

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



I hope everyone has enjoyed a relatively cool summer. I would like to bring everyone up to date on Chapter activities and to announce our planned scheduled fall activities.



First, I would like to congratulate all our participating members, especially Peggy McGee, Ron Neverman, James Whitehead, and Jack Bundy, for an outstanding fundraising event at the Fourth of July festivities in Quail Creek.

We received a total of \$302 donations for the Food for the Troops collection. Our share of the 50-50 raffle is \$181, and we took in \$350 for the Jim Click raffle so a good day for our S&MA Fund. Thanks to you all for helping sell the raffle tickets and some merchandise this morning.

The upcoming scheduled events for the Chapter are as follows:

- **September 21 Luncheon • La Posada** (11:30 social hour • 12:00 lunch) Details on page 3.
- **October 26 • La Posada** (11:30 social hour • 12:00 lunch) Details in October/November newsletter.
- **November Membership Dinner • Location: TBD** (5 pm)
- **Christmas Get-Together** with gift give-away • Location: TBD

Please join us once again in providing a counterpoint to CBO's written testimony by reminding Congress that our Nation has an obligation to provide the health care benefit servicemembers and retirees have earned. You can read more about the proposals [at this link](#), but the bottom line remains stark:

*(continued, next page)*

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## QUICK LINKS

[GV MOAA WEBSITE](#)



[GV MOAA member page](#)  
GREEN VALLEY/SAHUARITA  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

We're on Facebook: [facebook.com/GVMOAA](https://facebook.com/GVMOAA)  
[MOAA.org/takeaction](https://MOAA.org/takeaction)  
[MOAA's "Never Stop Serving" Podcasts](#)

[Surviving Spouses Newsletter – August 2023](#)

# MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Green Valley Chapter · DESERT DUSTER NEWSLETTER

September 2023 · Fall Issue



- Proposed TRICARE For Life enrollment fees would cost Medicare-age beneficiaries \$575 a year for individual coverage or \$1,150 for family coverage.
- Proposed cost-sharing measures would include an \$850 deductible, meaning TRICARE For Life would not cover any of the first \$850 of a beneficiary's Medicare cost-sharing.
- After the deductible, the proposed cost-sharing plan allows TRICARE For Life to cover only 50% of the next \$7,650 in Medicare cost-sharing, meaning beneficiaries would pay up to \$4,675 in cost-sharing per year.

I want to remind you that registering with [MOAA's Legislative Action Center](#) now and [sending a message today](#) will not only help prevent TRICARE fee increase concepts from moving ahead, it will ensure you are poised to fight TRICARE fee increases if CBO concepts evolve into legislative proposals.

Please check out the [Surviving Spouses Newsletter for August](#).

Our chapter has established a Facebook page it can be accessed at: [facebook.com/GVMOAA/](https://facebook.com/GVMOAA/) please follow us and **Like** us.

Looking forward to seeing everyone again this fall. Meanwhile, stay safe, stay healthy, and stay positive. **Never Stop serving!!**

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



## SEPTEMBER PROGRAM: Help for Vision Impaired Veterans

Peggy McGee, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President/Programs



After a summer hiatus, the Chapter will start off the fall season of events with a luncheon on September 21. The event will be held in the El Dorado room on the second floor of the La Perla Bldg. on the La Posada Campus. The social period begins at 11:30 with lunch being served at noon. Cost is \$23. The reservation form is on page 4.

Guest speaker will be Brenda Stockton, Visual Impairment Services Team (VIST) Coordinator at the Southwestern Blind Rehabilitation Center located on the VA Hospital Campus in Tucson. The Center, founded in 1994, provides services to veterans from several Southwestern states.

Besides training and counseling for the blind veterans, the VA also provides vision enhancing devices and technologies for the veterans with some emphasis on making better use of other senses. The veterans relearn how to communicate through writing and using the computer. One does not have to be legally blind to receive help. For example, the VA also provides assistance to those with Macular Degeneration.

Brenda's areas of responsibility include four VA Community Based Outpatient Clinics in Casa Grande, Green Valley, Northwest, and Yuma. She maintains her active certification as a Low Vision Therapist from the Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation & Education Professionals.

