



Ozark Empire News

Ozark Empire Chapter, Military Officers Association of America
2131 West Republic Road, Box 164, Springfield, Missouri 65807
<http://www.oemoaa.us>



December 2017

Chapter Mission Statement: *To stimulate patriotism in our community and serve those who hold or have ever held a warrant or commission in any of the seven uniformed services, as well as their surviving spouses. The Ozark Empire Military Officers Association of America (OEMOAA) is an affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA).*

FROM THE PRESIDENT

I would like to wish a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukah, and Happy Holidays to our OEMOAA membership, families, and friends. We are so blessed, and this time of year always allows us to share those blessing in a more public way. I want to encourage everyone to participate in the Silent Auction at our Christmas Dinner Meeting, not only by providing worthy item(s) for auction but also by being generous in your bidding since we do use this to support our chosen charity, Honor Flight of the Ozarks. I would like to thank Jerry Nicholson for coordinating the music this year and remind everyone to arrive early so you do not miss any of this holiday music provided by the Kickapoo Choir from 1830 – 1900. As we do with all our guests, please make them feel welcome and thank them for joining us.

I also want to thank everyone who supported me while being gone most of the past two months. The Veterans Day celebration took on special meaning for our family as I was able to commission our son (Phil Jr.) as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Air Force on 10 November at Maxwell Air Force Base (AFB) upon his graduation from Officer Training School (OTS) (*see photos below, with Phil Jr. and his wife Marjorie*). We then headed northwest to his permanent duty station, Fairchild AFB, Washington, with the family, including the dogs. It was a great trip, but I am glad to be home. I know we also have some great photos of other Veterans Day events later in the Newsletter.

Military History in December

- **1891** – Edison patented the “transmission of signals electrically” (radio).
- **1921** – In the first flight of an airship filled with helium, Blimp C-7 piloted by LCDR Ralph F. Wood left Norfolk, VA, for Washington, DC.
- **1931** – The identification of heavy water was publicly announced by H.C. Urey.
- **1950** – The F-86 Sabre jets of the U.S. Air Force’s 4th Fighter-Interceptor Wing flew their first missions of the Korean War.
- **1969** – The U.S. government held its first draft lottery since World War II in 1942.
- **1990** – With one month left before a UN deadline for Iraq to leave Kuwait, Iraq gave no indication it was prepared to pull out.



Col Phil Samples, 2d Lt Phil Samples, Jr., & Marjorie Samples



Phil Samples Jr. and Sr. prior to the commissioning.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Congress has passed a National Defense Authorization Bill that exceeds the President's request and has sent it to the White House. As of 28 November 2017, the President has not indicated whether he will sign it. Of course, that is not "money;" that comes later with the Defense Appropriations Bill, whatever that will be. Defense and Veterans are in pretty good shape, but it appears that we will be facing a greater prescription copay. We need to be pushing for the House Version of the Appropriations Bill and the House for the Authorization Bill. Many of you have seen the priorities shown below, provided to me by Victoria Twyne, MOAA Chapters Affair Specialist, but it is important for you to know the MOAA priorities. If there are other priorities you believe should be in the Top Ten, or if you believe any of the below should not be in the Top Ten, please let me know. I will convey that to both the Council of Chapters at the State level and to National MOAA.

LTC Frank Bridges, USA Retired, OEMOAA Legislative Chair

MOAA's Top 10 Legislative Goals for 2018

1. Ensure any TRICARE reform sustains access to top-quality care.
2. Prevent disproportional TRICARE fee increases.
3. Sustain military pay comparability with the private sector.
4. Block erosion of compensation and non-pay and quality of life benefits.
 5. Protect military retirement and COLAs.
6. Sustain wounded-warrior programs and expand caregiver support.
 7. End financial penalties to survivors and the disabled.
8. Ensure the Guard and Reserve system adequately supports the requirements for an operational reserve.
9. Ensure spouse and family support programs are aligned with current and emerging needs of an all-volunteer force.
10. Ensure timely access to VA health care and preserve earned veterans benefits.

"Always Respond to Calls for Action"

VETERANS LUNCHEON AT HIGHLAND SPRINGS

On 9 November, Klingner-Cope Outreach sponsored a luncheon for Veterans at Highland Springs Country Club. OEMOAA members who attended were: Lavern and Margo Kohl; David and Darlene Reed; Bryan and Becky Hutchings; Jerry and Cathy Nicholson; and Frank Bridges. Guests enjoyed patriotic songs, a solo singer, and a ventriloquist. The guest speaker was Missouri native Yancy Caruthers, an Iraq War Veteran and author of *Medic! The Complete Collection*, which is true stories about medics in World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and Southwest Asia. He also related some patriotic stories from his own experiences. Each attendee received an autographed copy of Yancy's book.

