



# Ozark Empire News

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



September 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

Welcome back to our monthly meetings! Our 1<sup>st</sup> VP (Chuck) is lining up some outstanding speakers for the coming months and I know you will not want to miss any of these programs. Please make sure you get back in the habit of scheduling our OEMOAA meetings on your calendar and please don't forget to let Bill Pickett know with a RSVP.

There were a couple of interesting and impactful articles in the recent (Aug 2018) MOAA publication and just in case you missed them, here's a brief recap:

- (1) If your future plans include services at Arlington Cemetery you'll want to keep an eye on the developments into the future. First, they are adding 27,000 new sites but at a rate of 30 burials/day this will only last a few years. Second, they are looking for new locations for expanded capability both attached to the current location and at alternate sites.
- (2) If you (or your spouse) participated in the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) the TSP Modernization Act 2017 had some significant and impactful changes specifically in how you can withdraw from your accounts as it relates to the Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) that occurs when you reach age 70.5. If you do have TSP accounts I would encourage you to review the August 2018 MOAA edition, page 28.

As you will see below, there was a large turn out for the Honor Flight return to Springfield on 29 Aug. I want to thank everyone who participated in our charity efforts through participation in the 50/50 drawings and our Christmas auction. These efforts helped us raise \$2,000 for the Honor Flight which should be enough to support four veterans for a trip to see their monuments in our nation's capital. I look forward to seeing you all on the 21<sup>st</sup>! Phil

### Military History in September

- **1944:** An Avenger torpedo bomber - flown Lt. George H.W. Bush - is shot down by intense anti-aircraft fire after the planes attack Japanese positions on the island of Chichijima. The future president is the only crewmember of his stricken plane to survive, and is picked up by the submarine USS Finback after spending four hours floating in a life craft.
- **1947:** 70 years ago, on 18 Sep, the National Security Act of 1947 reorganized the Armed Forces and intelligence service structure. After 40 years of service as a component of the Army, the newly formed Air Force stands up as an independent branch of the military. The act creates a National Military Establishment - renamed the Department of Defense in 1949. The act also established the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Central Intelligence Agency and the National Security Council.
- **1972:** During the Olympic Games in Munich, Germany, Palestinian terrorists storm the apartment housing Israeli athletes, killing two and taking nine hostage. The terrorists demand the release of over 200 Israeli-held Palestinian prisoners, but the Israelis refuse to negotiate. Five terrorists - and all hostages - are killed when German police attempt to ambush the kidnapers at the airport as they attempted to fly to Cairo. The operation was financed by Mahmoud Abbas, who today serves as the chairman for the Palestinian Authority.
- **1974:** A SR-71 "Blackbird" flown by Air Force Maj. James V. Sullivan streaks from New York to London in 1 hour and 55 minutes, setting a record that still stands today. Despite having to slow down to take on fuel from a specially modified KC-135 tanker, the reconnaissance plane still averages a blistering Mach 2.27.

*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

Periodically, we all need to go online to the MOAA website, Login and go to the TAKE ACTION drop-down menu to find those topics that you need to send a message to our two Senators and the Congressperson for your district. Remember VOLUME counts in getting their attention! Waiting for you now are the below:

### Protect Service Members from Predatory Lenders

Send the White House a letter urging the administration to reconsider proposals to relax enforcement of the Military Lending Act.

### Act now to end the Widows Tax

Current federal law requires survivors of deceased military members to forfeit part or all of their Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) annuity when they are awarded VA Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC). The loss of any portion of the SBP annuity is known as the “widows tax.”

### Thank a Legislator

Additional TRICARE fees are off the table. A provision in the FY 2019 defense bill was set to raise TRICARE fees for millions of beneficiaries. Thanks to input from MOAA members such as yourself, this proposal was defeated. It will not be included in the final bill.

### Be Cautious with Compensation Reform

In a 2015 report, the Military Compensation and Modernization Commission noted modernization might benefit individual compensation programs, but “the overall structure of the current compensation system is fundamentally sound and does not require sweeping overhaul.” The commission also recommended keeping the basic pay table in its current form and continuing the basic allowances for housing and subsistence (BAH and BAS).

