Level of Excellence Award Winner: 2011 – 4 Star; 2012 – 5 Star 2013 – 5 Star; 2014 – 5 Star; 2015 — 5 Star; 2016 – 5 Star; 2017 – 5 Star; 2018 – 5 Star; 2019 – 5 Star; 2020 – 5 Star; 2021 – 5 Star

THE OUTBACK

NACMOAA

Established 1972

SEPT/OCT 2023

NACMOAA STAFF & DIRECTORS FOR 2023

Mrs. Sharon Douglas – President, AZ Council of Chapters Surviving Spouse Liaison & Coordinator for Luncheons

LtCol Alex Torrance– Vice President, Coordinator for Guest Speakers and Awards, & Director

Col Steve Woods – Legislative Affairs Officer

LtCol Bob Wallace – Personal Affairs, Transition Liaison & Chairman, Board of Director

LtCol Dick Jonas - Director & Treasurer

LCDR Clyde Meade - Immediate Past President & Director

LCDR Spencer O'Neil - Membership & PIO

LCDR Peter Jensen – Chaplain

Mrs. Mary Jonas – Surviving Spouse Chapter Liaison

Mrs. Roberta Rice – Outback Editor & Secretary



From the President

By: Sharon Douglas

I hope by the time you are reading this it has started to feel like fall, after a long hot summer with little rain. At least football starts in T minus 3 days.

It has been a long summer for me. After simply leaning over to pick something up, I had 3 compression fractures in my back. They burst so there were small bone fragments floating around near my spine and I ended up needing surgery. I had a kyphoplasty and a laminectomy. After surgery tests showed conflicting information so I have had additional tests and doctor appointments. Taking a longer recovery period than I had hoped, I asked Vice President Alex Torrance to take over the President's tasks while I continue to recover. He has done an excellent job in my stead and I appreciate all of his hard work.

Jon Berry is stepping down as one of the NAC Directors effective 31 Aug 2023. Jon has been a big help to the chapter as an advisor. I also want to thank him for volunteering to serve as a chaperone on the Honor Flight that NAC recently sponsored.

[Continued on page 2)

Where to find things in this newsletter:

Surviving Spouse Membership form: Page 12
Regular Membership form: Page 13
Lunch location and reservation form: Page 3

(Continued from page 1)

The generous gift of his time allowed Maj. Wade Rutt to have the trip of a lifetime visiting the military monuments in DC. While Jon is stepping down from his director's role to concentrate on other ventures, I am pleased to say he will continue as a NAC member and stay involved in the chapter as his time permits. Jon, thank you for your time and expertise.

A long time NAC member has passed away. Nancy Stephenson passed this June in Memphis. She had resided there the past few years to be closer to family. Nancy was a surviving spouse and regularly attended the NAC Ladies luncheons. She made the drive from her home in Sedona to join us, and hit Trader Joe's. Nancy was an avid letter writer, and kept in touch with several of our members. She sent me lots of photos and news articles. She always wanted to know what was going on with our chapter and its members. I will miss not receiving her weekly letters; she was a good friend.

Several upcoming events:
-The Prescott Veterans Stand Down will be held at US Vets Complex at 1040 Whipple Street Prescott on 15-16 Sept. It is not too late to volunteer. If you are interested, please contact Michelle at US Vets: MBrien@usvets.org or 928-356-2771.There is also a need for new under garments. All sizes for both male and female items are needed, including thermal wear and socks. Donations can be dropped off at US Vets.
-Yesterday I received the application for entry to the 2023 Prescott Veterans Day parade. The parade will take place on Saturday 11 November. This year's theme is: A New Generation of Warriors, Honoring our Desert Storm and OIF/OEF Veterans. Please join us as we decorate our vehicles in patriotic livery and drive through downtown Prescott to celebrate our veterans, their families and sacrifices for our country and freedom. More information as the event gets closer.

The next NAC Luncheon will be 04 Oct with an Octoberfest theme. Chris and Alex Torrance have created a wonderful menu for the event. I know Chef Chad and staff at Granite Gate will cook up a great spread. We will have appetizers including a charcuterie board, wine and soft drinks beginning at 1100. As usual, we will be seated for remarks and information from our V.P. at 1130 and lunch beginning at noon. Plan to join us early and socialize with your fellow chapter members. The complete menu and guest speaker information are in this newsletter.
The RSVP date will be 27 Sept. You may pay at the door but I do need your RSVP on or before 27 Sept. Alex has also secured the Prescott High School Honor Guard to present the colors.
The 04 October luncheon sounds like a great time, so dust off your lederhosen and join us.



