

*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*

THE **OUTBACK**
NACMOAA
Established 1972

**JAN/FEB
2024**

**NACMOAA STAFF &
DIRECTORS FOR 2024**

CDR Clyde Meade - President &
Director

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

CPT Ray Jordan– Vice President &
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



Welcome to 2024! A belated Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Hope that everyone had the opportunities to celebrate the holidays and that we didn't make too many New Year resolutions that we won't be able to keep.

I want to express my sincere gratitude to Sharon Douglas for her leadership of our Chapter for the last four years. She inherited this chapter during a very turbulent time and was able to keep our chapter on course. To quote Charles Dickens, (Tale of Two Cities) "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of light, it was the season of darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair." Sharon, you kept the helm steady and on course. Thank You!

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Where to find things in this newsletter:

Surviving Spouse Membership form: Page 15

Regular Membership form: Page 13

Lunch location and reservation form: Page 3

2024, a new year, new challenges to face. A lot has happened since our Chapter was chartered in 1972. Our chapter covers roughly 24,375 sq miles of Arizona real estate. Which I believe is the largest in the State. We have seen growth and loss within our chapter with three Satellite chapters. Grand Canyon chapter growing and becoming their own and unfortunately Mohave and Payson Satellite having to stand down. Our numbers have fluctuated over the years due a lot to the unfortunate loss of some of our members and lack of growth in membership. So how do we “right the ship”?

As I/we take on the challenges, what can we do? Need to set goals! So, what should our goals be? My proposals are (1) increase membership, (2) increase participation in the chapter, and (3) establish visibility of NACMOAA in the community.

Membership – “All Hands on Deck”. Share the value of membership with others, invite others to join, show the brand, use of several types of reaching out (a handshake, social media, handouts, business cards etc.).

Participation – Engage in chapter activities, be a leader, share ideas with chapter members. Let’s make this a chapter of all instead of a few.

Visibility – Community events, be a part of. Social media, share. Engage with other veteran organizations. Chat with your community leaders.

As I take the helm, I look forward to working with all of you in setting the course for this chapter moving forward.

Semper Fortis,

Clyde Meade
President, NACMOAA Chapter

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.

NEXT LUNCHEON: 7 FEB 2024 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

LET'S CELEBRATE FRIENDSHIP

Welcome Table: Baked Brie & Raspberry Crustini; Antipasto Bites

Mixed Green Salad & dinner rolls

Creamy Tuscan Chicken over Penne Pasta

Baked Almond Coconut Crusted Cod

ACCOMPANIED BY

Scalloped Potatoes and Roasted Garlic Broccoli

And Valentine's Day Desserts

Red Velvet Cupcakes and Valentine's Day Sugar Cookies

COST: The Buffet Lunch is \$30.00 per person. **The reservation deadline is 30 JAN.**

IF YOU HAVE DIETARY RESTRICTIONS, PLEASE ADVISE CLYDE MEADE

Sharon must have an accurate attendance count for the caterer by 30 JAN.

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: www.GraniteGate.com or call (928)771-8200.

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

TO RECEIVE NO LATER THAN – 30 JAN 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

7 FEB 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 - \$_____

Membership & PIO Corner:

Membership:

Greetings! And Welcome to 2024! Wishing you all a very Happy New Year! So far, this decade of the 20's has brought turbulent times. Let's look forward to this new year with hope for more peaceful and prosperous times – for our nation and our fellow warriors who are continually on-station and ready to move into harm's way. Let us serve those who are currently serving, as previous MOAA members supported and served us.

Let us continue to invite and welcome fellow officers to our ranks. So please, if you know any former, current, or retired officers who are not members of National MOAA or members of our NACMOAA chapter, invite them to join us. We would love to meet them and welcome them to our chapter.

Dues! Yes, it's that time again already. Chapter dues were due on or before 1 January 2024. If you have not remitted your annual dues, please do so. Our yearly dues are now \$30 for Members and \$5 for Surviving Spouses.

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 made in person at our bi-monthly Luncheons, sent directly to our Treasurer, LtCol Dick Jonas, at P.O. Box 1226 Chino Valley, AZ 86323, or online through our National MOAA organization's website: www.moaa.org ("Councils and Chapters" page "Fast Access, Chapter Members, Pay Dues Online."). Remember too that you can both donate and 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 continued chapter membership.

If you have questions, you may contact our Chapter Treasurer at: az04nac@erosonic.com.

Thank you!

