

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Green Valley Chapter · DESERT DUSTER NEWSLETTER

June 2023 · Summer Issue



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



We hope you will be able to join us at 8:30 a.m. for the 4th of July Parade in Quail Creek. We will be collecting food for Air National Guard troops as well as selling Jim Click and 50-50 raffle tickets. See page 3 for details.



We are always looking for new members to join the Board to share ideas. Please let me know if you have interest in serving on our Board. We meet at Friends in Deed at 9 a.m. on the first Wednesday of the month, (September thru May). Our next meeting is Sept. 6th.

Our Chapter has a Facebook page that can be accessed at: facebook.com/GVMOAA. Please follow and **Like** us.

MOAA on a National basis continues to support veterans and the military community. At the end of April, the Advocacy in Action program shifted to full speed mode in Washington, DC. Members from National MOAA and the Arizona Council of Chapters met with members of Congress to gain support for issues important to the military community. Our own Nora Durham participated in these discussions. This year the key issues are:

1. BAH – The housing allowance for active-duty members was reduced to 95% from 100%. MOAA is working to restore the allowance to 100%.
2. Reinstatement of TRICARE Pharmacies that have been closed.

Here is what you should know if you are eligible for both TRICARE and the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program. [Click/tap for details.](#)

Our chapter was awarded the Marvin J. Harris Communications five-star rating for our web page and newsletter. Special thanks to Marianne Cobarrubias and COL Peggy McGee for their efforts.

Looking forward to seeing you on the 4th. Meanwhile, have a safe and pleasant summer.

Elliott Jones 1LT USA (former)
2022-2023 Chapter President
Green Valley Chapter, MOAA

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Cadets earn scholarships in May. (L-R) Cadet Christopher Pena, Cadet Shayla Blair, Cadet Landon Palmer.

QUICK LINKS

[GV MOAA WEBSITE](#)

[GV MOAA member page](#)

GREEN VALLEY/SAHUARITA
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

We're on Facebook: facebook.com/GVMOAA

MOAA.org/takeaction

MOAA's "Never Stop Serving" Podcasts



CADETS EARN SCHOLARSHIPS

Marianne Rogers Faust, Director/JROTC Liaison

Our Chapter held its annual scholarship dinner on May 9th at the Grill on the Green at Canoa Ranch. Scholarships for \$2,500 were awarded to two Naval JROTC cadets for outstanding leadership, community involvement, and contributions to their units. All the cadets spoke to the dinner attendees about the significant lessons they learned by participating in JROTC. Photos by Mike & Marianne Faust



COL Marianne Faust and Community Partner Rob Sanchez present scholarship certificate to Cadet Shayla Blair.

⇐ **Cadet Shayla Blair** is from Sahuarita High School and hopes to pursue a career in mental health therapy at ASU. The scholarship was presented to Cadet Blair by our Community Partner, Rob Sanchez, Area Manager of Guaranteed Rate.



MG Jim Whitehead and COL Marianne Faust awarded a scholarship certificate to Cadet Landon Palmer.

Cadet Landon Palmer ➔

from Walden Grove High School plans to attend BYU with a major in either mechanical or aerospace engineering.



COL Marianne Faust and Donna Lou Hetler awarded the Richard G. Newman scholarship to Cadet Christopher Pena.

⇐ A \$2,500 scholarship was also presented to **Cadet Christopher Pena** who participated in the Air Force JROTC program at Nogales High School. This award was named in honor of the late Richard G. Newman (former, U.S. Army 1st Lieutenant), one of the past presidents of our GV MOAA Chapter who secured special grants to assist students in Santa Cruz County. His widow, Donna Lou Hetler, attended

and helped present the scholarship to Cadet Pena who plans to initially attend Pima Community College. He eventually hopes to pursue a career in a medical or health-related field.



May 9, 2023 -- 1LT Elliott Jones, Chapter President, and COL Marianne Faust with Cadet Christopher Pena, the Richard G. Newman scholarship recipient.

