



Ozark Empire News

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



November 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

Here we go again....in a previous Newsletter I wrote about the Pentagon budgeting process and how many times there were those who never served in uniform too anxious to balance the military budget on the back of the medical beneficiaries and the retirees. Based on recent MOAA correspondence dated 31 Oct 18 the President's budget will suggest a 5% budget cut across all federal agencies. This will include the DOD. I think it is safe to expect that IF congress were to adopt and pass the 5% budget cut we can expect the Pentagon officials to recommend TRICARE fees to increase and pay raises that should be tied to Employment Cost Index (ECI) to be in the mix to help offset this cut. This is why membership and advocating on behalf of all military personnel (active and retired) is such a critical responsibility of MOAA members. I would encourage everyone to stay aware and advocate our position to our elected officials regularly.

The Defense Health Agency (DHA) has officially taken operational control of all non-readiness related healthcare effective 1 Oct 18. What does this mean? Initially I think it will be relatively transparent to the patients receiving care at the local medical treatment facilities. However, over time I think we will see more uniformity in the care delivered by the services such that whether you are seen at an Army facility or a Navy facility you should expect the same experience throughout your episode of care. Today each service branch has their own set of rules (Regulations, Operating procedures, etc.) which can, and often does, cause a different patient experience. Over time it is the goal of DHA to standardize care across all points of service such that your experience the same regardless of where you are seen.

Finally, I would recommend your reading of the article, "MOAA-Backed Study Shows Health Risks Remain for Those Who've Served" in the MOAA magazine or the online version. It points out the statistically significant difference in key health indicators and diseases by those who served a career in the military. This is not surprising since the mentality of the military person is to state their health as better than perhaps it is based on performing their mission. They also tend to avoid medical contact as much as possible to avoid being put on profiles or worse being medically discharged. I was surprised at the size of the difference in these key indicators.

I look forward to see you on the 16th! Phil

Military History in November

- **November 10, 1775** - The U.S. Marine Corps was established as part of the U.S. Navy. It became a separate unit on July 11, 1789.
- **November 4, 1862** - Richard Gatling patented his first rapid-fire machine-gun which used revolving barrels rotating around a central mechanism to load, fire, and extract the cartridges.
- **November 8, 1942** - Operation Torch, the [Allied landings](#) in North Africa, began as 400,000 soldiers under the command of General Dwight D. Eisenhower landed at Morocco and Algeria.
- **November 2, 1962** - During the [Cuban Missile Crisis](#), President John F. Kennedy announced on TV, "the Soviet bases in Cuba are being dismantled, their missiles and related equipment being crated, and the fixed installations at these sites are being destroyed."
- **November 1, 1963** - South Vietnamese President Ngo Dinh Diem and his brother Ngo Dinh Nhu were [killed in a military coup](#).
- **November 4, 1979** - About 500 young Iranian militants stormed the U.S. Embassy in Teheran, Iran, and took 90 hostages, including 52 Americans that they held captive for 444 days.

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.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE – NATIONAL & STATE LEVEL

LTC Frank Bridges, USA Retired, OEMOAA Legislative Chairman

The Missouri Council of Chapters is developing its priorities for political action associated with the Missouri State Legislature. Below is a draft of those priorities. Please comment to Frank Bridges at frankbridges@frankbridges.com regarding these and also add any other priorities that you think we should have.

Missouri Council of Chapters
Legislative Priorities (Draft)
Military Officers Association of America

1. Ensure Veteran's Homes and Cemeteries are funded and maintained in top form.
2. Support improvements to Mental Health and Suicide Prevention among all Military Retirees and Veterans.
3. Promote actions to improve Veteran Service Officers (VSO) performance and increase the numbers of VSO's.
4. Promote and support the creation of Veteran's Job and Business Opportunities.
5. Support and Promote Attorney General's Military Assistance Initiative.

NEW ITEMS:

1. At the National Level the Legislative priorities remains control of Predatory Lending; Ending the unfair Widow Tax; and, Military Compensation. Please go to MOAA's Call to Action Site and send the prepared messages to your Congressional Representatives.

It remains unclear exactly how the new Authorization and Appropriation Acts are going to be implemented. For example, even if the increase in Army numbers is finally approved will anything actually happen. The Army missed its recruiting goal this year by around 6,500 so the large increase in numbers of around 32,000 seems unlikely to happen.

Finally, the Federal Deficit is looming like a black cloud over the whole process and I believe sooner or later, there are going to be significant cuts to Federal Spending to include the Military.

