

March, 2023

## A Word from the Chapter President

- The new legislative sessions for both the Federal government, as well as the State of Missouri, have commenced. Details of bills presented in the Missouri Legislature are outlined elsewhere in this newsletter. We need to continue to be cognizant of issues that affect our community, and be ready to Take Action.
- We continue to be searching for a replacement for our Chapter Secretary/Treasurer, **LtCol Bill Pickett**, who has diligently served in this position for the past 8 years. He has done an admirable job in keeping our chapter finances in good order, collecting each month for our meals, and meeting regulatory commitments with the State and Federal government. Due to other needs in his own life, he has indicated that he needs to step aside. In order to maintain proper functioning of our chapter, we are in need of someone else who is willing to step up, learn this position, and carry on this duty. While there are important aspects to this job, it is something that can be learned relatively easily. A new individual in this position can easily tailor the basic functions of the job to their own personal liking. For the most efficient operation of our chapter, and indeed any organization, it is best for each officer to have someone else who knows that position, and is able to step in whenever the need arises, and business continues as usual. If anyone has questions about the particulars of Bill's duties, please contact him directly, or drop an email to me, Ron McCall, and we can fill you in. Bill would like to be able to make this transition at the time of our Summer break. We can work with anyone who can volunteer, to make this transition as seamless as possible.
- **Col Phil Samples**, who has handled coordinating presentation of awards to all the local JROTC/ROTC, and Bobcat Gold units supported by this chapter, will be relocating to Tennessee, in order to be closer to a growing family. Many Thanks to Phil for his service in this area. While we may have a volunteer to take on this responsibility going forward, we will continue to need for chapter members to step up and help with this project as Spring approaches, and Awards Season comes around for each of the schools.
- **Frank Bridges** is coordinating Redbird Roost tickets for the upcoming Springfield Cardinals baseball season. We have purchased a block of tickets for June 13. Now we each need to contact Frank to purchase our tickets from him. This is not limited to OEMOAA members. Family members are welcome to attend! This is always a fun evening for our people. We have moved to an earlier date this year, in an effort to avoid the dangerous heat that we encountered in July 2022.
- **Col John Hathcock** has made us aware of Memorial Day activities, to be held at the Springfield National Cemetery, located at Glenstone and Seminole. The brochure published by the local chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution is located on page 9 of this newsletter. This contains specifics about the event.
- Also, **LTC Chris Stark** has informed us of an upcoming visit of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Replica & Mobile Education Center to the Springfield Area. Location: Wesley United Methodist Church, 922 W. Republic Rd, Springfield. Display will be free and open to the public, available 24 hrs/day, June 8-11, 2023
- 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. If anyone wishes to receive this newsletter via US Mail, please make that known to a Board Member or the Newsletter Editor, and we will make that happen.

*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 eight 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). MOAA and its affiliated chapters are nonpartisan.*

## ***MOAA's Legislative Priorities for the 118th Congress***

**Compensation and Service-Earned Benefits:** Ensure pay at or above the Employment Cost Index, and ensure all allowances and programs necessary to recruit and retain a quality force. Ensure pay continues for all eight uniformed services during a government shutdown. Provide for concurrent receipt of military retirement pay from DoD and disability pay from the VA.

**Military Housing:** Restore BAH at 100% of researched housing costs per Military Housing Area. Ensure barracks are safe and healthy places to live, verified by the chain of command and government-owned work centers. Codify procedures and authorities to increase out-of-cycle housing allowances to address emergencies such as reduced availability of housing and rising utility costs.

**Health Care for Currently Serving and Retirees:** Reverse cuts to the pharmacy benefit and establish policy guardrails to ensure access to prescription medications and limits on copay increases. Fix the TRICARE Young Adult parity issue by extending eligibility to dependents up to age 26 with no separate premium to bring TRICARE on par with requirements for commercial health plans. Require DoD to establish a transparent and well-publicized problem reporting system for beneficiaries experiencing MTF access challenges, including an annual report to Congress on the number and types of beneficiary access problem reports by MTF and steps taken by the Defense Health Agency to identify and address systemic access problems.

**Health Care and Benefits for Veterans:** Monitor recent major legislation enacted such as the PACT Act in the areas of health care, compensation, and follow-on support for surviving spouses and families, and seek statutory or policy changes as required. Compel Congress and the VA to accelerate caregiving and whole health care services, and modernization of Veterans Health Administration workforce and facility infrastructure to improve veterans access to high quality care.

**Service Families:** Improve congressional support for uniformed services families: Enhance programs to support spouse employment, ensure implementation of an effective basic needs allowance, and provide accessible, affordable childcare options. Overcome the lack of effective problem-reporting mechanisms and resolution systems in the Military Health System.

