



# Ozark Empire News



Ozark Empire Chapter, Military Officers Association of America  
2131 West Republic Road, Box 164, Springfield, Missouri 65807

March 2020

<http://www.oemoaa.org>

Editor: Ron McCall, Capt, USAF, Ret ([rmrtaf@gmail.com](mailto:rmrtaf@gmail.com))

**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

Welcome to Spring! Winter, though no longer a season than any of the others, is always welcome – to go on its way out of here. It's good to see warmer temperatures coming our way. That lets us all get out of doors, and enjoy this wonderful world that we live in.

As for OEMOAA activities, we are anticipating three Honor Flights this year. Honor Flight continues to be our Chapter's chosen charity. We support it via our monthly 50/50 drawing, held at each monthly meeting, and members are always welcome to make an additional cash contribution toward the donation that we present to Honor Flight. This Spring, we anticipate making that presentation at the Honor Flight Gala, to be held this year on March 28. They are always very appreciative of our continued support. This is what enables HF to carry out their mission – that of taking WWII, Korean War, and Vietnam War veterans to their respective memorials in Washington DC, at no cost to the Veteran. We always try to have a good contingent from our chapter out to the Springfield-Branson airport, to welcome home our heroes. Being selected for participation in an Honor Flight is itself an honor, and you Chapter President is anticipating that very thing this year. The dates of scheduled flights for 2020, for those who may not yet have marked their calendars, are Wednesday May 13, Tuesday August 25, and Wednesday October 28. Those veterans and volunteer staff that are on the flight on a given day, need to be present at the airport at 0300. For them, it is a VERY long day. For those of us who want to be in attendance to welcome them home, and enjoy the party at the airport in the evening, should plan to arrive between 8pm and 8:30. The flight usually arrives back around 9pm. For each of the flights in 2019, the welcoming party was around 3200 to nearly 4000 people each time! Let's just say, there is still room at the airport for more!

As highlighted below by Frank Bridges, our legislative chair, MOAA National has a number of priorities for this year. These are things that should concern us all as veterans. It is through maintaining a strong military, that we continue to assure our peace and freedom in this country. In order to continue to have a strong military, we need to protect service benefits, so that our young men and women who serve, can focus on the mission, knowing that their needs, as well as those of family at home, are being cared for in the best manner possible. I, along with Frank Bridges, would encourage everyone to heed all Calls To Action. It only takes a few moments to send an electronic message to your Senators and Representatives. MOAA has a suggested message for each subject, but you are more than welcome to alter that message before it is sent, to reflect your own personal wishes.

Continue to "talk up" OEMOAA. We are always looking for new members, to continue to expand our reach into our local community.

Chuck Guy, 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.*

## Legislative Update

Frank Bridges, Legislative Chair

The MOAA Legislative Priorities for 2020 are:

- Protect Health Care Benefits
- Keep Military Pay and Benefits Strong
- Support Military Families
- Support Total Force
- Better/Faster DoD and VA Services, etc

As mentioned at the February Dinner Meeting, several DoD Medical Facilities have cut off Dependents and Retirees from services. These Facilities are generally Clinics and include all Services and are located in several States. Some Clinics have closed. My guess is that this is just the beginning. Again, you can go to [www.moaa.org](http://www.moaa.org) and get more information by looking for an article by Karen Ruedisueli or Medical Facilities Cutting off Services to Dependent and Retirees. None of the current facilities affected are in our immediate area.

Lately, there has been little talk regarding the transfer of Service Medical Billets to the Defense Health System. This will likely have further effect on the availability of services to dependents and retirees. Please stay alert for any "Calls to Action".

The key to all of this is as always, please respond to **Calls to Action** at least monthly, preferably weekly!

### Please Respond to all Calls to Action

This article is a summary of a three part article in the MOAA Magazine. First, trust no one or thing associated with the communications-electronic world. The Scammers can appear to be a friend or family member. Never say "YES" when you are talking to anyone that you don't know, they can "cut'n'paste" your words. Legitimate organizations such as the IRS, sheriff, or other government entities do not call or email threats. Some of the scammers are extremely good in this area. If you suspect that any of your information has been compromised, notify "everyone". Never share your personal information with anyone, period!! Shred all paper that has any personal information on it, ideally with a crosscut shredder. Use checks and cards only when needed, they both have your numbers. Create long and complex passwords, at least 12 characters, I tend to use 18. Change those passwords often and never use things like "Password". Check with your bank and card folks to set limits and learn how you can get alerts. Remember there are people who will scam their Grandmother out of her last nickel and it quickly gets worse.

