

June, 2022

## A Word from the Chapter President

- As is often the case in many of our lives, circumstances change, and we have to re-order our priorities. Such is the case with John Hathcock, who has served admirably as our Legislative Chair for some time. He is asking to be able to step away from this responsibility. Thus, the chapter is in need of someone new to step forward and take this on. This means keeping up with legislative issues as published by MOAA in their weekly updates, as well as keeping tabs on issues before the Missouri Legislature. Their legislative session actually ends during the month of May, though the issues of importance often do not lie dormant until the next year. Thus we need someone who can track these things, and help keep the rest of us informed on matters that make a difference to Veterans and their families. This can be easily handled, as we have been doing, through a column in the monthly OEMOAA Newsletter. Anyone with experience and/or interest in this area is encouraged to contact John Hathcock for more details and let me know. I'll be happy to consider designating you then as the Chapter Legislative Affairs Liaison.
- We have received word that our chapter newsletter has once again been recognized by MOAA, and has been given the Marvin Harris 5-Star Communications Award for 2021. I must acknowledge that I stand on the shoulders of those who have served before me as Editor. In my knowledge, those individuals include Shirley Bridges and Col Phil Samples. My sincere gratitude to them for their efforts. It is an honor to continue in their footsteps.
- We recently conducted an on-line survey of our membership, in an effort to discern feelings about our foray into holding daytime meetings this past Winter. As of this date, 21 responses have been logged. According to the data, the idea of daytime meetings during the Winter months was well received. There is also interest in considering an additional daytime meeting in September. The overall preference was for Thursday noon meetings, as we held this year. Responses showed strong interest (2/3) in considering other venues for our meetings vs staying with our present meeting host. While this idea has been discussed in the past, options are always changing. If anyone has ideas about another venue that can serve our needs, either daytime or evening, catering a quality meal at a reasonable cost, while avoiding excessive setup or other hosting fees, please share that with your Board. While we have held our meetings at Twin Oaks Country Club for several years, we are under no long-term obligation with them. There was also strong interest (74%) in developing, as a chapter, some type of coordinated community outreach, where members can serve as volunteers, on behalf of OEMOAA.
- Our Cardinals tickets have all been sold! Looking forward to a fun evening on July 26<sup>th</sup> at the ballpark.
- As always, our newsletter is freely available on the chapter website, [www.OEMOAA.org](http://www.OEMOAA.org) as well as via email to all members.

*Ronald McCall, OEMOAA Chapter President*

*The Ozark Empire News is published by the Ozark Empire Chapter, which is an affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA). MOAA and its affiliated chapters and councils are nonpartisan.*



### Sign Up for MOAA “Newsletter” and Legislative “Calls to A

We encourage all chapter members and spouses to always, please stay alert, and respond to MOAA Calls monthly, preferably weekly! Yes, two votes per household are better than 1.

#### Signing Up for the MOAA “Newsletter” and Legislative “Calls to Action”:

- **Newsletter:** Sign up for the MOAA Newsletter. <https://www.moaa.org/> Check “News & Info” on Menu, then, on drop-down menu, check “Newsletters”

Or go directly to this link: <https://www.moaa.org/content/tmn/the-moaa-newsletter/>

- **Calls to Action:** Please stay alert for any “Calls to Action”. <https://www.moaa.org/> Check “Advocacy” on Menu, then, on drop-down menu, check “Legislative Action Center”

Contact your Federal elected officials by using the following link: <http://takeaction.moaa.org/?0>

\*\*\*WHEN COMPLETING “CALLS TO ACTION” **PLEASE LOGIN TO THE MOAA WEBSITE**, WHICH WILL ALLOW YOU TO ENTER OUR **OZARK EMPIRE CHAPTER #** IN THE BLOCK AT THE BOTTOM OF THE LETTER PRIOR TO SENDING. THE CHAPTER # IS: **MO05** (MO is “alpha character” and 05 is “numeric” zero 5).\*\*\*

**Phone calls matter; Emails matter; Online petitions matter; In-person meetings, when practical, matter.** We want to ensure our elected representatives receive local constituents concerns for maximum national impact.  
(call them via MOAA’s toll-free Capitol Switchboard: 1-866-272-6622).

