

**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).*

## A Word from the Chapter President

On October 22, I have the distinct honor of representing the people of the Ozark Empire Chapter of MOAA, at the MOAA Annual Membership Meeting and Awards Dinner. Our chapter was recognized as a recipient of the 5 Star Levels of Excellence Award, for 2020. We have a distinguished history of fine leadership, and folks at the National level are aware of this. I want to express my sincere gratitude for the path that they have laid down. The photograph below was taken during the awards ceremony, in Arlington, VA. At that meeting, we heard from Denis McDonough, the Secretary of Veterans' Affairs, who addressed several topics. He assured us that one of his top priorities in continuing to work toward Zero Veteran Homelessness. They are working to hire as many as 2000 more people to handle claims, with a goal of answering and fulfilling all claims within 90 days. The Administration recognizes that the issue of homeless female vets with children is a real problem. Separation of those families is inexcusable, and they are working on solving this issue.

The issue of toxic exposure, whether through burn pits, Agent Orange (including Blue Water Navy), is being addressed. Research is ongoing into cancers that may be related to past military service.

He related that our excellence comes through our diversity. Thanks to MOAA, and their 90+ years of working on behalf of our veterans.

In other news, we have been listening to our members, and have great news for folks who have been asking for more daytime meetings, especially during the winter months of January, February, and March. Our January meeting will be on Thursday, January 20. The February and March meeting dates are shown on the last page of this newsletter.

All meetings will be at noon, meaning that the room will be open at 11, with social hour before lunch, which will be served at noon, followed as usual by our speaker, and any business that needs to be conducted. This is being done so that hopefully more folks can come out, since no one will have to travel at night. If this is a success, we may make this change permanent, depending of course on availability of meeting facilities.

For those who vacation, MOAA Vacations offers some wonderful options. The great news here is that when we book vacations through MOAA Vacations, our chapter receives a royalty, basically a percentage of the cost of the vacation. Something to consider.

Please notice also the Membership Renewal form, which will be attached to this newsletter. We truly appreciate your continued support.

*Ron McCall, OEMOAA Chapter President*



## Legislative Update

November, 2021

OEMOAA Chapter

Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)



## Legislative Update (Cont'd)

Please watch [The MOAA Newsletter Link - MOAA - The MOAA Newsletter](#) for updates on our advocacy efforts related to the TRICARE pharmacy benefit, including a call to action to share your perspectives. [© MOAA, 2021]

### TRICARE Sets Dates for 2021 Open Season

TRICARE's 2021 Open Season will run 8 November through 31 December, giving eligible beneficiaries a little more than a month this fall to make changes to their coverage. Anyone enrolled in, or eligible for, a TRICARE Prime or TRICARE Select plan can enroll in a plan or make changes to their coverage during this period. Updates would take effect 1 January 2022. Re-enrollment is not required; if you like the plan you're in, you'll continue with it as long as you remain eligible.

Coverage changes outside Open Season require a Qualifying Life Event (QLE). You'll have 90 days after a QLE to make changes; a QLE for any family member allows all family members to change health plans. Get a list of these events and details on how to initiate enrollment changes after a QLE at [TRICARE.mil/lifeevents](https://TRICARE.mil/lifeevents). [Qualifying Life Events | TRICARE](#)

*The TRICARE Open Season generally takes place on or near the same dates as the Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP) Open Season. FEDVIP is a separate program offering coverage to some retirees, reservists, family members, and survivors; learn more about eligibility and program details at [Eligibility | BENEFEDS](#)* Servicemembers can register for FEDVIP benefits from 31 days prior to their military retirement to 60 days after their retirement, in addition to during Open Season. They may also register after QLEs, but these events may differ from TRICARE QLEs; learn more at [Qualifying Life Events \(QLEs\) | BENEFEDS](#) [© MOAA, 2021 by Kevin Lilley]

### TRICARE Open Enrollment (MOAA Webinar, 2 November 2021)

**NOVEMBER 02, 2021 | 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM EDT**

**Online Event**

**REGISTER NOW**

[MOAA Webinar: TRICARE, Medicare, and FEDVIP Open Season: Are You Satisfied With Your Current Plans? \(on24.com\)](#)

**ADD TO CALENDAR**

[MOAA - MOAA Webinar: TRICARE, Medicare and FEDVIP Open Season](#)

**Can't make the webinar? No problem. Register now and we'll send you a link to the recording.**

Join MOAA's financial and benefits experts Lt. Col. Shane Ostrom, CFP®, USAF (Ret), and Capt. Paul Frost, AFC®, USN (Ret), to discuss the upcoming open season, and factors you should consider when deciding whether to change your medical, dental and/or vision insurance plans.