2. On 23 October 2018, Chuck Guy and Frank Bridges attended a Focus Group Meeting in Springfield regarding a Study of how to get more Military Folks to stay in or move to Missouri. The Study was promoted by the Missouri Department of Economic Development and funded by the Hawthorn Foundation. The Study Team was headed by Jeffery Huffman, a Veteran of the US Air Force. The Goal was to determine how Missouri could be among the top states that Veterans and Retirees decide to live in. Jeffery outlined how the Study was framed and some of the results. Our challenge was to break into groups, discuss questions posed to and report to the other groups regarding our thoughts on the question. The study focused on subjects such as Job Availability, State Websites, Child Care, Educational Opportunities, etc. The key to success is great programs and websites. The Group still has work to do and will be holding similar meetings in Kansas City and St Louis

LETTER FROM HONOR FLIGHT OF THE OZARKS

On behalf of the Honor Flight of the Ozarks and our Directors. Volunteers and the Veterans whom we serve, I wish to thank you for your wonderful donation. With the exception of the salary of a part time secretary, 100% of all donations go directly to our vets. These donations pay for airplane charters, hats, t-shirts, backpacks, identification badges, snack, toiletries, bus transportation, police escorts, medical supplies, postage, stationary, office supplies and equipment, a website and a host of other expenses.

Without your support and donations, we would not be able to continue to support our veterans whom each of us owes our freedom.

We need additional WWII and Korea veterans for our flights. If you know of any veterans of those two wars who would like to go on an Honor Flight, please have them contact us.

Thank you, Steve Bach
Director, Honor Flight of the Ozarks, Inc.

HONOR FLIGHT OF THE OZARKS PO BOX 3964 SPRINGFIELD, MO 65808-3964 PHONE: 417-268.9058

Report of the Missouri Veterans Commission October 22, 2018 meeting Jefferson City, Missouri

- The St. Louis Veterans Home scheduled improvements: single-occupancy rooms with a new 200-bed facility.
- One of the largest problems facing the state veteran homes is a shortage and retention problem of Certified Nurse Assistants (CNA). The CNA shortage requires overtime, and is not conducive to retention. Surveys show CNA's do not feel appreciated for their hard work. MVC is working on ways to improve this problem — it was suggested later in the meeting that veteran organizations could help by sponsoring a pizza party or some similar way to show the CNA's how much other veterans appreciated their hard work and dedication.
- While MVC Veteran Homes are always full, long-term care is available to vets in VA Hospitals around the state. As an example, the KC VA Hospital was said to have 376 empty beds available for long-term care.
- MVC currently has 44 Veteran Service Officers serving throughout the state. Randy Watson, who runs the VSO program, is working with other states seeking ways to improve Missouri's outreach to veterans within the limits of budgetary funds.
- Charles Baxter is in charge of the Veteran Cemeteries Program. There are a few minor problems, such as the proper alignment of headstones as they shift over time, that are being corrected.
- In the Legislative Update portion, it was pointed out that, of the 163 State Representative, in January there will be at least 55 new legislators, all who have advertised and included in their campaign that, if elected, they will support veteran issues. Veteran organizations should exploit this and visit these new legislators and ask for their support of veteran programs.
- MAVO reported that they are in complete compliance with MVC requirements and looking forward to resume their cooperative efforts with MVC.

The next public meeting of MVC will be January 28, 2019

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.

OEMOAA MEMBERSHIP

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

More than 50 percent of our members have paid their 2019 OEMOAA dues! Contact our Secretary/Treasurer Lieutenant Colonel William Pickett, USAF Retired, at 417-888-0135 or at cathyquilt@earthlink.net to catch up. The form at the end of the Newsletter can be used to pay your 2019 dues.

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

OCTOBER SPEAKER



Above, OEMOAA President, Colonel Phil Samples, USAF Retired, thanks Shelby Stephenson, Public Relations and Social Media Manager, Wonders of Wildlife Museum and Aquarium

Article and photo by COL Chuck Guy, USA Retired

Our speaker in October was Shelby Stephenson the Public Relations and Social Media Manager for Johnny Morris' Dogwood Canyon Nature Park and Wonders of Wildlife Museum and Aquarium in Springfield. Shelby was raised in the Ozark Mountains and began her career with Bass Pro Shops' Big Cedar Lodge in 2014. After two years with Big Cedar Lodge, Shelby made the move to Wonders of Wildlife where her work aligns with her personal passions of wildlife and conservation. In her free time, Shelby enjoys hiking, traveling and exploring museums.

She began her talk with a video of Johnny Morris which is shown to all guests as they enter the Museum. Johnny talks about his lifetime love for the outdoors, for hunting and fishing and the value of these activities for family bonding and learning lifelong skills. She said that Johnny's love of the outdoors led him to understand the need to support strong conservation measures to ensure the survival of threatened species.

Shelby showed us another video highlighting the life and works of the Wolken brothers, Adam and Aaron. They are native Ozarks artists who, over a 6-year period, painted all of the dioramas in the Wildlife Museum. These truly gifted artists have given an amazing sense of realism and grandeur to the many wildlife displays which highlight so many different species of North American and African wildlife.