**Always feel free to contact me if you need any additional specific details or have any questions.**

**Email: [john@linegroup.com](mailto:john@linegroup.com) or Mobile: 417.230.9187 Thank you, John Hathcock**



## Chaplain's Corner By Becky Hutchings

"June is busting out all over..." as the song goes! School is done and vacations begin. Summer starts and the end of June marks the halfway mark through the calendar year. Wow! It seems like time is slipping by.

If you are like me, you have a list of projects that are waiting to be completed, and many more that need to make it on the list. However, this is the time to relax and enjoy the weather outside; a time for gathering with friends and relatives to barbecue and catch up on the news. It's also a good time to travel to visit the grandchildren or loved ones.

Rest and relaxation is a wonderful thing. Not only does the physical body get rest, but so does the soul. God ordained that humans should rest, just as He did, as described in creation. Further, he commanded the Israelites to rest every 7th day. My personal take on this command is not punitive, rather a gift to humans. He loved us enough to ensure we rest, because He knew that many of us would work beyond our capabilities (and many of us do this anyway).

The Scriptures say this about rest: "By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. And God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating he had done." Genesis 2:2-3 (NIV)

If rest was good enough for God, it's certainly good enough for me too. It gives me a great excuse to take a nap in my recliner at least once a week!

According to Dr. Sandra Dalton-Smith, a Board Certified Physician, work-life integration researcher, and author of *Sacred Rest: Recover Your Life, Renew Your Energy, Restore Your Sanity*—we actually require seven entirely different types of rest. These seven types of rest include physical, mental, emotional, social, sensory, creative, and spiritual. Of course she recommends being seen by a general practitioner prior to trying anything new, to be certain there are no underlying causes for any symptoms. (Taken from [bedthreads.com](http://bedthreads.com)-journal).

As we take a summer break from our monthly dinner meetings, remember to play hard and catch up on any lost rest. Stay healthy and be sure to take God along on your travels as you enjoy creation. If you stay home and don't have travel plans, remain tuned into your spiritual rest.

Many blessings to you and may you be encouraged.



Honor Flight of the Ozarks has been able to successfully return to flying! Their first mission in two years was recently completed on May 10, carrying 80 Veterans and their Guardians to Washington DC and back. As usual, there was a good crowd present at the Springfield-Branson National Airport to welcome them home. At that occasion, it was our privilege, as representatives of OEMOAA, to present a check for \$2100 to Honor Flight. This represents accumulated earmarked donations, as well as proceeds from our Chapter's 50/50 drawing. We appreciate your continued support!

Here, Tom Mikulis, with Honor Flight, accepts the gift from OEMOAA, presented by Bill Pickett, Secretary/Treasurer, and Ron McCall, Chapter President.

## May Meeting Recap



Our speaker for May was Maella Blalock, LTC, USA (Ret). She served as the Chief of the Office of Defense Cooperation at the American Embassy in Vilnius, Lithuania, following the breakup of the Soviet Union, as they prepared for NATO membership. She was responsible for planning and coordinating a diverse set of US military assistance in direct support of US foreign policy toward the Baltic states.

She presented us with a detailed history of her military career, including her graduation from local places such as Parkview HS, and Evangel University. She then entered the Army as enlisted, later becoming an officer. She was then assigned to the US Embassy in Vilnius, Lithuania. She has a very good understanding of the mindset of the Lithuanians, and thus with many other nations in the Baltic States. In 2000, and still today, the predominant thinking of the Lithuanians relative to national security is five-fold: 1) Economic Development, 2) Good relations with their neighboring countries, 3) Political stability, 4) NATO Membership, and 5) a credible defense force, based on a Western model.

