

June, 2021

Chapter Mission Statement: *To stimulate patriotism in our community and serve those who hold or have ever held a warrant or commission in any of the seven uniformed services, as well as their surviving spouses. The Ozark Empire Military Officers Association of America (OEMOAA) is an affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA).*

A Word from the Chapter President

As Spring marches on, it is great to see that life appears to be returning to what we know as normal. The attendance at May's OEMOAA Chapter meeting was one of the largest that we have had for a while, and I think, just about the largest since the onset of the pandemic. People are social creatures, and it is really refreshing to see that social interaction again taking place.

We were honored to be able to host Jack Hamlin, a WWII Veteran during our May meeting. He was on board a US Coast Guard boat during the D-Day landing at Normandy. He was a medic, tasked with triage, and saving as many of our servicemen as possible. While his step is a bit slowed, his mind is just as sharp as ever. Chris Stark, USA, LtCol, chairman of Honor Flight of the Ozarks, was able to introduce him, and retold some of his wartime encounters, and Jack was making sure that all the details were recounted accurately.

On a different note, we have learned that the Springfield Cardinals are again allowing groups to attend. We will be able to hold our traditional Summer gathering at the ballpark. We have a block of tickets for the evening of August 3, which is a Tuesday. We have 20 tickets, and will be spending the evening up in the RedBird Roost. With those who emailed me their desire, and those in attendance at the May chapter meeting, we don't expect any difficulty reaching that number. People don't need to be OEMOAA members to enjoy the evening with us. Frank Bridges has purchased the tickets, and will have them available at the June Chapter dinner meeting. For those unable to attend the June meeting, Frank can be reached via email at frankbridges@frankbridges.com, or via cell at 573-308-7272.

Also, as we announced at the May meeting, we are working on holding a Summer Luncheon Meeting. We are working with Twin Oaks, for a luncheon date on August 12. Details are not finalized at the moment, but we will be working on finishing all that in the coming weeks. We need to have at least 20 in attendance in order to make this a viable option. When presented at the Chapter meeting, the idea was met with enthusiastic response. The idea has been proposed to perhaps hold one or two of our Winter meetings during the day as well, to aid those who prefer not to travel at night, especially with sometimes hazardous road conditions. That remains a possibility, depending on response to this event.

Ron McCall, OEMOAA Chapter President



WWII Vet, Jack Hamlin, with his host Chris Stark from Honor Flight of the Ozarks, along with John Glenn, President of Missouri Council of Chapters, and Ron McCall, OEMOAA President



John Glenn, President of Missouri Council of Chapters, presenting MOAA 5 Star Level of Excellence Award to Immediate Past President Chuck Guy. Thank you very much, Chuck, for your great leadership! Never Stop Serving!

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.

Legislative Update

May, 2021
OEMOAA Chapter
Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)



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During the month of May, our Chapter and state-wide Legislative efforts were focused on conducting a "virtual" "**Advocacy in Action**", supporting three key and essential MOAA Initiatives.

MOAA "Advocacy in Action":

Topic #1: Toxic Exposure – TEAM Act (Toxic Exposure in the American Military)

Topic # 2: TRICARE Young Adult (TYA)

Topic #3: Basic Needs Allowance

Through our collective efforts and organized by our Missouri Council of Chapters president John Glenn, we conducted Zoom meetings with 9 of our 10 statewide federal legislators. Locally, we did meet with Senator Roy Blunt and congressman Billy Long. And, yes, they both personally attended and provided valuable input and support.

**Here is a link to the most recent MOAA Advocacy News: [MOAA - News Listing](#)

It is not too late – You can provide your personal input by contacting your legislators - Call:

One of the easiest ways to engage with your lawmakers is to call their office. You may do so toll-free via MOAA's direct line to the Congressional switchboard at **(866) 272-6622**. Just ask the Capitol operator to connect you with your legislator's office.

- ✓ Senator Roy Blunt
- ✓ Senator Josh Hawley
- ✓ Congressman Billy Long

You likely will talk to a staff assistant or a legislative assistant for your member of Congress; their job is to hear your concerns and relay this information to the senator or representative.