Late breaking news, I was just notified that NAC once again earned a 5 Star LOE Award. Congratulations to all the chapter members who contributed to this achievement. Arizona once again made a clean sweep of the FIVE STAR AWARDS - all 10 chapters and the state council reached this highest award. Congratulations to all.

All the best.
Sharon Douglas,
Surviving Spouse, President NACMOAA Chapter

NEXT LUNCHEON: 4 October 2023 at Granite Gate

LOCATION: *Granite Gate Senior Living 3850 North AZ-89, Prescott, AZ 86301*

GATHERING TIME: 11:00 AM *PLACE: Granite Gate Dining Room*

ANNOUNCEMENTS & INTRODUCTIONS: 11:30 AM *BUFFET LUNCH: 12:00 PM*



IT'S TIME FOR OCTOBERFEST

Charcuterie Board and beverages to kick start appetites

Fresh Garden Greens Salad and Rolls, followed by choices of Pork Schnitzel,

Beef Rouladen accompanied with German style red cabbage & brussel sprouts

BUT SAVE ROOM for the finale: Black Forest Gateau

COST: *The Buffet Lunch is $30.00 per person.* ***The reservation deadline is 27 SEPT.***

IF YOU HAVE DIETARY RESTRICTIONS, PLEASE ADVISE SHARON DOUGLAS

Sharon must have an accurate attendance count for the caterer by 27 SEPT.

DIRECTIONS: *As you approach the Granite Gate Entrance, watch for the flagpole with the Granite Gate flag because there are no street name signs.* ***FROM PRESCOTT:*** *Drive North on US Hwy 89 past Watson Lake to Boulder creek Lane. The Granite Gate entrance is on the West side of Hwy 89. Turn Left and go to the parking area in front of the large building.* ***FROM THE AIRPORT / PIONEER PARKWAY AREA:*** *Drive south on US Hwy 89 by the Phippen Museum past Three Sisters Consignment to Boulder Creek Lane. The Granite Gate entrance is on the West side of Hwy 89. Turn Right and go to the parking area in front of the large building. For additional information go to: wwwGraniteGate.com or call (928)771-8200.*

Phone: 928-771-8200

Please cut on the line below and mail with your check to Sharon Douglas

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TO RECEIVE NO LATER THAN – 27 SEPT, 2023

NACMOAA address is PO Box 95 Dewey, AZ 86327

You may call Sharon at (928) 632-5939 to place a reservation if you prefer to pay at the door.

LATE NOTICE CANCELLATIONS CANNOT BE REFUNDED

4 OCT Meeting: Please make checks payable to: NACMOA

All meals are $30.00

My check for $_____is enclosed

Attendees: Members: Guest

Lunch - $_____

2024 Dues $30.00 - $ _____

Scholarship - $ _____

A Special Message from NAC MOAA's Vice President:

SHARON - YOU ARE MISSED

Joni Mitchell sang "Don't it always seem to go, That you don't know what you got till it's gone."

How true! I never knew or really appreciated how much work our Chapter President does behind the scenes. "President" comes from the Latin "to do everything". Whether it's the Chapter luncheons, or Veterans' Stand Down, or Surviving Spouse, or Letter of Excellence and another half-dozen National MOAA requirements, Sharon does it all. Thanks for everything you do and very glad you're on the positive trail to recovery, the Chapter misses you.