After graduating with bachelor's degrees in psychology and criminal justice and a master's degree in Blind Rehabilitation, Brenda served an internship in Rehabilitation Teaching at the VA in Hines, Illinois, and then began her position as a Low Vision Therapist at the Tucson facility in 1995. Prior to assuming her current VIST duties, she served as a Supervisor/Team Leader and Low Vision Subject Matter Expert between 2007 and 2017.

Brenda is committed to the local VA community and Tucson as a whole. She still works with many veterans she previously assisted as an instructor in the days when the VA grounds were sparsely built and filled with jackrabbits. She has been married for 30 years and raised two children, one of whom has returned to Tucson as a chemistry teacher and soccer coach; the other is about to travel to England to pursue graduate study.

**If you cannot get your reservation form mailed in time to make the September 12 deadline, please contact Peggy McGee at [peggy@greenvalleymoaa.org](mailto:peggy@greenvalleymoaa.org) or 520-207-6188.**



## SEPTEMBER LUNCHEON RESERVATION FORM

Reservation form may also be found on the [GreenValleyMOAA.org website](http://GreenValleyMOAA.org)

**21 September 2023 · Social: 11:30 AM · Luncheon served at Noon**  
La Posada Campus (Green Valley) · La Perla Bldg. ▶ El Dorado Room (2<sup>nd</sup> floor)

**Please make your reservations by Sept. 12**

Reserve \_\_\_\_\_ places

Cost: \$\_\_\_\_\_ (\$23 per person)

### MENU CHOICES:

#1. Mexican Chopped Salad with Grilled Chicken

#2. Fall Spiced Shrimp Salad

#3. Alabama Pulled Pork Sandwich + Side Dish Options: Potato Chips; Sweet Potato Fries; Onion Rings; French Fries; Potato Salad, or Coleslaw. *Indicate preferred side dish in the Menu Choice section.*

**INCLUDED WITH ALL MENU CHOICES:** Non-alcoholic beverage (coffee, iced tea, water).

Vegetarian option is available upon request. Cash bar available.

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) \_\_\_\_\_

**MENU CHOICE (#)** • **If #3, indicate preferred side dish (from choices above):**

Member/Guest name: \_\_\_\_\_

Member/Guest name: \_\_\_\_\_

Member/Guest name: \_\_\_\_\_

Member/Guest name: \_\_\_\_\_

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 (leave a message if no answer):** Peggy McGee 520-207-6188 or by email:

[peggy@greenvalleymoaa.org](mailto:peggy@greenvalleymoaa.org). **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.



**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**162<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Wing Visit**

Our Chapter has been invited to a presentation on the mission of the 162nd Fighter Wing, Arizona Air National Guard, on **Friday, November 3 at 1:30 p.m.** The Chapter will be presenting a check to the Family Readiness Program for their Food Locker during the visit.

Full details and registration information will be in the Oct/Nov Newsletter but please **mark your calendars now(!) so you will be able to join us on November 3.**

### Upcoming Chamber Events



## Third Thursday

# Breakfast & Business Workshop

Networking & Education

Program, Speaker & location will be available next week  
**Thursday, September 21, 2023**  
**7:30 am - 9:00 am**  
*Seating is limited to 50 so sign up today!*

Breakfast sponsored by: 

*If you are interested in sponsoring, or co-sponsoring, the breakfast for any of the monthly Third Thursday Breakfast & Business Workshops, call Randy at 520.600.2101.*

Click/tap [LINK](#) to register for this event.  
 Seating limited to 50 so sign up today!

## JIM CLICK RAFFLE TICKETS STILL AVAILABLE

Peggy McGee, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President/Programs

For the past several years our Chapter has been participating in the Jim Click raffle to support our scholarship efforts. With this program, auto dealer Jim Click donates a truck, First Class Airplane tickets for two to anywhere in the world commercial airlines fly, and \$5000 in cash. This year the truck is a fully loaded 2023 Ford Bronco Raptor.



