



March, 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

Let's all rise up, and Welcome SPRING! We endured a truly memorable Winter, with record-setting cold! Hopefully, no one among our number had to deal with extended loss of power, heat, or water. As always, if there is any such need, or even things like the need for groceries, let's all band together, and look out for one another. Feel Free to speak up, and make needs known. We are a caring, serving bunch, and would welcome the opportunity to serve our fellow members.

In other news, there is a great ray of progress, in terms of our meal service at Twin Oaks Country Club. As is noted later in this newsletter, starting with the March Chapter meeting, the meal will once again be a buffet. Entrée options are listed. The buffet will be served by the Twin Oaks staff, in keeping with current pandemic-related considerations. Meal price is as shown in the details on page 8.

We were really pleased to hear from local sources, that the Springfield Cardinals once again will be playing baseball at Hammons Field this year. As has been the Chapter's tradition, we will be seeking a date when we plan to enjoy a summer evening together as a Chapter, up in the Redbird Roost. Further details will be announced as they become finalized. Tickets, as previously, will be handled by Frank Bridges. This is always an enjoyable time. We would welcome all who feel comfortable coming out, to join us in the Roost. Good fellowship is always the routine, and there is even a baseball game to watch! As always, all appropriate safety precautions will be observed.

Word is out that COVID vaccinations are in the process of becoming more widely available. There are various sources, depending upon individual age and other medical factors, as well as eligibility for access to places such as the Veteran's Administration facilities. Be sure to check out your local sources, and avail yourself of the opportunity, if that is your desire.

In other news, our chapter now has a social media presence. A new group page has been created on Facebook, called, appropriately enough, **Ozark Empire Chapter, Military Officers Association of America**. Feel free to check it out, and Like our page. We will try to keep it current with news of upcoming meetings, and other important items of interest to our members.

*Ron 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.*



## Legislative Update – March 2021

COL John Hathcock, U.S. Army (Ret.)  
Legislative Affairs Chair,  
Ozark Empire Chapter  
Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)  
**Never Stop Serving®**

Going forward, with our list of state and federal legislative items (published last month), our chapter members are encouraged to contact their state and federal legislators:

1. Ask for their support for these legislative items (both in committee votes and in general session for final approval).
2. Ask for their support by becoming co-sponsors
3. Inform them that we will be conducting a "virtual" "Advocacy in Action" in May 2021, focusing on the three key and essential MOAA Initiatives.

The state and federal issues can also be found on our chapter website:

<http://www.oemoaa.org/Newsletters/February%202021.pdf>

Our Mid-Missouri Chapter (MOAA), Columbia, MO, has identified a “non-legislative” issue that we ask all chapters to assist with. That is having the VA hospital system administer COVID-19 Vaccinations to veteran spouses, as well as veterans and designated care-givers. MOAA national is tracking this issue with VA. The mechanism is available, however current supply levels of the vaccine preclude broader distribution.

### **MOAA is a congressionally chartered and recognized Veteran Service Organization**

Through an act of Congress in 2009, MOAA was granted a federal charter. This gave MOAA an expression of congressional support for all of the group’s activities as a veterans’ service organization. It also enabled all state-level MOAA affiliates to represent veterans on governor-level veterans advisory councils.

### **MOAA Named Top Lobbyist by “The Hill” – 14<sup>th</sup> consecutive year**

MOAA was named one of the top lobbyists for 2020 by The Hill, a news outlet based in Washington, D.C., that covers federal policy, defense, finance, and technology. It’s the 14th consecutive year MOAA has received this honor.

## Legislative Update (Cont'd)

### **MOAA “Advocacy in Action”:**

The transition from Storming the Hill branding to “*Advocacy in Action*” addresses a new social sensitivity to the term “storming” and marks a pivot to leveraging technology and extended engagement coming in May 2021.

For members unable to travel, the virtual meetings facilitated their participation. This generated over 19,000 letters across every congressional office and 253 virtual meetings to ensure 100% contact. This May, we will rely on lessons learned last year to make our **Advocacy in Action** campaign even more successful. The MOAA Advocacy in Action website, along with the point papers and instructions will facilitate planning and preparation – this site should be up by mid-March.