Hope to see you soon,
Alex Torrance, Vice President

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR YOUR DIRECTORS & STAFF

Mrs. Sharon Douglas – President

AZ Council of Chapters Surviving Spouse Liaison & Coordinator for Luncheons ***sharon.douglas.nacmoass@gmail.com***

LtCol Alex Torrance– Vice President, Coordinator for Guest Speakers and Awards, & Director ***alextorrance@gmail.com***

Col Steve Woods – Legislative Affairs Officer

stevewoods54@outlook.com

LtCol Bob Wallace – Personal Affairs, Transition Liaison & Chairman, Board of Directors

wallacerm@cox.net

LtCol Dick Jonas Treasurer & Director

az04nac@erosonic.com

LCDR Clyde Meade - Immediate Past President & Director

navoff04@gmail.com

LCDR Spencer O'Neil - Membership & PIO

h_spencer_oneal@yahoo.com

LCDR Peter Jensen – Chaplain

chcpetercjensen@gmail.com

Mrs. Mary Jonas – Surviving Spouse Liaison

mlgjonas.2012@gmail.com

Mrs. Roberta Rice – Outback Editor & Secretary

rbdrice@verizon.net



Membership Corner:

As I write this, it's Labor Day weekend! My wife Caryn and I hope and pray that this Holiday, and the new season that it brings, finds you all well and happy. It's been an interesting Summer – either very hot, or very wet. We're hoping for a few more Monsoons before the season is over. Autumn will soon replace it though, bringing its own special glory.

Thank you all for being a part of our NACMOAA family. If you know any former, current, or retired officers who are not MOAA members or members of NACMOAA, please invite them to join us. We would love to meet them and welcome them aboard our chapter.

Well, it's time for annual Chapter dues again. Our yearly dues beginning in 2024 are $30 for members and $5 for Surviving Spouses. Dues for the year are due by January 1st. Of course, there is a grace period for those unable to remit by January 1st. However, please consider submitting your dues as early as possible. Remember too that you can submit payment for multiple years in advance if you wish. For your convenience, and as a reminder, if you pay for additional years in advance, the year you are paid through will be posted to your listing in our annual membership roster. Thank you so very much for your membership in our chapter.

Please also consider a donation to our 2024 NAC Scholarship fund. Our Chapter typically provides Scholarships to three JROTC, and two ROTC Cadets. Please help our Chapter recognize these fine young future leaders of our country.

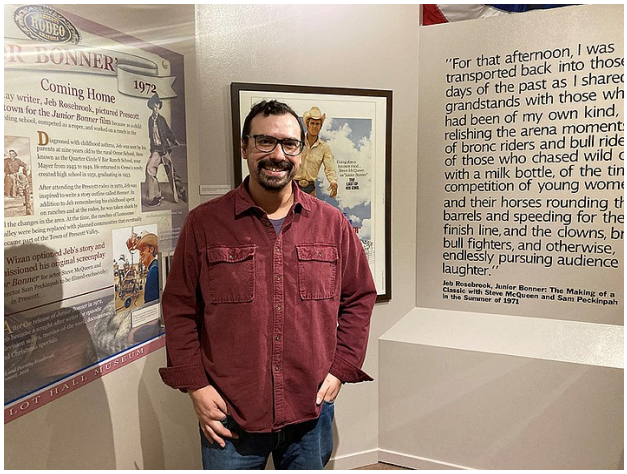
Dues and contributions can be sent to our Treasurer, LtCol Dick Jonas, at P.O. Box 1226 Chino Valley, AZ 86323. You may also contact him at: az04nac@erosonic.com. Thank you!

Public Information Officer:

I am still in the process of learning the intricacies of maintaining our NACMOAA website: NACMOAA.org. The web design program behind it doesn't lend itself to my style of reasoning. It does what it wants to do regardless of what I want it to do. As such, if you are a web-builder aficionado, your knowledge & skill would be greatly appreciated!

Additionally, if you have professional/social contacts in the local area – and would like to take the reins of the PIO position. Please don't hesitate to step up and share your expertise. Currently our chapter's activities should appear regularly in two news publications, the Daily Courier newspaper including the online edition and in Coffee Talk, which you can see in most restaurants in the Prescott area.

LCDR H. Spencer O'Neal, USN, (Ret)
Membership Chair/Public Information Officer, NACMOAA
H_Spencer_ONeal@yahoo.com
(760) 486-3855



OCTOBER GUEST SPEAKER

In follow up of our informative August guest speaker from Sharlot Museum, Mr. Jackson Medel will be our featured presenter for the October luncheon. Mr. Medel is Sharlot Hall Curator of Collections and Programs.

Mr. Medel was selected for this position less than a year ago and is still eagerly looking to invigorate the permanent exhibits and establish rotating exhibits to better tell the stories of this area's history and its contribution to its current development. With a degree in Anthropology, he hopes to assimilate into the culture of the museum and this area.

