



Ozark Empire News



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

April 2020

<http://www.oemoaa.org>

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

Chapter Mission Statement: *To stimulate patriotism in our community and serve those who hold or have ever held a warrant or commission in any of the seven uniformed services, as well as their surviving spouses. The Ozark Empire Military Officers Association of America (OEMOAA) is an affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA).*

A Word from the Chapter President

First thing this month, we want to thank and congratulate our Newsletter Editor, Ron McCall, as well as our Webmaster, Keith Oxby, for their outstanding efforts to aid our chapter communications in this difficult time. These efforts have once again been recognized by MOAA National, and we have again been selected as a **5-Star** winner for the Excellence in Communications award. We want to take this opportunity to thank both of these gentlemen for their efforts and diligence. Please express your thanks to them as well, and pass along an electronic copy of the newsletter as well as our chapter's web address to others on your mailing list. Both are exceptional!

Chuck Guy, OEMOAA Chapter President

We have no March meeting recap, as our March meeting, and as we now know, our April meeting as well have been cancelled, due to the coronavirus pandemic. We are working with the speakers scheduled for those dates, in an effort to reschedule them for later in the year when, hopefully, we can begin to resume our regular monthly meetings. As the world-wide situation unfolds, more will become clear as to when more relaxed social gatherings may safely resume.



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

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

John Hathcock, Legislative Chair

Never Stop Serving®

It is my honor and privilege to serve as our chapter Legislative Chair. It will be tough to fill the shoes and reputation of Frank Bridges. Frank is unprecedented in his accomplishments and developing very positive relationships in our legislative community. Many thanks to Frank for his service and dedication and charting a course for our Chapter to follow. Always feel free to contact me if you need any additional specific details or have any questions.

Email: john@linegroup.com or Mobile: 417.230.9187

“Storming the Hill” cancelled, which was scheduled for March. Councils and Chapters are being contacted directly with instructions that include preparations for a virtual or hometown Summer Storm. MOAA will also double down on **member engagement**, providing links via our Legislative Action Center and guidance for engaging with House and Senate members when they return to their districts. More webinars, videos, and teleconferences are planned for members who seek greater understanding of these issues and to help advocate for the protection of all earned benefits. Phone calls matter; Emails matter; Online petitions matter; In-person meetings, when practical, matter. We want to ensure they can use them locally for maximum national impact.”

We have identified 3 major areas of emphasis as we meet the legislative challenges ahead.

- Military Pay and Service-Earned Benefits: Key to Recruiting and Retention.
- Protect Military Health Care Benefit. It appears that the medical facilities at Ft. Leonard Wood and Whiteman AFB are not going to be reduced at this time, but we must always be vigilant. Note that many DoD Medical Facilities have cut off services for Dependents and Retirees.
- The Military Lending Act Expansion. This issue is being endorsed by MOAA in partnership with “The Military Coalition”, Alexandria, VA. This is a separate legislative action from the NDAA.

We have contacted all our local congressmen and Senators. OEMOAA Chapter members are also encouraged to reach out to our elected officials to lend your support.

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.

LEGISLATIVE FLASH, NGAUS Washington Report, 24 March 2020, 1310 Hrs. - Rep. Jimmy Panetta, D-Calif., and Rep. Brad Wenstrup, R-Ohio, have introduced legislation that would encourage employers to continue to pay the salaries of Guardsmen when they are activated. The Reservist Pay Equity Act, H.R. 6280, would increase tax credits employers receive from 20% to 50%.

The MOAA Midwest Regional Leaders Workshop scheduled for May 1-2 in Kansas City, MO, has also been cancelled. More information on possible options will follow.

MOAA State Legislative Consortium. Two MOAA members will spearhead a new State Legislative Consortium designed to assist council and chapter leaders with local advocacy efforts, bringing together the best practices from other chapters and MOAA's national advocacy team. Col. Tom Robillard, USAF (Ret), of South Carolina and Lt. Col. Don Wolfinger, USA (Ret), of St. Louis, Missouri will lead the consortium, which will "facilitate information sharing, electronically and through periodic calls and webinars, between affiliates and with MOAA national in order to leverage resources and maximize coordination," according to an Oct. 17 letter to council presidents and legislative chairs from Col. Dan Merry, USAF (Ret), MOAA's vice president for Government Relations.

