



Ozark Empire News

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



March 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. I want to follow up on our request for a volunteer to replace Shirley as our Newsletter Editor. As I noted last month, Shirley has dutifully produced an outstanding product for our chapter for a very long time. This is a vital function for the success of our chapter, and we desperately need someone to step up. Please contact either myself or Shirley and let us know if you are willing to volunteer. Rest assured, we will do everything in our power to ensure your success, and I know Shirley will assist in the transition so that whoever does volunteer will have ultimate success.

I want to thank John and Bill for their hard work on our membership rosters with MOAA National and the outstanding work they do to ensure its accuracy and the subsequent communication to our group.

According to a recent Miliary.com article, many TRICARE for Life beneficiaries were caught off guard with the recent increases in pharmacy co-pays. The government response cited, "So what caused the confusion? Too many changes at once." What is important to note going forward is that the pharmacy co-pays are generally not tied to other coverage issues in TRICARE which occurred during this past budget cycle. On a separate but related note, I have proposed to my colleagues in Washington, DC that perhaps it is time for the DOD (specifically the Defense Health Agency arm of DOD) to consider a VA model similar to their Consolidated Mail Order Pharmacies (CMOP) to regain control and drive down the cost of the pharmacy benefit, which could then be passed on to the beneficiaries. This would take a great deal of effort on their part AND the concurrence of Congress for capital investment on the front end, but the savings to the DOD over the life of this effort would be enormous.

Finally, please mark your calendars as this month's meeting is a do-not-miss event. Our speaker is the Music Director/Conductor of the Springfield Symphony Orchestra. See you on the 16th!

Military History in March

- **1756** – St. Patrick's Day was first celebrated in NYC at Crown & Thistle Tavern.
- **1898** – The USS Holland, the first practical submarine, was launched.
- **1931** – President Herbert Hoover signed a congressional act making "The Star-Spangled Banner" the official national anthem of the United States.
- **1948** – The first use of jets assigned to operational squadron (VF-5A) on board a carrier (Boxer).
- **1958** – Elvis Presley was inducted into the Army on 24 March.
- **1965** – The U.S. performed a nuclear test at Nevada Test Site.
- **1967** – The first woman Marine to report to Vietnam for duty, Master Sergeant Barbara J. Dulinsky, began her 18-hour flight to Bien Hoa, 30 miles north of Saigon.
- **1970** – The U.S. Army accused Captain Ernest Medina and four other soldiers of committing crimes at My Lai in March 1968.
- **1991** – American General H. Norman Schwarzkopf and Saudi Lieutenant General Prince Khalid discussed cease-fire terms with Iraqi commanders Lieutenant General Mohammed Abdez Rahman al-Dagistani and Lieutenant General Sabin Abdel-Aziz al Douri. The Iraqis' astonishment at the disparity involved in the prisoner exchange demonstrated how ignorant they still were of the magnitude of their own defeat. Iraq accepts the terms of cease-fire.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE – NATIONAL LEVEL

While the President signed a two-year budget bill, there is still the issue of the individual appropriation bills which include the Defense Department. We are still operating under continuing Resolution Authority (CRA) until 23 March. So we are not quite home yet. It is time to go to the MOAA website at <http://www.moaa.org/Take-Action/Take-Action/> to take action. In addition to the Authorization bill, other issues to take action on are:

1. Pay Raise: Support the House provision granting the 2.4% military pay increase. Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH): Oppose the Senate provision eliminating the with-dependent rate for dual-member couples with children.
2. TRICARE Fees: Oppose the Senate provisions repealing the grandfathering clause for current beneficiaries and increasing pharmacy copayments.
3. Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance (SSIA): At a minimum, and absent full repeal of the SBP-DIC offset this year, SSIA should be extended 10 years, with incremental increases to the monthly amount to assist affected survivors.
4. Hospice Services for Children: Support the Senate provision allowing hospice care coverage for children also receiving curative care. Singling out beneficiaries instead of cutting costs within DoD or other entitlement programs is wrong. Military beneficiaries continue to pay more without commensurate improvements to their benefits.

MOAA's Top Issues:

1. SBP-DIC Offset for Survivors
2. TRICARE Reform
3. National Guard and Reserve Health Coverage
4. Veterans Benefits Improvements
5. Military Pay Comparability
6. Reserve Retirement Reform
7. Concurrent Receipt of Military Retired Pay and VA Disability Compensation
8. Spouse Issues

LTC Frank Bridges, USA Retired., OEMOAA Legislative Chairman

"Always Respond to Calls for Action"

SURVIVING SPOUSE CORNER: BUILDING A NEW SOCIAL LIFE

How do you fill the void in your life after you lose your spouse? Here are some ideas to help you become the outgoing person you once were.