Topics include:

- 2022 open season dates for TRICARE and FEDVIP
- Open season changes versus qualifying life events (QLEs)
- TRICARE Prime versus Select: Which plan works best for your family?
- How to Shop for a FEDVIP Dental and/or Vision Insurance Plan
- Where to find dental/vision pricing information – using the BENEFEDS Comparison Tool
- What are Medicare Advantage Plans, and are they right for me?

MOAA Premium and Life members have access to all recorded MOAA webinars at any time via [MOAA's Webinar Archive](#). Want to join MOAA? See [MOAA.org/join](https://MOAA.org/join) for details.

**MEDICARE PART B Premiums for 2022**  
*New Medicare*, A non-government website

What Is the Projected Increase for Part B of Premium?

Part B covers outpatient care which covers doctors and related services. For 2021, it was \$148.50, and while it's not decided for 2022, the premium is projected to be around \$153.50 per month. This is the basic rate, and it can increase for people who have higher annual incomes.

For deductibles, you'll pay \$217 for Part B, which is an increase of \$14 from 2021. Once you meet the deductible, you'll pay a coinsurance of 20% of the payment. © 2021 NewMedicare.com an Astoria Company Brand

**Missouri Legislative Information**

Of the veteran/military legislation tracked during the 2021 legislative session, the following bills were "Truly Agreed To and Finally Passed."

HB 476 — Modifies provisions relating to occupational license reciprocity for military members.

SB 120 — Modifies provisions relating to military affairs.

SB 258 — Classifies Missouri National Guard members as state employees for certain purposes.

Additional details on the Bills can be found at [Missouri House of Representative - Legislation \(mo.gov\)](http://Missouri House of Representative - Legislation (mo.gov)) and [Legislation - Missouri Senate \(mo.gov\)](http://Legislation - Missouri Senate (mo.gov))

[From MOAA Mid-Missouri Chapter Newsletter, Fall 2021]

**MOAA, Missouri Council of Chapters, Annual Meeting and Election of Officers**  
**Saturday, 4 December 2021**  
**12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.**  
**Whole Hog Café, 2731 N Glenstone Ave, Springfield, MO 65803 (417) 720-4759**

Given the meeting location, this will be a working lunch and for your convenience, the menu link is here: <https://www.wholehogsgf.com/menu-1>.

By now Chapter Presidents should have received the Council's call for nominations and list of nominee's identified thus far. This will be the primary focus of the meeting. As we get closer to the meeting date, the minutes and an agenda are forthcoming. I'll see you all then!!

All MOAA chapters and members are cordially invited to attend.

Best regards,  
John

John J. Glenn, Jr.  
1st Lt, USMC (ret)  
President,  
Missouri Council of Chapters  
314-960-0484

## NEWS FROM THE MISSOURI COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS:

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

In addition to my duties as the Chairman for Legislative Affairs Committee for the Missouri Council of Chapters, I also serve as the First Vice President, for the Council. The First Vice president is charged with seeking and politely asking for volunteers to serve on the Council of Chapters Nominating Committee. The following members have been appointed by President John Glenn to serve on the 2021 Nominating Committee:

Steve Sheltmire, Mid - Missouri Chapter

Chuck Guy, Ozark Empire Chapter

Maella Blalock, Four State Chapter

• The elective officers shall be a president, first vice president, second vice president, treasurer, and secretary, each of whom shall be a member of a member chapter and a member of national MOAA.

