



November, 2020

**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

I hope everyone is doing well under the present COVID circumstances and adhering to recommended protocols. It can be stressful to be away from friends and family so stay in touch in any way possible. We will get through this together!

We started monthly meetings again and both September and October were very successful. Greg McManus spoke to us in September, but our October speaker was understandably reluctant to attend in person. Ron McCall and Bill Pickett quickly got together and came up with a way to make it happen by holding a Zoom meeting. Using our own equipment and Ron's Zoom account, we were able to see and hear Sarah Derr, Volunteer Coordinator with RSVP here in Springfield.

RSVP stands for Retired and Senior Volunteer Program. They provide many opportunities to volunteer in the community in support of schools and senior programs. For information about volunteering and their COVID response, call 417-862-2129 or go online at [rsvpinfo@ccoarks.org](mailto:rsvpinfo@ccoarks.org).

Please consider attending the November meeting. After our speaker, we will have our annual Business Meeting, which will include Officer reports, as well as nominations for and election of new Officers.

At our dinner meetings, Twin Oaks, as well as the City of Springfield, requires masks to be worn anytime while in the clubhouse except when eating. Tables are set for 6 instead of 8 and all TO staff wear masks at all times. Dinners are plated meals only and, so far, they have been exceptional in quality and quantity. It has been great to see good friends again and enjoy an evening together.

Another point of interest is highlighted elsewhere in this newsletter. Many of you know of the annual Veteran's Day breakfast, which has been hosted by Missouri State University in the past. Understandably, due to COVID this year, things will look different. They are hosting an evening event at Plaster Stadium on November 5. Hopefully the weather will cooperate, and this can be enjoyed by those who wish to attend. Masks will of course be required, as well as Social Distancing. Look forward to seeing those of you there, who wish to and are able to attend.

We are also pleased to announce that we have secured a musical group as entertainment for our December Christmas dinner. They are a traveling handbell group from Second Baptist Church here in Springfield. There are six players, and they produce a beautiful sound, a real pleasure to listen to. As we have done in the past, we plan to take up a voluntary collection for their benefit, which we anticipate presenting to them when they are with us next month. There will be opportunity for our members to donate, both upon check-in to the November, as well as December meetings. I'm sure they will be most appreciative of our generosity.

*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.*



*We thank you for attending the MSU Veterans Day Celebration in the past and wanted to make sure you were aware that this year's event will look a little different due to COVID-19. Rather than our traditional breakfast and activities, we will instead be having an evening outdoor celebration on campus. This event will take place on Thursday, Nov. 5 from 6-7 p.m. at Plaster Stadium. The details are below. No RSVP is necessary. Please join us, and bring your friends and family, as we honor our military veterans.*

## **A Missouri State University Veterans Day Celebration**

Join us for a special evening celebration as Missouri State University honors our community's military veterans. This is a community-wide event and all veterans, family and friends are invited to attend. The event will take place **Thursday, Nov. 5 from 6-7 p.m. at Plaster Stadium** on campus and will feature:

- Pride Band Performance Series: Salute to Our Veterans
- Special playing of Taps
- Military Branch Service Song
- Special message from a member of the U.S. Navy Blue Angels
- A special appearance by K-9s for CAMO
- Free package of patriotic-themed popcorn to the first 1,000 attendees

Open to the public, families are welcome. Masks required. Social distancing encouraged.

Parking available in Lots 4 and 19 (on S. John Q. Hammons Parkway), and Lots 18 and 22 (on E. Grand). Golf cart shuttles will be available on a first-come first-served basis.

For more information, contact Stephanie Smith at 417-836-4143 or email [StephanieSmith@missouristate.edu](mailto:StephanieSmith@missouristate.edu)

## New Member Profile

David Jerome, Ph.D., MAJ, USA (Ret.)



David entered the U.S. Army, as a private, in December 1975 and rose to the rank of Sergeant (E-5) before leaving active duty in December 1979. In December 1979, David entered the Missouri National Guard while attending the University of Central Missouri at Warrensburg. While in the Guard, David completed OCS and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in September 1981. David re-entered active duty in January 1983 and became a Regular Army Officer. Among his numerous assignments, David was a company commander at White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico, and he served as the Commander, Defense Contract Management Office in Albuquerque, New Mexico. His last assignment was on the staff of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology in the Pentagon. He retired from the U.S. Army, after a 23 year career, in June, 1999. David was awarded the Legion of Merit upon his retirement.