Mr. Medel stated in an article for the Daily Courier: "It's about the everyday," he explained. *"It's about the clothes we wear; the foods we eat at Thanksgiving; the blankets we have in our house or the art we hang on our walls; everything we have every day."*

Ladies of NACMOAA

We gather at 11:30 AM, at Augie's Restaurant in Frontier Village, order off their menu and pay individually. Our lunches are over by 2:00 PM. We invite all ladies of NACMOAA to join us for this social event.

Our remaining lunch date for 2023 will be: November 10th.

These dates are all the 2nd Friday of odd numbered months.

If you know of any of our Ladies who have moved or have health issues we should be aware of, please forward that information to Mary Jonas at mlgjonas.2012@gmail.com or call her at (928) 925-4674.

If you would prefer to receive The Outback via email, please make sure Spencer O'Neal has your correct email address. H_Spencer_ONeal@yahoo.com

Legislative Affairs Update
BY
COL (Ret) Steve Woods, U.S. Army

The numbers are in for the members that are registered with the MOAA Legislative Action Center (LAC) aka: https://moaa.quorum.us/ from MOAA National Headquarters. The good news is that we exceed the national average both by state and by Arizona chapters. MOAA's national rate is only 4.5% while the Arizona chapter average rate is 24%. The Northern Arizona Chapter's registration percentage leads all Arizona chapters at 45%. While we did do extremely well, still less than half of our members have registered with the MOAA LAC and it would be great if we could get those numbers even higher by encouraging everyone to register. The LAC is the cornerstone for MOAA's grass-roots strategy in promoting legislation that supports active duty, veterans, retirees, and their dependent's issues. We know the advocacy programs work but they would be even more effective with a greater number of the members participating by signing up and using the LAC.

You can sign up on the MOAA website at: https://moaa.quorum.us/sign_in/. Non-MOAA members can also use this website. Once a member is registered with the LAC, he/she remains registered UNLESS either of the following two things happen:

1. *The member does not accept cookies from the MOAA LAC website.*
2. *The member clears the history or cache on their computer.*

If you are not registered with the "Legislative Action Center" (aka Quorum), please:

1. *Go to https://moaa.quorum.us/sign_in/*
2. *Fill out the information required and submit.*

Moving on, the latest retiree Advocacy action from the most recent "National MOAA Newsletters" are:

- ***COLA Update: MOAA Projects Inflation's Path as the Fiscal Year Wraps Up.*** *The 2024 adjustment will be determined in less than two months. Here's what you should know.*
- ***This Bipartisan Bill Would Strengthen Earned Support for Survivors of Veterans.*** *Ask your lawmakers to co-sponsor the Caring for Survivors Act and bring these benefits on par with other federal programs. (See pre-formed letter.)*
- ***Summer Advocacy Campaign Starts Strong, But We Still Need Your Help.*** *Activate your network and help MOAA build the grassroots support needed to make a difference on Capitol Hill. (See pre-formed letters.)*

Pre-formed advocacy letters to send to your Legislators are available by following below. Note that only the items I've noted above in red will have pre-formed letters:

1. Click on MOAA - MOAA Home Page

*2. Click on "**ADVOCACY**" at the top of the page*

*3. Click on "**ADVOCACY NEWS**" in the left-hand column.*

*4. Click on "Read More" below each advocacy item and see "**TAKE ACTION**" within the article to generate pre-formed letters to your Legislators.*

*5. If you wish to view all advocacy issues available, please feel free to go to the **Legislative Action Center** on the home page to write to your Legislators on **any** advocacy issues.*

Once again, thank you for your interest and action in addressing these legislative issues for the benefit of all who have served!

MOAA National Surviving Spouse Corner

Bipartisan Bill Would Strengthen Earned Support for Survivors by Jen Goodale

Submitted by Sharon Douglas

Lawmakers from both parties in both chambers reintroduced legislation designed to keep benefits for survivors of veterans on pace with similar federal programs, and let some survivors of disabled veterans access the payments sooner.

Sens. Jon Tester (D-Mont.) and John Boozman (R-Ark.), and Reps. Jahana Hayes (D-Conn.) and Brian Fitzpatrick (R-Pa.), reintroduced the Caring for Survivors Act (S. 414 | H.R. 1083), which addresses longstanding disparities within the Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) program. DIC has undergone minimal adjustments since its establishment in 1993 to provide financial support to surviving family members of deceased servicemembers and veterans.