You can find more information by going to [www.moaa.org](http://www.moaa.org) and search for "Don't Be Scammed"



The OEMOAA Cardinal Evening is July 6th this year. The game starts at 1830 hours and we will be at the Roost on our favorite bar stools. The \$27.00 ticket price includes a Cardinal's Hat, all the food that you can eat and all the non-alcoholic beverage that you can drink. Oh, don't forget being with friends and getting your picture taken. I will be selling tickets at the March meeting; you can reserve tickets by email [frankbridges@frankbridges.com](mailto:frankbridges@frankbridges.com) ; or call 573-308-7272 to make reservations.

## February Meeting Recap



David Suits, a veteran of Vietnam, and a member of the local VFW Post 3404, gave a very informative presentation about various services offered by VFW post, which he informed us, is one of the oldest posts in the country. Services include a wide variety of things, everything from helping veterans procure copies of their DD214, meeting housing and utility costs, transportation needs, providing educational opportunities in conjunction with Ozarks Technical College and Missouri State University, and many other things. Their post is quite busy, with various groups and committees utilizing their facilities nearly every day. They hold a Fish Fry, and Veterans Breakfast, as well as other meals throughout the month. They interact with many other community and government agencies in their provision of services. David indicated he would be happy to provide further information to anyone who wants more information about how we can become part, or offer our services to the VFW. His email address is [davidsuits25@gmail.com](mailto:davidsuits25@gmail.com).



John Hathcock also spoke briefly about the True American Hero Award, which had been a function of the Mozark MOAA chapter. Since the dissolution of that chapter, our chapter board has decided to continue that effort, expanding the focus to now include the Greater Springfield area. The original plaque will remain in the Branson/Hollister area, exact location to be determined. We are seeking to make a duplicate plaque, for display somewhere in the Springfield region, at a place where it can be appreciated by the public. Details of this entire project are still being worked out.

Past President badges were presented to David Reed, as well as John Hathcock, the latter for his service as the last president of the now terminated MOZARK chapter of MOAA.



## 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.

**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

**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.”

**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.

**1951** – In one of the most sensational trials in American history, Julius and Ethel Rosenberg are convicted of espionage for their role in passing atomic secrets to the Soviets during and after World War II.

**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.



## **TRUE AMERICAN HERO AWARD**

### **OZARK EMPIRE CHAPTER, MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA**

#### **SPRINGFIELD, MO**

The True American Hero Award was established in 1997 by the MOZARK Chapter, Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), Branson, MO. The purpose of this award is to recognize local individuals who have honorably served or currently serving in any branch of the uniformed services. In addition, they must have contributed significant volunteer time and effort to the recognition and support of veterans and their families in the community.

As of November 2018, 22 awards have been granted. Recipients include Lou Schaefer (former Mayor of Branson) and Lieutenant Colonel Rick Ziegenfuss, U.S. Army (Ret.), currently City Administrator for the City of Hollister, as well as many other distinguished citizens.

In November of 2015, the award presentations began taking place at the Keeter Center, College of the Ozarks. Events include the True American Hero Award Presentation in the Keeter Center, Oak Forum Theatre combined with other patriotic programs. The MOZARK Chapter, MOAA was honored to have College of the Ozarks support this annual event. The True American Hero Awards presentations are open to the public. We also encourage all Veterans Service Organizations (American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans, Vietnam Veterans of America, etc.) and their members to attend.

In December 2019, the MOZARK Chapter was inactivated and in January 2020 the Board of Directors of the Ozark Empire Chapter, MOAA approved the proposal to continue the TAHA under its leadership. Award solicitations and nominations will include an expanded area of coverage in southwest Missouri, to include Springfield, Branson, Hollister, Kimberling City, etc.

John Hathcock was appointed chairman of the TAHA Committee. OEMOAA is currently searching for members who would be willing to serve on the committee. We are planning to have award nominations and selections for presentation in the fall of 2020, perhaps during Veterans Day activities. Please contact John Hathcock if you have an interest in participating on the TAHA Committee.