The President has signed the National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2019. This is a good start, but we need to see an Appropriation Bill which actually funds the NDAA! Surprisingly the NDAA got passed and signed before the end of the Fiscal Year on 30 September 2018. [© 2018 MOAA]

Active Duty, National Guard, Reserves and Veteran’s are subject to being duped by con artists who advertise themselves as being in the business of helping us. The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) kicked off “Operation Donate with Honor” to educate us regarding charitable solicitation fraud. The FTC listed nine charities that it says have been sued for lying to donors:

- American Disabled Veterans Foundation;
- National Vietnam Veterans Foundation;
- Healing American Heroes Inc.;
- Veterans Fighting Breast Cancer;
- Military Families of America;
- VietNow National Headquarters Inc.;
- Foundation for American Veterans, Inc.;
- Healing Heroes Network;
- Help the Vets, Inc.

The State of Missouri has launched a new service for the Military, the Military Legal Assistance Team (MLAT). It is headed by Scotty Allen, Assistant Attorney General and a network of pro bono attorneys across the State. Their mission is to assist in qualifying legal issues that will be adjudicated within the State of Missouri and cannot be resolved by the Judge Advocate General’s Attorneys. They work on such thing as actions brought under the Servicemembers’ Civil Relief Act (SCRA) and the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Act (USERRA). The services of MLAT are primarily aimed at Reserves and National Guard. For additional information go to the MLAT website at <http://ago.mo.gov/MLAT> or call MLAT at 573-7516733.

LTC Frank Bridges, USA Retired., OEMOAA Legislative Chairman

*“Always Respond to Calls for Action”*

## HONOR FLIGHT – WELCOME HOME 29 AUG 18

On Wednesday evening August 29th, the latest Welcome Home ceremony was held for Honor Flight at Springfield/Branson Airport. Two WWII vets, 16 Korea vets and 82 Vietnam vets were “Welcomed Home” by several hundred family members and friends after an activity filled day in Washington, D.C. On hand to join the welcome were several members of OEMOAA who presented a check to Honor Flight of the Ozarks for \$2,000 to help offset the expenses associated with conducting the flight. On hand to receive the check was Tom Mikulan, the Ground Activity Coordinator for Honor Flight. The money was accumulated from our 50/50 drawing, 2 Christmas silent auctions and personal donations from our members. Later, we met and were thanked for our donation by Frank Totten the Flight Coordinator for Honor Flight. It was a very successful evening and a great opportunity to thank those who served our Country honorably and faithfully.



L-R – Chuck Guy presents the OEMOAA Donation to Tom Mikulan, Jerry Nicholson, and Ron McCall



Large Crowd on Hand for the Return of Honor Flight on 29 Aug 18



L-R - Bill Pickett, Honor Flight Coordinator – Mike Totten, and Chuck Guy



Large Crowd on Hand for the Return

## SEPTEMBER 2018 MEETING

**DATE:** 4th Friday, 21 September 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:** Major Kavan Stull, USAR, Retired, (Four  
State MOAA Chapter); "The Great War in 25  
Acres"

**RSVP:** By noon, Monday, 17 September 2018  
To LtCol William Pickett, USAF, Retired  
417-888-0135 or [cathyquilt@earthlink.net](mailto: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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**2ND VICE PRESIDENT:** Jerry Nicholson, LtCol, USMC, Retired  
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**SECRETARY/TREASURER:** William Pickett, LtCol, USAF, Retired  
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**IMMED PAST PRESIDENT:** Frank Bridges, LTC, USA, Retired  
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## APPOINTED CHAPTER OFFICERS

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**MEMBERSHIP CHAIR:** John Allen, MAJ, USA, Retired  
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**LEGISLATIVE CHAIR:** Frank Bridges, LTC, USA, Retired  
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**NOMINATIONS CHAIR:** Steve Vanderhoof, COL, USA, Retired  
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**AMBASSADOR:** David Reed, CDR, USN, Retired  
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## 2018 MEETINGS & SPEAKERS

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: 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

## 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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