**Our three topics this year address the currently serving, veterans and recent retirees, Guard and Reserves, and their families.**

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

When most people hear about toxic exposure, they think of Agent Orange and Vietnam. The problem extends to those in uniform today. One of the more recent and impactful examples are from burn pits in Afghanistan and Iraq. Additionally, there are exposure risks from fire-fighting chemicals and contaminated drinking water to name a few. We seek the basics: expanded health care for those who were exposed, the creation of an advisory council, and to reauthorize the Agent Orange authorities which expired in 2015. This issue hits more than the servicemembers – it is a direct impact to the families who are or will be the caregivers.

### **Topic # 2: TRICARE Young Adult (TYA)**

Military kids face unique challenges – the average military kid will move six to nine times during their school years and experience repeated family separations. Yet, current law leaves military kids transitioning to adulthood without the same health care protections afforded to families with commercial plans. Ensuring health care access and affordability is particularly important during the current pandemic. As COVID-19 impacts higher education pathways and makes it more difficult for young adults to find jobs, we must ensure military families who have sacrificed so much in support of our nation have the same health care protections for their young adult children as their civilian counterparts covered by commercial plans. H.R. 475, *The Health Care Fairness for Military Families Act of 2021* addresses this inequity and supports our military families.

### **Topic #3: Basic Needs Allowance**

This allowance helps our most vulnerable servicemembers that face food insecurity—mostly junior enlisted military families. An automatic subsistence allowance for servicemembers whose gross household income (not including BAH) is below 130% of the federal poverty line is needed. This recurring struggle is exacerbated by COVID-19 layoffs which impacted spouses’ contribution to the household income. While a small number of servicemembers qualify for SNAP, there are many military families that do not qualify for the program as BAH is considered income; so, they turn to food pantries instead. Armed Forces YMCA reported a 400% increase in grocery demand at their food pantries on and near military installations during the pandemic. Commanders in the field will appreciate these efforts to take care of their troops.

### **Planning and preparation:**

As MOAA prepares point papers and supporting materials, your Missouri Council of Chapters is engaging our Chapters and chapter members to promote participation. Chapters should verify you will have coverage for all members of congress in your area (state and/or districts). Updates will be provided along the way via the MOAA Newsletter or emails. You will have all the information you need by April to start making appointments with members of congress throughout the month of May.

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

## **NEWS FROM THE MISSOURI COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS**

### **Nominations for Officers for the Missouri Council of Chapters:**

In addition to my duties as Chairman for Legislative Affairs Committee for the Missouri Council of Chapters, I also serve as the First Vice President. The First Vice President is charged with seeking and politely asking for volunteers to serve on the Council of Chapters.

- The elective officers shall be a President, Virst Vice President, Second Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary, each of whom shall be a member of a constituent chapter, and a member of MOAA National.
- The Chapter representatives (i.e., Chapter Presidents) shall elect Council officers biennially, Each elected officer shall take office at the first regular or special meeting in the calendar year following their election, and shall serve for a term of two (2) years and until a successor is duly elected and installed.

If you, or anyone you know, would be willing to consider nomination to any of the Council positions, please let me know. For additional specific details or questions, contact me at:

Email: [john@linegroup.com](mailto:john@linegroup.com) or mobile: 417.230.9187

## February Meeting Recap

David Snodderly was our speaker at the February meeting where he gave us a concise and interesting history of the ROTC program. It started with Maj Alden Partridge, himself a graduate of the US Military Academy at West Point, who after the War of 1812, realized the need for developing effective leadership in the Army. He established the first training program at Norwich University in Connecticut. Through his influence and perseverance, many other schools established military training by the 1840s.

In the 1860s, Vermont Senator Justin Morill established the Land Grant program which enabled States to build universities with military training programs. This was especially well timed with the Civil War on the horizon. It led to many schools being built and the training of many future officers. However, these were independently run State programs which resulted in the lack of standardization of the military training curriculum among Land Grant schools. The Plattsburg Idea solved that problem for many years.