1. Ask for their support for these legislative items (both in committee votes and in general session for final approval).
 - Cosponsor the Veterans Burn Pits Exposure Recognition Act, **S. 437/H.R. 2436**
 - Cosponsor the Toxic Exposure in the American Military (TEAM) Act, **S. 927/H.R. 2127**
 - Support **H.R. 475**, The Health Care Fairness for Military Families Act
 - Cosponsor **H.R. 2339**, support for our military families facing food insecurity
2. Ask for their support by becoming **co-sponsors**
3. Remind them that our Missouri Council of Chapters is scheduling a virtual conference with our Senators and Congressmen during the month of May.

Missouri Veterans Commission and Missouri Department of Economic Development Launch New Benefits and Resource Portal for Veterans and Military Members

The initiative for a one-stop-shop for veteran resources began after a University of Central Missouri research project commissioned by the Office of the Missouri Military Advocate. The project resulted in a 32-page document "titled "A Comprehensive Analysis of Missouri's Efforts to Improve the Quality of Life for Military Service Members and their Families," which recommended a centralized website.

The portal can be found at <https://veteranbenefits.mo.gov/> Updates will be made as new resources become available.

COLA Watch

The April 2021 CPI is 261.237, **3.1 percent** above the FY 2021 COLA baseline. The Consumer Price Index for May is scheduled to be released June 10. The CPI baseline for FY 2021 is 253.412. The calculation is made by comparing the average CPI from July through September of the current fiscal year to the average for the same months of the year prior. Remember, active duty pay raises are calculated differently. This information is calculated from the non-seasonally adjusted Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W). Calculation for monthly COLA change: (Monthly CPI-Yearly baseline CPI)/Yearly baseline CPI. Learn more about CPI **on the BLS web page**. [© MOAA, 2021]

Missouri Senate Bill (SB)120 - Modifies provisions relating to military affairs On May 25, 2021 the final bill was delivered to the Governor for signature.

SS/SCS/SB 120 Summary - This act modifies provisions relating to military affairs, including state designations, hiring preferences and classifications for state employment, state agency services, school designations, military protections for motor vehicle insurance, and qualified military projects in the Missouri Works Program.

Some specific provisions are:

- This act designates November as "Military Family Month" in Missouri
- Modifies the definition of "surviving spouse" in provisions of law relating to the merit system
- Creates the Missouri Department of the National Guard which shall be headed by the Adjutant General
- The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education shall designate a school district as a purple star campus if the school district applies and qualifies for the designation.

For the full text, follow this link: [**SB120 - Modifies provisions relating to military affairs**](#)

Missouri Bicentennial 2021

August 10, 2021, will mark the two hundredth anniversary of Missouri's entry as the 24th state to enter the United States. A state with many different regional cultures, geographies, and industries, each Missouri community, county, and region has a story to tell about its people, their history, their commerce, and their culture. By celebrating the accomplishments and diversity of all these regions, we help create a better understanding of our one Missouri and the ties that bind us together.

Follow the link here:

[**Missouri Bicentennial – Commemorating 200 years of Missouri History \(missouri2021.org\)**](#)

Collectively we make a difference - **Never Stop Serving®**

John D. Hathcock
Colonel, U.S. Army (Ret.)
Legislative Affairs Chair, OEMOAA Chapter
Cell: 417.230.9187
NEVER STOP SERVING. ®

Sign Up for MOAA “Newsletter” and Legislative “Calls to Action”

*We encourage all chapter members and spouses to always, please stay alert, and respond to MOAA **Calls to Action** at least 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).

CONTACT YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

The Honorable (name), U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510 • Phone: (202) 224-3121

The Honorable (name), U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515 • (202) 225-3121

Always feel free to contact me if you need any additional specific details or have any questions. Email: john@linegroup.com or Mobile: 417.230.9187 Thank you, John Hathcock



We once again have Honor Flight information to discuss! It’s been a long, painful hiatus, but it appears that flights to Washington DC are again about to resume. With that in mind, Honor Flight of the Ozarks is announcing their Gala. This is a huge fund-raising event for them. This year’s Gala will be held June 26, 2021, at the White River Conference Center. More information can be found on the Honor Flight website, www.honorflightoftheozarks.org, or by calling them at 417-268-9052.

The next Honor Flight is scheduled for August 24. Be sure to mark that date on your calendar. Let’s all make it a point to be at the Springfield-Branson National Airport to welcome them home! We typically begin gathering around 8:30pm to get the party started, and then the flight arrives home between 9 and 9:15. I speak from experience – it is truly a day to remember for all parties concerned.