As a result, the benefit has fallen behind other federal program payments for survivors by almost 12%. The bipartisan effort to update and equalize DIC rates underscores a commitment to ensuring surviving families receive the support they deserve, commensurate with the evolving costs of living and federal benefit structures.

Under existing DIC regulations, survivors are eligible for benefits only if the veteran died from a service-connected illness or injury identified a minimum of 10 years prior to their death. The Caring for Survivors Act would cut this timeframe in half, to five years.

This proposal acknowledges disabilities can have lasting and significant impacts on survivors' lives, irrespective of the duration of the disability. By enabling survivors to access benefits sooner, the bill would provide timely support to those who have endured the hardships that often accompany the care of disabled veterans.

The bill exemplifies the bipartisan spirit of cooperation in addressing the needs of veterans and their families. With Sens. Tester and Boozman, as well as Reps. Hayes and Fitzpatrick, joining forces across party lines, it underscores the universal recognition of the importance of honoring the men and women who have died in support of our nation. This collaborative effort reflects a commitment to prioritize the well-being of surviving families and acknowledges the sacrifices they have made for the greater good.

Like other bills MOAA has supported, such as the repeal of the so-called "widows tax," the Caring for Survivors Act may have to be implemented incrementally because of the high cost of the fix. While the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has not scored the bill officially, the unofficial estimate is $45 billion over 10 years.

The current environment on Capitol Hill requires continued pressure and advocacy from constituents like you to achieve this goal, as was required with the widows tax repeal.

This legislation remains the top goal for The Military Coalition's Survivor Committee. Contact your lawmakers today and urge them to co-sponsor the Caring for Survivors Act; the bill's impact would be far reaching, providing vital support to survivors and creating a more equitable and just system.

HELPFUL INFORMATION & NOTICES

SPECIAL ONLINE ACCESS INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS TO STAY CONNECTED

***TAKE ACTION Page**: https:/moaa.quorum.us/ or moaa.org/takeaction*

***Web Page** for NACMOAA: nacmoaa.org*

***Facebook:** NACMOAA*

Northern Arizona Chapter MOAA Mission

NACMOAA's mission is to promote the purposes and objectives of the Military Officers Association of America; to foster fraternal relations among retired, active and former commissioned and warrant officers of the eight U.S. uniformed services, including the National Guard and Reserve Components; to protect the rights and interests of our members and all U.S. military veterans, their dependents and survivors; and to serve the community and the nation

Minutes of NAC MOAA Board Meetings

You may now request a copy of the NAC MOAA Board Meeting minutes from Roberta Rice, Secretary - rbdrice@verizon.net or find them available on groupworks.



The Outback Newsletter is published by the Northern Arizona Chapter, which is an affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA). MOAA and its affiliated chapters and councils are an independent, nonprofit, politically nonpartisan organization.



Treasurer's Report: As of 4 SEPT 2023

$ 1,824.23	*General Fund*
$ 1,102.81	*Scholarship Fund*
$ 619.82	*Honor Flight Fund*
$ 458.50	*Events Fund*
$ 4,005.36.	***Total Funds Available***



Chaplain's Corner:



Members of NACMOAA may contact our Chaplain Pete Jensen anytime for prayer over the phone (928-830-3569), or to obtain confidential, Biblical counseling by phone or in person. No question you have is unimportant or "off limits". The Chaplain generously donates his time to our chapter members.



IN REMEMBRANCE: NANCY STEPHENSON

Recognizing the passing of a true friend of NAC MOAA - Nancy was an active participant from her home base of Sedona for many years. She was missed when she relocated to be near family who could help her during her illness. Nancy passed away earlier this summer. Please join us in extending our thoughts and prayers to her family at this sad time.



MOAA MISSION: To advocate for our military community and connect it to the nation we serve.

MOAA VISION: To promote and protect a strong national defense and lead our nation to honor its commitments to all who serve.





Thank You Businesses for your support of NACMOAA.

If you would like to place an AD in this newsletter, contact any Board Member.