ANNUAL FOOD FOR THE TROOPS COLLECTION

Peggy McGee, 2nd Vice President/Programs



Independence Day is just around the corner and that means **it is time for the annual collection of non-perishable food items for the young airmen at the 162nd Fighter Wing, Arizona Air National Guard.** Favorites on their list are all varieties of Chef-Boy-R-Dee products, granola bars, pasta and sauces, tuna, and canned meats.

Because many of the airmen have young children, packets of dried fruit, cereal, fruit juices would also be appreciated. If you prefer to make a monetary donation, checks should be made payable to MOAA S&MA Fund.

Groceries and checks may be left at 1908 E Longspur Place or placed in the basket in the Madera Clubhouse, 2055 E Quail Crossing Blvd., between July 1-4. MOAA members will be in front of the clubhouse on July 4 between 7:30 and 9:30 a.m. to accept donations. Checks may also be mailed to Green Valley MOAA, P.O. Box 1535, Green Valley, AZ 85622-1535.

On July 4, right after the flag raising ceremony conducted by the Naval JROTC cadets in front of the Clubhouse, **MOAA members will be selling 50-50 raffle tickets to support its Turkeys for the Troops program at Thanksgiving time as well as Jim Click raffle tickets to support scholarships for JROTC cadets.**

Our Chapter President, Elliott Jones, has been selected to be the Grand Marshal in this year's parade. The parade that goes around the Quail Creek loop starts at 8:30. Please show your patriotism by supporting the Troops and future military leaders.



EVENTS

Location:
Quail Creek
Madera
Clubhouse

7:30-9:30 a.m.

Food for the Troops Collection

7:30-9:30 a.m.

50/50 Raffle - for Turkeys for the Troops Program

7:30-9:30 a.m.

Jim Click Raffle Tickets - for JROTC Cadets Scholarships

8:30 a.m.

Elliott Jones, Grand Marshal, Quail Creek Parade, following the Flag raising ceremony



MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Jack Bundy, 1st Vice President/Membership



Our Chapter membership as of June 1st includes 7 former officers, 67 retired officers, 1 active-duty officer, and 9 surviving spouses. Additionally, we have 28 registered auxiliary spouses. Our membership remains stable with some losses and some new additions each month.

We continue to collect Green Valley MOAA Chapter Dues for 2023. A total of 57 members and 16 spouses have paid for their 2023 renewal. If you have not yet sent in your dues for 2023 and are so inclined to do so, we would welcome your support for our Chapter. For those of you who have not yet paid and would like to renew your membership, you can send in your dues with the [Membership Information - Application and Renewal Form](#) which you can find on our website: [MOAA Chapter - Green Valley, Arizona \(greenvalleymoaa.org\)](#). The 2-page renewal form can be found on pages 6 and 7 of this newsletter. Dues are \$25 per member and \$15 for a spouse, should you wish to register your spouse.



Since our last newsletter, we have added two former members who moved away and now returned to Green Valley. Both Myra and Jeff McCune are retired U.S. Navy officers. It will be nice for those who knew them when they were here before to become re-acquainted, and for those who have become members after their departure to get to know them. Welcome back Myra and Jeff!



New name tags for our Chapter were ordered a couple of months ago and most have been distributed. Jack still has new name tags for the following members/spouses: Angel and Tim Parrish, Bob and Patti Little, John Danner, Vernon Harms, and Don Cassidy. Because our next meeting is not until September, you may pick up your name tag now from Peggy McGee, 1908 E Longspur Place in Quail Creek. Call her at 520-207-6188 to let her know you are coming by. If you would like to order a new name tag for yourself and/or your spouse, simply send an email to Jack Bundy, jhbundyaz@gmail.com, with the particulars (name as you want it on the tag, military rank, branch of service), and he will order you a new one. The Chapter will pick up the expense of the name tag; however, we will welcome a donation from any





member who wishes to pay for the new tags themselves to help defer the cost to the Chapter.

Each name tag is only \$6. Here is what the new name tags look like. →



We look forward to seeing all our members and spouses at our next events! It is a pleasure to get to know other members and to have the chance to interact with each one. We especially love to see our Surviving Spouses at our meetings. We encourage each of you to attend! Last month, it was a special treat to see Norma Cornelison at our awards dinner. Please look at the **schedule on our website** (greenvalleymoaa.org/news-events) for upcoming events. Our next luncheon/dinner meeting will be in September after our summer break.

