



Ozark Empire News

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



October 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

Fall is here and we had a great welcome back/kick off meeting on September 21st. There are a few items for your action, awareness and placing on your calendar for participation.

Recently, during a review of DoD-related legislation, I reviewed HR-333 and S-66 both related to concurrent receipt of disability payments for veterans with less than 60% disability rating. I was surprised to learn that NONE of our legislators (Senators Blunt and McCaskill nor Representative Long) have signed up as co-sponsors of these bills. I hope you will join me in contacting all of our elected officials and urge them to support AND pass their respective legislation. I know MOAA supports this legislation and it is the right thing to do from a fairness perspective. It will also help prevent sometimes inappropriate behavior in an all-out effort to achieve that magic 60% disability rating.

Great News! – Our OEMOAA Chapter was once again selected for recognition for the Levels of Excellence Award. The award will be given at the 2018 MOAA Annual Meeting in Phoenix, Thursday evening, 1 Nov. Steve Vanderhoof will represent our chapter and receive the award. Steve is also representing the MO Council of Chapters at this meeting. A big thanks to Steve for representing both the chapter and the Council of Chapters.

There will be a Veteran's Day parade in Willard (2nd Annual Western Greene County Veterans Day Parade) on Saturday, 3 Nov 2018. The parade will begin at 1100 with line up for the parade starting at 0900 at the Willard Highschool parking lot. I have registered our group and Mike Murphy and Steve Vanderhoof have graciously agreed to use their convertibles again. If anyone would like to walk instead of ride please let me know. If we have enough folks participate I think we could have some people ride and some people walk. This is open for our entire group and we encourage you to join us in the parade or if that's not possible perhaps joining us as a parade spectator. There will be bands, floats, ROTC organizations and other activities to honor veterans, please mark your calendars for 3 Nov and let me know if you would like to participate in the parade.

Finally, I have included the 2019 Dues Notice Form at the end of this newsletter, please help Bill close the books on this early by getting your 2019 dues in by December.

I want to thank the McCalls for inviting Randy and Michelle Hamric to our last meeting. We hope they enjoyed their evening and will consider joining our Chapter.

See you Friday, 19 Oct at our next meeting, Phil

Military History in October

- **1863: (3 Oct)** Lincoln designates the last Thursday in November as "Thanksgiving Day"
- **1781:** Americans & French forces begin siege of Cornwallis at Yorktown
- **1859:** US Marines under Robert E. Lee capture John Brown & his party at Harper's ferry
- **1949:** Soviets establish the German Democratic Republic, East Germany (note- 1989 the wall came down in November)
- **1961:** JFK advises Americans to build bomb shelters.
- **1973:** Syria & Egypt attack Israel, initiating the "Yom Kippur War"
- **1983:** Operation Just Cause: US and West Indian forces invade Grenada.
- **1993:** "Black Hawk Down": Insurgents ambush US troops in Mogadisciu, Somalia

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

**This Month Please
“Take Action”
At Least Weekly**

Numbers Count!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

It is very easy - just go to: takeaction.moaa.com

There will be somewhere between 4 and 9 issues to respond to. As soon as you have done one, there will be place to go back. Just keep doing that until you work your way through all that are available. You can actual take this action daily if you like. This is the single most important thing that you can do to assist in saving our benefits and promoting Active, Retired and Veterans issues. Act now! It’s never too late to act - it’s free. The site is open 24/7; no line; no hold “a sec”; no please leave a message and we will get back to you in 24-48 hours; and, no one will start sending you junk messages.

What a deal!!!!!!!!!!

The big three issues now are:

1. Protecting Service Members from predatory Lending.
2. Dealing with Widows Tax which penalizes widow who get VA Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) and Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) annuities.
3. TRICARE fees are off of the table. Thank your Legislators and ask them to keep them off of the table - forever!

On the State level, we are revamping our State Council of Chapters Meetings so that our first meeting will be in January to coincide with the Missouri Veteran’s Commission (MVC) Meeting in Jefferson City. Some of us will meet with them and the others will visit with Key Committees. Are priorities are being finalized but will be close to:

1. Keep Veteran’s Homes and Cemeteries Funded.
2. Support for Veteran’s Mental Health Issues.
3. Veteran Service Officer (VSO) support for existing VSO Positions.
4. Work to support Veteran’s Job and Business Opportunities.
5. Support and promote the Attorney General Military Assistance Initiative.