Public Information Officer:

As your Public Information Officer, I am continually looking for ways to let others know of our Chapter's activities and events. Currently our chapter information appears regularly in two news publications, the "Daily Courier" newspaper and "Coffee Talk" Additionally, such information is available on our chapter website NACMOAA.org. Please help us in reaching new prospective members. Thank you.

LCDR H. Spencer O'Neal, USN, (Ret)

Membership Chair/Public Information Officer, NACMOAA

H_Spencer_ONeal@yahoo.com (760) 486-3855

GUEST SPEAKER



FEBRUARY LUNCHEON

The speaker for our February luncheon is Mrs. Zena Krogedal. Zena is a multi- talented professional who came to the United States as a Vietnam refugee and has made her American Dream come true.

An avid supporter of Veterans, she is especially active in a wide variety of volunteer organizations to include: VAREP (as President), US VETS Prescott and advocates for positive legislation to support veterans. She is a much sought after speaker at many levels and we look forward to her engaging presentation at the upcoming meeting.



LADIES OF NAC MOAA

We will gather at 11:30 AM, at Gabby's Grill in the Prescott Valley Entertainment District, 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.

These dates are all the 2nd Friday of odd numbered months. The dates for 2024 are:

Jan 12; Mar 8; May 10; Jul 12; Sep 13; Nov 8.

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*

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR YOUR DIRECTORS & STAFF

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**National Realty
of Prescott**

MLS

NEVER STOP SERVING

The longtime motto of MOAA has been, “Never Stop Serving”, and one of the best ways MOAA members can do this is through support of MOAA advocacy items with their United States Congressional delegation. Advocacy works! As a key element of a multi-tiered Advocacy In Action (AIA) campaign utilized by MOAA to support issues important to those who are or have served in our uniformed services and their families, local advocacy provides grass-roots emphasis to our United States Congressional delegation for advocacy items proposed to lawmakers by MOAA and other members of the Military Coalition which MOAA belongs to in Washington. Our advocacy has proven to get our legislators’ attention and often their support for these items by demonstrating a significant interest and level of support for them within their constituency back home.

MOAA advocacy items are updated annually and can be found at the Legislative Action Center (LAC) on the MOAA website. 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. It both provides outstanding issue papers and other materials on advocacy items for members to support their interaction with their Representatives in Congress, but also provides pre-formed advocacy letters that can be customized or sent as is to Congress members on many items. While our chapter has the highest level of enrollment in the LAC in Arizona, we are still below 50 percent of our membership registered and I strongly urge you to please consider joining the Legislative Action Center (LAC) so you can reach out to your lawmakers in support of these MOAA priorities.

You can sign up for the LAC 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) and would like to do so, please:

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

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Once registered, you will then have access to the many resources of the LAC by following the following steps:

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.

Thank you again for your dedication to Never Stop Serving!



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.



MOAA National Surviving Spouse Corner

Submitted by Sharon Douglas

by Linda Wolverton, Rosemary Eaton, Susan Bergstrom, & Marilu Trainor/Luke Chapter

LEGISLATION UPDATE FOR SURVIVING SPOUSES: *The following three pieces of MOAA pertinent legislation lag in discussion and/or approval due to the recent congressional budget and organizational focus:*

- 1. Support for Remarried Spouses. "The Love Lives On Act" allows survivors to keep Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) and Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) benefits after remarrying at any age. Under current law, they lose such benefits if they remarry before age 55.*
- 2. Fair Survivor Compensation. The DIC benefit has seen limited adjustment in the 30 years since becoming law. It now trails similar federal benefits by 12%. The Caring for Survivors Act would bring it in line with these benefits, as well as provide the benefit to more survivors of veterans who were totally disabled by a service- connected injury or disease but died from other causes.*
- 3. Lastly, the "Help for Young Family Members". Both TRICARE and the VA's health program for surviving dependents – the Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, or CHAMPVA – lag behind civilian insurance plans in the coverage of young adult dependents. The Health Care Fairness for Military Families Act would allow dependents under 26 to remain under their parents' TRICARE plan without a separate premium, and the CHAMPVA Children's Care Protection Act provides a similar extension under that program for children and survivors of disabled veterans.*

Each of the three pieces of legislation will need to be reintroduced in the current Congress.

