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

JAN/FEB 2025

NACMOAA STAFF & DIRECTORS FOR 2025

LCDR Clyde Meade - President & Director

Mrs. Sharon Douglas – Immediate Past President, Director & NAC 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 – Ladies Lunch Coordinator & Photographer

Mrs. Roberta Rice – Outback Editor & Secretary

LtCol Alex Torrance - Director

From the President

By: Clyde Meade



Optimism *– a positive attitude that involves expecting good outcomes and emphasizing the good aspects of a situation. Happy New Year and welcome to 2025!*

Optimism*, my thoughts for 2025 and beyond.*

Optimistic *that Israel – Hamas war ends in peaceful negotiations and those that are still held hostage are freed.* ***Optimistic*** *that Russia – Ukraine war ends peacefully.* ***Optimistic*** *that our new Government leadership teams (Federal/State/Local) can work together to solve the issues that affect our countries' Corruption and Transparency, Arms control, Climate/Environment, Drugs/Crime, Terrorism, Economic Prosperity, Healthcare, and overall wellbeing.* ***Optimistic*** *that we find a way to replace the hatred in men's hearts with forgiveness, respect and love.*

Optimistic *that our Veterans can navigate the transition from active duty to civilian life, that they find the mental health support for those experiencing PTSD, that they find the purpose and camaraderie they had while serving, access to benefits and no veteran left homeless.*

[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)

Optimistic *that our active duty and veterans maintain our core values of, Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity, Personal Courage. Lastly that our Health Care systems find that elusive cure for Cancer and the Norovirus (COVID) that plagues our planet.*

2025 will be a year of transition for our chapter. Twelve months from now there will be a new leadership team at the helm. Many of our leadership teams have tirelessly given their all (since I can remember) towards the development and sustainability of our chapter. Time to bring in a new team. I have asked Col Bob Wallace to take the lead on the recruiting efforts moving forward. If you have an interest, please reach out to him. 2026 will be here before we know it.

For those of you who were able to attend our Christmas party I hope you enjoyed the visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus! It was a tough struggle getting them down here, Rudolph was a challenge to lasso, however his bright red nose made for an easy target. I was able to hold them down here for another day, went to the Community Living Center (CLC) at the VA Hospital. It was a joy to see the happiness and joy they brought to the veterans that live there.

It is my pleasure to announce that our speaker for our February luncheon is Jerry "Geronimo" Martin. The great-great Grandson of Geronimo. Public speaker First Nation Indigenous Historian. A Vietnam veteran, Navy/Marine Corps Medic (1st Battalion, 9th Marine Div) – "Walking Dead", a Bronze Star Medal recipient. A truck driver, fiber optic engineer, entrepreneur, government contract buyer, licensed real estate agent and author. An opportunity to hear and learn first-hand knowledge on Arizona History and Geronimo.

"We might possess every technological resource… but if our language is inadequate, our vision remains formless, our thinking and feeling are still running in the old cycles, our process may be revolutionary but not transformative." – Adrienne Rich

Semper Fortis,
Clyde Meade
President, NAC MOAA Chapter



PUT THE SPOTLIGHT ON:

Days of Remembering and Celebrating Service through Leadership - 2025

Recognized as Federal Holidays:
Jan 9 - Pres James Carter
Jan 20 - Dr. Martin Luther King
Feb 17 - President George Washington and President Abraham Lincoln





12 FEB 2025 - WEDNESDAY

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

Pot Roast, Grilled Chicken w/Lemon Bur Blanc Sauce

Mashed Potatoes & Gravy w/ Grilled Vegetables

COST: *The Buffet Lunch is $30.00 per person.* ***The reservation deadline is 5 FEB.***

IF YOU HAVE DIETARY RESTRICTIONS, PLEASE ADVISE CLYDE MEADE

Clyde must have an accurate attendance count for the caterer by 5 FEB.

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 – 5 FEB 2025

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

5 FEB Meeting: Please make checks payable to: NACMOA

All meals are $30.00

My check for $_____is enclosed

Attendees: Members: Guest

Lunch - $_____

2025 Dues $30.00 - $ _____

Scholarship - $ _____

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.



NAC MOAA LADIES LUNCHEONS

We had a fun year trying all types of restaurants around the Prescott area. As we look forward to 2025, we plan to do the same.