John D. Hathcock  
COL, U.S. Army (Ret.)  
True American Hero Award (TAHA) Committee  
417-230-9187



## Member Bio – Colonel John Hathcock

Colonel Hathcock retired from the U.S. Army and the Missouri Army National Guard in 1993 with over 23 years active service. His extensive career consisted of duty at the Department of the Army and National Guard Bureau in the Pentagon; 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division; U.S. Army Forces Command; VII Corps in Germany and deployment to Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. He also served as a principal member of the Research/Writing Team, Office of the Chief of Staff of the Army, Desert Storm Special Study Group, which published CERTAIN VICTORY - THE U.S. ARMY IN THE GULF WAR, 1993.

After retiring from the Army, he founded Line Group, Inc., as a Defense Systems Strategic Planning and Consulting business. Areas of emphasis included performance-based leadership, management, implementation of policies and procedures, with primary concentration in Training Technology, Simulations, Acquisition Management, Planning/Analysis, Program Management, Strategic Planning, Operational Planning, Legislative/Budgetary processes and Human Resources. Major projects included simulation and training programs through the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) and the Institute for Defense Analysis (IDA). He participated in the development and deployment of the Predator Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) Program and was a co-developer of the ARNG Aviation Reconfigurable Manned Simulation System (ARMS). In 1997, accompanying his wife's career relocation to Las Vegas, NV, transitioned Line Group, Inc. into a Marketing and Advertising Consulting business. In 2008 he and his wife both retired from their professions and traveled the country in their RV until settling in Branson in 2013.

His awards and honors include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (5 awards), Army Superior Unit Award, VII Corps Combat Identification Badge, Army General Staff Identification Badge, Eagle Scout, Scouting's Silver Beaver Award, 60 Year Veteran Boy Scouts of America and Tennessee Squire.

Colonel Hathcock has been married to his wife Susan (Conrad) of Wauseon, OH, for over 40 years. They have four adult children and eight grandchildren.

He is a graduate of Lincoln University, Jefferson City, MO with a BS in Business and Industrial Relations. He is a graduate of the Naval War College, College of Naval Command and Staff in Newport, RI, and the NATO Defense College in Rome, Italy.

He is currently active in the local community; Member, Redeemer Lutheran Church, Springfield, MO; Past President, MOZARK Chapter, Military Officers Association of America (MOAA); Vice President, Missouri Council of Chapters, MOAA; DOD Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), Missouri Committee; Past President, Branson Daybreakers Rotary Club; Missouri National Guard Association, Life Member; National Guard Association of the United States, NGAUS, Life Member; National Rifle Association, Life Member



We are saddened with each and every loss of former members. We learned very recently of the passing of Gwendolyn Groseclose. Our thoughts and prayers go out to her family. Her memorial service was held on February 26, with interment at the Missouri Veterans Cemetery. Chuck Guy was able to attend the service, on behalf of OEMOAA. Our thanks to Chuck for representing us in this way. Her obituary follows:

Gwendolyn Prows Groseclose went to be with the Lord on February 23, 2020. She was born March 24, 1927 in Panama City, FL to Robert and Alice Prows. She graduated from Bay County High School and attended Bob Jones University in Greenville, SC.

She married 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Bob Groseclose in October 1951. Bob graduated class of 1950 from West Point. His 30 years of military service took them around the world.

Gwyn was known for her hospitality, sense of humor and ability to receive whatever life handed her with a spirit of joy. In the many places they lived, she served as bridge chairman at the Officers' club, girl scout leader and numerous volunteer roles in her church. She also worked at the White House in the greeting office for Presidents Ford and Carter.

When Bob retired from the Air Force, they moved to Orlando, FL, where she worked part time for the Orlando Visitor's Bureau. She also operated a cosmetic business, where she was a beauty consultant and color analyst.

In 2005, they moved to Springfield, MO to be close to their daughter, Donna. Gwyn played duplicate bridge and became a Silver Life Master. She was a member of the Auxiliary of the Gideon's International and a member of The Springs Church where her son-in-law, Jerry Carlin, was the Senior Pastor.

She was preceded in death by her husband, parents, 3 sisters and 2 brothers.

She is survived by two daughters, Donna Carlin (Jerry) of Springfield, MO and Nancy Morrison (Jack) of Dunlap, TN; five grandchildren, Justin Carlin, Caleb Carlin, Charissa Fuhr, Callie Teasdale and Haley Knowles; fourteen great grandchildren; brother, Rudolph Prows; sister, Ovida Blankenship and numerous other nieces, nephews and friends.



