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; 2022 - 5 Star; 2023- 5 Star

THE OUTBACK

NACMOAA

Established 1972

SEPT/OCT 2024

NACMOAA STAFF & DIRECTORS FOR 2024

CDR Clyde Meade - President & Director

Mrs. Sharon Douglas – Immediate Past President, Director & AZ Council of Chapters Surviving Spouse Liaison

CPT Ray Jordon– Vice President, Coordinator for 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 Spencer O'Neil - Membership & PIO

LCDR Peter Jensen – Chaplain

Mrs. Mary Jonas – Surviving Spouse Chapter Liaison

Mrs. Roberta Rice – Outback Editor & Secretary

LtCol Alex Torrance - Director

From the President

By: Clyde Meade





As I sit to put words to paper, Fall is just around the corner, however, still must deal with the upcoming heat wave. Will be happy to see cooler temperature soon! By the time this newsletter hits the streets the "Healing Fields" in Prescott Valley (6-13 September), honoring those that lost their lives on 09/11 (a weeklong event) will have taken place. Upcoming is the Yavapai County Standdown, September 20/21, an annual two-day collaborative event that links homeless veterans in Yavapai County with housing, food, clothing, health screening, and additional services from the community needed to regain self-sufficiency (U.S. VETS). To those that are able to attend and support, THANK YOU!

For those of you that have the "U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs" card, I noticed that there is actually an expiration date on it. Be honest, I hadn't noticed it before. I just happened to catch it during an appointment at the VA Hospital. Mine didn't expire until January of 25, however since I was there, I went ahead AND GOT IT UPDATED.

[Continued on page 2)

Where to find things in this newsletter:

Regular & Surviving Spouse Membership form: Page 13

Lunch location and reservation form: Page 3

(Continued from page 1)

So, if it applies, please check, don't want to have to deal with an appointment with an expired card. Easy to update at the Hospital.

In my 53 years of voting eligibility, I must admit this election in my opinion is probably the most defining of our future as American citizens. As a nation we seem so divided on so many issues and unwilling to compromise. Regardless, if you are a Democrat, Republican or Independent, we are all Americans first. We need to find a way to come together united for the common good for all. VOTING, a right we have had since the beginning of our great nation 248 years ago. Sadly, though not everyone takes the time to exercise their rights. In the 2020 presidential election roughly 66% of eligible voters cast a ballot. Interesting to note that the US turnout is generally lower than that in other advanced democracies. So, what do you say! Your voice your vote! "We do not have government by the majority. We have government by the majority who participate". Thomas Jefferson. "Voting is the expression of our commitment to ourselves, one another, this country, and this world". Sharon Salzberg.

Looking forward to our next Luncheon/meeting at the Prescott Centennial Center on Thursday, Oct 3rd. I believe we have a dynamic speaker, (our last for 2024) lined up for our chapter. How about some chapter support? Bring a friend. Prescott Centennial Center seems like an ideal location and is very accommodating for our chapter members. Looking forward to seeing you all there.

Semper Fortis,

Clyde Meade
President, NAC MOAA Chapter



PUT THE SPOTLIGHT ON:

NAVAHCS facilities now have the updated flu vaccine. All enrolled Veterans can receive the vaccine by either scheduling an appointment with their Patient Aligned Care Team (PACT) or use our Drive-Through/Walk-Up Vaccine Fort. The Fort will **start operating on September 9 and be open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. until November 8**. The Fort will be located at the north end of our facility. There will be signs leading to it from our main entrance. The updated Covid vaccine will be available soon as well.



YAVAPAI COUNTY STAND DOWN

Friday September 20 (8:00am - 5:00pm)
Saturday September 21 (8:00am - 2:00pm)
LOCATION: 1040 Whipple St., Prescott, AZ 86305