She oversaw distribution of Excess Defense Articles (EDA) to the Lithuanians, which basically consisted of excess and/or outdated equipment that the US military was off-loading. She shared that it is somewhat unexpected to see the US now equipping the Ukrainians with Javelin anti-tank weapons, in their current conflict.

The Lithuanian military had to completely rebuild after the departure of the Soviets, as they had rendered useless much of the infrastructure. Pay for their military was abysmal, and there was no NCO corps. We have actually since then provided much training for their military, and helped them restructure their defense force in line with what we utilize in the US, which seems to be serving them well.

Currently, LTC Blalock is the First Vice President and Awards Chair of the 4 States MOAA Chapter, as well as the recording secretary of the Missouri Council of Chapters.



We were saddened to learn within the past few days, of the passing of Bettye Sue Lord. She was the surviving spouse of Chaplain Billy Lord, a long-time member of OEMOAA, who himself passed in October 2021. Her Memorial Service was held at the Gorman-Scharpf Funeral Home, with interment at the Missouri Veterans Cemetery. Our thoughts and prayers for comfort go out to their family.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations be made to Sutton In-Home Senior Care Center, or to Haven Hospice.



College of the Ozarks Bobcat GOLD was proud to commission five new officers into the United States Army and the Missouri Army National Guard recently. These young men have completed a rigorous training regimen over the last four years and have earned the rank of second lieutenant. Congratulations to our new officers! These new officers have been granted "Basic" MOAA membership, which is a free introductory membership, and are also giving them a one-year complimentary membership in the Missouri National Guard Association



(MONGA) and the National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS).

Newly minted officers include: 2LT Caleb Cunningham; 2LT Gabe Greco; 2LT Talan Saylor; 2LT William Smith; and 2LT Drew Vinson

College of the Ozarks has also received and processed the MOAA award from COL Samples. The recipient is Officer Candidate Matthew Isherwood, a junior MS3 student who is preparing to attend AOCS this summer.

2LT Caleb Cunningham is from Ozark, MO and majored in Criminal Justice with a minor in Military Science. He is branched Infantry and will attend the Infantry Basic Officer Leader Course at Ft. Benning, GA. He also plans on attending Ranger School and is assigned to the 3-138 IN Rgt of the MOARNG in Mexico, MO.

2LT Gabe Greco is from Kansas City, MO and majored in Engineering with a minor in Military Science. He is commissioning into the Engineer Corps and will attend the Engineer Basic Officer Leader Course at Ft. Leonard Wood, MO. He is assigned to the 1141st EN CO of the MOARNG in Kansas City, MO.

2LT Will Smith is an exercise science major from Hollister, MO. He is commissioned as an Infantry officer in the MOARNG and will attend Infantry Officer Basic Course at Ft. Benning Georgia. Lt Smith plans to attend Ranger school while serving with his unit, the 3-138th IN Rgt, in West Plains, MO.

2LT Talan Saylor is a double major in agronomy and animal science major from Harrison, AR. He is also branched Infantry and will attend the Infantry Officer's school at Ft. Benning, GA. He also plans to attend Ranger school and is assigned to 3-138th IN Rgt, in Lamar, MO.

2LT Drew Vinson is an exercise science major from Farmington, AR. LT Vinson is joining the Engineer Corps and will attend the Engineer Basic Officer Leader Course at Ft. Leonard Wood, MO. He assigned to the 1135th EN CO in Richmond, MO.



Frank Bridges represented the Ozark Empire Chapter at the Missouri State University ROTC Department's Spring Commissioning Ceremony on 20 May 2022 in the Plaster Student Union. Also at the Ceremony, the Saber provided by a grant from USAA to the Ozark Empire Chapter, was presented to the top cadet, 2LT Wayne L. Pearmann. He was commissioned into the Military Police with his first assignment being at Schofield Barracks Hawaii.