Our gathering dates will continue to be the 2nd Friday of odd numbered months as follows:

MAR 14; MAY 9; JUL 11; SEPT 12; NOV 14

Our meeting times continue to be 11:30 AM. We will order off the menu and pay individually as always. All ladies of NAC MOAA are welcome to join us for a social time.

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.

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 & NAC 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 – Ladies Luncheon Coordinator &Photographer

mlgjonas.2012@gmail.com

Mrs. Roberta Rice – Outback Editor & Secretary

rbdrice@verizon.net



Membership / Public Information Officer – Corner

Dear NACMOAA Friends. Thank you so much to all of you who paid your dues for 2025 (and beyond) before the January 1st deadline. Administratively, doing so helps us out so much. For those of you who haven't yet had the opportunity to renew your chapter membership, please do so as soon as you can. We appreciate you and your continued support. Please too, if you can, donate to our scholarship award fund. Your donations go straight to the top Cadets in our area. These fine young people represent the best of our upcoming military future. Your contributions are the only source we have for making these scholarship awards possible. Thank you!

Mark your calendar for our next highly anticipated, super-fabulous NAC MOAA Luncheon in our new location! Our next Luncheon will be held again at the Prescott Centennial Center, 989 Wineglass Drive, Prescott, AZ 86301, on Wednesday, February 12th at 1100 hours. (See elsewhere in this newsletter for further details, speaker information, and menu items) We look forward to seeing you there. The weather here this Winter has been unseasonably warm. I'm enjoying the weather. I'm hoping though, that Winter doesn't suddenly decide to appear on February 12th!

By the time of our February luncheon, I pray that the world will be a more peaceful place for us. The conflicts threatening to engulf us as I wrote my last newsletter article seem to be diminishing somewhat - which is very good - because our younger military counterparts and our fellow NAC members, have been very close to being sent into conflicts that may have easily turned global. WW-III seemed right around the corner. So, let us remember, as we enjoy our Luncheon, that February holds the birthdays of two of our most respected Presidents, Abraham Lincoln and George Washington, and let us not forget the February 23, 1945, raising of the Stars and Stripes on Mt. Suribachi, Iwo Jima. I still get misty when I recall when my Amphibious Battle Group steamed past and around this desolate atoll, Iwo Jima. We mustered the crew on helicopter landing deck of my small ship and the young USMC Detachment commander spoke of the sacrifices of all who fought to claim this barren but strategic volcanic island. We must remember that freedom isn't free. Visions of the rusting hulls of sunken amphibious ships and landing craft that are still visible in the surf zone around this isolated island are etched into my mind. Our Battle Group contained many similar ships and landing craft and thousands of Marines who were prepared to land wherever necessary to preserve our families, our country, and our way of life. They are still out there, right now, today, on station, and ready.

Dues and contributions can be made in one of three ways:
* In person at our bi-monthly Luncheons;
* Mailed to: NACMOAA
P.O. Box 95
Dewey, AZ 86327
(Make checks payable to: "NACMOAA").
*Online through our National MOAA organization's website: www.moaa.org .

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



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

The 119th U.S. Congress convened on January 3, 2025. Before I ask for your continued support for advocacy, let me tell you of a huge recent success! Our grass roots advocacy contributed to the passing of the Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act (H.R. 8371). The act offers comprehensive improvements to Veteran and caregiver benefits across the VA – from long-term care to mental health services to employment programs and much more. The bill passed both the House and Senate and has been signed by the President! Thanks for all your great work in getting this passed. Now on to new challenges! The National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) is summarized on www.congress.gov as: "To authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes." The NDAA was signed into law by the President in December. As with all prior NDAAs, the 2025 edition will form the backbone of, and affect the service-earned benefits of, those in uniform and their families well beyond the target fiscal year. While it includes many provisions supported and monitored by MOAA, it does not include several proposals that remain important to MOAA advocates. The following list is available on MOAA.org and was provided to help you target your advocacy work for the 119th Congress:

***Pay and Allowances**: **Not Included in NDAA 2025-** MOAA will continue its work to restore BAH to 100% of anticipated housing and utilities costs – provisions authorizing funds for such an increase did not make the final legislation.*

***Health Care: Not Included in NDAA 2025-** MOAA will advocate for a number of improvements left out of the NDAA late in the process, such as:*