Happy Summer Traveling!!



CAR WASH SPONSORED BY THE NAVAL JROTC

Peggy McGee, 2nd Vice President/Programs

Mark your calendars for Saturday, August 12 as the day to get all the monsoon splatters off your car.



From 8-11 that day, the Naval JROTC cadets from Sahuarita and Walden Grove High Schools will be holding their annual car wash at **American Legion Post 66, 1560, W. Duval Mine Road.**

While there is no set fee for the car wash the students would appreciate receiving donations. Monies raised at the car wash are used to support competition fees, trophies, and awards at NJROTC activities during the school year.

Please support our future leaders during the car wash. You will be the envy of your neighborhood as you drive home in a nice clean car.

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Military Officers Association of America
Green Valley, Arizona Chapter
PO Box 1535 · Green Valley, AZ 85622-1535

2023 Chapter Membership/Renew Dues

Chapter Dues: (Regular-\$25; Spouses-\$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: _____ (Status) _____ National # _____

Spouse/Partner _____

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.

SEE REVERSE SIDE *(next page)*

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Congratulations on becoming a member of the second oldest of the nine MOAA Arizona Chapters. The MOAA is recognized as the most respected and influential professional military association in America. The Vision Statement "NEVER STOP SERVING" provides a focus for the entire MOAA organization.

To help us better understand how you would prefer to contribute to our Chapter, please complete the following questions.

Previous work and/or volunteer experience _____

Description of training, leadership and knowledge that may be pertinent _____

PLACE A CHECK NEXT TO YOUR DESIRED CHAPTER AREAS OF PARTICIPATION:

- Fundraising or Assistant
- Public Relations or Assistant
- Scheduling & managing Chapter events or Assistant
- Grant writing or Assistant
- Chapter secretary or assistant
- Chapter Treasurer or assistant
- Community Partner Programs committee member
- Historian
- Chapter Liaison to military units
- Chapter Liaison to JROTC units
- Chapter Liaison to Green Valley Chamber of Commerce or Assistant

RETURN THIS NEW MEMBER QUESTIONNAIRE WITH YOUR CHAPTER APPLICATION/RENEWAL FORM.

Welcome Aboard

US CONGRESS – MOAA ADVOCACY IN ACTION 2023

Darren Venters, Legislative Affairs, Transition Liaison

Pay Full Housing Costs for Servicemembers

Join the Fight: MOAA seeks to restore the Basic Allowance for Housing to 100%.

Learn More: Download [MOAA's issue paper](#) (Full Housing Costs)

Take Action: [Send this message](#) to your lawmakers



Restore the TRICARE Pharmacy Network

Join the Fight: Thousands of independent pharmacies have left the network, threatening a critical benefit for many in rural areas, as well as elderly beneficiaries and those with serious medical conditions. MOAA wants increased Congressional oversight over a strong, accessible network.

Learn More: Download [MOAA's issue paper](#) (TRICARE Pharmacy Network)

Take Action: [Send this message](#) to your lawmakers

Support the All-Volunteer Force

Join the Fight: MOAA seeks meaningful quality-of-life improvements for those in uniform and their families, as well as long-term programs designed to widen the recruiting pool.

Learn More: Download [MOAA's issue paper](#) (Support All-Volunteer Force)

Take Action: [Send this message](#) to your lawmakers

Major Richard Star Act H.R. 1282 or S. 344

Currently 65 Senators and 314 Congresspersons are supporting the Bill. Senators Kelly and Sinema have signed on and Arizona Representatives Grijalva, Lesko, Gallego, Ciscomani, Stanton, and Gosar are co-sponsors.

Advocacy for the Star Act has grown across a coalition of military and veteran service organizations (MSO/VSOs). At one recent coalition visit, a senator's military legislative assistant acknowledged: "No other piece of legislation has jammed up my inbox more than the Major Richard Star Act."

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The Star Act is about two different types of pay. DOD retired pay is for completed years of service and the VA pay is compensation for disability. Using one to offset the other is an injustice to those who've served, even more so to those injured in combat.