He has been a Certified Professional Contracts Manager since November 1993 and was awarded a lifetime certification by the National Contract Management Association in November 2013. In private industry, he was a Project Procurement Manager as well as a Senior Program Manager. David has a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration (Marketing) from the University of Central Missouri; an MBA from the Florida Institute of Technology - Melbourne; and a Ph.D. in Public Policy from the University of Arkansas – Fayetteville. David was an assistant professor of Political Science at Northwest Missouri State University, in Maryville. He is a graduate of the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. He is also a graduate of the Advanced Program Management Course, Defense Systems Management College, at Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

He is the editor of a recent book *Examining War and Conflict around the World*. His current book project is an authorized biography on Bill Virdon, the former professional baseball player, manager, and coach, with both the Pittsburgh Pirates and St. Louis Cardinals. He is also a former Associate Pastor of King's Way United Methodist Church. David and his wife of 46 years, Kathy, reside in Ozark. They have a daughter and a son, both of whom reside with their families in Kansas City. We are pleased to welcome him to our chapter.



**Legislative Update – October 2020**  
**John Hathcock, Legislative Affairs Chair**

**Never Stop Serving®**

1. **DOD PAUSES PLAN TO CUT 18,000 MEDICAL BILLETS AND TO SEND TRICARE BENEFICIARIES AWAY FROM MILITARY FACILITIES**
  - a. A special thanks to all our members - DoD has paused on reform and reassessment of the availability of civilian care. But legislation is needed to ensure robust analysis and mitigation planning throughout the implementation process to protect your access to care.
  - b. Please contact your elected officials and urge them to support language in the FY 2021 National Defense Authorization Act that would halt restructuring and billet reductions while increasing reporting requirements and congressional oversight.
  - c. Send a letter to your senators and representatives:  
<https://takeaction.moaa.org/moaa/app/write-a-letter?0&engagementId=509573>
2. **HERE'S YOUR 2021 MILITARY RETIREE, SOCIAL SECURITY AND VA DISABILITY PAY RAISE**

Military retirees, those who receive disability or other benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs, federal retirees and Social Security recipients will see a 1.3% increase in their monthly checks for 2021.
3. **EXERCISE YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE:**
  - a. We urge all chapter members to exercise their right to vote in the upcoming federal, state and local elections. Voting is a right for which countless Americans have bled and sometimes given the ultimate sacrifice. It is a right that never should be taken for granted.
  - b. **ELECTION DAY IS TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3d**
  - c. **2020 Voting Options (Absentee and Mail-in Ballots)**

During the November general elections in 2020, Missouri voters will be eligible to cast ballots by mail with notarization of the ballot envelope, and voters in at-risk categories for contracting or transmitting COVID-19 are eligible to vote by absentee ballot without obtaining notarization. See [Secretary of State Voting Info](#). A two-page summary of your options is linked on this page, and links to the revised absentee application and mail-in ballot application are also available.
  - d. **2020 Voter Registration deadline.** Registration is allowed, whichever is later, on the fourth Wednesday prior to the election. In 2020, that date is October 7.
4. **OTHER AREAS OF MOAA NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE INTEREST:**
  - Support concurrent receipt for all disabled military retirees. Act now to support concurrent receipt of both military retired pay and veterans' disability compensation, regardless of VA disability rating. Support H.R. 5995, the Maj. Richard Star Act, and the companion S. 3393 -- which would provide concurrent receipt for servicemembers unable to complete 20 years of service due to their combat-related injuries. Help ensure these men and women get their full service-earned retirement, as well as their disability compensation from the VA.
  - HR 847 – Protecting Gold Star Spouses Act. Through our local efforts, we have obtained Congressman Long's agreement to co-sponsor HR 847, Protecting Gold Star Spouses Act. During the government shutdown last year, in addition to the Coast Guard losing continuity of pay and benefits, Gold Star beneficiaries were also affected. We are certainly appreciative of Congressman Long's support and co-sponsorship.
5. **Missouri State Legislation Initiatives for 2021, 101st General Assembly**

We are seeking proposals from our MOAA chapter membership regarding legislation at the state level that you would like to suggest. This year, there were some legislative initiatives proposed, but did not hurdle the legislative process. These are:

  - a. **University of Missouri School of Law Veterans Clinic.** HJR 72 -Directs a percentage of medical marijuana tax revenue to a dedicated fund for University of Missouri School of Law Veterans Clinic.
  - b. **Veterans Residential Care Vouchers.** HB 1485-Authorizes the issuance of residential care vouchers to certain veterans. This bill authorizes any veteran who is approved for admission into the Missouri Veterans' home nearest to the veteran's residence but who has not been admitted to a Missouri veterans' home due to a lack of vacancy.

Any proposal you may have, for example- Veterans exemption to personal property or real estate tax. In Texas, a veteran with a disability rating of 70- 100 percent may receive a \$12,000 property tax exemption. Veterans with a full 100% disability rating are fully exempt from property taxes. 50- 69 percent may receive a \$10,000 property tax exemption. 30- 49 percent may receive a \$7,500 property tax exemption. 10- 29 percent may receive a \$5,000 property tax exemption.

