if you join me in sending you memo supporting the exclusion, there might be a chance the legislation would pass.

Feel free to use any part of my email (sent to Chapter members on February 2nd) or just ask the question, "Do you support the Governor's position on excluding the military pension from income computation for state tax purposes"?

Thanks for your support in this lobbying effort.

Message from MOAA Arizona Council Legislative Chair

John Chernoski, GV MOAA Chapter Legislative Affairs, and Lee Lange, Legislative Chair, AZ Council of Chapters

There are two important veterans' issues being considered by the state legislature. The first seeks an increase in funding for six additional Veteran Benefits Counselor (VBC) positions. SB1044, sponsored by Sen David Livingston calls for six new VBC's. It was passed by the Senate on February 4 and sent to the House for further action. A similar bill, HB2139, sponsored by Representative Jay Lawrence, passed the House Appropriations Committee on February 12. Arizona needs at least twelve more VBC's. The plan is to gain approval for six this year and six more next year. This issue on track for now.

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The second issue is a proposal that calls for full exemption of military retired pay from state taxes for some 50,000 veterans in Arizona. This \$45M Initiative would be retroactive to tax year 2020. In his State of the State message on January 13, Governor Ducey called for full exemption of military retired pay from state tax, retroactive to 2020. This remarkable initiative thanks the 50,000 military retirees in the state for their service and sends a strong signal that Arizona is a veteran friendly state and open for business.

Full exemption of military retired pay from state tax, retroactive to 2020, is in the Governor's Budget and the Senate Budget - but not in the House Budget. Representative Gail Griffin is leading the fight in the House and needs help from military retirees in the state in contacting three key state legislators on her tax exemption bill, HB2676. Multiple calls/emails are needed to Rep Regina Cobb, R-District 5 (Kingman), Rep Timothy Dunn R - District 13 (Yuma), and Rep Leo Biasiucci R - District 5 (Kingman) telling them we want their support for including the provisions of HB2676 in the House Budget.

Rep Cobb Chairs the House Appropriations Committee and all three are involved in formulating the House Budget. We need to make as many contacts with these legislators as we can by Monday of next week.

Rep Leo Biasiucci R - District 5	602 926-3018	lbiasiucci@azleg.gov
Rep Regina Cobb, R-District 5	602 926-3126	rcobb@azleg.gov
Rep Timothy Dunn R - District 13	602 926-4139	tdunn@azleg.gov

The tax exemption initiative contained in HB2676 is strongly supported by Governor Ducey and is considered a work force initiative in that Arizona needs to attract more veterans and retirees to meet the demands of a booming economy. There are 31 states that either have no income tax or exempt full military retired pay. To be competitive and be viewed as a military friendly state by future retirees, Arizona needs to approve this initiative.

Thanks in advance.

Lee Lange
Legislative Chair, AZCOC
(703) 232-3609

Thank You for Your Participation

Marianne Rogers Faust, Director/JROTC Liaison



We are fortunate to have 70 military and 12 auxiliary members in our Green Valley MOAA Chapter. Our Chapter is unique in that it is comprised of retired or former commissioned and warrant officers from the five branches of military service.

Our Chapter has two primary functions. Our first objective is to keep up with events that are taking place with the military in our country. We try to do this by presenting items of significance and interest in our newsletter and by featuring highly qualified speakers at our events. Our second function is to act as a charitable organization thru our 501(c)(3) designation to support our JROTC scholarships, to provide funds for military family food banks, to support Honor Flights, and to provide knitted goods and personal care items to VA hospitals in our area as well as sending memorial gifts to honor members who have passed on.

Additionally, each year our "Turkeys for Troops" program has been successful in providing Thanksgiving provisions for 30 families who serve in the 162nd Fighter Wing, Arizona Air National Guard. As reported in our newsletter last month, your generosity in 2019 set a record and will continue to help us maintain our status as a charitable organization.