MOAA relies on your support to move priority legislation through Congress. Please log in at moaa.org/Login to access the pre-formed advocacy letters to send to your Legislators. You can see all advocacy action items easily by:

- Click on MOAA - MOAA Home Page
- Click on "ADVOCACY" at the top of the page.
- Click on "LEGISLATIVE ACTION CENTER" in the left-hand column. Note the specific blocks that will allow access to specific issues.
- Click on "WRITE" to generate pre-formed letters to your Legislators on issues of importance. You have the option to make your own changes.

To see MOAA-Supported Legislation click/tap here: [MOAA | Action Center \(quorum.us\)](https://quorum.us)

Arizona State Legislature

The Legislature returned from recess on June 12, 2023. The good news is that two bills, SB1230 and HB2064, were passed and signed by the Governor!! HB2064 was one we have been pushing. This shows our advocacy works! HB2064 has language on how tax exemptions are calculated, for example, a disabled veteran's exemption is based on the VA disability rating.

Unfortunately, SB1375: Parity for NOAA and USPHS active-duty pay is still under review in the House and awaiting a 2nd reading and some committee actions. *I still encourage you to contact our state representatives and ask them to support SB1375.*

To find your state legislator, click/tap here: [Find My Legislator \(azleg.gov\)](https://azleg.gov)

Check the Arizona Department of Veteran Services weekly updates to veteran issues legislation at: dvs.az.gov/legislative-updates.

SURVIVING SPOUSES PARTICIPATE IN ADVOCACY IN ACTION EVENT

Nora Durham, Surviving Spouse Liaison

All eight members of the Surviving Spouse Advisory Council (SSAC) were among the nearly 200 MOAA members, leaders, and staff who participated in the association's annual Advocacy in Action event on April 26. They met with legislators about several important issues. (Learn more about these issues at MOAA.org/AiA.)

By the time the day was over, SSAC members visited with about 60 legislators and/or their staffs from seven states. Each came away feeling the message was well received and the experience was positive.

Barb Smith, who talked to our Chapter about Surviving Spouse issues in March 2022, thought it was a great experience and, because this was her second time participating, she felt more confident and involved.

We were fortunate that one of our members, Nora Durham, was able to participate in the Advocacy in Action program.



From left, MOAA Surviving Spouse Advisory Council members: Renée Brunelle-Matthews, Nora Durham, Pat Green, Gail Joyce, Barbara Smith and Vivianne Wersel pose with former council member Micki Costello (far right) during MOAA's Advocacy in Action event April 26 in Wash., D.C.

HONOR FLIGHTS ARE FLYING AGAIN

Peggy McGee, 2nd Vice President/Programs



Carin Kaiser writing Honor Flight letters.

Photo by Elliott Jones

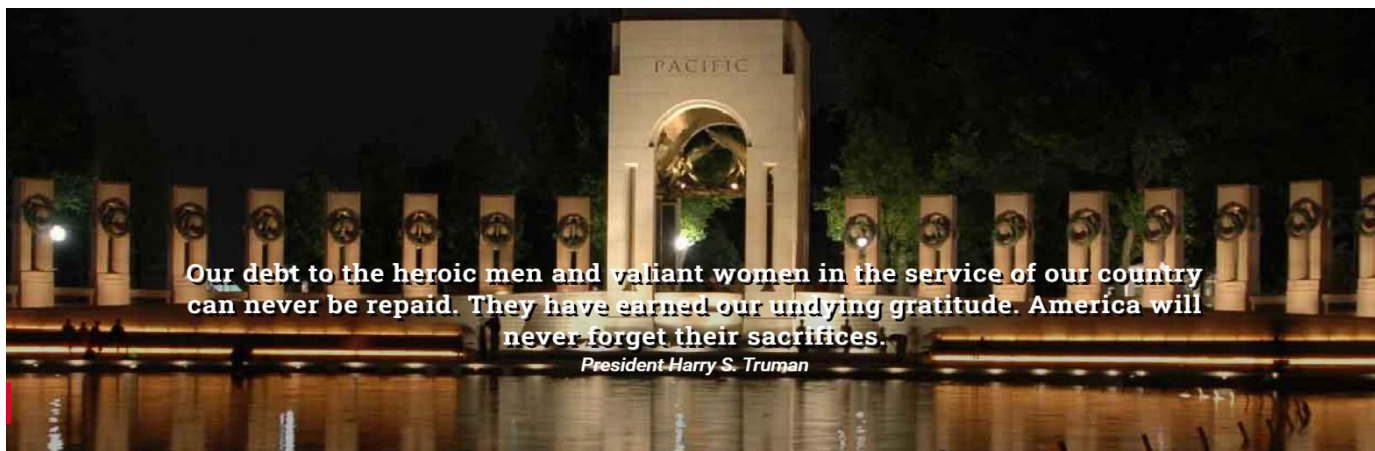
The next Honor Flight from Tucson will be November 11-13. Honor Flight Southern Arizona takes veterans from the local area who served in the WWII to Vietnam eras to our Nation's Capital to see the many monuments that have been built to commemorate their service. These trips are at no cost to the veterans. One of the highlights of the trip is Mail Call, when the veterans are given letters of appreciation written by friends, school children and the general public.