Missouri state initiatives. We are in the process of developing proposed initiatives to support military and veterans at the state level, which include enhanced earned benefits managed by the Missouri Veterans Commission, in their key areas of Veterans Support/Benefits; Veterans Homes; and Veterans cemeteries. Other areas include support to the Missouri Department of Economic Development and the Missouri Military Preparedness and Enhancement Commission (MMPEC). Family Support/Employment/Education enhanced opportunities for veterans, military and families, to include Work Opportunity Credit and Professional Licensing Reciprocity – A Feather in Missouri's Cap - (HB 1511 passed MO legislature and Senate – currently on Governor's desk for signature).

Missouri Council of Chapters was to have held an information/membership exhibit at the **Missouri National Guard Association (MONGA) Conference**, in Springfield, 24 -25 April. This has been **cancelled**.

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”

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”

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



QUILTS OF HONOR



Our Mission

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

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

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

Table Rock QOH
Branson, MO
Janie Mahon, Coordinator, 417-230-2839

janiewmahon@yahoo.com

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

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

COVID-19

A brief look at what is currently facing us all. This is not meant as an academic treatise, but as a primer, to help us all understand why the drastic measures that are currently in place, have been deemed to be necessary.

I will admit that, when this all first started, I looked at some of the early data, and felt this was not a serious matter. But as more information has become known, it is clear that my original estimation was in error. There is much here to be concerned about. That does not mean that we need to be paranoid, but rather we need to observe basic, strict hygiene and separation guidelines, for the good of us all. There will be many who will contract this illness, who will come through it with no serious consequences. There will also be a significant number of Americans who will develop severe illness, and some will unfortunately die as a result. Some of those may be friends and acquaintances of ours. We owe it to everyone to do all that we can to mitigate the impact on all.

COVID-19 is one of a family of viruses, with which we are all familiar. Four of the six other viruses in this family cause nothing more than a runny nose, and a slight cough -- the common cold. The other two have proven themselves in the past to be more serious. They include MARS and SERS, two other respiratory illnesses which each claimed a number of lives as they ran their course. It is not immediately clear what it is about this particular virus that is causing such high morbidity and mortality. It has spread with incredible speed from where it is thought to have originated in Wuhan, China, and is now present world-wide. Some countries, specifically Italy and Britain, are experiencing very high death rates, due in large part to the fact that the rate and degree of illness has totally overwhelmed their respective medical systems.

The current mandate for social separation, and isolation by family units, is due to the fact that the virus has proven to be very highly contagious. The latency period (time from infection to development of symptoms) may be as high as 14 days. During that time, it is readily spread by respiratory droplets (think cough or sneeze), and may live on some surfaces for days. That is why meticulous and frequent hand-washing is so important, as well as consciously refraining from touching any mucous membrane, such as eyes, nose, or mouth.

This is the underlying reason for the directive by Springfield and Greene County, that non-essential businesses remain closed, citizens limit non-essential travel, and limit public assembly to groups of no more than ten people, in an effort to squelch the transmission of this virus as quickly as possible.

Hopefully, in a few months, we will be able to look back on this as a brief period in our history, when we all sacrificed a little, but we came out strong on the other side.

Do you use a military pharmacy? If so, there may be temporary limitations that result in a decrease in service or closure at your pharmacy due to COVID-19. To maintain patient and personnel safety, you may have to temporarily switch your prescription to TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery or to a TRICARE retail network pharmacy.

“The health and protection of our patients, health care teammates, and the community is essential as we preserve the fighting force,” said Col Markus Gmehlin, Defense Health Agency (DHA) Pharmacy Operations Division (POD) Acting Chief. “We are taking necessary steps to ensure that our teams who are caring for patients and delivering critical medications do so in a safe environment. This may mean temporary limitations to military pharmacy services. We are committed to ensuring that you have access to your prescriptions via home delivery and/or retail network pharmacies in the event that military pharmacy services are temporarily disrupted.”

Your Pharmacy Options

The best option during this time may be to switch your prescriptions to [TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery](#). You can get up to a 90-day supply of most medications. While copayments do apply, home delivery is cheaper than the TRICARE retail network. And you don't have to leave the safety of your own home.

If your medication supply is for 14 days or less, you should consider switching to a [TRICARE retail network pharmacy](#). Copayments apply and you can get up to a 90-day supply of most medications. Check with your network pharmacy provider about medication availability and copayments, or visit the [TRICARE Costs tool](#).

What Can I Do?