# QUILTS OF HONOR

## Our Mission

**The mission of Quilts of Honor is to bestow a universal symbol and token of thanks, solace, and remembrance to those who serve in harm's way to protect and defend our lives and freedoms.**

**Quilts of Honor are made by the loving hands of countless volunteers who wish to thank those who have served and to honor their service and sacrifice.**

<http://www.quiltsofhonor.org/>

Table Rock QOH

Branson, MO

Janie Mahon, Coordinator, 417-230-2839

[janiewmahon@yahoo.com](mailto:janiewmahon@yahoo.com)

<http://www.quiltsofhonor.org/quilt-request/>

(This is a photograph of one such quilt, presented to Ron McCall, following his taking part in Honor Flight, 2019)



## March 2020 Meeting

**DATE** 20 March 2020 – 3<sup>rd</sup> 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:** Buffet w/2 Entrees (Chef's Choice. One Entrée will be meat-free, in observance of Lent); 2 sides; Small Salad Bar; Bread/Butter; Dessert; Assorted Beverages (water, tea, coffee)

**COST:** \$26 per person (includes meal gratuity)

**SPEAKER:** Greg McManus, CW5, ARNG, Ret

**RSVP:** By noon, Monday, 16 March 2020

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.**

## ELECTED CHAPTER OFFICERS

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

520-820-7339 [chuckguy0765@gmail.com](mailto:chuckguy0765@gmail.com)

**1ST VICE PRESIDENT:** Jerry Nicholson, LtCol, USMC, Retired

417-315-8193 [glnicholson013@yahoo.com](mailto:glnicholson013@yahoo.com)

**2ND VICE PRESIDENT:** Ron McCall, Captain, USAF, Retired

417-840-1657 [rnrtaf@gmail.com](mailto:rnrtaf@gmail.com)

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

417-888-0135 [cathyquilt@earthlink.net](mailto:cathyquilt@earthlink.net)

**IMMED PAST PRESIDENT:** Phil Samples, Colonel, USAF, Retired

417-742-5125 [pls.rxdr@gmail.com](mailto:pls.rxdr@gmail.com)

## APPOINTED CHAPTER OFFICERS

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

417-840-1657 [rnrtaf@gmail.com](mailto:rnrtaf@gmail.com)

**LEGISLATIVE CHAIR:** Frank Bridges, LTC, USA, Retired

573-308-7272 [frankbridges@frankbridges.com](mailto:frankbridges@frankbridges.com)

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

417-742-5125 [pls.rxdr@gmail.com](mailto:pls.rxdr@gmail.com)

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

417-230-9187 [john@linegroup.com](mailto:john@linegroup.com)

**CHAPLAIN:** Becky Hutchings

417-839-3059 [byhutchings@gmail.com](mailto:byhutchings@gmail.com)

**SURVIVING SPOUSE LIAISON:** Becky Hutchings

417-839-3059 [byhutchings@gmail.com](mailto:byhutchings@gmail.com)

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

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

660-886-0205 [svanderhoof856@att.net](mailto:svanderhoof856@att.net)

**AMBASSADOR:** Michael Murphy, COL, USA, Retired

417-883-9474 [06mmurphy@gmail.com](mailto:06mmurphy@gmail.com)

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

417-840-6600 [dreed7272@live.com](mailto:dreed7272@live.com)

**MEMBERSHIP CHAIR:** (Position Open)

## 2020 OEMOAA Monthly

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

20 March 2020 Speaker: Greg McManus

17 April 2020 Speaker: Marc Fulgham, Self-Defense for Seniors

15 May 2020 Speaker: Krist Frans, Retired Senior Volunteer Program. Will help us know how Seniors can get involved

19 June 2020 Speaker: Ozarks Elder Law: Legal issues for Seniors

(No Chapter meetings in July, August)

July 6 (Mark The Date): OEMOAA Night at The Ballgame

18 September 2020 Speaker: TBD

16 October 2020 Speaker: TBD

20 November 2020 Speaker: TBD

11 December 2020 (2<sup>nd</sup> Friday) Christmas Party.  
Mulligan Room, Twin Oaks Country Club

## 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.