**Survivors:** Repeal the recoupment of last month's paycheck after retiree's passing. Continue to improve SGLI/VGLI updates to match inflation. Improve DIC baseline to align with other government entitlements' baseline of 55%.

**Guard and Reserve:** Overcome the lack of TRICARE coverage for the reserve component to maintain readiness. Overcome delayed pay for Guard and Reserve members when they are promoted or when they retire. Continue to support Guard and Reserve leaders, and advance legislative and policy solutions to support the total force.

More detailed information can be found in the January 2023 edition of the MOAA magazine

## **MISSOURI HOUSE AND SENATE BILLS OF INTEREST TO VETERANS**

The listing of bills below reflects bills that have been filed. To read the bill please go to the House and Senate web page and look under Legislation.

[www.senate.mo.gov](http://www.senate.mo.gov)

[www.house.mo.gov](http://www.house.mo.gov)

### **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**HB 129**-- Establishes the Uniform Deployed Parents Custody and Visitation Act

**HB 130**-- Establishes the Stars and Stripes Historic Region

**HB 132**-- Tasks the Missouri Veterans Commission with expanding its efforts to prevent veteran suicide

**HB 166**-- Establishes the Defend the Guard Act

**HB 212** - Designates June 12th of each year as Women Veterans Appreciation Day

**HB 471**-- Allows state agencies to create incentive programs for employees (**Veterans Home staff sala- ries?**)

**HB 556**-- Modifies provisions related to gaming (**might benefit veterans?**)

**HB 566**-- Provides Federal Servicemember

### **SENATE**

**SB 1**--- Modifies provisions relating to gaming (**might benefit veterans?**)

**SB 139**--- Establishes the "Stars and Stripes Historic Region of Missouri"

**SB 256**--- Allows certain veterans to be issued hunting and fishing permits free of charge

**SB 324**--- Modifies the compensation of certain state employees in positions within Missouri Veterans' Homes

**SJR 16**--- Exempts certain disabled veterans from property taxes

## MOAA's Legislative Priorities for the 118th Congress

**Compensation and Service-Earned Benefits:** Ensure pay at or above the Employment Cost Index, and ensure all allowances and programs necessary to recruit and retain a quality force. Ensure pay continues for all eight uniformed services during a government shutdown. Provide for concurrent receipt of military retirement pay from DoD and disability pay from the VA.

**Military Housing:** Restore BAH at 100% of researched housing costs per Military Housing Area. Ensure barracks are safe and healthy places to live, verified by the chain of command and government-owned work centers. Codify procedures and authorities to increase out-of-cycle housing allowances to address emergencies such as reduced availability of housing and rising utility costs.

**Health Care for Currently Serving and Retirees:** Reverse cuts to the pharmacy benefit and establish policy guardrails to ensure access to prescription medications and limits on copay increases. Fix the TRICARE Young Adult parity issue by extending eligibility to dependents up to age 26 with no separate premium to bring TRICARE on par with requirements for commercial health plans. Require DoD to establish a transparent and well-publicized problem reporting system for beneficiaries experiencing MTF access challenges, including an annual report to Congress on the number and types of beneficiary access problem reports by MTF and steps taken by the Defense Health Agency to identify and address systemic access problems.

**Health Care and Benefits for Veterans:** Monitor recent major legislation enacted such as the PACT Act in the areas of health care, compensation, and follow-on support for surviving spouses and families, and seek statutory or policy changes as required. Compel Congress and the VA to accelerate caregiving and whole health care services, and modernization of Veterans Health Administration workforce and facility infrastructure to improve veterans access to high quality care.

**Service Families:** Improve congressional support for uniformed services families: Enhance programs to support spouse employment, ensure implementation of an effective basic needs allowance, and provide accessible, affordable childcare options. Overcome the lack of effective problem-reporting mechanisms and resolution systems in the Military Health System.

**Survivors:** Repeal the recoupment of last month's paycheck after retiree's passing. Continue to improve SGLI/VGLI updates to match inflation. Improve DIC baseline to align with other government entitlements' baseline of 55%.

**Guard and Reserve:** Overcome the lack of TRICARE coverage for the reserve component to maintain readiness. Overcome delayed pay for Guard and Reserve members when they are promoted or when they retire. Continue to support Guard and Reserve leaders, and advance legislative and policy solutions to support the total force.

More detailed information can be found in the January 2023 edition of the MOAA magazine.

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

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

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



## Chaplain's Corner

By Becky Hutchings

Did you know that March holds the distinction of a designated day for “If Pets had Thumbs day”? How about “Get Over it Day?” Or, “National Spinach Day”? These seem rather silly to me, however, people of Irish descent take March 17 very seriously! Many wait for March, as it ushers in spring! According to [calendarr.com](http://calendarr.com), “In the Northern Hemisphere, the astronomical Start of Spring is also known as the Spring equinox, and in 2023 it happens on March 20, at 5:24 PM EDT .”