In 1916, the National Defense Act formalized military officer training just as the U.S. entered World War I, and also established the JROTC program. The program expanded in the next 25 years with military oversight resulting in the ROTC program supplying over 120,000 officers to the Army during World War II. Gen George Marshall later credited the ROTC program with shortening WWII and thus saving many lives. During the Korean War 70% of new lieutenants came from the ROTC program. Presently, there are over 20,000 cadets at 273 universities.

Clearly the foresight and leadership of Maj Partridge and those who followed him led to us to where we are today.

Following the conclusion of Dave Snodderly's informative presentation, we were witness to the administration of the oath of office to our new Vice President, Becky Hutchings.



David Snodderly, LtCol, USA, Ret, accepts a MOAA Mug, in appreciation for his presentation at the February Chapter Meeting.



Steve Vanderhoof, chairperson of the Nominating Committee, administers the Oath of Office to Vice President Becky Hutchings, who also serves as the Surviving Spouse Liaison, as well as Chapter Chaplain



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER  
Becky Hutchings, Chapter Chaplain

Can you believe March is here? That means spring is right around the corner. According to the Cambridge Dictionary the word "spring" (noun) is:

"The season of the year between winter and summer, lasting from March to June north of the equator, and from September to December south of the equator, when the weather becomes warmer, leaves and plants start to grow again and flowers appear."

When I think of spring it brings a smile to my face as I envision people working outside in their gardens, flowers poking through the ground, and foliage blooming. I hold onto the expectation of fresh vegetables soon appearing at the market. What thoughts enter your mind about spring? A time of renewal? Or perhaps fresh beginnings?

March also affords us the opportunity to embrace the largest amount of time observing Lent. Lent is a period of 40 days during which Christians remember the events leading up to and including the death of Jesus Christ, whose life and teachings are the foundation of Christianity. It allows Christians a time to reflect and give thanks for what the Lord did on the cross. As Easter approaches, the end of Lent, Christians are brought to a time of renewal.

The following is a Lenten message from Pope Francis:

"When the love of Christ transfigures the lives of saints in spirit, body, and soul, they give praise to God. Through prayer, contemplation and art, they also include other creatures in that praise, as we see admirably expressed in the "Canticum of the Creatures" by Saint Francis of Assisi (cf. Laudato Si, 87)."

So as spring approaches and nature is renewed, let us enjoy the world around us. It would also be good to reflect on our Savior, and renew spiritual commitments. Lent offers the perfect opportunity to focus on The Creator and our relationship with Him. May you be encouraged.

## Important Financial Information from MOAA National

### SOCIAL SECURITY WITHHOLDING TAX DEFERRAL

Collection of the 2020 deferred Social Security taxes begins January 2021 (January - December 2021). Find out more [details here](#)

**RETIREES: MAILED 1099-RS CONTAIN INCOMPLETE PAYER'S FIN – CORRECTED PRINT 1099-RS WILL BE MAILED NO LATER THAN FEBRUARY 1.** Retiree IRS 1099-Rs mailed in early January contain a Payer's Federal Identification Number (FIN) that is missing the last digit because of a printing error. The correct Payer's FIN is: 34-0727612. We apologize for the inconvenience. We will mail you a corrected 2020 IRS 1099-R with the correct Payer's FIN no later than February 1. You can also download a correct 2020 IRS 1099-R from [myPay](#). It is available now. Please see the [Managing Your Retirement - Taxes webpage](#) for more information.

**SBP-DIC OFFSET PHASED ELIMINATION - 2021 PHASE ONE: February 1 SBP payments** January 2021 SBP and SSIA payments are paid on **February 1, 2021.**

**Some spouse SBP annuitants will** see an increase in the SBP annuity payment they receive on February 1, 2021. Some spouse SBP annuitants **will not see a change** in phase one of the SBP-DIC Offset Phased Elimination. You DO NOT need to call DFAS to tell us you are affected by the change in the law. [See our full range of FAQs](#) \*Note: the change in the law does NOT affect the amount of DIC you receive from the VA. You should continue to receive your normal DIC amount from the VA.