There will be 79 veterans going on the November flight. This presents an opportunity for MOAA members to show appreciation to these veterans by writing each one (or at least a few of them) a letter honoring their service.

Letters can be typed, copied, or handwritten on note cards or plain bond paper. Please begin letters (or notes) with "Dear Veteran," "Dear Hero" or a similar salutation. Place letters in individual unsealed envelopes and bundle them with a rubber band or tie. Completed letters can be dropped off at 2719 E. Sawyer Rd. in Quail Creek. Please consider getting a start on letters during the summer while it is too hot to be outside. Your efforts will be greatly appreciated by those on the flight.

If you have been selected to go on an Honor Flight, please let the Chapter know. We make a donation to the Honor Flight program when our members are selected for a flight. For an application to go on an Honor Flight, please visit [Honor Flight Southern Arizona \(honorflightsaz.org\)](https://www.honorflightsaz.org).





Robert D. Lewis, Chaplain

Well, summer is finally here. I guess that means our winter friends and some of our MOAA members will be heading to their summer residences. For the hardy, well, we will be staying in the Tucson area and enjoying the summer here.

Recently I read a devotional that included the statement (or revelation for some) that God cannot answer your prayers until you pray them! I would like to challenge all of you to pray every day for our Chapter.

- Pray for our members that need comfort and healing.
- Pray for our Board Members.
- Pray that we will reach those in need.
- Pray that our membership will grow.

A conversation with God never goes unanswered.

I would like to remind everyone that if you are in need, or know of someone who might, please contact me (520-481-6994) or a Board member who will in-turn contact me. We have had some recent deaths and some serious illnesses of which I was unaware. So please, keep me informed so I can fulfill my responsibilities to you and the Chapter.

Until we meet again in September...

May the Lord bless you and keep you!



SUMMER TRAVEL GIVES OPPORTUNITY FOR COLLECTING TRAVEL-SIZE TOILETRIES

Peggy McGee, 2nd Vice President/Programs

As you travel this summer and stay in hotels or on cruise ships, please remember the homeless veterans and bring home unopened shampoo, conditioner, hand creams, and soaps for the VA hospital. The Homeless Veterans program can also use sunscreen, Chapstick, non-prescription sunglasses.



As 2024 calendars start flooding your mailbox, excess calendars can be used by the VA schedulers so please do not put them in the recycle bin.

You may bring donations to the 4th of July festivities at Quail Creek or drop them at the McGee's at 1908 E. Longspur Place at any time. Peggy takes donations to the VA a couple times each month.

MARK YOUR 2023 CALENDAR

- 1-4 July** – Food for the Troops (page 3).
- 4 July** – 7:30-9:30am 50/50 Raffle Tickets to support Turkeys for the Troops Program (page 3).
- 4 July** – 7:30-9:30am Jim Click Raffle Tickets to support Scholarships for JROTC Cadets (page 3).
- 4 July** – 8:30am Elliott Jones, Chapter President - Grand Marshal in QC festivities parade (page 3).
- 12 August** – 8-11am Naval JROTC Car Wash (page 5).
- 21 September** – Luncheon 11:30am Location: TBD
- 11-13 November** – Honor Flight. Letter writing (information) to veterans on this flight (page 11).