As I write this article, it is still cold outside, but the sun is brightly shining. Certain flowers are beginning to peek out of the ground, assuring us that full blooms are soon to follow. Spring seems to bring with it an expectation of fresh starts, renewal, and revival of the spirit.

Many people have become discouraged with the way our society is going. Young people are often agents of change through demonstrations. The young people at Asbury College chose a different way to create change that involved a spiritual revival. “The 2023 Asbury revival is an ongoing Christian revival at Asbury University in Wilmore, Kentucky. The event was prompted after students spontaneously stayed in Hughes Auditorium following a regularly scheduled chapel service on 8 Feb. 2023.” People have varying thoughts about this phenomenon, which run the gamut from negative to positive. The revival is not leading to rebellious activities and seems to be causing relationships to be restored. This phenomenon is now spreading to other places.

Most people would agree that our world is on a downward trajectory. Morals are no longer valued and work ethics have been tossed aside. Maybe it's time for all of us to examine ourselves and help mentor and guide our young leaders of tomorrow. It is evident they are seeking a better world. Let's allow revival to take place in each of our hearts so we can also be positive agents of change.

Personally, I have great hope for the future. We have a rich heritage and it seems the pendulum is moving back to the middle. Rejoice in each day, and don't forget to smell the roses (that is, when they finally bloom)!

Be encouraged!

## Military ID Card Renewal/Replacement

ID cards are available at the Naval Reserve Center on N. Fremont **by appointment only**. No walk-ins! New white ID cards are being issued with REAL ID included so even if your card is indefinite or not expired, they will issue a new one if you want one. While at the ID card office it is a good idea to review personal and spouse information in the DEERS system for accuracy and currency. The office is located at **1110 N. Fremont**, just north of Chestnut Expwy.

To schedule an appointment:

-go online to <https://idco.dmdc.osd.mil/idco>. The ID card locator and appointment page comes up.

-click Continue on the Locator and Appointments box.

-enter your personal location info and select 25 miles, unless you live further away, fill in no other information then click on search.

-Two locations will show up. Click on Select **NRC Springfield at 1110 N. Fremont**.

-click on Schedule an Appointment at the bottom of the page

-The current month will be displayed showing any available appointment dates. If none are available go to the next month until available appointments are shown. Click on the day you want.

-Go to the bottom of the page and book an appointment time on the day you selected.

-sign off the website.

When arriving at the Naval Reserve Center, pick up the phone and dial **417-425-2598**. Identify yourself and they will let you in. Take your driver license for identity verification.

*This information is available on a continuing basis on the chapter website, [oemoaa.org](http://oemoaa.org).*

# March US Military History

**1789** – The first session of the U.S. Congress is held in New York City as the U.S. Constitution takes effect.

**1863** – The first Army Medal of Honor is presented to PVT Jacob Parrott of the 33rd Ohio Infantry. Four others are also honored this day

**1865** – General William Sherman and his forces occupy Fayetteville, N.C.

**1939** – Georgia finally ratified the Bill of Rights, 150 years after the birth of the federal government. Connecticut and Massachusetts, the only other states to hold out, also accepted the Bill of Rights in this year

**1941** – Lend-Lease Bill becomes law, when signed by President Roosevelt.

**1942** – War Relocation Authority is created to “Take all people of Japanese descent into custody, surround them with troops, prevent them from buying land, and return them to their former homes at the close of the war.”

**1942** – Philippine Islands abandoned to Japanese forces by Gen Douglas MacArthur

**1944** – The U.S. Eighth Air Force launches the first American bombing raid against the German capital.

**1948** – The first successful tornado forecast predicts that a tornado will strike Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma. The 1948 Tinker Air Force Base tornadoes were two tornadoes which struck Tinker Air Force Base in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma on March 20 and 25, 1948.

**1961** – Elvis Presley (26) performed live on the USS Arizona, a fund raiser for a memorial. Col. Parker, Presley’s manager, came up with the brilliant idea to have Elvis Presley give the benefit concert in the 4,000-seat Bloch Arena next to the entrance to Pearl Harbor

**1973** – Two months after the signing of the Vietnam peace agreement, the last U.S. combat troops leave South Vietnam as Hanoi frees the remaining, admitted, American prisoners of war held in North Vietnam (total: 591 released)

**2004** – In Madrid, Spain, a series of bombs hidden in backpacks exploded in quick succession at 3 stations, blowing apart four commuter trains and killing 202 people and wounding over 1,450

**2006** – USS Winston Churchill engages pirates off the coast of Somalia, killing one, capturing 12, after the U.N. Security Council on March 15, encouraged any naval forces near Somalia to take action against suspected piracy.