There were thirteen cadets Commissioned Second Lieutenant with eight assessed active duty and five assessed in the National Guard. They were assigned to ten different branches, including one into the Nurse Corps. Second Lieutenant Lillie Kaempfe, below, was assessed Adjutant General Corps National Guard. After the Basic Course she will be assigned to HQ & HQ Company 203d Engineer Battalion in Webb City, Missouri. She is receiving her Ceremonial Gold Bar from Frank which is provided by the Ozark Empire Chapter. Each of the new Second Lieutenants receives the Ceremonial Gold Bar.

At the same Ceremony, the graduating seniors receive their Class Rings which are partially funded by an endowment in combination with alumni donations.

Attending this ceremony is a great way to get your faith in America's young people renewed!!



On April 9, Hillcrest High School Hornet Battalion held its annual awards Ceremony. This event was attended by Frank Bridges as well as Chris Stark. Chris Stark, LTC, USA (Ret), presents MOAA Recognition certificate to Hillcrest High School Cadet Sturgis, who was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel during the ceremony

## New Member Bio – Robert Lanning



Robert Lanning is a 30-year military veteran, having served 13 years of active and reserve duty in the U.S. Navy and 17 years in the Missouri Army National Guard. He graduated from the Navy ROTC program at Penn State, received naval aviator flight training (Multi-engine), and served as a P-3 Orion Patrol Plane Commander doing anti-submarine and maritime patrols stationed at Brunswick, ME on active duty, and Navy Memphis in the reserves. His deployments included Bermuda, Azores, Italy, Crete, Canary Islands, Norway on active duty, and Japan and Okinawa in the Naval Reserves. His crew and squadron were credited for detecting the first Russian Delta-Class "boomer" submarine in the north Atlantic in 1975. He also taught Navigation and Naval Operations at the Navy ROTC unit in Boulder, CO. After leaving the Navy as a Lieutenant Commander (LCDR), Mr. Lanning joined the Army National Guard in 1992 as a Warrant Officer at the Aviation Classification and Repair Activity Depot in Springfield, MO and transitioned to become a UH-1 Huey and UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter pilot. "The AVCRAD never deploys" so they say, but in 2004 his unit was activated under the 5th Army and deployed to Kuwait, Iraq, and Afghanistan to provide maintenance to fighting forces aircraft and

ground vehicles (Army Oil Analysis Program, or AOAP). This included maintenance flights for helo repairs in Iraq and establishing an AOAP laboratory under frequent mortar and rocket fire in Bagram Airbase, northern Afghanistan. His accomplishments earned him a Bronze Star and Army Commendation Medal among other awards. Other Guard deployments were to Panama and Guatemala for aviation support to humanitarian Army and Air Force Engineers, and Navy transports to build medical clinics and school buildings in remote areas of those countries. He even had a chance to use his geology degrees to assist a Navy well-drilling division to log cuttings as they installed water wells for remote communities. Mr. Lanning took mandatory (involuntary) retirement as a Chief Warrant Officer 4 from the Guard at age 60. He continues working as a semi-retired hydrogeologist.

Mr. Lanning and Minuen Odom have been married for 31 years. Minuen is a retired Registered Nurse. She also taught science and biology in junior high school. Between them, they each have two sons from former marriages, all grown with families of their own (seven grandkids). Bob is involved with community bands (bass sax and contrabass clarinets), some choral groups, two Scottish organizations (yes, he plays bagpipes), and is an amateur herpetologist. Minuen's love is gardening and she belongs the Master Gardener group. Both are involved with the Episcopal church, and have taken musical touring trips to Russia, Germany, Austria, Poland, England, and Scotland with the Messiah Project, a Christian Arts Performance organization based in Springfield.