- If you don't have to relocate, it could be possible to rely on your family and friends for a while. Your family members have suffered a loss as well. Try to brighten their days. You could meet for lunch or bring a salad or dessert to share a meal.
- If you have grandchildren who have school programs or sporting events, you can attend and be there for them. Perhaps, their school needs volunteers or mentors.
- Maybe your church sponsors a grief support group. Listening to speakers and sharing with others might help you process your loss.
- Calling another widow or widower and inviting them to a MOAA meeting will help both of you keep that connection to military life. Offer to help. You could represent surviving spouses if that position is not filled.
- Volunteering to help at your church or for a community function will bring you as much reward as you will give to others. Every group needs new faces and willing hands.
- Try something you haven't done before. I became a docent at our Fine Arts Center. I loved touring visitors of all ages. For many children, this was their only exposure to art. Also, other docents became my new friends.
- Use your work-related skills. I volunteered to teach a life story writing class at the nonprofit in my community. That brought a group of strangers together who became new friends as they shared their amazing life stories.
- Discover a new talent. I moved this summer and joined the drama club at the senior center. I hoped to find people who wanted to attend plays. Instead, I learned the club was producing the *Fall Follies*. All of a sudden, I had bit parts in three skits and the opening and closing numbers. We closed with a Salute to Veterans, which moved the audience to come to their feet!
- Spread cheer by visiting residents in a nursing home. A friend in Florida makes bouquets from her garden and brings them to residents.
- Consider getting a dog. It will need to be fed, walked, and loved. I guarantee that you will be visiting with other dog owners on your daily walks.

© MOAA 2018, By Sharon DeVaney, Surviving Spouse Advisory Committee

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE – STATE LEVEL

The big Legislative news in Missouri is that the Missouri Association of Veteran Organizations (MAVO) is being disbanded. It appears that they have not been renewing their annual State Documentation and the State has basically told them to submit it as if they are a new organization if they want to be a viable organization. Additionally, it appears that they have been participating in illegal activities. Those are a little unclear to this author. On the upside COL John Hathcock, among others, is leading the charge to establish a new organization modeled after the National Organization. There's more to come next month on that.

Below is a partial list of Legislative Actions MAVO had been supporting that deserve our support. From past experience, most will not pass or even come to a vote. Some have been proposed for several years and never got out of committee:

1. Allows private businesses to give hiring preference for veterans.
2. All state properties that currently have a flagpole shall fly the POW/MIA flag.
3. Establishes a fund for providing state-guaranteed small business loans to veterans.
4. Establishes the Veterans Home Resident Monitoring Care Act.
5. Urges public schools to institute JROTC in their schools.
6. Recognizes the Gold Star Families Memorial Monument at College of the Ozarks as the official Gold Star Families Memorial Monument of Missouri.
7. A constitutional amendment authorizing \$63 million in bonds for a new veterans home.
8. A constitutional amendment exempting from taxation real and personal property owned by a veteran with a total service-connected disability.
9. Allows eligible persons to register multiple vehicles with disabled veteran license plates.

Items 6 and 7 are of particular importance to OEMOAA.

A recent article in the Springfield Business Journal forebodes unpleasant things to come in Missouri. As you may know, a couple of years ago the State Legislature approved a tax reduction for Missourians with the belief that it would increase jobs, bring industry to Missouri, etc. That has not worked well. As a result, the State is struggling to pay tax refunds in a timely basis, has had to cut higher education funds, and the list goes on. There appears to be a growing realization that the State may have to raise taxes.

LTC Frank Bridges, USA Retired. OEMOAA Legislative Chairman

"Always Respond to Calls for Action"

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

OEMOAA MEMBERSHIP

To our OEMOAA members, we say a very special **THANK YOU**.

More than 90 percent of our members (100 percent of our Auxiliary Members) have paid their 2018 OEMOAA dues. Contact our Secretary/Treasurer Lieutenant Colonel William Pickett, USAF Retired, at 417-888-0135 or at cathyquilt@earthlink.net to catch up.

If you receive this newsletter and are not a member but want to join, contact our Membership Chair, Major John Allen, USA Retired, at 417-888-2097 or jallen39@mediacombb.net

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.

FEBRUARY SPEAKER

Our speaker in February was Cherrie Mann, a lifelong Springfield resident. For more than 30 years, Cherrie has been collecting clothing and accessories worn by women during the Civil War because, as a young child, she developed a passion to dress as women did in the 1860s. She displayed and spoke about many different types of clothing worn during that era, to include dresses, hats, shoes, undergarments, coats, and accessories.

Many of these items she made herself. An accomplished seamstress, she was influenced by her grandmother, who was also a seamstress. In those days, out of necessity women made most of their clothing and had to be able to clean and repair what they wore. She also discussed many of the cultural customs of the time.

Cherrie's love of American history has led her to participate in many Civil War reenactments, which require strict adherence to clothing styles, materials, and construction standards to assure period authenticity. She is a member of the Daughters of the Confederacy, Daughters of Union Veterans, and Daughters of the American Revolution.

Cherrie has also made this presentation to the members of the Civil War Round Table of the Ozarks.