JROTC/ROTC Awards Update



John Hathcock, COL, USA (Ret) was in attendance at the Branson High School JROTC Awards Ceremony, and presented the MOAA Award winner certificate to Cadet Lecksi Deroboam. She is very involved as a Cadet Corps leader, and as an Honor Guard Member.



Steve Vanderhoof, COL, USA (Ret) represented our chapter very well recently at Hillcrest High School's JROTC Awards ceremony. He of course presented the MOAA Award, to Cadet Joshua Landis. He was also able to present the Association of the United States Army Medal to Cadet Richard Ryder, and the American Veterans Award to Cadet John Cuenco. Thank you, Steve Vanderhoof, for your readiness and adaptability.



Missouri S&T Army ROTC Awards.

Presenter: LtCol Lonnie Pirtle, Professor of Military Science, aided by Jim Fiscus

(L) Cadet Ethan Gatzemeyer, Selected for 100% effort and participation in all ROTC Events

(R) Cadet Andrew K Edwards, Selected for dedication, hard work in positions of leadership. Top rising Senior Cadet

Congratulations to our Webmaster! Our chapter website and newsletter were both recently recognized by MOAA, and presented with the Marvin Harris Communications 5 Star Award for Excellence. This is the first time that our website has been so recognized. Thank you, Keith!



2020
Col Marvin J. Harris Communications Award
5 Star

Ozark Empire MOAA
Website

CW1 Keith Oxby, USN (Ret), Webmaster

May 3, 2021
Date

Dana T. Atkins
Lt Gen Dana T. Atkins, USAF (Ret)
President, MOAA

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

By David Jerome

First, I want to say that I missed not being at our meeting on Friday, May 21. My absence was unavoidable. While Kathy and I were not there, please know that my thoughts were with you. That's the way I believe it should be. If someone thinks enough of a group to want to belong, caring and thinking about the members, in my opinion, is important. Whether you are an officer or former officer, or a spouse of an officer or former officer, we share a common bond, and it is a special one.

We also share a special bond with someone else that is far more important. In John 17, Jesus expresses perhaps his longest prayer. In Vv. 13-15 before Jesus ascended into heaven he is speaking to the Father when he says "I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one." As military men and women, our focus is to defeat an enemy that would cause our country harm. As children of God, and a wonderful group it is, our main focus should be to believe and trust in Him to protect us from evil for evil is of this world, but we are His.

May Meeting Recap

We were able to host, virtually, LtCol Walter Smiley, MOAA Board Member, from his office in Alexandria, Virginia. He himself is a fairly recent retiree from the US Army. He shared with us a number of very important points. The recent reversal of the SBP/DIC Offset was a huge victory. This took many years, and the concerted efforts of thousands of retirees and surviving spouses, Officer as well as Enlisted. He also focused on the importance of membership. It is through membership that we are able to pool our resources and talent, to provide aid and assistance to help those in transition from military to civilian life, Mentorship opportunities within MOAA, as well as emergency assistance to those affected by everything from natural disaster to the recent pandemic. One of MOAA's current emphases is dealing with food insecurity among active military. This is one of three primary issues that make up this year's Advocacy in Action campaign. Our members can help. [Ask your lawmaker](#) to support this bill today, and [share this link](#) so others can join the cause and learn more about food insecurity in the ranks.

MOAA Foundation provides educational loans, grants and scholarships. Information about all MOAA Educational support, as well as the many facets of MOAA's involvement at all levels can be found on the MOAA website at <https://www.moaa.org>.

June 2021 OEMOAA MEETING

Now that the city of Springfield has dropped their masking requirement, we are no longer required to mask up when entering the club house. Masks, of course, are still optional. This is up to each individual. Table seating will, as much as possible, continue to be limited to six/table. Normal bar service in the room will be provided. We continue to encourage all members to observe all matters of cleanliness and hygiene.

Buffet Service Continues with the June 18, 2021 Meeting

The 18 June buffet will include 2 entrees; Chef's choice entrée, one with meat, and one without, vegetables, dinner rolls, normal table beverages and assorted salads complimented with Chef's choice dessert.