NEXT LUNCHEON: At PRESCOTT CENTENNIEL CENTER

3 OCT 2024

PLEASE NOTE NEW LOCATION, DATE & DAY OF THE WEEK

GATHERING TIME: 11:00 AM *PLACE: 989 Wineglass Dr. Prescott AZ 86301*

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

MENU PENDING

DETAILS WILL BE SENT OUT VIA EMAIL

AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

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

IF YOU HAVE DIETARY RESTRICTIONS, PLEASE ADVISE CLYDE MEADE

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

DIRECTIONS: ***(From Prescott/Prescott Valley)*** *Take exit 317 (off 89A) for AZ-89 toward I-40/Prescott/Chino Valley. Keep right at the fork, follow signs for Airport/Chino Valley. Merge onto AZ-89 N. At the traffic circle, take the 1st exit onto Perkins Dr. Turn left onto Wineglass Dr. Building is on your right.* ***(From Chino Valley)*** *Head south on 89 S towards Private Rd. At the traffic circle, take the 2nd exit and stay on 89 S. Exit the traffic circle onto 89 S. At the traffic circle, take the first exit onto AZ-89. At the traffic circle, take the 2nd exit and stay on AZ-89. Turn left onto Mac Curdy Dr. Turn right onto Clubhouse Dr. Center will be on your left.*

Please cut on the line below and mail with your check to CLYDE MEADE

TO RECEIVE NO LATER THAN – 27 SEPT 2024

NACMOAA address is PO Box 95 Dewey, AZ 86327

You may call Clyde at 602 592 4636 to place a reservation if you prefer to pay at the door.

LATE NOTICE CANCELLATIONS CANNOT BE REFUNDED

3 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 - $ _____

_____



AZ Military Order of Devil Dogs Charities recently presented a $5,200 check to purchase high-quality commercial grade washer/dryer laundry equipment to support US Vets in Prescott, Arizona.

Shown above is AZ MODD Charities Chairman and NACMOAA Board Chairman Bob Wallace with USVETS Director of Operations, Monica Vohs and Marketing Director Matthew Phillips. Not shown is Az MODD Director and Past NACMOAA President Stewart Fraiser.

US Vets, Prescott, opened in 2003 and proudly serves 500 veterans annually. The recently consolidated Liberty Pointe campus, home to 132 veterans, has expanded previous geographically separated programs, bringing all sorts of veteran services together under one roof. This facility provides employment assistance, transportation, counseling, case management, workforce development, full-service career center, veteran service center, quality care and housing to the men and women who served our country in every branch of the US Armed Forces.

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

NAC MOAA LADIES LUNCHEONS

Since the closing of Augie's, we are trying a variety of local restaurants - we will announce our Nov location in October. The final date for 2024 is:

NOV 8 (The second 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.





Paula L. Pedene APR, Fellow PRSA - Woman of faith, wife, mother, public relations counselor, and veterans advocate.

Paula Pedene is a nationally recognized speaker on the value of Ethics in Leadership. She was one of the first Whistleblowers at the Phoenix VA to help expose the national wait time scandal and amongst the first to receive a high- profile settlement as vindication of her whistleblower retaliation by VA leaders. Her stand and vindication inspired hundreds of other Whistleblowers to come forward, making the Department of Veterans Affairs one of the leading agencies for Whistleblower claims to this day.

She shares her tragic, yet inspiring Whistleblower journey in the award-winning book, A Sacred Duty, How a Whistleblower Took on the VA and Won, highlights the importance of perseverance for battles on moral ground.

As a five-time Public Relations Society of America Silver Anvil awardee, and a member of their College of Fellows, Pedene is a visionary leader for advocacy and empowering others. In this realm, she and can speak about the importance of having public relations at the leadership table to improve the culture and morale within organizations.

Paula Pedene has numerous prestigious awards, including the Public Relations Professional of the Year, the John McCain Leadership Award for veterans advocacy, the Salute to Patriot's Award in leading the Phoenix Veterans Day Parade, being a member of the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame Class of 2019, and inductee of the Defense Information School (DINFOS) Hall of Fame for her U.S. Navy broadcasting accomplishments.

Pedene is married to retired Navy Commander Bill Pedene, and they have two sons, Robert and Stev

Minutes of NAC MOAA Board Meetings & Treasurer's Report

You may now request a copy of the NAC MOAA Board Meeting minutes and/or current Treasurer's Report from Roberta Rice, Secretary - rbdrice@verizon.net.

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR YOUR DIRECTORS & STAFF

LCDR Clyde Meade - President & Director

navoff04@gmail.com

Mrs. Sharon Douglas –Immediate Past President, Director & AZ Council of Chapters Surviving Spouse Liaison

sharon.douglas.nacmoaa@gmail.com

CPT Ray Jordan - Vice President, Coordinator for Guest Speakers & Awards & Director

rginiray@aol.com

LtCol Alex Torrance–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 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





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.