If our fundraising efforts are successful and the grant requests continue to be approved, we hope to be able to award four \$2500 scholarships to JROTC cadets this year.

**We will be selling the Jim Click raffle tickets at our luncheon on September 21.** Tickets are \$25 each with all the money remaining our Scholarship and Military Assistance Fund. Cash or checks payable to GV MOAA S&MA Fund.

## ALOHA SHIRTS NEEDED

Peggy McGee, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President/Programs

***Let's bring a little Aloha spirit to our deployed troops this***

***year.*** Our Chapter and the Quail Creek Veterans Golf Association are partnering to support the Team Tucson Hawaiian Shirt Drive thru Sept. 30. If you have any Hawaiian shirts that are just hanging in your closet with no place to go, please consider donating them to help boost the morale of our deployed troops. Shirts for both men and women in all sizes will be accepted but especially needed are sizes medium, large, and extra-large.



The Hawaiian shirt program began in March, 2017 when Gwen Pollard's son was deployed from Fort Campbell, KY with the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division. He came out on base in a Hawaiian shirt and the soldiers laughed. Some wished they had one too. He asked his mom to send a few for him and his buddies. They were on a combat mission and stress levels were high. A silly Hawaiian shirt broke the tension and made them laugh. Gwen knew there were approximately 300 soldiers near her son's unit so she began a project to collect a Hawaiian shirt for each of them. Each shirt had a thank you note tucked in the front pocket to let the soldiers know how much they were appreciated. Her social media request went viral. And as they say, the rest is history.

As of June, 2023, almost 40,000 Hawaiian shirts have been sent to deployed troops. Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Airmen and Coast Guardsmen continue to be deployed around the globe and they all can use a little morale booster.

How does one find a Hawaiian shirt in Arizona if there is none in their closet? Try the White Elephant, Animal League Attic, Goodwill store or any of the other thrift shops in the local area.

The project organizers will tuck a "thinking of you" or thank you note in each shirt, sending hugs and love to our deployed soldiers.

**Shirts may be dropped off at 5100 S Via Loma Verde in Green Valley, 2304 E. Madera Plateau Drive and 1908 E Longspur Place in Quail Creek. Or you may bring them to the luncheon on September 21. The collection period ends on September 30.**





## CALENDARS AND TOILETRIES FOR THE VA

Peggy McGee, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President/Programs



The VA is now accepting 2024 calendars in both wall and pocket styles. If you picked up some small-sized toiletries while you were travelling over the summer, **please bring them as well as calendars to the luncheon at La Posada on September 21**. They can still use sunscreen too. At this time the only clothing the VA is accepting is NEW underwear and socks for both men

and women. **If you can't make the meeting, please leave donations at 1908 E Longspur Place.**

## JROTC UPDATES

Marianne Rogers Faust, Director/JROTC Liaison

The Army JROTC unit at Rio Rico High School has been active this summer. On June 14, they conducted a Flag Day ceremony with the Green Valley Elks Lodge #2592. Then three cadets attended the Military Order of the World Wars (MOWW) Arizona Youth Leadership Conference on the ASU campus. Additionally, seven cadets were pleased to perform community service by helping Calabasas Middle School with their registration.

Several cadets look forward to providing a Color Guard for the Santa Cruz Valley Unified School District #35 welcome back meeting for teachers. A Color Guard will also be provided for the Santa Cruz Valley #35 Hall of Fame dinner.

The Naval JROTC unit at Sahuarita High School has also been busy. As many of you know, they provided a Color Guard for the Quail Creek Independence Day Celebration on the Fourth of July.

Several cadets also participated in the Military Order of the World Wars (MOWW) Arizona Youth Leadership Conference at ASU. Many cadets also

helped with the Sahuarita High School Freshman Orientation. This month the unit will have Color Guards participating at the SUSD District Meeting and the SUSD Board Meeting.



Classes started at Nogales High School on August 9 and the Air Force JROTC unit there has 172 cadets. There were no specific cadet activities during the summer.

The current senior instructor, Lt Col (Ret) Scott Roxburgh, will be leaving to become a Regional Director for HQ AFJROTC. His replacement has not yet been announced.