There are several things you can do to make sure you receive your medications.

Call Your Military Pharmacy. Call your [military pharmacy refill line](#) to check for changes to service offerings, closures, and resumption of services.

Call Express Scripts, Inc. (Express Scripts) at 877-363-1303. Or you can visit [Express Scripts](#) to switch your prescription to home delivery.

Call Your Retail Network Pharmacy. Ask them to call your military pharmacy to transfer your medication, or call your provider for a new prescription.

Find a Retail Network Pharmacy. You can also visit the [Express Scripts website](#) to find a retail network pharmacy.

Note: If you don't have any refills remaining, call your provider to send a new prescription to either the TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery or your TRICARE retail network pharmacy.

As we continue to take proactive steps to lower the spread of the coronavirus, we appreciate your help. Please stay updated by visiting www.tricare.mil/coronavirus and [signing up for email updates](#). You can also find additional information at the [Military Health System website](#). Stay safe and take command of your health.

Taken from email communication from TRICARE

April US Military History

1803: Louisiana Purchase completed

1861: US Civil War begins, when Major Robert Anderson refused to surrender Fort Sumter, leading Brig Ten P.G.T. Beauregard to fire on the fort

1865: US Civil War ends, with the surrender of Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia to Ulysses S. Grant, at Appomattox Courthouse. This brings to a close the devastating loss of 620,000 American lives.

1865: Abraham Lincoln assassinated

1960: USS Triton, a nuclear-powered submarine, completes the first submerged circumnavigation of the globe. This took place between February 24, and April 25, covering 26,723 miles

1961: Bay of Pigs invasion

1970: Apollo 13 suffers a severe malfunction on its journey to the moon on April 13, safely returns to Earth on April 17.

1973: C141 Starlifter dubbed the Hanoi Taxi, makes the first flight of Operation Homecoming. A total of 54 such missions flew out of Hanoi. Each plane carried 40 former POWs. To this day, there continue to be over 1,000 individuals still unaccounted for.

1983: Space Shuttle Challenger made its maiden voyage, carrying the first US female astronaut, Sally Ride

1990: Space Shuttle Discovery places Hubble telescope into orbit

2001: US Pentagon destroys its last canister of napalm

April 2020 Meeting

DATE CANCELLED

PLACE:

TIME:

MENU:

COST: \$0 (This one's on us!)

SPEAKER: Rescheduled

RSVP: No Meeting, so none needed

We really hate to do this, but due to the current pandemic, all of Greene County is under a Stay-At-Home order from March 26, to April 25 (As of this writing). Therefore, we are unable to gather on the 17th of April, our normal meeting time. Everyone stay home, enjoy your our family, and STAY HEALTHY.

ELECTED CHAPTER OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: Chuck Guy, COL, USA Retired

520-820-7339 chuckguy0765@gmail.com

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

417-315-8193 gnicholson013@yahoo.com

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

417-840-1657 rnrtaf@gmail.com

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

417-888-0135 cathyquilt@earthlink.net

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

417-742-5125 pls.rxd@gmail.com

APPOINTED CHAPTER OFFICERS

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Ron McCall, Capt, USAF, Retired

417-840-1657 rnrtaf@gmail.com

LEGISLATIVE CHAIR: John Hathcock, USA, Retired

417-230-9187 john@linegroup.com

AWARDS COORDINATOR: Phil Samples, Col, SUAF, Retired

417-742-5125 pls.rxd@gmail.com

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

417-230-9187 john@linegroup.com

CHAPLAIN: Becky Hutchings

417-839-3059 byhutchings@gmail.com

SURVIVING SPOUSE LIAISON: Becky Hutchings

417-839-3059 byhutchings@gmail.com

WEBMASTER: Keith Oxby, W/O British Navy

NOMINATIONS CHAIR: Steve Vanderhoof, COL, USA, Retired

660-886-0205 svanderhoof856@att.net

AMBASSADOR: Michael Murphy, COL, USA, Retired

417-883-9474 06mmurphy@gmail.com

AMBASSADOR: David Reed, CDR, USN, Retired

417-840-6600 dreed7272@live.com

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR: (Position Open)

2020 OEMOAA Monthly

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

17 April 2020 MEETING CANCELED

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

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

(No Chapter meetings in July, August)

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

18 September 2020 Speaker: TBD

16 October 2020 Speaker: TBD

20 November 2020 Speaker: TBD

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

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.

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) 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.