Membership / Public Information Officer – Corner

Greetings fellow members of NACMOAA. In case you missed our last luncheon in our prospective new location, it was suitable to our needs and the chow was delicious! Our October luncheon will be equally as good, and we do hope to see you there!

As Autumn returns, we look forward to cooler weather and look to the upcoming days of remembrance. Remembering is often difficult, but forgetting is not an option – lest we're forced to re-experience the things we shouldn't have forgotten in the first place. Pride is something I feel when I look back and know that I've done my part. Not because I've done it any better than the next person, but because collectively we've stood in the breach to protect our way of life. In the next few months some days are coming that help me remember what we are a part of. October 13th and November 10th are the 249th birthdays of the U.S. Navy and U.S. Marine Corps respectively. November 11th is Veterans Day, and of course November 28th is the day of Thanksgiving for our nation. And, as we are all aware, a very important day for us all is Tuesday November 5th, election day. Please be sure to vote.

Remember that our Chapter provides Scholarships to three JROTC, and two ROTC Cadets. Please consider a generous donation to this fund to help our Chapter recognize these fine young future leaders of our country. All scholarship contributions go to scholarships and the more we receive, the larger the scholarships. Thank you for your generosity. Additionally, as you are aware, our annual dues are minimal, and we keep our expenses to a minimum. However, inflation and its subsequent rising costs restrict our ability to upgrade and expand our capabilities to reach others.

Please consider donating generously to support our organizational expenses such as printing costs, postage, website support, etc. Thank you!

Dues and contributions can be made in one of three ways:
** In person at our bi-monthly Luncheons; or*

** Mailed to: NACMOAA*
P.O. Box 95
Dewey, AZ 86327
(Make checks payable to: "NACMOAA" & write "Dues / Scholarship Fund/Admin Support" in the memo line).;

**or Dues and/or Contributions may now be paid Online through our National MOAA organization's website: www.moaa.org . You may also pay dues for multiple years in advance.*

As your Public Information Officer, I am continually looking for ways to let others know of our Chapter's activities and events and to locate prospective new members. Please invite any eligible prospective member to join our organization. We would love to welcome them. Thank you.

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



LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS UPDATE

by COL (RET) Steve Woods, U.S. Army

The nation's Senate and House will be back in session in DC on September 9th, but election activities may very well take a significant amount of attention away from their work on legislation as they focus on their reelection. As a result, not a lot of work will be started (or completed) in DC in these last four months of the year. Despite this, however, MOAA and Veteran supporters must still press Congress on MOAA's advocacy items.

Please, revisit the MOAA Action Center and send the prepared letters (with your personalization) to our Senators and Representatives. These letters allow you to clarify why the specific issue is important to you.

Please consider the following high priority actions:

- *Richard Star Act: https://moaa.quorum.us/campaign/43784/*
- *BAH Restoration: https://moaa.quorum.us/campaign/46553/*
- *Protect TRICARE for Life: https://moaa.quorum.us/campaign/56719/*

Please also review and consider the following articles regarding the needs of our community:

Pay Raise, Housing Help, and More: MOAA's Priorities as Congress Returns What can we expect on the NDAA, the budget, and other key legislative fronts during the short session beginning on 9 September?

How MOAA's Advocacy Work Supports Guard and Reserve Members This article lists the MOAA priorities for topics ranging from expanded health care options to benefit parity to transition support.

Advocacy Groups Point to NDAA Measures Addressing Food Insecurity in the Ranks Find out how MOAA has continued its leadership on this topic, and how the must-pass bill could help.

Thanks again for your support of MOAA advocacy and for all you do to assist your fellow Veterans, current service members, and military families.

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MOAA National Surviving Spouse Corner

Submitted by Sharon Douglas

September is National Suicide Prevention Month.

It is a time to raise awareness of this national crisis, to share prevention resources and information and to provide support to those affected by suicide. Unfortunately, the number of veterans who take their lives are disproportionally high. The VA estimates that 22 veterans commit suicide each day. This means approximately 8,030 veterans kill themselves every year, more than 5,540 of whom are 50 or older.

