



Ozark Empire News

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



February 2018

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

Greetings, OEMOAA members. This month I would like to reinforce ways our membership can be involved. First, as Frank pointed out in our last meeting, taking calls to action on key legislative issues takes only a very short time, and I encourage everyone to use these notifications as a way to do this relatively easily. Second, in reading through the most recent MOAA magazine (February 2018), two things stand out: recruiting is getting tougher because 7 out of 10 young people cannot qualify for military service, and the pay gap is growing again. They noted that MOAA members can assist when they see recruiters by encouraging them, thanking them, helping them out, and sending them good leads. MOAA also suggested ensuring that our recruiters are being allowed access to our high schools and colleges, as required by law if other recruiting efforts are also allowed.

Next, I want to formally request a volunteer to replace Shirley as our Newsletter editor. She has dutifully produced an outstanding product for our chapter since February 2012 when, unbeknownst to her, Frank volunteered her for the position! But as she will tell you, it has been a truly enjoyable experience, and she has learned much more about MOAA than she ever would have otherwise. This is a vital function for the success of our chapter, and we desperately need someone to step up. Be assured that you won't be left to figure it all out by yourself—the other officers will help you get started. Please contact either myself or Shirley and let us know you are willing to volunteer for this position.

Finally, I would like to follow up on my comments from last month regarding the pharmacy benefit. I noted that there are probably pharmacies in the area filling generics for at or near the costs of the new copay. As these copays continue to increase, it will be worth your effort to keep an eye on these prices. Right after last month's newsletter was published, one large chain in Florida announced a new program to provide up to a 90-day supply of many commonly prescribed generic drugs for \$7.50. Under the program, 29 generic drugs with a total of 85 dosage options are available. One key benefit—if you do choose this option—is that you develop a personal patient-pharmacist relationship close to your home, unlike with the mail option.

Military History in February

- **1792** – (This one is for Steve.) The Postal Service Act, establishing the United States Post Office Department, is signed by President George Washington.
- **1946** – A press conference for what is considered the first computer, the Electronic Numerical Integrator and Calculator (ENIAC), was held at the University of Pennsylvania. The machine weighed 30 tons and used more than 18,000 vacuum tubes to perform functions such as counting to 5,000 in one second. ENIAC, costing \$450,000, was **designed** by the U.S. Army during World War II **to make artillery calculations**. The development of ENIAC paved the way for modern computer technology—but even today's average calculator possesses more computing power than ENIAC did.
- **1962** – Francis Gary Powers, an American who was shot down over the Soviet Union while flying a CIA spy plane in 1960, is released by the Soviets in exchange for the U.S. release of a Russian spy.
- **1999** – The Morse code SOS was officially retired and replaced by the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System.

*19 February * * * * * Happy Presidents' Day * * * * * February 19*

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

This month's Legislative report highlights the Missouri Association of Veterans Organization (MAVO) 2018 State of Missouri Legislative actions.

- *Representative's Districts:* 130 Western Greene; 131 Northern Greene; 132 Central Springfield; 133 Western Springfield; 134 Southwest Springfield; 135 Eastern Springfield; 136 Southeastern Springfield; 137 Eastern Greene and Western Webster; 139 Western Christian; and, 140 Eastern Christian.
- *Senatorial Districts:* 30 Springfield and 20 the rest of Greene and Christian.

To get more specific, for the House, go to www.house.mo.gov where you can look up your Representative's name and address and contact information. For the Senate, go to www.senate.mo.gov where there is a menu along the top. Click on "legislative lookup" and you can find your Senator.

Earlier we sent out the complete list of House and Senate Bills that may be of interest to military active, retired, and veterans. Just to highlight a few of them:

- HB 1448 has to do with legalizing marijuana.
- HB 1506 gives priority to veterans for low income housing credit.
- HB 1619 establishes a Narcotics Control Act.
- HJR 56 proposes a constitutional amendment authorizing \$63M in bonds for a veterans home.

The marijuana bill isn't a direct military action, but it is a hot-button item across the Nation.