Current Missouri Property Tax exemption is limited only to a "Total Service-Connected Disabled POW". Personal Property Tax Credit is limited to 100 percent disabled persons.

## 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).

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

## November 2020 OEMOAA MEETING

Twin Oaks, in keeping with Greene County and Springfield mandates, requires us to use a served plated meal menu. 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. Tables 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, etc. We will have our normal podium/mic and the speakers should be able to maintain a 6 ft. distance and may present without a mask.

**Plated Meal Options** – All meals will include: a House Salad with table choice of Ranch or Italian Dressing; normal table beverages and rolls. The price, as always, includes the meal gratuity. RSVPs are especially important and must be made to Col Pickett, no later than noon 16 Nov. Payment is at the event by check (payable to OEMOAA) or cash. The bar will operate in our room as usual.

Option 1 – [\$26] Chicken Linguini Al Pesto – Linguini Pasta Tossed in Basil-Parmesan Pesto Sauce, Artichoke, Asparagus & Kalamata Olives, topped with Grilled Herb-marinated Chicken Breast.

Option 2 – [\$25] Chef's House-Smoked Ribs (1/2 slab): Chef John's Signature Fall -off-the-Bone, Smoked on the Property Pork Ribs, served with Pit Beans and Garlic Parmesan Steak Fries.

Option 3 – [\$32] Grilled Fillet of Salmon: 6 oz. Grilled Fillet of Atlantic Salmon, served on bed of Asian Slaw, finished with Sweet Thai Chili Glaze and Pickled Vegetables

## Chaplain's Corner

By Becky Hutchings

Apple butter, leaves reaching peak colors starting to fall to the ground, and temperatures beginning to drop-what a gorgeous time of year (depending on how you feel about cooler weather). November brings with it the celebration of Veterans, Thanksgiving, and the beginning of Advent. It always feels like a short month that's packed with special events.

As we approach Thanksgiving, it is a perfect time to reflect on what makes us thankful. I am thankful for the big things in life, God, family, friends, health, and living in a free country that our men and women fought for to keep us safe. Often when using our precious resources, such as water, I am thankful for clean running water, beautiful lakes, and even the rain that replenishes the soil and purifies our air.

The Reverend Billy Graham had this to say about being thankful:

"May you also remember this Thanksgiving not only the obvious gifts that God has given you, but His spiritual blessings, as well. The greatest gift of all is Jesus Christ, and the salvation God offers us in Him."

2020 has been a challenging year. Many wonder if our world will ever go back to the normal that we once knew. All of the changes occurring along with a particularly difficult election leave some feeling fearful and in doubt. When we have feelings of uneasiness, it helps to recount our blessings

The Psalmist tells us in Psalm 100:4-5: "Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations."

What things make you thankful? As we enter this special time of year, take time to pray and share joy with one another. May you all be encouraged.

Blessings!

## November 2020 Meeting

**DATE** 20 November 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:** See details on Page 9

**COST:** Varies. See Details on Page 6. (includes gratuity)

**SPEAKER:** Mark Fulgham – Self-Defense For Seniors

**RSVP:** By noon, Monday, 16 November 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, Colonel, USA Retired

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

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

417-315-8193 [gnicholson013@yahoo.com](mailto:gnicholson013@yahoo.com)

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

417-840-1657 [mrtat@gmail.com](mailto:mrtat@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.rxd@gmail.com](mailto:pls.rxd@gmail.com)

## APPOINTED CHAPTER OFFICERS

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

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

**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.rxd@gmail.com](mailto:pls.rxd@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:** 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 Schedule

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

20 Nov 2020 Speaker: Mark Fulgham – Self-Defense for Seniors

In May of 2018 Marc retired from a 37-year career in teaching music, the last 28 years teaching trumpet at Southeast Missouri State University in Cape Girardeau, MO. From 1990-2014 Marc was also Principal Trumpet in the Paducah Symphony Orchestra. Marc is still performing on his trumpet as a thirty-year member of the Jerry Ford Big Band. As his trumpet career winds down, Marc earned his NRA pistol certification in 2018 and is presently teaching pistol safety classes such as Basics of Pistol Shooting, Advanced Handgun and Concealed Carry classes. Marc and his wife Becky still enjoy riding their Goldwing motorcycle, and recently completed riding in all 48 contiguous states.

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

2021 OEMOAA Meeting Dates:

15 January

16 April

19 February

21 May

19 March

18 June

If anyone knows of a person or topic that you would like to see presented at a monthly OEMOAA meeting, that would be of interest to our group, please let LtCol Jerry Nicholson know. He is always looking for good suggestions.

Recently I was thinking about old age, I came to the conclusion that old age is when you still have something on the ball, but you're just too tired to bounce it.

## 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.