



# Ozark Empire News



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

February 2020

<http://www.oemoaa.org>

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**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

Good things are happening with our chapter. So far this year, we have five new members on our roster. Four are from the former MOZARK chapter in Branson and one from the former Ft Leonard Wood Chapter. OEMOAA is now the primary representative of MOAA in SW Missouri. If at a future dinner meeting you see someone you have not met, take the time to introduce yourself and welcome them to the Chapter. It may be one of our new members.

OEMOAA now supports the J/ROTC Programs at 12 high schools in the area, including Branson and Waynesville. In addition, we now support the ROTC Programs at MSU, Missouri S&T and the College of the Ozarks Gold Program. It will be a busy Spring as Phil Samples and his team present MOAA medals and certificates to distinguished Cadets at their award ceremonies.

The new OEMOAA web site (Link is given in the masthead of this newsletter) is now up and running very well, thanks to Keith Oxby our Webmaster and Honorary Member from Great Britain. He was an Honorary Member and Webmaster for the former MOZARK chapter in Branson. Each of the Home page headings has been reviewed and edited to bring them up to date. The Officers page now includes a bio for most of the chapter officers. We are now able to show the current Newsletter as well as archived past issues. The Resources page has links to the most useful information sources for retirees. Among them is a very good outline of the goals and objectives of Social Security by Administrator Saul. There is also a Members Only link under development. Lastly, the Contact page offers those interested in the chapter the ability to contact us via email or apply for membership by downloading the application and dues forms. We now have the capability of tracking of the number and frequency of contacts. We are also working on ways to make the website easier to find on the web. The site is [www.oemoaa.org](http://www.oemoaa.org). Check it out and tell others about it. Your thoughts, feedback and suggestions for improvement will be appreciated in the months to come.

Honor Flight continues to be the official charity of OEMOAA. We have supported them for more than 4 years through our 50/50 drawings and member donations. Honor Flight now has confirmed that 3 flights will be made this year. They will be on May 13, August 25 and October 28. Go to their web site at [honorflightoftheozarks.org](http://honorflightoftheozarks.org) to learn about their mission and ways to volunteer and support them. Honor Flight is going to hold their annual Greatest Generation Gala on March 28. Check their web site for more information, and join us at the airport to "welcome home" each flight this year.

Chuck Guy, OEMOAA Chapter President  
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*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**  
Frank Bridges, Legislative Chair

Below are the MOAA legislative priorities for this year:

- Protect Military Health Care Benefits
- Keep Military Pay and Benefits Strong
- Support Military Families
- Concurrent Receipt for All Retirees
- Support the Total Force
- Better, Faster DoD/VA Services
- Strengthen and Support All Uniform Services

You can go to MOAA's website ([moaa.org](http://moaa.org)) to see more details about each issue.

In my view the biggest issue that we have is dealing with the Defense Health Agency (DHA). In that regard, MOAA and all of us need to be vigilant in watching their actions and be prepared to answer "Calls to Action". Perhaps the most urgent item is how the DHA handles the transition of over 20,000 Service Medical Billets into the DHA. Also, DHA has a Tier 4 category of drugs which will no longer be covered, and that list is growing. By the way, DHA has authority for this Tier 4. Again, watch for **Calls To Action**. Additionally, drug co-pays are going to continue to rise for the next seven years. TRICARE Dental and Vision costs are also facing increases.

The 2020 National Defense Authorization Act has language that hints the merger of the Commissary and the Post Exchange is a real possibility. I have no idea how our members feel about this action. It could be beneficial to Active Duty members if it is handled properly. The jury is still out on this issue.