Finally, Congress is still "kicking us down the road" and it hurts, because many of our roads have lots of pot holes. Sequestration is still lurking about; there is no Appropriation Act; and the Senate, in particular, is pushing to see how much it can make us pay for medicine. I can foresee them attacking medical coverage in some way, "a known-unknown" if you will.

LTC Frank Bridges, USA Retired. OEMOAA Legislative Chairman

"Always Respond to Calls for Action"

<http://www.moaa.org/Take-Action/Take-Action/>

VA OVERVIEW

The VA consists of three organizations: [Veterans Health Administration](#) (VHA), [Veterans Benefits Administration](#) (VBA), and [VA National Cemeteries](#).

Caregiver and veteran needs relate to the VHA and VBA and the processes and requirements unique to each. VHA provides health care, while VBA is responsible for compensation your veteran receives because of service-connected medical conditions and other monetary benefits such as education payments. Keep in mind that these two parts of the VA do not necessarily work together, so you might find yourself acting as a "middleman" by making copies and hand carrying documents between the two.

For more information, go to <http://www.moaa.org/Caregiver/Department-Of-Veterans-Affairs/VA-Overview/>

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THE MOAA NEWSLETTER

At MOAA headquarters, they are gearing up to launch *The MOAA Newsletter*, which will consolidate many of their current online newsletters into one easy-to-read, personalized communication. You'll be able to customize the content you receive and determine how often you want to hear from them: weekly, biweekly, or monthly. Keep an eye out for future announcements.

If you were forwarded this email, please [click here](#) to join MOAA and receive further communications.

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SOLDIER'S MEDAL PRESENTED POSTHUMOUSLY

At a special ceremony on 18 January 2018, at the main auditorium of Missouri State University's (MSU's) Plaster Student Center, a Soldier's Medal was posthumously awarded to Captain Aaron J. Eidem, who had been an adjunct faculty member and Assistant Professor of Military Science at MSU.



Colonel Kenneth McRae, 3rd Brigade Commander, presents the medal to Amber Eidem, wife of Captain Aaron J. Eidem, and their son Skylar.

The medal was awarded because of Captain Eidem's selfless actions on 18 February 2016 on Interstate Highway 44 just west of Springfield. He had stopped to help a motorist who was stalled on the narrow, inside shoulder of the Interstate. Being a former enlisted Military Policeman, he blocked oncoming traffic with his own vehicle and devised a plan with the motorist to get the vehicle to the outside shoulder and safety. As Captain Eidem was walking back to his vehicle, an oncoming tractor trailer truck clipped his vehicle, driving it into him and resulting in his death.



The Soldier's Medal is awarded to military members who distinguish themselves by heroism not involving actual conflict with an enemy. The performance must have involved personal hazard or danger and the voluntary risk of life under conditions not involving conflict with an armed enemy.

There was a reception on the 4th floor of the Student Center after the ceremony that was attended by family members, MSU Reserve Officer Training Corps Staff and Cadets, retired Lieutenant General John Miller (a 1963 graduate of MSU), and others. Retired Lieutenant Colonel Frank Bridges represented the OEMOAA Chapter at the ceremony.



ANNUAL SAUSAGE SUPPER

St. John's Chapel UCC, located at 4344 South Fremont, will hold its Annual Sausage Supper Fund Raiser on President's Day, Monday, 19 February, from 4:30 to 7:30. The all-you-can-eat meal—served family style—consists of Sausage Patties, Mashed Potatoes and Gravy, Green Beans, Sauerkraut, Applesauce, Drinks, and delicious Desserts.

You can purchase tickets at the door or get them in advance from a St. John's Chapel member. Tickets for Adults are \$8.00; for College Students, they are \$6.00; and for Children under 12, tickets are \$4.00.

For more information, contact OEMOAA member John Allen at 417-343-3058.

It is one of the most beautiful compensations of this life that no man can sincerely try to help another without helping himself. - William Shakespeare

Never Stop Serving

SAM HAMRA NAMED 2018 SPRINGFIELDIAN

On 26 January 2018, the Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce named Sam Hamra its 2018 Springfieldian.