DFAS mailed **individual letters in December with estimates** of how the first phase of the SBP-DIC Offset Phased Elimination (effective January 1, 2020) will affect your SBP pay, for those affected. Please **do not call our Customer Care Center for your estimate.**

**CHECK OUT OUR NEW SURVIVOR SBP NEWSLETTER - FIRST ISSUE NOW ONLINE** [DFAS has a new Survivor SBP Newsletter! Check out the first issue](#), with lots of news and helpful info for survivors/SBP annuitants. Learn all about the upcoming changes to the SBP-DIC offset, when you'll get your tax statements, the new School Cert process, our helpful form tools and more!

**REPORT THE DEATH OF A RETIREE ONLINE.** Use our convenient online form to report the death of a retiree at <https://go.usa.gov/xnzQ9>.

*Spouses and children of recently-deceased retirees:* We have new, helpful tools and information to assist you with the SF 1174 for claiming the retiree's Arrears of Pay. We can now deposit an Arrears of Pay (AOP) payment directly to an eligible claimant's bank account instead of mailing a check. Please see the [How to Claim Arrears of Pay Using the SF1174](#) webpage for details. We also have new, helpful tools and information to assist you with the DD Form 2656-7 for starting an SBP annuity. Please see the [Start an SBP Annuity](#) webpage for details

**OUR PRIORITIES:** DFAS is committed to ensuring payments are made to our customers and vendors. We are working daily to provide the quality finance and accounting services that you have entrusted to us. We encourage you to use our online tools such as myPay, AskDFAS and our phone self-service tools. Our Customer Care Center representatives are also available to assist you for any questions you might have outside of the online options.

### March 2021 OEMOAA MEETING

In keeping with Greene County and Springfield mandates Twin Oaks requires that when entering the building a face mask must be worn and used within the building and in our room. The exception to mask wearing will be when we are seated at our tables. Table seating will, as much as possible, be limited to six/table. Normal bar service in the room will be provided and drinks should be brought back to the tables. This requirement means that when we open the meeting members should have their mask on for the pledge, singing, and going through the buffet line, etc. We will have our normal podium/mic and the speaker should be able to maintain a 6 ft. distance and may present without a mask.

### Buffet Service Starts with the March 19, 2021 Meeting

The 19 March buffet will include 2 entrees; Salmon with a lemon caper sauce or Pasta Florentine with cremini mushrooms, fresh spinach and roasted red peppers, served with steamed vegetables in herb butter, wild rice pilaf, dinner rolls, normal table beverages and assorted salads complimented with Chef's choice dessert.

We will walk through the buffet line in our room masked and be served by the Twin Oaks staff. The price will be \$27; which as always includes the meal gratuity. RSVPs are especially important and must be made to LtCol Pickett, no later than noon, Monday, 15 March. Payment is at the event by check (payable to OEMOAA) or cash. The bar will operate in our room as usual.

### 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 so honored this day as well

**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 –U.S. General Douglas MacArthur abandons the island of Corregidor under orders from President Franklin 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.”

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

**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 on March 20 and 25, 1948.

**1951** – 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, while wounding over 1,450

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



## March 2021 Meeting

**DATE** 19 March 2021 – 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:** See details on Page 8

**COST:** \$27 per person. See Details on Page 8. (includes gratuity)

**SPEAKER:** David Landon. Effects of COVID-19 on Police Work, and OTC

**RSVP:** By noon, Monday, 15 March 2021

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.

## 2021 OEMOAA Monthly Schedule

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

2021 OEMOAA Meeting Dates:

March 19, Speaker: David Landon, SPD

16 April, Speaker: David Jerome, MAJ, USA, Ret

21 May

18 June

No Meetings in July, August.

17 September

19 November

15 October

10 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 or LtCol Jerry Nicholson know. They are always open for good suggestions.

## ELECTED CHAPTER OFFICERS

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

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

**1ST VICE PRESIDENT:** Becky Hutchings

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

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

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

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

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

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

## APPOINTED CHAPTER OFFICERS

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

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

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

[ozarkenglishman@gmail.com](mailto:ozarkenglishman@gmail.com)

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

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

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

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

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

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

**MEMBERSHIP CHAIR:** (Position Open)

Someone asked me recently: “Did you get a hair cut?”  
“No,” I responded, “I got them all cut.”

When you ask me what I am doing today, and I say  
“Nothing,” it doesn’t mean I am free. It means I am  
doing nothing.

My luck is like a bald guy, who just won a comb!

## 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.