LTC Frank Bridges, USA Retired



*OEMOAA Members David and Darlene Reed
At the Highland Springs Veterans Luncheon*

Photo by LTC Frank Bridges

MSU VETERANS BREAKFAST

On 10 November, there was a Veterans Breakfast at Missouri State University (MSU), which appeared to be sponsored by the Alumni Association. Several of our members attended: Charles and Janet Hawkins, as well as Carl Boswell and Frank Bridges, who shared breakfast with an Aztec Native American whose family has lived in the Springfield area for three generations. Although they didn't remember his name, still the concept of an Aztec Veteran somehow made the whole morning more eventful. Attendees were honored with a great presentation by Lieutenant General John Miller, USA Retired, an MSU Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) graduate. He read a couple of very heartwarming letters involving enlisted Veterans with whom he had served. Later in the morning, Taps was played by several buglers stationed around campus.

LTC Frank Bridges, USA Retired

MISSOURI VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL

On Veterans Day, a wreath laying ceremony was held at the Missouri Vietnam Veterans Memorial on the campus of the College of the Ozarks. The ceremony—planned and conducted by the South Missouri Chapter of the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association (SoMoVHPA)—commemorated the 1410 killed in action from Missouri, those still missing, and all veterans from that conflict. The wreath, made by students in the college greenhouse, was laid by Lieutenant Governor Mike Parson, who was assisted by Dick Elgin and John Sorensen from the South Missouri VHPA and Chuck Guy from OEMOAA. The ceremony was also attended by Dr. Jerry Davis, President of the College. At the conclusion, there was a moment of silence followed by the playing of Taps by a student from the College. *COL Chuck Guy, USA Retired*



Left to Right: Lieutenant Governor Mike Parson; Dr. Jerry Davis, President of the College of the Ozarks; Dick Elgin, President of the SoMoVHPA Chapter; John Sorensen, SoMoVHPA; and Chuck Guy, OEMOAA.

Contributed Photo by Russ Emory

VETERANS AND MILITARY COALITION OF THE OZARKS (VMCO)

At the Veterans and Military Coalition of the Ozarks (VMCO) meeting on 16 November, there was a briefing by COL Michelle Hovland, USA Retired, the Director of Hovland Kids of Our Heroes Adventure Camp (KOOH-AC). The Camp was founded in 2013 and operates on donations. It is a free camp for children of wounded and fallen heroes, Veterans, and first responders. By design, the Camp, which is located on Flat Creek to the west of Branson, has no utilities, no phone, and no frills. The Camp's three counselors counsel the 12 kids per camp without them knowing that's what's happening. The Camp teaches confidence in various ways, including traversing a suspension bridge at least once a day. All of the camps have a patriotic theme and a Christian focus. For more information about the camp or to make a donation, go to www.kidsofourheroes.org or call 417-574-6250. *LTC Frank Bridges, USA, Retired*

The Ozark Empire News is published by the Ozark Empire Chapter, which is an affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA). MOAA and its affiliated chapters and councils are nonpartisan.

TRICARE UPDATE

It appears the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) is moving through conference committees and the TRICARE Express Scripts Inc. (ESI) and retail network prescription copays are scheduled to increase significantly over the next several years. You can still have your medications filled at a military pharmacy for no copay. Here is a brief synopsis of the prescription changes for ESI and retail network pharmacies:

- Starting in 2018, all drugs will come with a fee. Generics received by mail will cost \$10 for a 90-day supply, while the cost of a 90-day supply of a brand-name drug will increase to \$28. Generic drugs received at in-network retail pharmacies will carry the same cost of \$10 for a 30-day supply for now, but the cost of brand-name drugs will increase to \$28.
- All drug costs will see a steady increase between now and 2026, with fees for a 30-day supply of a generic at a retail pharmacy and a 90-day supply by mail reaching \$14, and a 30-day supply of a non-generic at a retail pharmacy or a 90-day supply by mail hitting \$45.

Here are some other quick highlights:

- TRICARE for Life - The only change to TRICARE for Life is a shift in the annual date deductibles and cost caps reset. Like TRICARE's other plans, starting in 2018 TRICARE for Life will instead reset every January 1, bringing the plans in line with the annual calendar used by most health insurers, as well as Medicaid and Medicare.
- TRICARE Select (formerly TRICARE Standard and Extra) - Starting in January, retirees on TRICARE Select will pay \$35 per visit for in-network primary care and \$45 per visit for in-network specialty care until they hit their cap. In-network emergency room visits will run \$116, and in-network urgent care use will cost \$35.

Colonel Phil Samples, USAF Retired



Mayor Ken McClure; Unknown; Unknown; Marti Marty (the widow of Major General Fred Marty); and City Manager Greg Burris. Not shown in the picture above is MG Marty's brother, Colonel Tom Marty, USA Retired, who attended the ceremony.

MG FRED MARTY HONORED

On 9 November, the City of Springfield not only honored the late Major General Fred Marty, USA Retired, and former Deputy City Manager, but also honored all Springfield city employees and retirees who are veterans. At the Transportation Management Center of the Ozarks on West Chestnut Expressway, Springfield Mayor Ken McClure proclaimed that every year, 9 November will be designated as a day of recognition for veterans who work for the City. The ceremony this year included Posting the Colors by the Missouri State University Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) Cadets; the singing of the National Anthem; and an unveiling ceremony of a monument in honor of MG Marty.



NOVEMBER SPEAKER



Above: OEMOAA 1st Vice President, COL Chuck Guy, USA Retired, presents an OEMOAA coffee mug to the November speaker, John Sellars.