A well-known restaurateur, attorney, and philanthropist, Mr. Hamra is also a member of the local Ozark Empire Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (OEMOAA).

After attending law school at the University of Missouri, he served in the United States Army in Germany and received an honorable discharge as a First Lieutenant. From 1997 to 2003, he was a civilian aide to the Secretary of the Army for the Western District of Missouri, where he spearheaded the expansion of Fort Leonard Wood.

According to the Chamber of Commerce, its yearly Springfieldian honor is given to “an individual who exemplifies outstanding community service, excellence in his or her field, and dedication to improving the quality of life for Springfield and its citizens.”

For more information on the 2018 award, go to <http://www.springfieldchamber.com/index.php?src=blog&srctype=detail&blogid=388&category=GETTING%20CONNECTED>

Mr. Hamra truly exemplifies the motto of the Military Officers Association of America:

Never Stop Serving



June and Sam Hamra

SURVIVING SPOUSE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SSAC) OVERVIEW

The Surviving Spouse Advisory Committee (SSAC) was originally established in 2004 as the Auxiliary Member Advisory Committee (AMAC). The Committee name change to Surviving Spouse Advisory Committee (SSAC) in 2015 was made to more accurately describe the particular membership population segment both MOAA and the Committee serve. However, the mission of the Committee remains the same: to represent the interest of all surviving spouse members, to ensure they continue to feel a part of our military and MOAA family, and to raise the awareness of MOAA National as well as Councils and Chapters about the needs and issues of surviving spouses.

The Committee is composed of six surviving spouse members who are appointed for a term of three years. Each year, in February, two of the six rotate off and are replaced by new members. Each Committee Member is assigned an area of the U.S. and works with the Surviving Spouse Liaisons in that area to disperse valuable information and serve as a point of contact for surviving spouses in their Council and Chapters. The Committee convenes twice a year in conjunction with the Board of Directors Meetings in April, and at the Fall Annual Meeting.

In addition to the in-person meetings, the Committee also meets over a conference call during the July timeframe. The Committee Chair and MOAA Staff Advisor provide direction and report directly to the MOAA President on issues impacting military surviving spouses. This information provides valuable input for our organization’s advocacy on Capitol Hill.

For additional information, email sscomm@moaa.org or go to [http://www.moaa.org/Content/About-MOAA/Meet-our-Leaders/Surviving-Spouse-Advisory-Committee/Surviving-Spouse-Advisory-Committee-\(SSAC\)-Overview.aspx](http://www.moaa.org/Content/About-MOAA/Meet-our-Leaders/Surviving-Spouse-Advisory-Committee/Surviving-Spouse-Advisory-Committee-(SSAC)-Overview.aspx)

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JANUARY SPEAKER

Our speaker in January was Angela Owen, a certified physical fitness instructor and Silver Sneaker leader at the Nixa Recreation Center. She has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Psychology and is a substitute teacher in the Nixa schools.

Angela spoke about the importance of establishing a habit of physical activity that targets various muscles we rely on every day. It promotes better health, stronger bones, weight management, balance, and a sense of well-being.

In particular, we can maintain more muscle mass if we practice resistance exercises as we get older. This can be done by joining a group at the YMCA or a local recreation center. It can even be done on our own using items commonly found at home.

The important thing is to start.

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If you'd like a copy of Angela's handout, titled "Stay Strong, Stay Healthy," which is adapted from The Strong Women Program, A National Fitness Program, go to extensiondata.missouri.edu/pub/pdf/miscpubs/mp0696.pdf

At Right: OEMOAA President, Colonel Phil Samples, USAF, Retired, presents an OEMOAA coffee mug to the January speaker, Angela Owen.

Article and photo by COL Chuck Guy, USA, Retired



WHY JOIN MOAA?

The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) is the country's leading organization protecting the rights of military servicemembers and their families. Those who belong to MOAA not only lend their voices to a greater cause, but they also gain access to extensive benefits tailored to the needs and lifestyles of military officers. MOAA members proudly hail from every branch of the uniformed services. To them, we have made the same promise that they have made to their country: Never Stop Serving.