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

**Please Respond to all Calls to Action**

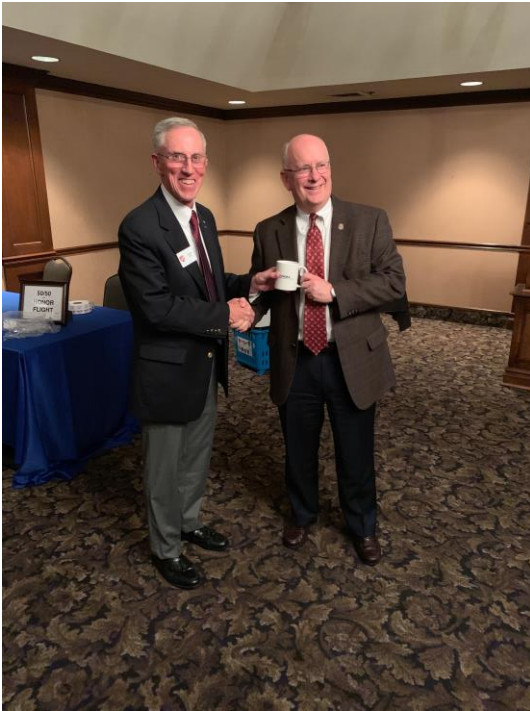


**Spring is coming and the Cardinals are Singing”**

**The baseball game date for us is 6 July**

**!!!Watch for more details!!!**

## January Meeting Recap



Our January speaker was President Clif Smart from Missouri State University (MSU). He covered a number of topics with us. The first being the very positive impact that his four year ROTC Scholarship had on his career. He was able to pick a very top rated university, Tulane, to attend. After he had completed his law degree at Arkansas and he spent four years as a Judge Advocate General in the military. These three things trained him to be organized, focused and prepared for life's challenges. He highlighted some very positive action at MSU from athletics to academics. The University has continued to increase enrollment, both undergraduate and graduate; issue more degrees each year; added academic degrees, and this fall will have its first non-medical related Doctorate Degree in Strategic and Defense Studies. He noted that MSU has constructed several new buildings and renovated others. He mentioned MSU's international programs, including a significant interaction with the People's Republic of China. He answered a few questions which were mostly regarding athletics. He presented sound reasoning for hiring a new, somewhat controversial head football coach. He also talked about the possibility of college athletes being able to receive pay for companies using their image in advertising. He hinted that we might evolve to four NCAA Levels for competition. He stated that the wealthy sports Universities could easily be more dominant than they are today.

## February US Military History

- 1779** – John Paul Jones takes command of Bonhomme Richard, formerly the Duc de Duras, a warship in the Continental Navy.
- 1789** – George Washington, the commander of the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War, is unanimously elected the first president of the United States by all 69 presidential electors.
- 1861** – The Confederate States of America is open for business when the Provisional Congress convenes in Montgomery, Alabama.
- 1805** – Sacagawea, the Shoshone Indian interpreter and guide to the Lewis and Clark expedition, gives birth to her first child, Jean Baptiste Charbonneau, named for his father, a French-Canadian trapper.
- 1955** – Operation Teapot begins. A series of 14 nuclear detonations to determine the effects of nuclear weapons on a variety of materials and in a variety of conditions begins with detonation Wasp. This test evaluated the effects of low altitude detonations. The implosion system was the lightest nuclear explosive system tested up until this time.
- 1933** – The USS Ranger becomes the US' first aircraft carrier, designed and built to be a carrier.
- 1991** – In the most decisive actions of the Gulf War, VII Corps, moving directly east with three heavy divisions abreast, attacked the elite Iraqi Republican Guard units. Overwhelming the enemy with accurate tank fire and assisted by deadly Apache helicopter gunships, the VII Corps hit the Medina Division in the early afternoon of the twenty-seventh, resulting in the **destruction of over 300 enemy tanks.**
- 2003** – A US Army Black Hawk helicopter on night training crashed in the Kuwaiti desert, killing all four crew members.
- 2003** – Iraq provided new information about its weapons and reported the discovery of 2 bombs, including one possibly filled with a biological agent.
- 2003** – The Bush administration has sent supplies of humanitarian aid to the Gulf region to cope with refugees and displaced people.



COLONEL MICHAEL S. CLARKE, M.D.

Col. Michael Clarke was born during WWII in 1943 in Chicago. His father, also a doctor and a Navy captain moved after WWII in 1948 to Springfield to be Chief of Surgery at the Federal Medical Center. Col Clarke earned a Bachelor's Degree in Biology from Northwestern University in '65 and an M.D. degree from the University of Missouri. Upon graduation from Medical school, he was commissioned in the Missouri Army National Guard, where two-week summer camps were spent completing The Command and General Staff school. Command positions included the 14<sup>th</sup> Preventive Medicine unit in Springfield and the CASH unit in Kansas City, and later the 21<sup>st</sup> General Hospital in St. Louis, MO as head of Orthopedic Surgery.