- *A pilot program to treat pregnancy as a qualifying life event under TRICARE.*
- *Expanding coverage of hearing aids to children of retirees using TRICARE Select (a recent change covered children under TRICARE Prime).*
- *Creation of a TRICARE dental plan for Selected Reserve members.*
- *A report on the TRICARE retail pharmacy network, to ensure beneficiaries, especially those in rural areas, can access the care they need.*

***Spouse and Family Support- Not Included in NDAA 2025**: MOAA sought expanded flexibility for military spouses who work for the federal government and face career challenges brought on by PCS moves. This provision did not reach the final legislation. Other unfilled priorities included reports and studies on several programs, such as the Exceptional Family Member Program, DoD childcare services, and home-based businesses on military installations.*

(continued on Page 8)

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MOAA LEGISLATIVE ACTION CENTER

*If you are NOT registered with the **"Legislative Action Center"** (AKA Quorum), please follow the below six steps to register:*

1. *Go to MOAA.org*
2. *Click on **"Advocacy"***
3. *Click on **"Legislative Action Center"***
4. *Click on the red box in the upper right **"Sign Up"***
5. *Fill out the required information and submit*
6. *You are now registered*

Once registered, enter the "Legislative Action Center" for advocacy as follows:

1. *Go to MOAA.org*
2. *Login to your MOAA account*
3. *Click on "Advocacy"*
4. *Click on "Legislative Action Center"*
5. *Under "Active Legislative Campaigns" click on an issue or "Write" (in a black box) to the right of the issue you want to write about*
6. *When you click "Write" the next screen will be populated with letters to both our Senators and to your Representative.*
7. *Note: You can edit the proposed letters if desired/needed*
8. *Scroll to the bottom and click on "Submit Selected Letters"*
9. *You've just engaged your elected representative at help our military and their families, retirees, or surviving spouse*

CURRENT U.S. and ARIZONA LEGISLATORS

To contact our Congressional members on any issues of importance to you personally or to MOAA, you can use the MOAA Action Center to send emails or you can visit the members' websites to send a message. You can also call their offices direct.

Our U.S. Senators and Representatives:

- *Senator Ruben Gallego -- www.gallego.senate.gov – (202) 224-4521*
- *Senator Mark Kelly -- www.kelly.senate.gov – (202) 224-2235*
- *Representative Eli Crane – www.crane.house.gov/ -- (202)225-3361 CD2 (Yavapai County/Payson Areas)*
- *Representative Paul Gosar – www.gosar.house.gov/ -- (202) 225-2315 CD9 (Lake Havasu City/Kingman Areas):*

As our chapter now covers three Arizona state legislative districts, please check your current voter registration card for your district:.

District 1: (Yavapai County Area)
Senator Mark Finchem – mfinchem@azleg.gov – (602) 926-3631
Representative Selina Bliss – sbliss@azleg.gov – (602)926-4018
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Representative Quang Nguyen – qnguyen@azleg.gov – (602) 926-325

District 30: (Lake Havasu City/Kingman Area)
Senator Hildy Angius – hangius@azleg.gov – (602) 926-5051
Representative Leo Biasiucci – lbiasiucci@azleg.gov – (602) 926-3018
Representative John Gillette – jgillette@azleg.gov – (602) 926-4100

District 7: (Payson Area)
Senator Wendy Rogers – wrogers@azleg.gov – (602) 926-3042
Representative Walt Blackman – wblackman@azleg.gov – (602) 926-3244
Representative David Marshall – dmarshall@azleg.gov – (602) 926-3579

*I don't need to remind you that grassroots advocacy works**....** but only if you get involved! Thank you for all your support on these important issues throughout the last year and for your continued support in the coming year!*

****



Surviving Spouse Corner
Submitted by Sharon Douglas

After serving as the Arizona State Council Surviving Spouse Liaison for the past six years, I stepped down at the end of 2024. It is time for someone else to lead this important position. Mrs. Linda Wolverton, Surviving Spouse Liaison for the Luke Chapter will be taking my place. Linda works tirelessly and has a wealth of information. Much of it can be found on the Luke webpage.

I will be taking over the NAC Chapter Surviving Spouse Liaison position from Mary Jonas. I know you all join me in thanking Mary for many years of service for our chapter in this position. Mary will continue on as the NAC Ladies Lunch Coordinator and Chapter Photographer.

A big Thank You to everyone who participated in the NAC Ladies Annual Holiday Card Campaign. We had a good response and delivered cards to many local veterans.