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

Darren Venters, Legislative Affairs/Transition Liaison

**Do you have something you would like to tell your Arizona Elected Representatives?** Here are their phone numbers. Contact them!

### SENATOR KRISTEN SINEMA

317 Hart Bldg. Washington DC 20510; 202-224-4251  
20 E Ochoa St. Tucson AZ 85701; 520-639-7080

### SENATOR MARK KELLY

516 Hart Bldg. Washington DC 20510; 202-224-2235  
1661 N Swan Rd. Tucson AZ 85712; 520-475-5177

**RAUL GRIJALVA** - 7th District AZ DEM US Representative  
1203 Longworth HOB, Washington DC 20515 202-225-2435  
101 Irvington Ave. Suite 4 Tucson AZ 85714; 520-622-6788

**JUAN CISCOMANI** - 6th District AZ GOP US Representative  
1429 Longworth HOB, Washington, DC 20515; 202-225-2542  
1636 N Swan Rd. Tucson AZ 85712; 520-631-5801



### Arizona Legislative District 6

Senator David Gowan [dgowan@azleg.gov](mailto:dgowan@azleg.gov) 602-926-5154  
Representative Gail Griffin [ggriffin@azleg.gov](mailto:ggriffin@azleg.gov) 602-926-5895  
Representative Lupe Diaz [ldiaz@azleg.gov](mailto:ldiaz@azleg.gov) 602-926-4852

If your State Legislator is not listed, click/tap here: [Find My Legislator \(azleg.gov\)](https://www.azleg.gov)

**Pima County:** District #4 Steve Christy, District4@pima.gov; 520-724-8094

### MOAA relies on your support to move priority legislation through Congress.

Please log in at [moaa.org/Login](https://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.
- Click on "WRITE" to generate pre-formed letters. You may make your own changes.

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



## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Jack Bundy, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President/Membership



Our Chapter membership as of July 31<sup>st</sup> is 7 Former Officers, 68 Retired Officers, 1 Active Duty Officer, and 9 Surviving Spouses for a total of 85. Additionally, we have 28 registered auxiliary spouses. Our membership remains stable with only one addition from last month, LTC, USA, (Ret) Maureen Pryor. Welcome Mo!

Even though we are more than halfway through 2023, we still are collecting dues from those members who wish to pay for this year. To date, 58 members and 17 spouses have paid their 2023 renewals. If you have not yet sent in your dues for 2023 and would like 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 [Application and Renewal Form \(membership info\)](#) which you can find on our MOAA Green Valley website ([greenvalleymoaa.org](http://greenvalleymoaa.org)). Dues are \$25 per member and \$15 for a spouse, should you wish to register your spouse. The two-page renewal form is on pages 10-11.



If you would like to **order a new Chapter name tag** for yourself and/or your spouse, simply send an email to Jack Bundy ([jhbundyaz@gmail.com](mailto: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 tags themselves to help defray the cost to the Chapter.

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



We encourage each of our members to attend the luncheons/dinners we hold when we get back into the swing of things in September. Check out the schedule on our website for upcoming events ([News & Events page](#)). Our next luncheon meeting will be on September 21. See the reservation form on page 4. Attendance at our gatherings helps us all get to know each other and results in a more cohesive and active Chapter, not to mention a happier one. Please come and enjoy the company! Looking forward to seeing you in September.

*Have a great time enjoying the rest of the summer!*



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)

# MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Green Valley Chapter · DESERT DUSTER NEWSLETTER

September 2023 · Fall Issue



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**

## QUAIL CREEK'S SUPPORT FOR *Food for the Troops* WAS OUTSTANDING

Peggy McGee, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President/Programs



The Quail Creek community once again generously supported the annual *Food for the Troops* program to help the 162<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Wing, Arizona Air National Guard in Tucson. As Quail Creek celebrated Independence Day, residents donated about 150 pounds of groceries for the Food Locker used by the junior airmen in need of food as payday approaches. As mentioned in the President's column, they also contributed \$302 in cash.