Several activations have included six weeks on the hospital Ship Mercy in the Southern Philippines, seven months of combat duty in Saudi Arabia, the liberation of Kuwait, and a tour as chief of Orthopedic Surgery at LRMC (Landstuhl Regional Medical Center) in Germany. A second European tour was taken at the US Army Hospital in Wurzburg, Bavaria, during the Kosovo conflict. A short activation was spent in Vicenza, Italy.

At age 60 in 2003 after 34 years of service, Col Clarke retired from the military. Since then, he continues to be active in several military medical associations. SMCAF (Society of Medical Consultants to the Armed Forces) has been most interesting, where he served as National Secretary for eight years. This group met twice a year with the Surgeons General. He has had a long association with the Reserve Officers Association, where he served as Missouri State Surgeon and as Army Vice-President. He is also a member of The Association of Military Surgeons of the United States, and has presented several scientific papers on military medicine.

The U.S. Army has played a big part in his life, especially meeting his wife Krystyna, while assigned in Saudi Arabia. He notes that he has had many unique experiences which he would enjoy sharing with fellow MOAA members. Your 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Captain Ron McCall, and Dr Clarke have worked extensively in surgery together.

Another military organization of which he is a member, along with his wife, Krystyna is the CIOMR, a French acronym for Interallied Confederation of Medical Reserve Officers. These meetings are hosted by NATO and offer fine academic programs and enjoyable military social functions. Last year's CIOMR meeting was held in Quebec, Canada. The 2020 meeting will be held in Belgium.

## February 2020 Meeting

**DATE** 21 February 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:** Buffet w/2 Entrees (Chef's Choice); 2 sides; Small Salad Bar; Bread/Butter; Dessert; Assorted Beverages (water, iced tea, coffee)

**COST:** \$26 per person (includes meal gratuity)  
**Note Cost Increase**

**SPEAKER:** David Suits, VFW

**RSVP:** By noon, Monday, 17 February 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.

## ELECTED CHAPTER OFFICERS

**PRESIDENT:** Chuck Guy, COL, 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 [mrtaf@gmail.com](mailto:mrtaf@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

**AWARDS COORDINATOR:** Phil Samples, Col, USAF, Retired  
417-742-5125 [pls.rxd@gmail.com](mailto:pls.rxd@gmail.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  
**MEMBERSHIP CHAIR:** (Position Open)  
**LEGISLATIVE CHAIR:** Frank Bridges, LTC, USA, Retired  
573-308-7272 [frankbridges@frankbridges.com](mailto:frankbridges@frankbridges.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)

## 2020 OEMOAA Monthl

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

21 February 2020 Speaker: David Suits, VFW. Will discuss local chapter activities, and how they are helping the military community

20 March 2020 Speaker: Greg McManus

17 April 2020 Speaker: Marc Fulgham, Self-Defense for Seniors

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 (2<sup>nd</sup> Friday) Christmas Party. Mulligan Room, Twin Oaks

## 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.

**2020 Dues Notice**

OEMOAA Chapter dues are on a calendar year basis and 2020 dues are now being collected. Please complete this form and: (1) send it with a check payable to OEMOAA to **OEMOAA; Box 164; 2132 West Republic Road; Springfield, MO 65807** or bring the completed form with you and pay at the next meeting. 2020 dues remain \$25, which covers the member **and** spouse. Auxiliary dues for a member's surviving spouse are \$5. Thank you.

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Rank \_\_\_\_\_

**Please Indicate:** Retired, Active, Other;

**Circle:** USA, USN, USMC, USAF, USCG, USPHS, NOAA.

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address (**skip if on check**): Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**Chapter Dues: Member \$25** (includes member & spouse); **Auxiliary \$5**

2020 DUES: \_\_\_\_\_

2020 Voluntary Charity Donation: \_\_\_\_\_

(currently earmarked for Honor Flight of the Ozarks)

Total: \_\_\_\_\_