LTC Frank Bridges, USA Retired., OEMOAA Legislative Chairman

“Always Respond to Calls for Action”



The above photo is a C-17 cargo bay loaded with the remains of service members missing since their duty in Korea. They were recently returned to the United States. Notice the care given to how each coffin is prepared and the uniformity of the flags adorning the coffins. Having witnessed this preparation process first-hand during my last deployment I can attest to the absolute respect and honor the members of the mortuary affairs team provides each service member for their last trip home. It is certainly one reason I respect and honor our national symbol.

Colonel Phil L. Samples USAF (retired)

SEPTEMBER SPEAKER



Above, OEMOAA President, Colonel Phil Samples, USAF Retired, thanks Major Kavan Stull, USAR Retired, (Four State MOAA Chapter) "The Great War in 25 Acres"

Article and photo by LtCol Bill Pickett, USAF Retired

At our September meeting Maj. Kavan Stull (USAR Retired) from our adjacent 4- State MOAA Chapter spoke on WW-I with a focus on how it impacted the Ozarks, especially the Joplin/Carthage area. He first described his attire, a mint condition WW-I uniform. Then based on his extensive research, some of which was supported by a MOAA grant, he described local burial sites. Many headstones of WW-I veterans were in disrepair, others were missing markers or headstones commemorating their service. From his research he was able to document the service of some and have markers recognizing their service provided or replaced. Maj. Stull described the small pre-WW-I Army and its rapid expansion. He remarked about marches from training camps to the trains and the warm wishes given to the troops heading east as the trains passed through even small towns. Crowds gathered to show support, especially children. Fighting in the Trenches, gas attacks, communication by pigeon were some of the topics covered. Often the topics were related to how Hollywood would picture these events – followed by what really happened or was said. It was a nice tribute in so many ways to WW-I veterans and their honorable and faithful service to our country.

(Comment: For more information stop by the National WW-I Museum & Memorial in K. C.)

Tricare Update

Colonel Phil L. Samples, USAF (retired)

I hate to continue beating the Tricare drum but the recently released changes to copayments and fees make it necessary. Here are the changes I copied from a couple of websites including Military.com:

- Retired Guardsmen and reservists will pay more for Tricare enrollment in 2019, while others will see small decreases to their monthly or annual fees, according to information recently updated on Tricare's website.
- The rate changes go into effect Jan. 1 after a 2017 revision that moved Tricare from a fiscal year fee system to one based on the calendar year. Officials have not yet released updated enrollment fees for traditional retirees.
- Starting in 2019, Tricare Retired Reserve users will pay \$451.51 annually for individuals and \$1083.40 for families, up from the 2018 rates of \$431.35 for individuals and \$1038.31 for families.
- While those retiree fees are increasing, users of Tricare Reserve Select will instead experience small enrollment fee decreases for 2019.
- Tricare Reserve Select users will pay about \$4 less out of pocket each month for both the individual and family plans. The 2019 monthly rates are \$42.83 for an individual and \$218.01 for families.
- Enrollment fees aren't the only out-of-pocket costs changing in 2019. Co-pays for active-duty and retiree Tricare Select users will go up slightly in some categories, based on the annual Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA).
- The COLA adjustment, (officially announced in mid-October), is currently estimated at about 2.8 percent.
- For Tricare Select retirees, that means co-pays for primary-care providers are projected to go up from \$28 to \$29, emergency room will increase from \$109 to \$111, urgent care will go up \$1 to \$29, and ambulance will increase from \$98 to \$102.
- Active-duty Select users are also projected to see some COLA-based cost increases. For those users, ambulance co-pays will go from \$74 to \$76, while emergency room visits will go up \$2 to \$83 per visit.
- Beginning Jan. 1, 2020, there will be an annual TRICARE Select enrollment fee of \$150 (individual) or \$300 (family). Currently serving families, Chapter 61 (medical) retirees, and military survivors whose sponsors died on active duty will be exempt from paying the fee. For subsequent years after 2020, the enrollment fee will be increased by the same annual percentage as the annual retired pay COLA.

OCTOBER 2018 MEETING

DATE: 3rd Friday, 19 October 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: Shelby Stephenson; PR Director, Wonders of
Wildlife

RSVP: By noon, Monday, 15 October 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 jnicholson013@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
417-887-4304 bkhutchings@mchsi.com

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@mediacombb.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

19 October – **3rd Friday**

Location: Twin Oaks Country Club (Oak Room B)
Speaker: Shelby Stephenson PR Director for Wonders of
Wildlife

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 & Bar)
Program: Christmas Party (program/menu/price to be
determined)

18 January 2019 - **3rd Friday**

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

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

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

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 _____