We will walk through the buffet line as presented by the Twin Oaks staff, in our room. The price will be \$27; which as always includes the meal gratuity. Assistance from Twin Oaks staff, or OEMOAA members is available for anyone who needs or wants such assistance going through the buffet line. Please do not feel at all embarrassed about requesting such help. RSVPs are especially important and must be made to LtCol Pickett, no later than noon, Monday, 14 June. Payment is at the event by check (payable to OEMOAA) or cash. The bar will operate in our room as usual. As always, our 50/50 drawing will be held, benefiting Honor Flight of the Ozarks, and designated donations are always welcome.

June US Military History

1789 - US Constitution, enacted as Sovereign Law, goes into effect

1877 – Henry Ossian Flipper, born a slave in Thomasville, Georgia, in 1856, is the first African American cadet to graduate from the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York. Flipper was never spoken to by a white cadet, during his four years at West Point

1942 – Japanese Admiral Chuichi Nagumo, commander of the fleet that attacked Pearl Harbor, launches a raid on Midway Island with almost the entirety of the Japanese navy.

1944 – The U-505 became the first enemy submarine captured by the U.S. Navy under Admiral Dan Gallery.

1950 - Armed forces from Communist North Korea, smash into South Korea, setting off the Korean War

1979 - During a summit meeting in Vienna, President Jimmy Carter and Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev sign the SALT-II agreement, providing guidelines for limiting nuclear weapons

1991 – Mount Pinatubo (4,750 feet high) erupted, forcing closure of Clark Air Force Base

2001 - Timothy McVeigh executed at Federal Prison in Terre Haute, Ind, for the April 19, 1995 Oklahoma City bombing.

June 2021 Meeting

DATE 18 June 2021 – 3rd Friday

Location – Twin Oaks Country Club (Oak Room)

PLACE: Twin Oaks Country Club

1020 East Republic Road
Springfield, Missouri 65807

TIME: 1815 – Social Hour (Drinks can be purchased from their 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 Speaker's presentation.

1900 – Dinner/Program

MENU: See details on Page 7

COST: \$27.00 (includes gratuity)

SPEAKER: Lt Mike Lucas, Sgt Russell, Springfield Police

RSVP: By noon, Monday, 14 June 2021

To: LtCol William Pickett, USAF, Retired
417-888-0135 or cathyquilt@earthlink.net

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

2021 OEMOAA Monthly Schedule

All meetings on 3rd Friday, Twin Oaks Country Club, Oak Room, unless otherwise noted)

2021 OEMOAA Meeting Dates:

18 June – Lt Mike Lucas, Sgt Russell, Springfield Police
No Dinner Meetings in July, August.

Evening at the Ballpark, Aug 3. See information in this newsletter.

Lunch Meeting planned for Aug 12

17 September

19 November

15 October

10 December (2nd 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

417-840-1657 rnrtaf@gmail.com

1ST VICE PRESIDENT: Becky Hutchings

417-839-3059 byhutchings@gmail.com

2ND VICE PRESIDENT: (Open)

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

417-888-0135 cathyquilt@earthlink.net

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

520-820-7339 chuckguy0765@gmail.com

APPOINTED CHAPTER OFFICERS

LEGISLATIVE CHAIR: John Hathcock, COL, USA, Retired

417-230-9187 john@linegroup.com

AWARDS COORDINATOR: Phil Samples, Col, USAF, Retired

417-742-5125 pls.rxd@gmail.com

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

417-230-9187 john@linegroup.com

CHAPLAIN: David Jerome, MAJ, USA, Ret

816-489-8223 davidjerome1974@gmail.com

SURVIVING SPOUSE LIAISON: Becky Hutchings

417-839-3059 byhutchings@gmail.com

WEBMASTER: Keith Oxby, W/O British Navy

ozarkenglishman@gmail.com

NOMINATIONS CHAIR: Steve Vanderhoof, COL, USA, Retired

660-886-0205 svanderhoof856@att.net

AMBASSADOR: David Reed, CDR, USN, Retired

417-840-6600 dreed7272@live.com

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Ron McCall, Capt, USAF, Retired

417-840-1657 rnrtaf@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR Chuck Guy, Colonel, USA, Retired

520-820-7339 chuckguy0765@gmail.com



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I've just released my own new fragrance. Sadly, it was not enjoyed by others in the car.

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) 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.