If you are interested in joining the MOAA Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter, please contact me. We meet via Zoom every month. We have interesting speakers and there is a question-and-answer platform. You will meet members with shared experiences, form new friendships, and find information on benefits and congressional action concerning surviving spouses.

Legislative update

H.R.8371 The Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act was recently passed by both houses of Congress. The bill was sent to President Biden for his signature on 12/23/24.

The bill addresses home care and caregiver programs provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs. Under the bill, the cost of providing noninstitutional alternatives to nursing home care must not exceed the cost that would have been incurred if the veteran had been furnished VA nursing home care, unless the VA determines that a higher cost is in the best interest of the veteran. The bill also provides support and benefits to caregivers to certain disabled veterans.

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For complete information on this bill, visit the House Committee on Veteran's Affairs website.

H.R. 4190 Restoring Benefits to Defrauded Veterans Act, a bipartisan bill was recently signed into law. This new law requires the VA to reimburse a veteran's estate for benefits misused by a fiduciary should a veteran die before such payments are processed. Under the previous law, survivors lost out on these repayments.

VA Life Insurance premium update

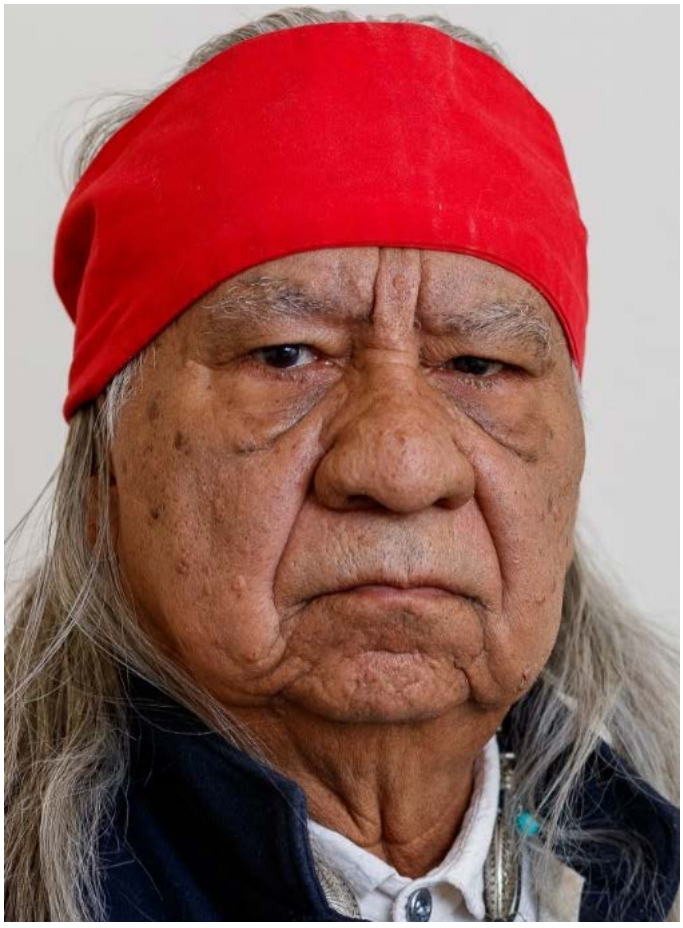
Servicemembers, veterans, and spouses who have VA life insurance policies will see a decrease in premiums in 2025. Policies include: Veteran's Group Life Insurance Company, Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance, and Family Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance.

The discounts will be automatically applied, no action is needed by the policyholder. Contact your carrier for more information.

Wishing you all a very happy and healthy New Year.

Sharon

FEBRUARY GUEST SPEAKER - ARIZONA HISTORY



Jerry Martin is the great great grandson of legendary Geronimo, a member of the Apache War Council.

He is the co-author of a book of Lena-tu-ha: An Apache Maiden based on true historical events.

There will be a question and answer period; photos will be allowed.

Jerry is a military veteran.

Additionally, the referenced book will be available for purchase and autographs.