Residents enthusiastically supported the 50-50 raffle which is used to help supply the funds for the *Turkeys for the Troops* program that the Chapter sponsors at Thanksgiving time every year. The total intake for the 50-50 raffle was \$362 with \$181 going to the winner. Bingo volunteer Ed Gold drew the winning name for the 50-50 raffle. We always ask someone outside the Chapter to draw the winning name just in case a member wins. And this year a member did win. Gratefully, MG Jim Whitehouse donated his entire 50-50 raffle winnings back to MOAA to support the food locker at the Air National Guard.

Photo: (L-R) SSgt Jessica Rojas, COL Peggy McGee, and Chapter President 1LT Elliott Jones carried groceries to the Air Force van.

(Photo by John McGee)



*The*  
**CHAPLAIN'S**  
*Corner*

Robert D. Lewis, Chaplain

Have you ever heard the phrase “Don’t take my kindness as a sign of weakness?”

While reading my daily scripture lessons I, from time to time, come across the word humble (e.g., humble yourself before God).

The biblical meaning of humble has a different slant from the usual Webster definition. The Bible term comes from the Latin word humus. It points us away from selfish ambition and pride and points us to service, patience, and who we are in Christ. This definition is far removed from self-depreciation or an inferiority complex.

Interesting that when you look at our Chapter and

MOAA has a whole, don’t we find service at the tip of the spear for our organization? We can look within our own Chapter and find the level of service by those who humble themselves to do good works! Don’t we all practice patience as we know some things just take time? And why do we do these things? Our individual beliefs, our faith that good works create good will, and faith that our good works are for the benefit of the community we serve. Being “humble” is not a sign of weakness... but is biblically inspired to greatness in the eyes of God.

May you be blessed, always.



## MARK YOUR 2023 CALENDAR

**1-4 July** – Food for the Troops

**4 July** – 7:30-9:30am 50/50 Raffle Tickets to support Turkeys for the Troops Program; Jim Click Raffle Tickets to support Scholarships for JROTC Cadets; Elliott Jones, Chapter President - Grand Marshal in QC festivities parade

**12 August** – 8-11am Naval JROTC Car Wash

**21 September** – Luncheon 11:30am Location: La Posada

**26 October** – Luncheon 11:30am Location: La Posada

**11-13 November** – Honor Flight. Letter writing (information) to veterans on this flight

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](https://greenvalleymoaa.org/news-events)

# MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

## Green Valley Chapter • DESERT DUSTER NEWSLETTER

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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.

### 2023 OFFICERS, DIRECTORS & CHAIRS



<p><b>Immediate Past President, President, 501(c)(3)</b> LT Joseph Longo, USA (Fmr) (509) 945-4993</p>	<p><b>PRESIDENT</b> 1LT Elliott Jones USA (Fmr) (847) 366-6466</p>		<p><b>First Vice-President, Membership</b> CW3 Jack Bundy USA (Ret) (951) 760-8706</p>		<p><b>2nd Vice-President, Programs, Public Relations</b> COL Peggy McGee USAR (Ret) 207-6188</p>		
	<p><b>Legislative Affairs, Transition Liaison</b> Lt Col Darren Venters USAF (Ret) 490-4470</p>		<p><b>Secretary</b> Bettie Rundlett (509) 389-1696</p>		<p><b>Treasurer</b> COL Mike Faust USAF (Ret) (210) 240-8730</p>		
<p><b>Director, Personal Affairs</b> CWO3 James Rundlett JSCG (Ret) (509) 389-4286</p>		<p><b>Chaplain</b> CWO3 Robert Lewis USA (Ret) 481-6994</p>		<p><b>Community Partners Liaison</b> Maj. Gen. James Whitehead, Jr. USAF (Ret) 475-8033</p>		<p><b>Surviving Spouse Liaison</b> Nora Durham (719) 232-9277</p>	
<p><b>Director, Personal Affairs</b> CWO3 James Rundlett JSCG (Ret) (509) 389-4286</p>		<p><b>Chaplain</b> CWO3 Robert Lewis USA (Ret) 481-6994</p>		<p><b>Director/JROTC Liaison, Historian</b> COL Marianne Rogers Faust USAF (Ret) (210) 861-9440</p>		<p><b>Grant Coordinator</b> COL Ken Cottrill USAF (Ret) (304) 702-3693</p>	