At right, OEMOAA President, Colonel Phil Samples, USAF Retired, thanks Cherrie Mann for her presentation. It was a very interesting and informative evening for the Chapter.

Article and photo by COL Chuck Guy, USA Retired



WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

In March, the National Archives celebrates Women's History Month by recognizing the great contributions that women have made to our nation. Learn about the history of women in the United States by exploring their stories through letters, photographs, film, and other primary sources at <https://womenshistorymonth.gov/>

Employee Affinity Groups (EAGs) at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) serve as a forum for education, communication, and professional development. Through NARA's collaboration with the [2020 Women's Vote Centennial Initiative](#) (WVCI) to observe the 19th Amendment Centennial Celebration, members of WAG will be providing updates to [NARA's research pages](#), which will be featured on the WVCI website.

Explore selected images from the [National Archives Catalog](#) related to Women's History.

Military.com marks women's history month by recognizing the contributions made and the glass ceilings broken each day by women in the U.S. [Army](#), [Navy](#), [Air Force](#), [Marine Corps](#) and [Coast Guard](#). Female members of the U.S. Military have not always received the recognition they've earned. Yet from sea, to ground, to sky and beyond, women have worn the battle flag of the United States of America and have bravely fought in her name. You can learn more at <https://www.military.com/history/womens-history-month>

Military.com highlights seven female veterans who played large roles in either the history of the U.S. armed forces or later in civilian life. Ranging from the Civil War to the present day and representing all services, these women broke barriers, made a difference, and became role models for all future generations. To learn their stories, go to <http://www.nwhp.org/womens-history-month/womens-history-month-history/>.



You are cordially invited to attend the
Dedication of

THE KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL

Wednesday, April 18th | 2:30 p.m.

For more information call 417-690-2232

COLLEGE of the OZARKS[®]
Patriots Park



LOCAL TOURS

A few years ago, our Chapter organized some tours in the immediate Springfield area. They were all free, and those attending thoroughly enjoyed them.

Among the tours were a visit to the Missouri State University (MSU) Observatory north and east of Springfield; the then newly completed “911 Hardened Command Post,” and a guided tour of the Bass Pro Archery Hall of Fame.

The greatest thing about the tours was that you learned interesting things that you would have never known if you were to visit those places on your own. The bottom line here is that we are going to start that effort again. Below are some suggested places that we might want to visit:

- Wonders of Wildlife Museum (may be a fee)
- Mizumoto Japanese Stroll Garden (may be a fee)
- MSU Observatory
- Springfield Nature Center

As part of our efforts to schedule tours that will be most appealing to the members, please let us know sometime this month which ones you would be interested in and if there are any other tours that you would like added to the list.

The point of contact is Frank Bridges; you can reach him at frankbridges@frankbridges.com or 573-308-7272.

ANNUAL CARDINALS BASEBALL GAME

For several years, the OEMOAA chapter has attended a St. Louis Cardinals baseball game at Hammons Field in July and sat in the “Roost,” where the food and non-alcoholic drinks are free. This year, we plan to attend the game on Thursday, 26 July 2018, when they will be playing Northwest Arkansas Naturals. The Cardinal ticket folks haven’t started taking reservations yet, but will do so later this month. The price per ticket will be in the \$20.00 range. We are working to get OEMOAA Member Ron McCall to sing the National Anthem and maybe one of our members getting to throw out the first pitch. We should have tickets to sell at the May OEMMOAA Meeting. More specific information will be in the April Newsletter.

SKILLED CARE FACILITIES

Just a heads up this month regarding Skilled Care for OEMOAA members or our loved ones. It appears from a recent, informal survey that many members aren’t aware of the “ins and outs” of Skilled Care and have never checked into what types of facilities are available in the Springfield area. Also, if you have not visited the Mount Vernon Missouri Veterans Home, you should do so soon! Even if you are not planning to use it, a visit would be a great idea as you might change your mind about it and would be able to advise others.

Next month’s Newsletter will have a more detailed article on this subject. But for now, you should be looking into what is available in the Skilled Care area. After all, most of us ARE in that age bracket, and our needs can change quickly!

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.

MARCH 2018 MEETING

DATE: 3rd Friday, 16 March 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) (one entrée will be
seafood or meatless for Lent); 2 Sides; Small Salad
Bar; Bread/Butter; Dessert; Assorted Beverages
(water, tea, coffee)

COST: \$21.00 per person (includes meal gratuity)

SPEAKER: Kyle Wiley Pickett, Springfield Symphony
Orchestra Music Director/Conductor

RSVP: By 1200 hours, Monday, 12 March 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
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1ST VICE PRESIDENT: Chuck Guy, COL, USA Retired
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2018 MEETINGS & SPEAKERS

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: Major Kavan Stull, USAR Retired, (Four State MOAA Chapter) "The Great War in 25 Acres"

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 MOAA NEWSLETTER

MOAA headquarters has launched *The MOAA Newsletter*, which consolidates many of their current online newsletters into one easy-to-read, personalized communication. You can 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. © MOAA, 2018

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.