Veterans Suicide Prevention Line

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (now known as the **988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline**), and is now active across the United States. When people call, text or chat 988, they will be connected to trained counselors that are part of the existing Lifeline network. These trained counselors will listen, understand how their problems are affecting them, provide support, and connect them to resources if necessary.

The previous Lifeline phone number (1-800-273-8255) will always remain available to people in emotional distress or suicidal crisis.

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs



NORTHERN ARIZONA CHAPTER ~ APPLICATION FOR

SURVIVING SPOUSE MEMBERSHIP

Must be completed for you to have a vote on Chapter Issues or to hold elected office.

NAME: FIRST _____ MIDDLE _____ LAST _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

TELEPHONE: _(_____)_____ ALTERNATE PHONE: _(_____)_____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

Surviving Spouse: Your deceased spouse Rank / First / Middle Initial / Last Name / MOAA Member #:

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: $_____(Make check payable to NACMOAA)

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT: _____ DATE _____

New Regular Membership Application Northern Arizona Chapter

Name _____ MI _____ Last _____

Rank _____ Service _____ Component _____

Status: Active Retired Former Reserve NG DOB (optional):

Address_____

City_____ ST_____ Zip _____

Home phone _____Cel _____

EMail _____

Spouse Name: First_____ Last _____

Member of National MOAA: Yes No (circle one). You do not have to be a National member to join our chapter. If you are, circle membership type: Basic Premium Life and provide your National MOAA Membership # _____

Dues (choose the one which applies to you):

New Regular member who signs up in the 1st qtr - $25; 2nd qtr - $20; 3rd qtr - $15. If you sign up in the 4th qtr it's $25, but that covers your 4th qtr in the current year, plus dues for the entire follow-on year.

Amt enclosed: $ _____ (make check payable to NACMOAA)

Signature _____ Date _____

Mail check and application to:

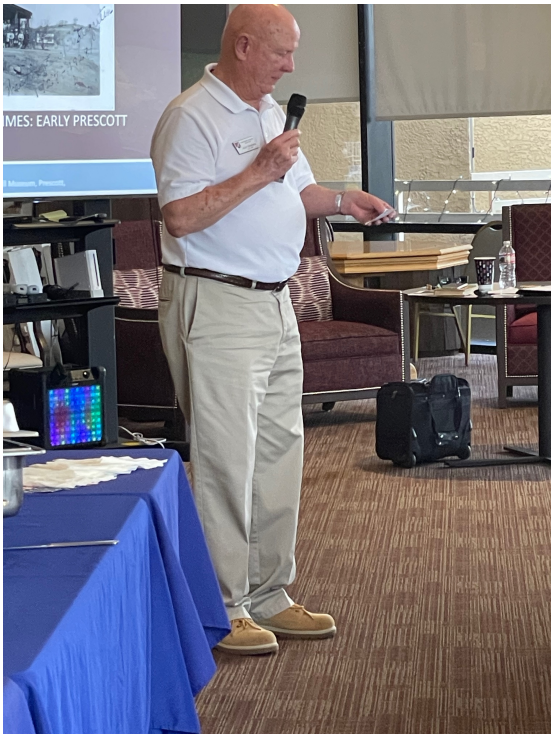
NACMOAA Treasurer
PO Box 1226
Chino Valley AZ 86323

See MOAA on the web at www.moaa.org

All Chapter members are encouraged to be members of national Military Officers Association of America.

Any person who has ever held a commission or a warrant in any of the eight uniformed services is eligible for membership in the Military Officers Association of America.

AUGUST LUNCHEON - A Walk Through Prescott Area History





VP Alex Torrance Welcomes Guest Speaker Ms. Pedersen. She enthralled us with stories of early history of the Prescott area.

....AND AN OUTSTANDING LUNCHEON



New Chef Chad treated us to a wonderful appetizer display followed by a delicious and varied Greek feast.

A **therapy dog** is a dog that is trained to provide affection, comfort and support to people, often in settings such as hospitals, retirement homes, nursing homes, schools, libraries, hospices, or disaster areas. In contrast to assistance dogs, which are trained to assist specific patients with their day-to-day physical needs, therapy dogs are trained to interact with all kinds of people, not just their handlers.

MOAA MEMBERS - GIVING BACK TO OUR COMMUNITY.

Members Clyde & Deborah Meade share their beloved golden retriever Bos'n with residents of Granite Gate.

