



May, 2023

## A Word from the Chapter President

- Our local MOAA chapter has been invited to coordinate with two other organizations, Southern Missouri Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association (SMoVHPA), and Employer in Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), for a joint meeting at Springfield's AVCRAD facility, which will include a briefing about their mission as well as a tour of the facility. In order to make this happen with both other organizations and AVCRAD, it was necessary to move our June chapter meeting to the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Details of this special meeting may be found on page 6 of this newsletter. A separate email will also be sent as an extra reminder. Sign in time will be 1100-1130, with a catered BBQ lunch. This will be followed by a short ESGR presentation, then a briefing of the mission of the AVCRAD and a tour of the facility. Our time will conclude then by 1530. I will need RSVP from all OEMOAA members and guests who plan to attend, so we can properly plan.
- We continue to search for a replacement for our Chapter Secretary/Treasurer, **LtCol Bill Pickett**, who has diligently served in this position for the past 8 years. Due to other needs in his own life, he has indicated the need to step aside. To maintain proper functioning of our chapter, we need 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. 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 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.
- **LTC Chris Stark** reminds 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. They are also looking for volunteers for necessary functions associated with bringing this exhibit to Springfield. The link for more information, or to sign up for volunteering is <https://thewallthatheals-serenityhonors2023.com/>

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- 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 be happy to accommodate.

*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 salaries?**)

**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

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## 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®**

## June OEMOAA Meeting

Note special date, time, and location

Our June OEMOAA chapter meeting will be held on June 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Roy Blunt Aviation Logistics Facility on the North side of the Springfield airport. To reach this facility, follow Kearney a short distance west of West Bypass. After passing under the bridge, turn right on N. Willard Road, then left on Ritter Rd., turn left on Lester Jones Ave, which is just past the end of the chain link fence marking the airport boundary, then turn right at the entrance with a helicopter out front. Let the gate guard know you are attending the meeting at the Roy Blunt Facility. You may have to display ID to gain entrance.

This very special meeting is being held in conjunction with the South Missouri chapter of the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Assn (VHPA) and the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR). All three organizations have members who worked at or flew out of the Missouri National Guard Aviation facility during their careers.

Sign in and social time will be from 1100 to 1130 when the meeting will begin. Lunch will be catered by Dickey's Barbeque and will cost around \$15 per person, tax and gratuity included. Following lunch, ESGR will be presenting awards to several local employers with employees who are National Guard members. This is an important opportunity to publicly recognize employer contribution to Guard Aviation training and readiness.

We will then receive an excellent and informative PowerPoint presentation on the purpose and functions of the Aircraft Repair Depot, followed by a tour of the facility and the opportunity to see Blackhawk and Chinook helicopters up close. As it is a workday, we will be able to ask questions of the technicians. Our tour will wrap up by 1530.

Please RSVP to me. I will need your RSVP NLT 9 June, including the number of guests who will attend with you.

Thank you for your continued support of the Chapter.

Ron McCall

OEMOAA Chapter President



## Chaplain's Corner

By Becky Hutchings

May is the 2nd full month of Spring. Some fun facts about May:

- The ancient Greeks gave the month her name, Maia, after the goddess Maia, who was revered for her association with growth and fertility ([havefunwithhistory.com](http://havefunwithhistory.com)).
- No other month of the year starts and ends on the same days of the week as the month of May ([madewithhappy.com](http://madewithhappy.com)).
- The phrase "April Showers bring May Flowers" comes from a poem from the 1500s by Thomas Tusser ([madewithhappy.com](http://madewithhappy.com)).

Of course there are many other special days that are celebrated in May, including Cinco de Mayo, Mother's Day, and Memorial Day. In 1971, what we now know as Memorial Day was declared a national holiday by act of Congress, though in some circles it continues to be referred to as Decoration Day. It was then also placed on the last Monday in May, as were several other federal holidays ([www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov)). Memorial Day is particularly important to those of us that have been in the military ourselves, or close to those in any of the armed services who have passed on. It is a dichotomy of sorts, as we contemplate our loss, yet celebrate the loved one's sacrifice for the freedom which we enjoy.

As we approach this special time of year I would like to leave you with a prayer specifically for Memorial Day, taken from the [preparedchristian.net](http://preparedchristian.net).

"On this Memorial Day, I am thankful for the sacrifice so many throughout our history have made, for the men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice and for their families who had to carry on without them. It is a sacrifice that is easy to forget. For those who have it, freedom is like oxygen. It's something we just have. Many will not understand just how precious either is until they are at risk of being taken away. There are encroachments being made on our freedoms right now by those who think they know better. This is a conversation for another time. Today I remember a sacrifice made and a debt I cannot repay. Today I pray for the God of heaven to bless the families of those who have lost loved ones while serving our great nation. I pray for Him to bless and comfort the walking wounded who are still with us, and bless their families as well. It is also my prayer that we remember their sacrifice and the precious gift of freedom every day, not just once a year or when they are in danger of being taken away."

May you be encouraged!

## Member Activities



Frank Bridges presented the Military Officers Association of America Award at Ozark High School on April 25, to JROTC Cadet Niemoth. The second photo is shown to highlight the more than two hundred trophies that the outstanding Ozark Cadets garnered during the 2022-23 school year for drill, marksmanship, and tactics.