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

# MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

## Green Valley Chapter • DESERT DUSTER NEWSLETTER

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- Minimum FICO score applies
- VA refinance options with 100% cash out

\*Mixed origin no lender fee available for VA loans that have a triggered RESPA app date as of January 1, 2022, 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 pages of information received in a secure format, applicant name, property address, home value, loan amount, income and ZIP. 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 d/b/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)(3) organization (EIN/Tax ID: 13-180424) 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.

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## MOAA National News

### [COLA Update](#): MOAA Projects Inflation's Path as the Fiscal Year Wraps Up

Military retirees, VA beneficiaries, and Social Security recipients will pay close attention to a key August inflation figure, due out Sept. 13, as it marks the second of the three data points used to calculate the annual cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for many federal payments.

What will that figure be? Here are three potential paths forward, plus a reminder on how the final adjustment comes together.

[RELATED: [MOAA's COLA Watch](#)]

#### **Scenario 1: Inflation-Busting Continues**

Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell has commented repeatedly on the importance of getting inflation down to 2%, emphasizing the point 20 times during [a July press conference](#). His credibility is sustained by his results, with inflation dropping from around 9% to about 3% in a year. But challenges will come as he diligently stays the course to finish that last leg toward 2%.

**Forecast:** If Powell gets his way, anticipate August's increase in the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) – the figure used to calculate COLA – to stay at par or slightly lower than July, maybe a tenth or two-tenths of a percentage point below that month's figure of 2.7% above the FY 2023 baseline.

#### **Scenario 2: Consumers Rule**

Consumer spending was up earlier this year but appears to have slowed recently, Powell said last month. While those who interpret the economy as strengthening may seek rate-hike relief, Powell made clear his intentions to continue bringing inflation down to 2%. But even without rate-hike relief, economic growth could bring more spending, wage increases ... and ultimately inflation.

**Forecast:** If consumers get their way, anticipate August's CPI-W figure to stay at par with July's number, or slightly higher.

[FROM MOAA'S PRESIDENT: [Join our Legislative Action Center Today](#)]

#### **Scenario 3: Fiscal Uncertainty**

The mounting congressional turmoil set off by fiscal disagreements on key appropriations across the board leads to questions that will affect all parts of the economy, including inflation calculations: Will lawmakers fund the government before it shuts down? And if so, how?

A recent Reuters report outlined how markets have [struggled during previous shutdowns](#). And while the funding won't dry up until after the September figures are calculated, news on the likelihood of a solution will impact how investors and consumers behave as the fiscal year wraps up.

**Forecast:** It's difficult to say what the markets will do as the budget fix seems far off. One positive note: Any inflation increase or decrease brought about by shutdown-related concerns could level out in the quarter following the reopening of the government, as confidence is restored.

#### ***COLA Calculation***

The August CPI-W figure, set for September release, is the second of three months used to calculate the annual COLA. The July, August, and September figures are averaged, and that number is compared with the FY 2023 baseline to reach the final figure. For example, if inflation remains steady and the July CPI-W of 299.899 ends up a good indicator of the final three-month average, next year's COLA would be 2.7%. For the math fans:  $[(299.899-291.901)/291.901 \times 100]$ .

MOAA continues tracking these figures, not only to provide retirees and others with COLA-connected income a way to track the increase, but also to ensure we remain at the forefront of protecting the value of service-earned benefits. Cutting COLA for military retirees, especially in an austere budget environment, has been discussed ([and enacted](#)) by Congress in the past, and a recent Congressional Budget Office proposal to change COLA calculation would save the government billions ... partially [on the backs of military retirees](#).

Keep up with the latest on this issue and others on MOAA's legislative priority list at [MOAA's Advocacy News page](#), by subscribing to the [weekly newsletter](#), and by joining our [Legislative Action Center](#).