Our former president, Dick Newman, has done an outstanding job for several years securing grants from various entities. However, obtaining money for scholarships from grants has become very difficult and we need your continued financial support to accomplish our goals. As you may have read or learned from your grandchildren, costs for college seem to escalate every year. We hope you will consider further participation in Chapter events and make contributions to help us continue our proud record of JROTC scholarships and support for all phases of military life.

Travel-Sized Toiletries Desperately Needed by the VA

Peggy McGee, 2nd Vice President/Programs; Public Relations Officer

The VA sent out a desperate plea this week for **unopened** travel sized toiletries for the homeless veterans who come to the Homeless Center for a shower. They are also in need of toilet paper for those still on the streets as well as those who are being moved into housing and need to set up an apartment. And they are still accepting 2020 calendars, both in wall and wallet styles if you have extras. If you travelled and have some of those toiletries just taking up room in a bathroom drawer, please bring them to the Mix & Mingle on March 18.

Thanks for your help. This is the first time in my 12 years of collecting donations for the homeless program that the VA has ever sent out a request for toiletries so they must really be running low.

Tax Deadline Is Just Over the Horizon

Peggy McGee, 2nd Vice President/Programs; Public Relations Officer

There were several changes to the 2019 tax code that will impact tax preparation efforts this year. Perhaps the biggest is with the Arizona return which now mirrors the federal return when it comes to standard deductions. For single filers it's \$12,200 and married filing jointly (MFJ) \$24,400. For those over 65 the amounts are slightly higher.

Another positive for the AZ return is that military retirees get up to a \$3500 deduction from their pension income or an amount up to the level of their AZ tax obligation. And whether or not one itemizes, the dollar-for-dollar credits for donations to public schools, charities that help the working poor, foster care programs still apply.



Credits that expired at the end of tax year 2018 (e.g., installing energy efficient air conditioners, treatment of mortgage insurance premiums as qualified interest for itemized deductions) were added back in on December 20, 2019 and made retroactive to January 1, 2018. That means 2018 returns will have to be amended for one to claim any of these credits.

If all of this seems too daunting, you might want to consider the services of the volunteers of the AARP Tax-Aide program. The volunteers are certified by the IRS each year. And the price is right—it's free. Both Federal and AZ returns are filed electronically so your wait time for a refund is about 3 weeks shorter than if one files by mail. The volunteers are only trained to complete AZ returns; therefore, they cannot prepare returns for other states.

Tax prep assistance will be provided at:

St. Francis-In-The-Valley Episcopal Church, 600 S. La Canada Drive, on Mondays from 1:00 to 6 PM and Fridays from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. The site will be closed on Friday, March 6.

Taxes are prepared at La Posada Recreation Center, 501 La Posada Circle, on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Hours are 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM on both days. The site will be closed on March 12 and April 9.

No new clients accepted one hour prior to closing at either site.

For questions on what to bring in addition to last year's tax return, please contact COL Peggy McGee, pjmcgee@cox.net or (520) 207-6188.

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

2020 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.**

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE 2020 LUNCHEON AND DINNER MEETING DATES

January 15 – Luncheon Meeting: 11:30am Social · 12:00pm. Location: Quail Creek Clubhouse Ballroom #1.

March 18 – “Mix & Mingle”: 4:30pm. Location: Quail Creek Clubhouse Ballroom.

NEW DATE! April 28 – JROTC Scholarship Dinner: Social: 5pm · Dinner: 5:30pm. Location: Quail Creek Clubhouse Ballroom 1 & 2.

September 16 – Luncheon Meeting: 11:30am · Social · 12:00pm. Location: Quail Creek Clubhouse Ballroom #3

November 9 – Dinner Meeting: Social: 5pm · Dinner: 5:30pm. Location: Quail Creek Clubhouse Ballroom #1.

December 9 – 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.