Clyde provided the background information on Golden Retrievers as therapy dogs.

(Faces are not shown for privacy reasons.)



Golden Retrievers are often used as therapy dogs due to their calm demeanor, gentle disposition, and friendliness to strangers.



EDITOR'S REQUEST MOAA MEMBERS - ACTIVE IN THEIR COMMUNITY

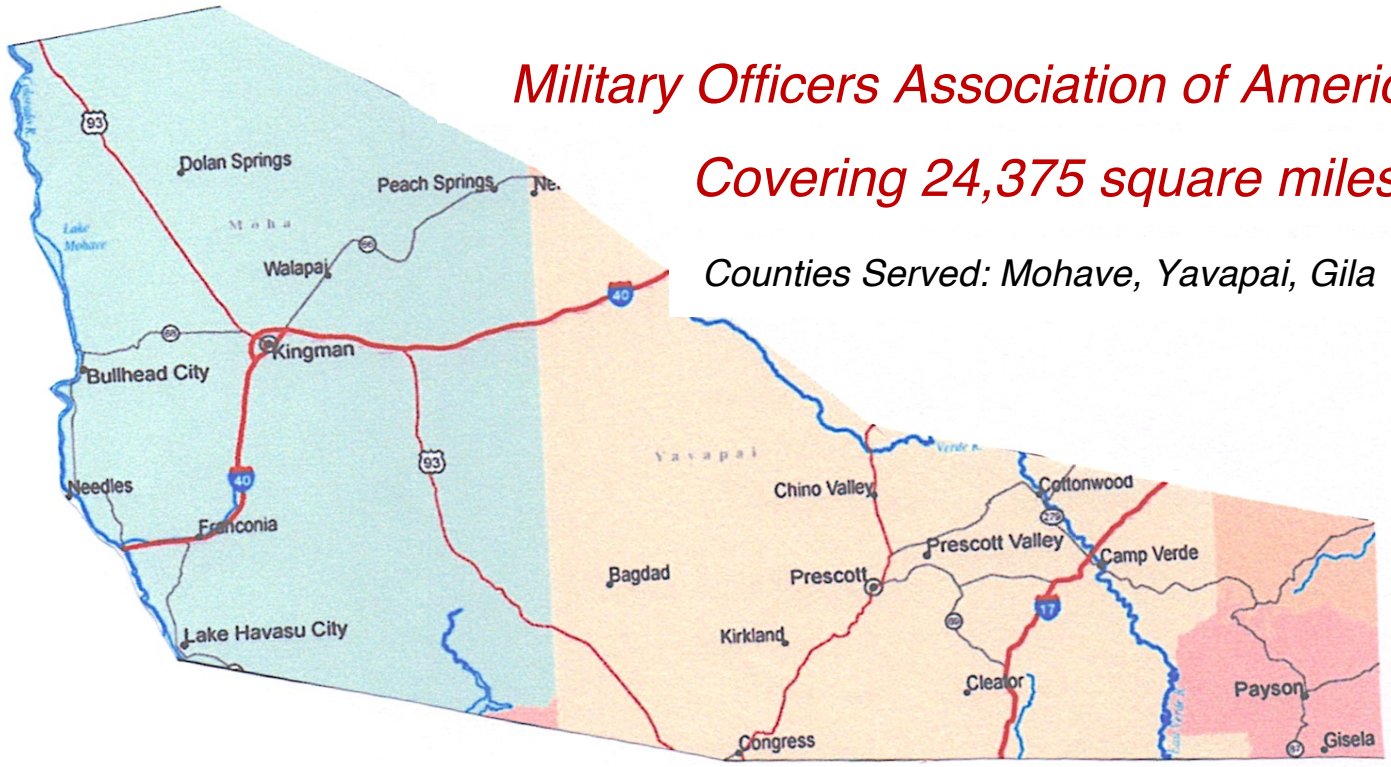
I would like to highlight MOAA members actions/activities in their communities so please send me information and pictures for consideration in future issues.

Northern Arizona Chapter

Military Officers Association of America

Covering 24,375 square miles

Counties Served: Mohave, Yavapai, Gila



From: NAC MOAA
The Outback
Mrs. Mary G. Jonas
P O Box 1226
Chino Valley, AZ 86323

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