← **Effective with our June meeting, we will be transitioning to Plated Meals. This should help keep our cost down, and allow our host to better anticipate our needs.** →

**Our options this month are: Lemon Caper Salmon, with parmesan herb risotto & asparagus**

**Or**

**Chicken Florentine, with parmesan herb risotto & asparagus**

**Either meal will be available for the same cost: \$32 per attendee**

## June 2022 Meeting

**DATE** 24 June 2022 (4<sup>th</sup> Friday)

**PLACE:** Twin Oaks Country Club (Oak Room)  
1020 East Republic Road  
Springfield, Missouri 65807

**TIME:** 1815 – Social Hour (Drinks can be purchased from the bar; for example: house wine \$6/glass; domestic beer \$4; liquor varies.) 50/50 voluntary donations, to support Honor Flight of the Ozarks. Drawing at the close of the presentation.

1900 – Meal/Program

**MENU:** Plated Dinner, options as outlined on the preceding page.. Includes small house salad, Rolls, Table Beverages, Chef's choice dessert, Gratuity.

**Cost:** \$32 per person

**SPEAKER:** Missouri Department of Conservation

**RSVP:** By noon, Monday, 20 June 2022  
To: LtCol William Pickett, USAF, Retired  
417-888-0135 or [cathyquilt@earthlink.net](mailto:cathyquilt@earthlink.net)

LtCol Pickett will acknowledge ALL reservations received within 24 hrs. If you do NOT receive a confirmation, please contact Bill.

## 2022 OEMOAA Monthly Schedule

Chapter meetings during Jan, Feb, Mar, will be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday, Twin Oaks Country Club, Oak Room. All remaining monthly meetings will be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday, unless otherwise noted.

2022 OEMOAA Meeting Dates:

26 July – Cards Baseball	16 September
Summer Break	21 October
	18 November
	9 December (2 <sup>nd</sup> Friday)

Speaker Schedule – being developed by a very dedicated and capable staff. If anyone knows of a person or topic that you would like to see presented at one of our monthly OEMOAA meetings, that would be of interest to our group, please let Col. Chuck Guy know. He is always open for good suggestions.

## ELECTED CHAPTER OFFICERS

**PRESIDENT:** Ron McCall, Capt, USAF, Retired

**1ST VICE PRESIDENT:** Becky Hutchings

**2ND VICE PRESIDENT:** (Open)

**SECRETARY/TREASURER:** William Pickett, LtCol, USAF, Retired

**IMMED PAST PRESIDENT:** Chuck Guy, Colonel, USA, Retired

## APPOINTED CHAPTER OFFICERS

**CHAPLAIN:** Becky Hutchings

**LEGISLATIVE CHAIR:** John Hathcock, COL, USA, Retired

**AWARDS COORDINATOR:** Phil Samples, Col, USAF, Retired

**TRUE AMERICAN HERO CHAIR:** John Hathcock, COL, USA, Retired

**SURVIVING SPOUSE LIAISON:** Becky Hutchings

**NOMINATIONS CHAIR:** Steve Vanderhoof, COL, USA, Retired

**AMBASSADOR:** David Reed, CDR, USN, Retired

**MEMBERSHIP CHAIR** Chuck Guy, Colonel, USA, Retired

**WEBMASTER:** Keith Oxyby, W/O British Navy

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR:** Ron McCall, Capt, USAF, Retired

As I watch this generation try and rewrite our history, one thing I'm sure of – it will be misspelled and have no punctuation.

Hard to believe that I once had a phone attached to a wall, and when it rang, I would race to pick it, with NO IDEA who was calling!

There is no such thing as a grouchy old person. Truth is, once you get old, you stop being polite, and start being honest!

If you find yourself feeling useless, remember that it took 20 years, trillions of dollars, and four Presidents to replace the Taliban with the Taliban.

## OEMOAA NAME TAGS

Some members and their spouses prefer a solid plastic name badge with a magnetic clasp. The member cost is \$10 per badge, payable in advance. Order forms will be available at the next two meetings. You can also email Bill Pickett ([cathyquilt@earthlink.net](mailto:cathyquilt@earthlink.net)) anytime and he will send you the form by return email. Please return completed forms to Bill at a meeting with the \$10 per badge fee. Nametags will be ready at the next regular dinner meeting. Yes, the name tags with the pin clasp will continue to be provided at no cost.