Frank also presented the MOAA Collegiate Award to ROTC Cadet O'Bannon at Missouri State University (MSU) on April 28th during MSU Awards Day. He also presented the AUSA Award to Cadet Gorenflo. On hand to present several Awards were LTG Dyson (Ret) and BG Thompson, both MSU ROTC graduates. As well as award presentations, several Cadets were awarded monetary scholarships totaling thousands of dollars.

## April Meeting Recap



Our speaker for April was Greene County Presiding Commissioner, Bob Dixon. He began public service when elected to the Missouri House of Representatives in 2002. He was re-elected to that office three more times. He was then elected to the Missouri Senate. He was elected to the Greene County Commission in 2018, serving and is presently in his second four-year term.

He briefed us regarding the structure of the Greene County Commission, its current office holders, and the various boards that help in governing this county. He noted that Greene County is one of the few counties in the nation that has successfully distributed all of the funds allocated under the American Rescue Plan (Covid recovery). He then gave us a preview of the Greene County Campus Plan, detailing facility renovations and possible future expansion of the Judicial Courts Facility, former Sheriff's Office & Jail, Administrative Building, and Historic Courthouse. As outlined, this is expected to result in more efficient use of office space, consolidating offices on campus, and provide a single-entry secure lobby for citizens to gain access to both buildings.

He also provided updates about needed highway department projects, involving extension of South Kansas Expressway, as well as

several bridge replacements.

Thank you, Bob Dixon, for a very well-presented session. He can be reached via email at [BDixon@greene-countymmo.gov](mailto:BDixon@greene-countymmo.gov)



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## May US Military History

**1787** – Four years after the United States won its independence from England, 55 state delegates, including George Washington, James Madison, and Benjamin Franklin, convene in Philadelphia to compose a new U.S. constitution.

**1844** – USS Constitution sets sail from New York on a round the world cruise. She remains in active service to the present day

**1864** – A dismounted Union trooper fatally wounds J.E.B. Stuart, one of the most colorful generals of the South, at the Battle of Yellow Tavern, just six miles north of Richmond.

**1865** – The last battle of the Civil War, fought near the Rio Grande River, ends in a Confederate victory.

**1868** – By proclamation of General John A. Logan of the Grand Army of the Republic, the first major Memorial Day observance is held to honor those who died “in defense of their country during the late rebellion.”

**1904** – The United States begins construction of the Panama Canal.

**1918** – The U.S. Post Office and the U.S. Army began regularly scheduled airmail service between Washington and New York through Philadelphia.

**1942** – A bill establishing a women’s corps in the U.S. Army becomes law, creating the Women’s Auxiliary Army Corps (WAACs) and granting women official military status.

**1947** – Japan’s post-war constitution goes into effect

**1961** – President Kennedy approves sending 400 Special Forces troops and 100 other U.S. military advisers to South Vietnam.

**1968** – Following 34 days of discussion to select a site, United States and North Vietnam begin formal negotiations in Paris. Cease-fire officially signed in February 1973

**1968** – Originally known as Decoration Day, the Last Monday in May was officially designated as Memorial Day

**1974** – In the Rajasthan Desert in the state of Pokhran, India successfully detonates its first nuclear weapon.

**1997** – Russian President Boris Yeltsin, together with President Clinton and 16 other NATO leaders, sign agreement to give Russia a voice in NATO affairs

**2003** – Schools reopened in Baghdad, Iraq, for the first time since the start of war.

**2010** – The Times Square car bombing attempt was a planned terrorist attack which was foiled when two street vendors discovered a car bomb and alerted a New York City Police Department (NYPD) patrolman to the threat after they spotted smoke coming from a vehicle

**2011** – Barack Obama announces that Osama bin Laden, the suspected mastermind behind the September 11 attacks has been killed by United States special forces in Abbottabad, Pakistan.

**2014** – VA’s Office of Inspector General announces investigating 26 agency facilities for allegations of doctored waiting times.

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**Our host, Twin Oaks Country Club, continues to provide service via 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 as shown below.**

**Our options for our April dinner meeting are: Sweet Chili Salmon, with Roasted Potatoes and Asparagus, -or- Cashew Chicken, with Steamed Rice and Green Beans, both served with salad, table rolls, and beverage**

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

**Either meal will be available for the same cost: \$29 per attendee, which as always includes gratuity.**

## May 2023 Meeting

**DATE** Thursday, 18 May 2023

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

**TIME:** 1815 – Social Hour (Drinks can be purchased from the bar)

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

1900 – Meal/Program

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

**Cost:** \$29 per person (NOTE: 50/50 Drawing, and Donations for Honor Flight of the Ozarks will also be accepted)

**Program:** Allen Kunkel, MSU Innovation Center

**RSVP:** By noon, Monday, 15 May 2023  
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 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:** Christopher Stark, LTC, USA, Retired

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

**SURVIVING SPOUSE LIAISON:** Becky Hutchings

**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

## 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

18 May: Allen Kunkel, MSU Innovation Center Update

Jun 13 – Cards Baseball

22 June: AVCRAD Facility Briefing/Tour (**NOTE DATE CHANGE**)

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)

### I've Learned...

- The best classroom in the world, is at the feet of an elderly person
- Being kind is more important than being right
- We should be glad that God doesn't give us everything we ask for
- To ignore the facts, doesn't change the facts

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.