MORE ABOUT MOAA MEMBERSHIP

MOAA's greatest mission is to improve the lives of those who serve and their families, which is achieved largely through the tireless advocacy efforts taking place in our nation's capital. MOAA's experts in Washington are there to support legislation that benefits the military community and are equally vigilant when fighting to stop legislation that threatens our livelihood. The larger our numbers, the greater our voice.

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.

For more information, go to <http://www.moaa.org/Content/Join-Moaa/Why-join-Moaa.aspx>

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.

FEBRUARY 2018 MEETING

DATE: 3rd Friday, 16 February 2018

PLACE: Twin Oaks Country Club (Oak Room B)
1020 East Republic Road
Springfield, Missouri 65807

TIME: 1815 – Social Hour
(Drinks can be purchased from their bar; for example:
house wine \$6/ glass; domestic beer \$4; liquor varies.)

1900 – Dinner/Program

MENU: Buffet w/2 Entrees (Chef's Choice), 2 Sides, Small
Salad Bar; Bread/Butter; Dessert, Assorted Beverages
(water, tea, coffee)

COST: \$21.00 per person (includes gratuity)

SPEAKER: *Cherrie Mann: "Ladies Clothing and Accessories
During the Civil War"*

RSVP: By 1200 hours, Monday, 12 February 2018
To LtCol William Pickett, USAF, Retired
417-888-0135 or cathyquilt@earthlink.net

LtCol Pickett will acknowledge ALL reservations received.

ELECTED CHAPTER OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: Phil Samples, Colonel, USAF, Retired
417-742-5125 pls.rxd@gmail.com

1ST VICE PRESIDENT: Chuck Guy, COL, USA Retired
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2ND VICE PRESIDENT: Jerry Nicholson, LtCol, USMC, Retired
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SECRETARY/TREASURER: William Pickett, LtCol, USAF, Retired
417-888-0135 cathyquilt@earthlink.net

IMMED PAST PRESIDENT: Frank Bridges, LTC, USA, Retired
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APPOINTED CHAPTER OFFICERS

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NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Shirley Bridges, Spouse
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2018 MEETINGS & SPEAKERS

16 March – 3rd Friday

Location: Twin Oaks Country Club (Oak Room B)
Speaker: Kyle Wiley Pickett, Springfield Symphony
Orchestra Music Director/Conductor

20 April – 3rd Friday

Location: Twin Oaks Country Club (Oak Room B)
Speaker: Steve Ijames: "Project Hope: Serving the Least
of These"

15 May – 3rd Tuesday

Location: Twin Oaks Country Club (Oak Room B)
Speaker: Jana Fornelli, Program Manager, Southwest Area,
Special Olympics of Missouri

22 June – 4th Friday

Location: Twin Oaks Country Club (Oak Room B)
Speaker: Major Steve Presley, USA Retired, President of
Support the Troops Coalition: "Heroes' Homecoming USA"

July – NO MEETING

August – NO MEETING

21 September – 3rd Friday

Location: Twin Oaks Country Club (Oak Room B)
Speaker: To be determined
(From Wonders of Wildlife National Museum and Aquarium)

19 October – 3rd Friday

Location: Twin Oaks Country Club (Oak Room B)
Speaker: To be determined

16 November – 3rd Friday

Location: Twin Oaks Country Club (Oak Room B)
Speaker: To be determined

13 December – 2nd Thursday

Location: Twin Oaks Country Club (Mulligan Room)
Program: Christmas Party (menu/price to be determined)

*The highest reward for a person's toil is
not what they get for it, but what they
become by it. - John Ruskin*

Never Stop Serving

OEMOAA NAME TAGS

Some members and their spouses prefer a solid plastic name badge with a magnetic clasp. The member cost is \$10 per badge, paid in advance. Forms for ordering these badges will be available at the next two meetings. You can also email Bill Pickett (cathyquilt@earthlink.net), and he will send you a form by return email. Please return completed forms to Bill at a meeting with the \$10 per badge fee. Your order will be ready for you at your next meeting. Yes, the name tags with the pin clasp will continue to be provided at no cost.