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Warning signs to look for include changes in behavior, depression, anxiety and substance abuse are most often associated with suicide. The 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline provides 24/7, free and confidential support for people in distress, along with prevention and crisis resources..

The Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter is looking for new members. The only requirements are to be a surviving spouse or a surviving spouse liaison, and a member of MOAA. There are no dues. This is an opportunity to meet others who have shared experiences, find resources, and advocate for benefits and services that our surviving spouses deserve.

Meetings take place once a month on the third Tuesday of each month; however, there are no meetings in November or December.

You will receive a notice each month with a link for joining the meeting. In odd-numbered months meetings are more formal, with an agenda and a guest speaker. In even numbered months, meetings are more informal and are primarily for information sharing.

In addition, there is a book club that meets once a month on the third Monday of the month. Books are chosen by the participants and include both fiction and nonfiction.

The Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter, chartered in 2018 and has grown to over 250 members. For additional information or to join, contact mssvc02@gmail.com or find us on MOAA.org. Here, you can also find links to critical advocacy issues and helpful resources and benefits.

The holidays are just around the corner. This can be a joyous time or one of loneliness and isolation after losing a loved one:
TAPS, the Tragedy Assistance Program is there to help. The mission is to provide compassionate care and resources for all those grieving a death in the military or veteran community. They provide hope and comfort 24/7.You can find support at the Military Survivor Helpline at 1-800-959-8277.

You can also join online groups to meet your needs and schedule. The groups are organized by relationship to the fallen,cause of death, and peer groups. For more information visit TAPS.org/onlinegroups.

This time of year is also a good time to take inventory of items that may need your attention. Before you get busy with the holidays, take a minute to make sure you are up to date and ready for the new year.

-Check your driver's license and military i.d (if applicable)to make sure they will not expire soon.
-Make sure all of your information in the DEERS system is current

-Go to the BENEFEDS.com and compare prices and services available in 2025 for vision and dental plans.

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(continued from page 9)

-Changes to Social Security login procedures. If you created a login more than 3 years ago, you will need to transition to a new or existing Login.gov account or use an ID.me account to have access to your MySocialSecurity account online.

-Consider reviewing your homeowners and auto insurance policies. Make sure you have enough coverage but your not over paying as rates and depreciation may have caused options to consider.

-Have your dryer vent cleaned on a regular schedule. This is a prime fire hazard.

-Test your smoke detectors. Experts advise checking them at least twice a year. A good way to remember is to check on the days the rest of the county observes daylight savings time clock changes.

- Don't forget to have your garage door serviced on a regular basis; I learned the hard way, prevention is the way to go.

Make sure you are registered to vote in the upcoming General Election on 05 November. The last day to register is 07 October. LASTLY - DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!

THE HEALING FIELDS - PRESCOTT VALLEY ARIZONA - COMMEMORATING 9/11/01



(



Clyde Meade & Jon Berry volunteered time to assist with the Healing Fields.



IN MEMORIUM - JULIETTE B. DUFFETT

Longtime Prescott resident, Juliette Duffett passed away on June 18, 2024. She was 92 years of age and had been a valued member of NAC MOAA for many years. Juliette was a proud military wife of LTC Walter Nelson Duffett, who predeceased her. Juliette had her own career as an executive secretary and engineering aid and was most proud to raise her sons and daughter through their many military assignments.

Her father was a career naval officer and Juliette's family lived in Honolulu during the attack on Pearl Harbor; she was a charter member of the Sons and Daughters of Pearl Harbor Survivors.

Services were held in July and Juliette is inured in the Prescott National Cemetery.

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.

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See MOAA on the web at www.moaa.org

See NACMOAA on the web at www.nacmoaa.org

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

---

Clyde, wife Deborah with their 4 1/2 year old Golden Retriever Bos'n, (Therapy Pet) at Alta Vista Senior Living Community and Prescott Library



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.

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

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.





The advertisements that appear in this publication do not reflect an endorsement by MOAA or this Chapter.

Regular Membership Application Northern Arizona Chapter MOAA

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 # _____

If you're not a National member, can we enroll you in a National Basic (no cost) Membership _____?