"TWAS THE SEASON" FOR FUN, MERRIMENT, REMEMBERING GOOD TIMES,& FAVORITE TRADITIONS WITH SANTA & MRS. CLAUS





















OTHER SPECIAL GUESTS ARRIVED FROM YUMA & FLAGSTAFF TO JOIN IN OUR FESTIVITIES







NAC MOAA SHARED SANTA THE FOLLOWING DAY WITH the CLC RESIDENTS AT THE VA HOSPITAL



HELPFUL INFORMATION & NOTICES

See MOAA on the web at www.moaa.org

See NACMOAA on the web at www.nacmoaa.org

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

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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.

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

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

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.

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 #

_____

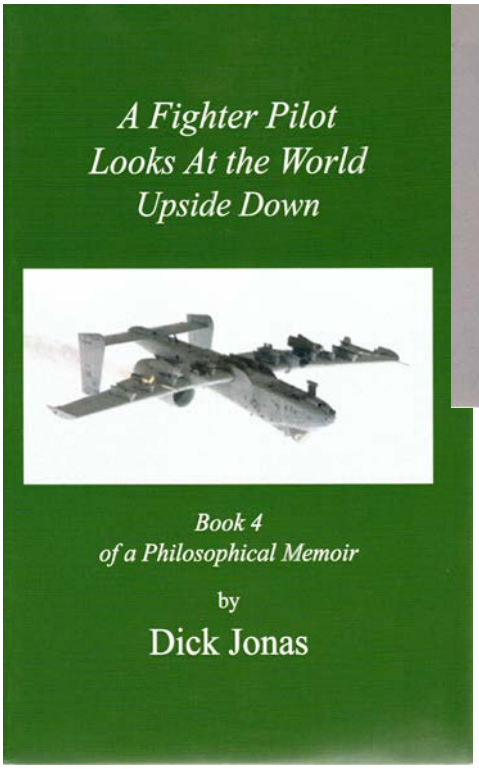
Dues for Surviving Spouse is $5/yr

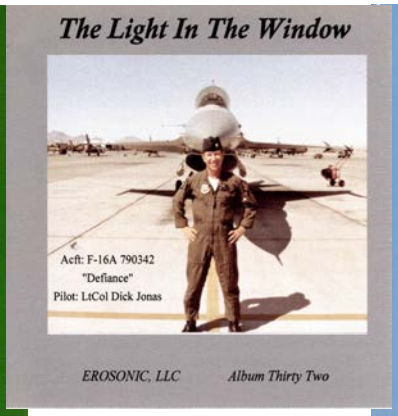
Amount enclosed: $_____ (Make check payable to NACMOAA)

Signature _____ Date _____

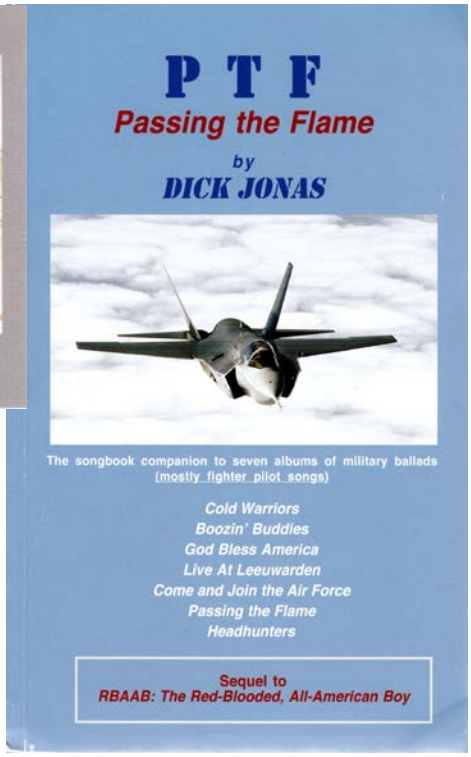
Mail check and application to: NACMOAA Treasurer, PO Box 95, Dewey AZ 86327







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40 CDs, Streams online
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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
PRESCOTT

*AZ Tax Credit has INCREASED! You can make a donation to U.S. VETS - Prescott until April 15, 2025.. Your contributions make a positive impact in the lives of the veterans we serve! U.S. VETS is a qualifying nonprofit for the AZ Tax Credit which means you can donate up to $841 for a joint return...and it may be deducted from your Arizona State Tax bill. *Consult your tax professional and the AZ Dept of Revenue Guidelines. Please make check payable to U.S. VETS - Prescott, 1040 Whipple St. #400, Prescott, AZ 86305 or call 928 583 7199. U.S. VETS - Prescott's assigned tax credit code is 20136.*

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