Wonders of Wildlife, or WOW, recently celebrated its one-year anniversary during which a number of milestones were reached. WOW was declared the Best New Attraction for 2018 as well as the Best Aquarium in the U.S. in 2018. During the first year, over 1.6 million guests were welcomed, including over 58,000 students. Guests have come from all over the U.S. as well as many foreign countries. WOW is now the home of the Bass Fishing Hall of Fame.

Reflecting Johnny's strong commitment to hunting, fishing and conservation through education, WOW is the home to the W.O.L.F. school, which stands for Wonders of the Ozarks Learning Facility. WOLF is a one-year educational program for 5th graders operated in partnership Springfield Public Schools. The program combines studies related to understanding and conserving our natural resources with a regular school curriculum while practicing personal safety.

Anyone with some time to give would be welcome as a WOW Volunteer. It is truly a rewarding experience say three of our members who are Volunteers. If you are interested, visit the WOW web site at www.wondersofwildlife.org or call 888-222-6060. (Comment: For more information stop by the National WW-I Museum & Memorial in K. C.)

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Members of the Kickapoo Choir will be singing again for our December Christmas dinner/meeting. We will "pass the hat" for donations from our members at our November meeting for these fantastic teens.

OCTOBER 2018 MEETING

DATE: 3rd Friday, 16 November 2018

PLACE: Twin Oaks Country Club (Oak Room)
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 meal gratuity)

SPEAKER: Dr. John Buckner, a physician with Cox Medical
and Chairman of the Missouri Veterans Commission

RSVP: By noon, Monday, 12 November 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
520-820-7339 chuckguy0765@gmail.com

2ND VICE PRESIDENT: Jerry Nicholson, LtCol, USMC, Retired
417-315-8193 glnicholson013@yahoo.com

SECRETARY/TREASURER: William Pickett, LtCol, USAF, Retired
417-888-0135 cathyquilt@earthlink.net

IMMED PAST PRESIDENT: Frank Bridges, LTC, USA, Retired
573-308-7272 frankbridges@frankbridges.com

APPOINTED CHAPTER OFFICERS

AWARDS COORDINATOR: Bryan Hutchings, Major, USAF, Retired
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SURVIVING SPOUSE LIAISON: Margaret Maulin, LCDR, USN, Retired
417-886-8197 mmaulin75@gmail.com

WEBMASTER: Charley Hawkins, CAPT, USN, Retired
417-883-6937 charley65804@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR: John Allen, MAJ, USA, Retired
417-888-2097 jallen39@mediacommb.net

LEGISLATIVE CHAIR: Frank Bridges, LTC, USA, Retired
573-308-7272 frankbridges@frankbridges.com

NOMINATIONS CHAIR: Steve Vanderhoof, COL, USA, Retired
660-886-0205 svanderhoof856@att.net

AMBASSADOR: Michael Murphy, COL, USA, Retired
417-883-9474 06mmurphy@gmail.com

AMBASSADOR: David Reed, CDR, USN, Retired
417-840-6600 dreed7272@live.com

2018/2019 MEETINGS & SPEAKERS

16 November – **3rd Friday**

Location: Twin Oaks Country Club (Oak Room B)
Speaker: Dr. John Buckner, a physician with Cox Medical
and Chairman of the Missouri Veterans Commission

13 December – **2nd Thursday**

Location: Twin Oaks Country Club (Mulligan Room & Bar)
Program: Christmas Party (Kickapoo Highschool Chorus to
perform and menu/price to be determined)

18 January 2019 - **3rd Friday**

Location: Twin Oaks Country Club (Oak Room B)
Speaker: John Dittrich, C.P.A. will discuss tax changes for
your 2018 return and planning for 2019.

15 February 2019 – **3rd Friday**

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

15 March 2019 – **3rd Friday**

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

19 April 2019 – **3rd Friday**

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

17 May 2019 – **3rd Friday**

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

21 June 2019 – **3rd Friday**

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

20 September 2019 – **3rd Friday**

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

18 October – **3rd Friday**

Location: Twin Oaks Country Club (Oak Room)
Speaker: 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.

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2019 Dues Notice

OEMOAA Chapter dues are on a calendar year basis and 2019 dues are now being collected. Please complete this form and: (1) send it with a check payable to OEMOAA to **OEMOAA; Box 164; 2132 West Republic Road; Springfield, MO 65807** or bring the completed form with you and pay at the next meeting. 2019 dues remain at \$25 which covers the member and spouse. Auxiliary dues for a member's surviving spouse are \$5. Thank you.

Last Name _____ First Name _____ Rank _____

Circle: Retired, Active, Other; USA, USN, USMC, USAF, USCG, USPHS, NOAA.

Phone _____ Email _____

Spouse's Name _____

Address (skip if on check): Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Chapter Dues: Member \$25 (includes member & spouse); **Auxiliary \$5**

2019 DUES _____

Voluntary Charity Donation _____ (currently earmarked for Honor Flight of the Ozarks)

Total _____