• 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 the 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:

### 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 one.*

#### 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**

## Helpful Links and Contacts

### DFAS

- <https://www.dfas.mil>
- (888) 332-7411

### AARP

- <https://www.aarp.org>
- (888) 687-2277

### TAPS

- <https://www.taps.org>
- (800) 959-8277

### MOAA

- MOAA.ORG
- (800) 234-6622

### Surviving Spouse Advisory Council

- Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter: [mssvc02@gmail.com](mailto:mssvc02@gmail.com)
- SSAC Chair and Board Member [virginiagailjoyce@gmail.com](mailto:virginiagailjoyce@gmail.com)

### VA

- <https://www.va.gov>
- (800) 698-2411

### MILITARY.COM

### [WWW.MILITARYCOALITION.ORG](http://WWW.MILITARYCOALITION.ORG)

- Health Care Committee – Survivors

### [www.militaryonesource.mil](http://www.militaryonesource.mil)

## October Meeting Recap

Our speaker for the October dinner was Dana Lopez the CEO of Dogwood Ranch located SE of Rogersville. The Vision of Dogwood Ranch is- "To see that every foster youth and at-risk family within the heart off the Ozarks has the opportunity to function fully in their God-given gifts and destiny, impacting future generations."

Dogwood Ranch is a non-profit organization that provides wrap around care for trauma survivors with a strong focus on foster children/youth, as well as military members. They are passionate about helping those who have been abused and neglected to find hope through a relationship with Jesus, healing and a chance at having a loving family they deserve.

To accomplish these goals, Dogwood Ranch has three main programs:

1. Healing Reins is designed to bring HOPE to at-risk youths and military families struggling with mental health and behavioral challenges. It is a 12-week equine therapy program focusing on the client/horse relationship.
2. The Haven is a 9-12 month program that provides a safe and supporting transitional living environment for former foster youths in crisis, whose lives have been drastically altered due to abuse and neglect.
3. The Village program, under development, will be a community of 10 foster homes for hard-to-place children and youth who may never have experienced true safety in a family setting. It will include 8 homes that will provide 24/7 in-person support for caregivers and their foster children. The Village will provide a supportive environment to foster parents who care for youth who come from extremely traumatic histories.

For Dogwood Ranch it is all about changing the future for those who have experienced trauma. Dogwood Ranch is "Driven by Love, Restoring Hope, One life at a time."

To learn more about our neighbors at Dogwood Ranch and the programs listed above, go to their website at [www.dogwoodranch.org](http://www.dogwoodranch.org). To make a financial donation, their address is P.O. Box 1995 Ozark, MO 65721. If you would like to visit the Ranch, call 417-393-3493.



# Taps



Col. Billy R Lord



On October 15<sup>th</sup>, the world lost a truly great man with the death of COL Billy R. Lord. I remember him so well from conversations at our meetings. He always had a special way of being kind in all that he said, with never an unpleasant thing to say about anyone. I visited him several times at his home in the Elfindale complex. I'm pretty sure that he didn't always feel the best, but he was happy to see me and we had wonderful chats. He was absolutely dedicated to taking care of his wife, Bettye, of 64 years.

He was a Warrior and was laid to rest among Warriors at the Springfield, Missouri Veteran's Cemetery on October 21. Billy served with the 11th Air Assault Division, 1st Cavalry Division, 101st Airborne Division, XVII Airborne Corps, and the 82nd Airborne Division. He had three tours in the Republic of Vietnam and earned the Silver Star, multiple Bronze Stars, an Air Medal, and the Master Parachutist Badge, along with the Legion of Merit and Multiple Army Commendation Medals. He saw himself as a 1st Cavalry Soldier and attended many Reunions along with Bettye.

One of his favorite scriptures was Psalm 138:7; "Though I walk in the midst of trouble, thou wilt revive me, thou shalt stretch forth thine hand against the wrath of mine enemies and thy right hand will save me."

Billy is survived by his wife, Bettye, who lives at Elfindale; son Patrick and a daughter Darlene Weiss both of Springfield; a son William of Zandvoort, The Netherlands; four grandchildren and nine great grandchildren. He will be missed by all who knew him. May God welcome Billy into His arms and into the peace of heaven.