Dues (choose the one which applies to you):

New Regular member who signs up in the 1st qtr - $30; 2nd qtr - $25; 3rd qtr - $20. If you sign up in the 4th qtr it's $30, 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 _____

SURVIVING SPOUSE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: First _____Middle _____Last _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP:_____

Telephone: (_____)_____ CEL (_____) _____

E-mail address: _____

Your deceased spouse Rank / First / M Int / Last Name / MOAA Member #

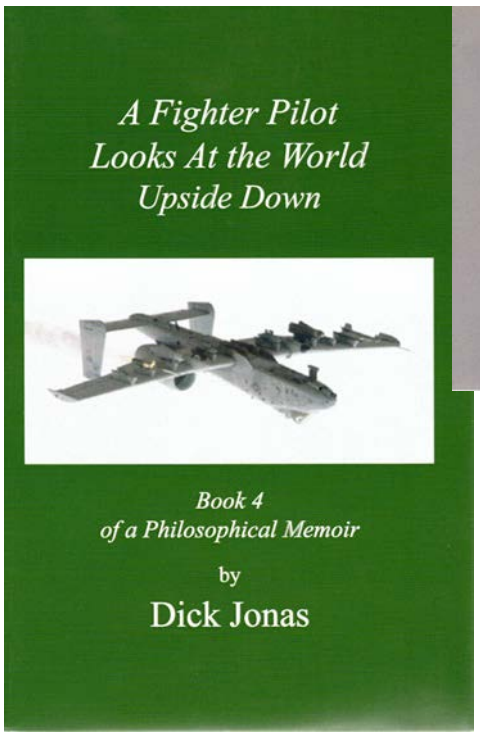
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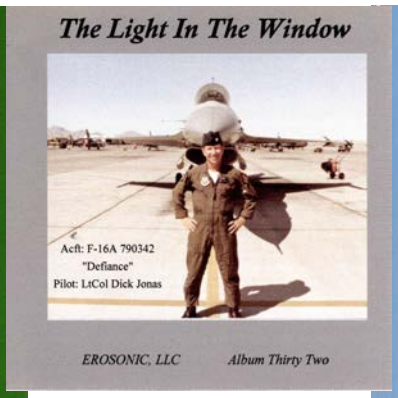
Dues for Surviving Spouse is $5/yr

Amount enclosed: $_____ (Make check payable to NACMOAA)

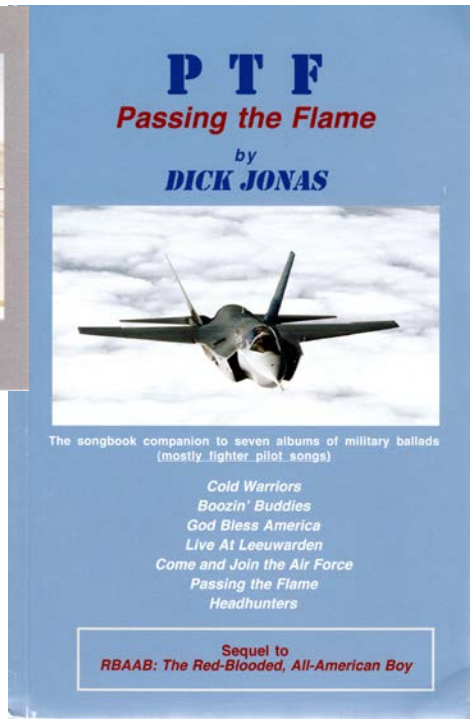
Signature _____ Date _____

Mail check and application to: NACMOAA Treasurer, PO Box 95, Dewey AZ 86327





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Chino Valley AZ 86323
928-710-3742
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40 CDs, Streams online
8 books with song
lyrics, stories, pictures





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.


U.S.VETS
VETERANS CONNECTION HUB
Connection Matters!
The One-Stop Hub for Veterans and Their Families
Referrals
Networking
Workshops
Socials Community
Resources
120 N. Marina St. Suite B, Prescott, AZ
For additional information Contact Tina Boden-Blake 928-830-2283
Andy Calin 928-978-1922
Open Monday -Friday 8am-5pm

A NEW LOCATION FOR NAC MOAA MEETING





Celebrating Together

LCDR Dale Skuria Gives the Invocation







NAC MOAA MEMBERS ENJOYING NEW LOCATION, INFORMATIVE GUEST SPEAKER

Dr. Megan Babcock, Guest Speaker & President Clyde Meade





American Legion Post 6 Honor Guard



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