2020 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) (847) 366-6466

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

Secretary: Jadine Hilt (414) 350-7821

Acting Treasurer: COL Peggy McGee, USA (Ret) 207-6188

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) 867-8999

Surviving Spouse Liaison: Betty Eby-Deardorff 625-3545

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

Chaplain: Linda Kosnick 867-8999

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

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

Transition Liaison:
(OPEN)

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

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

SPONSORS

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

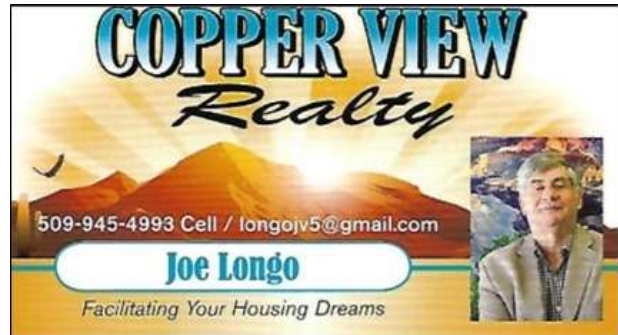


PHOTO GALLERY

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

MOAA NATIONAL NEWS

Dozens of Military Medical Facilities Will Stop Treating Families, Retirees

[A recent article published by Military.com](#) gives us the first look at the Defense Health Agency's plan to move approximately 200,000 military family members, retirees, and their families and survivors into the TRICARE civilian network.

Congress directed this rightsizing of the direct care system as part of [comprehensive Military Health System \(MHS\) Reform legislation](#) included in the FY17 NDAA. Specifically, Sec. 703 of the legislation required DoD to develop an implementation plan to restructure and realign military treatment facilities (MTFs). The congressional intent of these changes is to sharpen focus of the MHS on readiness of both operational forces and the medical professionals.

Military.com obtained a memo that details the impacts of the proposed MTF restructuring. Highlights of the restructuring include:

- 50 hospitals and clinics will be impacted. Services at 48 MTFs will be reduced while two may be expanded. A full list is available on the [MOAA website](#).
- At 38 outpatient clinics, DoD recommends reducing the scope of MTFs to serve only active-duty servicemembers, while in many cases maintaining pharmacy services for all beneficiaries.

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It is estimated that approximately 200,000 beneficiaries who receive care at the MTFs identified for reduction in operations will transition to civilian providers in the TRICARE network. Based on TRICARE enrollment data included in the [FY19 Annual Evaluation of the TRICARE Program Report to Congress](#), MOAA believes this represents about 10% of the 1.95 million TRICARE Prime beneficiaries (not including active-duty servicemembers) enrolled to military primary care managers.

VA Announces Further Delay on Agent Orange Presumptive Diseases

The VA just released its reasons for delaying presumption on four illnesses connected to Agent Orange. The four presumptives -- bladder cancer, hypothyroidism, Parkinson-like symptoms, and hypertension -- affect at least an estimated 83,000 veterans.

In its report, the VA announced plans to delay coverage to await the results of additional research. This decision is puzzling since the National Academy of Science, Engineering, and Medicine's (NASEM) level of scrutiny has been met for the VA to add these presumptives to the list of veterans' [diseases associated with Agent Orange](#). NASEM's reports stated that [bladder cancer](#), [hypothyroidism](#), [Parkinson's-like symptoms](#), and [hypertension](#) fall among the health problems linked to Agent Orange exposure.

With the VA challenging the scientific community and requiring additional studies, [as occurred with the Blue Water Navy Act \(H.R. 299\)](#), more congressional action is required to get the VA to take care of veterans. Please [reach out to your representative](#) and ask them to support [H.R. 5610](#), the Fair Care for Vietnam Veterans Act, which will mandate the VA cover these four illnesses connected to Agent Orange exposure.

Newsletter Contributors

John Chernoski, Marianne Rogers Faust, Peggy McGee, Dick Newman

**April 2020 newsletter deadline:
APRIL 8**