Frank Bridges, LtCol, USA, Ret

## November US Military History

**1620:** The Mayflower Compact is signed in what is now Provincetown Harbor, near Cape Cod, Massachusetts

**1798:** Congress agreed to pay a yearly tribute to Tripoli, considering it the only way to protect US shipping in the Mediterranean, as the US has no appreciable Navy as yet. This decision was later reversed by Thomas Jefferson, leading to the invasion of Tripoli, and the famous line in the Marine Corps hymn.

**1820:** USN Capt Nathaniel Palmer discovered the frozen continent of Antarctica

**1861:** Julia Ward Howe writes the lyrics for the Battle Hymn of the Republic, later sung by Union Troops to the tune John Brown's Body, which had been composed in 1852.

**1863:** President Abraham Lincoln delivers "a few appropriate remarks" at the dedication of the Gettysburg National Cemetery

**1864:** Sand Creek Massacre, resulting in heavy loss of life to the Native American tribes of Cheyenne, Arapahoe, Wutapai.

**1867:** Dynamite is invented by Alfred Nobel. He later also invented the blasting cap, to detonate dynamite rods.

**1883:** At exactly Noon on November 18, American and Canadian railroads began using four continental time zones, to end the confusion of dealing with thousands of local times, emblematic of the power shared by the railroad companies at the time.

**1906:** International Distress Call "S-O-S" is adopted at the International Radio Telegraphic Convention in Berlin

**1917:** Provisional government of Aleksander Kerensky falls to Bolsheviks, led by Vladimir Ilyich Lenin

**1918:** At the 11<sup>th</sup> Hour on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month, the Great War ends.

**1921:** Exactly three years after the end of World War I, the Tomb of the Unknowns is dedicated at Arlington National Cemetery

### *Chaplain's Corner*

*Reality is the leading cause of stress amongst those in touch with it.*

Jane Wagner

There have been situations and events, I'm sure, that have happened to all of us where stress may have become overwhelming. The funny thing about it is I cannot remember many of those times. Oh yes, there are some that are I can recall, but there are many that I cannot. We are about to enter into a time of Thanksgiving. I pray that we can let go of worry, anxiety and stress and focus on the matters that are most important. Our relationship with Christ along with our family and friends is what is most important.

Hebrews 4:15-16, NIV

<sup>15</sup>For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. <sup>16</sup>Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

Peter Briscoe asks an important question: "Do you remember those early days when you came to Christ?" How it felt like you couldn't soar any higher in your spirit? Then life took over, Briscoe continues, and you still loved Jesus, but the blinding excitement of it eventually faded. **On earth, there is constant tension between the temporary and the eternal.** It's natural and normal to feel this tension. We ought to feel the pangs of yearning for the eternal. At the same time, we need to seek joy in Christ as we go about the normalcy of today. Perhaps this will make our stress just a little easier to manage.

David Jerome, MAJ, USA Ret  
OEMOAA Chapter Chaplain



## November 2021 Meeting

**DATE** 19 November 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

**BUFFET MENU:** 2 Chef's choice entrees, Vegetables, Dinner Rolls, Salad. Table beverages. Chef's choice dessert

**COST:** \$27.00 (includes gratuity)

**SPEAKER:** Dr Tommy Goode, Moral Injury Institute

**RSVP:** By noon, Monday, 15 November 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:

19 November – Dr. Tommy Goode, Moral Injury Institute  
10 December (2<sup>nd</sup> Friday)

2022 OEMOAA Meeting Dates:

20 January (Th)	16 September
17 February (Th)	21 October
17 March (Th)	18 November
16 April	9 December (2 <sup>nd</sup> Friday)
20 May	
17 June	

Speaker Schedule – being developed by a very dedicated and capable staff. If anyone knows of a person or topic that you would like to see presented at one of our monthly OEMOAA meetings, that would be of interest to our group, please let Col. Chuck Guy know. He is always open for good suggestions.

## ELECTED CHAPTER OFFICERS

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

**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:** David Jerome, MAJ, USA, Ret

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

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

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

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

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

## 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.