The Board of Directors meetings are the 1st Wed. of each month 9-10:30am at the Friends in Deed Building, Green Valley.

Members are welcomed to attend... join us! There are no Board meetings in June, July or August.

Check the Chapter website for Calendar Event updates:

greenvalleymoaa.org/news-events



Easy Sangria by the Glass

Shared by

Marianne Cobarrubias · GV MOAA Webmaster

Sangria easy recipe made right in the glass. For each glass, just muddle fruit, add liquor and wine, & top with club soda.

Sangria-tization method = super fast and simple!

SANGRIA INGREDIENTS & RECIPE INSTRUCTIONS

First, **add fresh raspberries to the bottom of a wine glass.** Use something to muddle and smash them a bit.

Next, **add ½ of a shot of orange liquor,** which is about ¾ ounces.

Then, **add 4 ounces of red wine** to the glass.

Last, add club soda and a huge ice cube. (Small ice cubes melt faster & dilute the beverage.)

Garnish with extra fresh fruit but it's perfect just the way it is.



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MOAA MISSION



The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) is a nonprofit veterans' association dedicated to maintaining a strong national defense and ensuring our nation keeps its commitments to currently serving, retired, and former members of the uniformed services and their families and survivors. Membership is open to those who hold or have ever held a warrant or commission in any component of the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Space Force, Coast Guard, Public Health Service, or NOAA and their surviving spouses.

WHY JOIN MOAA

MOAA's greatest mission is to improve the lives of those who serve and their families. Membership is open to active duty, former, retired, and National Guard and Reserve commissioned and warrant officers of the uniformed services and their surviving spouses. [JOIN MOAA](#)

2023 OFFICERS, DIRECTORS & CHAIRS



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MOAA · GREEN VALLEY CHAPTER · 2023 Officers & Board Members **Webmaster/Newsletter Editor: Marianne Cobarrubias**
Phone numbers are 520 area code unless otherwise indicated

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*Waived loan origination fee available for VA loans that have a triggered RESPA app date as of January 1, 2021, through December 31, 2022 at 11:59pm EST. This offer does not extend to Housing Finance Agency loans. "Triggered RESPA" in accordance with Regulation X, is defined as lender receipt of all six pieces of information received in a secure format: applicant name, property address, home value, loan amount, income and 598. Not all borrowers will be approved. Borrower's interest rate will depend upon the specific characteristics of borrower's loan transaction, credit profile and other criteria. Offer not available from any 67(a) or operations that do not operate under the Guaranteed Rate name. Restrictions apply. Guaranteed Rate, Inc. has no affiliation with the US Department of Housing and Urban Development, the US Department of Veterans Affairs, the US Department of Agriculture or any other government agency. United Service Organizations, Inc. (USO) is a non-profit 501(c)(2) organization (EIN Tax ID: 13-160442) and not part of the Department of Defense (DoD). Using funds from a Cash-out Refinance to consolidate debt may result in the debt taking longer to pay off as it will be combined with borrower's mortgage principle amount and will be paid off over the full loan term. Contact Guaranteed Rate for more information.

Save on your client's home financing today.



Rob Sanchez
Area Manager

O: (520) 245-8622 C: (520) 245-8622
rate.com/robsanchez rob.sanchez@rate.com

140 West Duval Mine Road, Suite 106 Green Valley, AZ 85614



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The **Desert Duster Newsletter** is published by the members of the [Green Valley Chapter](#) of the [Military Officers Association of America](#) (MOAA). The newsletters are sent electronically to Chapter members and posted on our website's [News and Events page](#) (in a downloadable PDF format).

GV MOAA CONTRIBUTORS:

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Robert Lewis



Peggy McGee



Marianne Rogers Faust



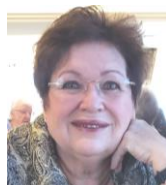
Marianne Cobarrubias



Jack Bundy



Nora Durham



Darren Venters