Scam Warning

MOAA warns us to Beware of Scams Connected to Disability Benefits (from an article by Kevin Lilley). Scammers targeting veterans who apply for VA benefits may focus on a key piece of paperwork as a way to collect payouts with the promise of successful claims decisions, according to VA OIG. Disability Benefits Questionnaires (DBQs) collect medical information used in VA claim processing. Public DBQs are available on the VA website and can be filled out by a veteran's health care provider. The fraud comes when individuals offer to assist veterans with this process:

- Offering to assist veterans in having the forms filled out, for a fee.*
- Charging to fill out any claims related to the DBQ.*
- In the case of providers themselves, soliciting a fee to falsify or exaggerate the material on the DBQ, with a goal of a larger benefit claim or higher disability rating.*

Free claims services are available to veterans who need assistance – the VA's online accreditation search can help veterans find nearby VSOs / assistance or confirm the credentials of any prospective representative. By law, VSOs and VSO representatives cannot charge a fee for representing you in your claim for benefits.

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 & 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 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.



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.



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

[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.







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8 books with
song lyrics, stories and pictures
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PO Box 1226
Chino Valley AZ 86323



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 _____

E-Mail _____ ++++++++ _____

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 - \$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 _____

Mail check and application to:

See MOAA on the web at www.moaa.org

NACMOAA Treasurer

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

PO Box 1226

See NACMOAA on the web at www.nacmoaa.org

Chino Valley AZ 86323

**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.**



The One-Stop-Hub for
Veterans and Their Families!

Referrals
Networking
Workshops
Socials
Community Resources



Connection Matters!

120 N. Marina, Ste. B
Prescott, AZ 86301

Contact: Tina Boden-Blake
(928) 830-2283
Andy Calin
(928) 978-1922

Our objective is to provide veterans with a source of hope during challenging times. We place a strong emphasis on creating connection and support, aiming to shed light on the frequently unspoken difficulties that veterans encounter.



Connect with other veterans



Access support - Provide support



Learn about resources



Seek intervention

usvets.org/prescott



FUNDED IN PART BY THE STAFF SERGEANT PARKER
GORDON FOX SUICIDE PREVENTION GRANT PROGRAM.

Surviving Spouse members pay dues of \$5.00 per year. This will help us keep more accurate information for our membership roster.
Surviving Spouse Members can vote on Chapter issues and hold office.



**NORTHERN ARIZONA CHAPTER ~ APPLICATION FOR
SURVIVING SPOUSE MEMBERSHIP**

Must be completed and submitted with dues payment (\$5) to
NACMOAA Treasurer
PO Box 1226, Chino Valley AZ 86323

NAME: FIRST _____ MIDDLE _____

LAST Name _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

TELEPHONE: ____ (____) _____

ALTERNATE PHONE: ____ (____) _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

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

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

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

NAC MOAA PARTICIPATES in HOLIDAY EVENTS



Dick Jonas & Gloria Rutt welcome guests at the check in table.

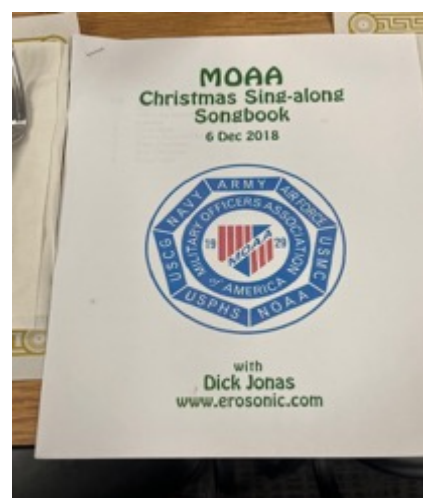
Chris Torrance, Roberta Rice, Mary Jonas and Sharon Douglas enjoy the fellowship time before a delicious lunch.



Vice President Alex Torrance presents outgoing President Sharon Douglas with the President's Award recognizing her outstanding service by the Military Officers Association of America



Member Dick Jonas shared his musical talents to get members in the spirit of the Holidays at several events attended by NAC MOAA members and guests.



HONORING OUR MEMBERS - WITH AWARDS and CELEBRATIONS OF LIFE



Several local veterans' organizations honored the life and service of MAJ (RET) WADE RUTT at a celebration with family and friends at Prescott National Cemetery.



At the December luncheon, LTC Bob Wallace, Chairman Board of Directors announced the prestigious Four Chaplains award was presented to NAC MOAA member Marine Major Stewart Frasier in recognition of a lifetime of selfless service to his community, state and nation and presented by the Marine Corps.

Board Chairman Bob Wallace, VP Alex Torrance, Dick Jonas, Treasurer with Stewart Frasier (recipient) his spouse Naoma Frasier and Clyde Meade, Director.



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