## **Coalition Backs Repeal of '180-Day Rule' for Military Retirees Seeking DoD Jobs**

A proposal to expand DoD's civilian talent pool while helping transitioning veterans has reached a critical step in its path to becoming law, and a major advocacy coalition has rallied support for the measure.

[The Military Coalition \(TMC\)](#), a group of 35 military and veteran service organizations, recently published a MOAA-led letter to both [House](#) and [Senate](#) leaders seeking passage of the bipartisan and bicameral Retain Skilled Veterans act ([H.R. 939](#) | [S. 334](#)), which would help new retirees seeking civilian employment in DoD.

**[TAKE ACTION: [Ask Your Lawmakers to Repeal the '180-Day Rule'](#)]**

# MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Green Valley Chapter • DESERT DUSTER NEWSLETTER

September 2023 • Fall Issue



Current law prevents military retirees from working for DoD until six months after leaving service. Most service members can't wait six months to find a job; the so-called "180-day rule" not only hurts officers, but is particularly hard on the highly skilled noncommissioned officer corps, whose members possess technical skills, leadership experience, and the security clearances to go with them. DoD has invested in these skills and certifications, and they are sorely needed as part of the total workforce supporting national security.

The House version of the FY 2024 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) contains language that would lift the restriction on service members retiring and seeking civilian positions. The Senate's version does not have the provision, and this is where your voice matters as a constituent.

The timing of the coalition's letter is designed to inform and influence the NDAA conference, where staff and select lawmakers reconcile differences between the House and Senate versions of the bill.

Please contact your two senators and your House member and ask them to keep this critical House provision (Section 1108) in the final version of the FY 2024 NDAA.

## [RELATED: [Take Part in MOAA's Advocacy in Action Summer Campaign](#)]

Consider downloading TMC's letter ([House](#) | [Senate](#)) and sending a message to your lawmakers via [MOAA's Legislative Action Center](#). Customize the message to add impact, and share the link with your network; you do not need to be a MOAA member to use the action center.

Another great way to amplify your message is to use MOAA's toll-free hotline – 866-272-MOAA (6622) – to contact your lawmakers. Your elected officials are home on summer break and need to hear your voice as a constituent.

Be sure to ask to speak with the military legislative assistant or legislative director. You may have to schedule a follow-up phone call to get past the front desk and speak with the appropriate congressional staff member – your call may be what's needed to get the lawmaker's office to support the bill.

## Key Talking Points

- Repeal of the 180-day rule is a talent management initiative to improve hiring actions across a very slow and cumbersome bureaucracy.
- Repeal of the 180-day rule is even supported by the [American Federation of Government Employees](#) to improve applicant pools to fill competitive positions that require expensive security clearances and military certifications.

- This measure improves competition to fill critical vacancies to support national security.
- As DoD faces a recruiting crisis across the total workforce, retaining skilled talent ultimately saves taxpayer dollars with a workforce that is already trained and possesses security clearances.

Grassroots advocacy works, and we need you to engage your network. Read more about MOAA's legislative priorities and progress on the NDAA at [MOAA.org/Advocacy-News](https://www.moaa.org/Advocacy-News) and share this [Legislative Action Center](#) link.



## DID YOU KNOW? Fun Facts for Seniors!

Marianne Cobarrubias, GV MOAA Webmaster

### *Age doesn't determine success.*

The founder of Kentucky Fried Chicken, Harland David Sanders (a.k.a. Colonel Sanders), started Kentucky Fried Chicken at the age of 65!

### *Seniors are living longer.*

Due to advancements in healthcare and technology, people are living longer. By the year 2040 the population of seniors over 85 is expected to almost triple from 5.7 million to 14.1 million.

### *Learning can save your brain.*

Senior citizens can grow new neurons over time which can help fight off dementia.

► [LEARN MORE HERE](#) ◀ Seniorly Resource Center ([seniorly.com/resource-center](https://www.seniorly.com/resource-center))



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).

*Coming soon: October/November Chapter Newsletter!*



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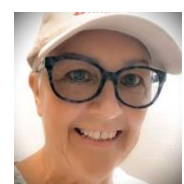
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