Photo by Connie Guy

Our speaker this month was John Sellars, Executive Director of The History Museum on the Square in downtown Springfield. He is a native of Springfield and attended Missouri State University as a history major. He joined the History Museum in 1976 as one of the first volunteers and went on from there to now lead the effort to preserve and showcase the history of Springfield.

He showed a fascinating Power Point presentation depicting the City and beautiful buildings dating back to the 1890s that, sadly, no longer exist. He described how Route 66 came to be and how it was named, and he told us about the two men who had the vision to make sure it went through Springfield. No doubt, many of us remember traveling through Springfield on Route 66 as youngsters.

John told about the plans for the new museum being built on Park Central Square and some of what it will have inside. Currently, the Museum is located in the old Fox Theatre on the Square.

To access information about the Museum, you can go to www.historymuseumonthesquare.org. You will learn about the displays and galleries, as well as traveling trunk shows featuring significant historical events and periods from this area.

Finally, if you are considering becoming a volunteer in the community, there will be many interesting opportunities when the Museum is finished. To learn more, give them a call at 417-831-1976.

COL Chuck Guy, USA Retired

KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL

On 8 November, the College of the Ozarks held the groundbreaking ceremony for a Korean War Memorial in its Patriots Park. The plan is for the Memorial to be dedicated in the Spring and to eventually become Missouri's Korean War Memorial. It will honor the 36,574 killed, 8,200 missing, and the 103,284 wounded from 25 June 1950 to 27 July 1953 during the Korean War. Sadly, there were fewer Korean War Veterans present for the ceremony than Vietnam Veterans.



The groundbreaking remarks were given by Retired Four Star Marine General Terrence R. Dake, Chairman of the College of the Ozarks Board. As always, attending a ceremony at the College of the Ozarks makes you feel very proud to be an American and a Military Person.

DECEMBER 2017 MEETING

- DATE:** 2nd Friday, 8 December 2017
- PLACE:** Twin Oaks Country Club (Mulligan Room)
1020 East Republic Road
Springfield, Missouri 65807
- TIME:** 1800 – *Social Hour/Silent Auction*
(Drinks can be purchased from their bar; for example:
house wine \$6/ glass; domestic beer \$4; liquor varies.)
1830 – *Music by the Kickapoo High School Choir*
1900 – *Sit-Down Dinner*
- MENU:** One of 3 pre-selected Entrees with 2 Sides; House Salad; Honey Wheat Rolls; Dessert, Beverages (water, tea, coffee)
- COST:** Depends on the meal you pre-selected (Chicken, \$23), or (Pork, \$27), or (Beef, \$34) (*each includes gratuity*)
- RSVP:** By 1200 hours, Monday, 4 December 2017
To LtCol William Pickett, USAF, Retired
417-888-0135 or cathyquilt@earthlink.net

LtCol Pickett will acknowledge ALL reservations received.

ELECTED CHAPTER OFFICERS

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2018 MEETINGS & SPEAKERS

- 19 January – **3rd Friday**
Location: Twin Oaks Country Club (Oak Room A)
Speaker: Angela Owen, Group Fitness Instructor
“Benefits of Physical Activity for Everyday Living”
- 16 February – **3rd Friday**
Location: Twin Oaks Country Club (Oak Room A)
Speaker: Cherrie Mann, who will speak on *Ladies Clothing and Accessories during the Civil War*
- 16 March – **3rd Friday**
Location: Twin Oaks Country Club (Oak Room A)
Speaker: Kyle Wiley Pickett, Springfield Symphony Orchestra Music Director/Conductor
- 20 April – **3rd Friday**
Location: Twin Oaks Country Club (Oak Room A)
Speaker: To be determined
- 15 May – **3rd Tuesday**
Location: Twin Oaks Country Club (Oak Room A)
Speaker: Jana Fornelli, Program Manager, Southwest Area, Special Olympics of Missouri
- 22 June – **4th Friday**
Location: Twin Oaks Country Club (Oak Room A)
Speaker: To be determined.
- July – **NO MEETING**
- August – **NO MEETING**
- 21 September – **3rd Friday**
Location: Twin Oaks Country Club (Oak Room A)
Speaker: To be determined.
- 19 October – **3rd Friday**
Location: Twin Oaks Country Club (Oak Room A)
Speaker: To be determined
- 16 November – **3rd Friday**
Location: Twin Oaks Country Club (Oak Room A)
Speaker: To be determined
- 13 December – **2nd Thursday**
Location: Twin Oaks Country Club (Mulligan Room)
Program: Christmas Party (menu/price to be determined)

Merry Christmas

RETIRED SOLDIERS COUNCIL

The Retired Soldiers Council met on 15 November at Fort Leonard Wood to start planning the 2018 Retired Soldiers Weekend, which will be the first weekend after Labor Day. One of the first things on the agenda is to get nominations for Soldier of the Year. All ranks are eligible, and at least two will be nominated from the Springfield-Branson area. If anyone has a nominee in mind, please contact Frank Bridges at frankbridges@frankbridges.com or 573-308-7272.