# Memorial Day Program Springfield National Cemetery

1702 East Seminole Street

11:00 AM Rostrum



The Ozark Mountain Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution is excited to announce it will host the Memorial Day Celebration at the Springfield National Cemetery in Springfield on Monday May 29, 2023, at 11:00.

Colonel David Appleby, U.S. Army (Ret.), Vietnam Special Forces veteran, is our keynote speaker. We invite all veterans and patriotic organizations to join in this celebration.

All units will have the opportunity to march in review past the rostrum and circle back for seating before the keynote address. This is an opportunity to put on your best patriotic wear for our fallen veterans who rest at the National Cemetery. We ask participants to march in groups representing your unit or a particular conflict. We will march in the order of the conflict so you will have to choose your place in the parade. We ask that you wear appropriate uniforms if you have them and display every historic flag you own that will enhance this opportunity for everyone present.

No motorized vehicles are allowed, and political banners are forbidden.

This is a time to remember our fallen ancestors, not make political statements.

Please join us in making this a celebration to remember!

RSVP before 10 April 2023 to Charles G. McMillan

Phone: 417 343 5255

Email: [ebenezermc60@gmail.com](mailto:ebenezermc60@gmail.com)

## February Meeting Recap



Our speaker for February was Stacie Amschler, accompanied by Pam Pate, both with **Empower: Abilities**. This is a local resource agency that, according to their informational brochure, offers real world experience and volunteer opportunities to help people deal with disabilities. They offer support in the areas of Peer Support, Personal Care, Independent Living Skills, Assistive Technologies, Community Access, Informational and Referral, as well as Assistive Technologies. They have a model apartment which displays many of the assistive and access devices available to clients. These offer ideas for inclusion into new construction or remodeling, which may enable people to remain in their homes for a longer period of time, especially if physical limitations begin to present a hindrance to their usual activities. The apartment may be viewed at any time. For

information, contact the Empower: Abilities office. Their address is 2864 S Nettleton, Springfield, and their telephone number is (417) 886-1188 ext 217. They can also be reached through their [website](#). It is worth noting that the presenter herself has a mild form of Cerebral Palsy as well as hearing loss, and is the mother of four children. This certainly demonstrates that disabilities can be overcome, and individuals can be valuable members of society.

**Our host, Twin Oaks Country Club, has transitioned our service to Plated Meals. With across-the-board price increases that have occurred over the past year, this has resulted in significant price increases for our service at Twin Oaks. Accordingly, the cost for our meals is increased as shown below.**

**Our options for our February Lunch are: Cashew Chicken with Fried Rice -or- Fish & Chips, both served with salad, table rolls, and beverage**

**Recommendation is to skip dessert service, in order to avoid further cost increase.**

**Either meal will be available for the same cost: \$28 per attendee, which as always includes gratuity.**

### March 2023 Meeting

**DATE** 16 Mar 2023

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

**TIME:** 1115 – Social Hour (Drinks can be purchased from the bar)

50/50 voluntary donations, to support Honor Flight of the Ozarks. Drawing at the close of the presentation.

1200 – Meal/Program

**MENU: Plated Meal, options as outlined on the preceding page.** Includes small house salad, Rolls, Table Beverages, and Gratuity.

**Cost:** \$28 per person (NOTE: 50/50 Drawing, and Donations for Honor Flight of the Ozarks will also be accepted)

**Program:** Kevin Weaver, Warriors Journey

**RSVP:** By noon, Monday, 13 Mar 2023

To: LtCol William Pickett, USAF, Retired

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.

#### 2023 Meeting Dates, Speakers

Mar 16 – Kevin Weaver, Warriors Journey

20 Apr – (Thur Evening) - Bob Dixon, Greene County Commissioner

18 May: Allen Kunkel, MSU Innovation Center Update

8 Jun Noon: Tysha Shay, Greene Co Public Library

Jun 13 – Cards Baseball

22 Sep: FLW Tricare Update (Tentative)

20 Oct: Julie Jordan, Senior Aging: Staying in Your Home

17 Nov: Dr Bill Meadows: Code Talkers, WWI & WWII

8 Dec: Music (Tentative)

### ELECTED CHAPTER BOARD 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:**

**AMBASSADOR:** Chuck Guy, COL, USA, Retired

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

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

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

We encourage all eligible members to also join our National organization, Military Officers Association of America. Information regarding membership can be accessed [here](#).

Our chapter maintains a presence on Facebook. We strive to keep this page current with information about chapter activities and opportunities. Members can access that page [here](#).

### 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.