

Ozark Empire News

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

June 2020

<http://www.oemoaa.org>

Editor: Ron McCall, Capt, USAF, Ret (rnrtaf@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

It will be good to get together again after an unprecedented interruption to our monthly meetings. We are waiting for a decision from Twin Oaks before deciding on a June dinner meeting. They are open, but not for outside groups yet. Jerry Nicholson has done a great job of retaining and rescheduling speakers and we hope to have Kristi Franz talking about volunteer opportunities for seniors. Bill Pickett is in contact with Twin Oaks and we will advise a decision as soon as possible.

A Board meeting was recently held at which several topics were discussed:

1. Ron McCall briefed that Honor Flight has cancelled all activities for 2020, including their annual Gala fundraiser, which is now scheduled to be held in May 2021. Currently, our chapter has raised \$1554, through earmarked donations and 50/50 drawings.
2. Bill Pickett reported that the Chapter funds have grown since the previous report, and an audit of our finances reported no errors.
3. Phil Samples reported that the award certificates and medals were distributed to all schools in our JROTC/ROTC awards program.

New Business: A draft revision of the Chapter Bylaws was presented for consideration by the Board. The changes reflect identifying all current standing committees; a change to the annual meeting date; honorary member service waiver; option to combine the Secretary and Treasurer positions; codifying the Webmaster position; requiring an alternate signer on the Chapter checking account; and authorizing the Board to hold meetings by electronic virtual means for time sensitive issues.

These revisions will be presented to the membership attending a future meeting for review and approval.

MOAA recently established a COVID-19 Relief Fund to support veterans and their families during this challenging pandemic. They will assist vets and families with rent, utilities and meals. They also are holding webinars for career transition and jobs as well as benefit and finance classes.

OEMOAA contributed \$500 to the COVID-19 Relief Fund. Individuals may also contribute by going to the MOAA web site at moaa.org.

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.

Legislative Update

John Hathcock, Legislative Chair

Never Stop Serving®

1. **MOAA “Storming the Hill” conducted “Virtually” - STOP MILITARY MEDICAL CUTS.**

The Missouri Council of Chapters and the 6 statewide chapters (including OEMOAA) have been conducting the Virtual Storming the Hill during the month of May. All Missouri Senators and Representatives have been contacted and most have had personal virtual visits. I have participated on video/voice calls with Senators Blunt and Hawley, and with Congressman Long's office.

MOAA is asking all MOAA Chapter members to support this effort by reaching out to our congressional delegates at the public **Storm The Hill site to take action by using the MOAA calls-to-action:** <https://www.moaa.org/moaastorms> MOAA's Virtual Storming the Hill efforts are gaining traction within the House of Representatives. Reps. Bill Posey (R-Fla.) and Kathy Castor (D-Fla.) are circulating a bipartisan congressional letter urging House Armed Services Committee Chairman Rep. Adam Smith (D-Wash.) and Ranking Member Mac Thornberry (R-Texas) to ensure the FY 2021 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) includes language to stop planned cuts to military medical capacity.

2. **Other Areas of MOAA 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.
- **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.

3. **Missouri state initiatives.**

- a. 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 and has been determined to be a state level initiative.

On April 14, 2020, the City of Springfield adopted restrictive regulations for short-term loan establishments, including a permit requirement and registration fee. This is a step in the right direction, and should serve as a model for other cities and the state.

*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 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).

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

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

This year's top Cadet in the Reserve Officer Training Corps at Missouri State University (MSU) was Aaron Samuels. He received, virtually, the Ceremonial Saber provided by the Ozark Empire Chapter of MOAA. The Saber is primarily funded by the USAA through a Grant from MOAA. Second Lieutenant Samuels was a Distinguished Military Graduate, and received the George C. Marshall Leadership Award. He is detailed to the Infantry and reported to Fort Benning, Georgia, for further training on 29 May 2020. He hails from Austin, Texas, and proudly notes that he was able to graduate from MSU debt free.

News from the Mid-Missouri MOAA Chapter

Due to the COVID19 rules on crowd size and social distancing, the Mid-Missouri MOAA Chapter was required to make drastic changes to the way the annual Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Boone County Court House Memorial was conducted. In the past it was held on Memorial Day, and was part of a larger observance, in which many other organizations also laid wreaths. This year the ceremony is just MOAA Wreath Laying. It was conducted on Friday May 22 and videotaped by the Harry Truman VA Hospital staff so it could be broadcast on Memorial Day.

Many people have forgotten the meaning of Memorial Day. Years ago, all the stores would close and there would be parades and ceremonies. Today people see it as a reason to have a picnic, to have the swimming pools open, and to have sales on furniture, mattresses, and anything else stores can think of selling.

Let us remember the true meaning of Memorial Day, It is to honor those men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country. Many of us may know someone who is memorialized on the VietNam Memorial, or who may have given their lives during other conflicts. Let us give praise to the men and women and ask for God's blessing on them and to their surviving families.

God Bless America.

This link which will take you to the approximately 16 minute video: <https://youtu.be/Ne-IOOvInyw>

Chaplain's Corner

By Becky Hutchings

The days we live in are challenging. COVID-19 has paralyzed our community, state, nation, and the entire world. Rumors abound, people are fearful, the media tells us one thing today and something different tomorrow. Social media is flooded with stories of those infected and affected by Corona Virus, and many people use this venue to participate in hate speech. Experts vary in the information they put out to the public, and the truth seems elusive.

As I ponder the information saturating the airwaves, quite frankly, it is overwhelming. If I focus on the current situation, it is easy to become depressed, and even experience hopelessness. However, as I turn toward my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, I can be confident He has this situation under control. COVID-19 did not take Him by surprise.

We are told in Scripture that God has the very hairs on our heads numbered! Now that is a God who is involved with His creation and cares about us. Lamentations Chapter 3 and verses 22 and 23 says, **"Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness".**

My prayer for you is that you hold onto the peace that passes all understanding during these trying times. I pray God opens up the heavens and pours out His blessings upon each of you.

COVID-19 Best Practices

Realizing that by now, we have all been inundated with advice about how to deal with this current disease pandemic, here are a few suggestions.

1. Wash your hands often, with soap and water, for at least 20 seconds, especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, sneezing, or coughing.
2. If soap and water are not available, a hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol is suggested
3. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands

Avoid Close Contact with anyone who is ill, even inside your own home. Put distance between yourself and others outside of your home. Remember that some people without symptoms may be able to spread the virus.

Cover your nose and mouth with a cloth face cover when around others. You can spread COVID-19 to others even if you do not feel ill. The face cover is meant to protect others, in case you are infected. The face cover is not a substitute for social distancing.

Cover coughs and sneezes. Even in a private setting, remember to cover, using a tissue or the inside of your elbow. Toss used tissues in the trash, and immediately wash your hands with soap and water, or alcohol-based sanitizer.

Monitor your health. Be alert for symptoms, including fever, cough, shortness of breath, new loss of sense of taste or smell. Take your temperature if symptoms develop. Contact your physician by telephone if you become concerned.

The virus is spread from person-to-person, primarily via respiratory droplets. An infected person who coughs, sneezes, or talks can potentially spread the virus. Some studies suggest that persons without symptoms can potentially spread the virus. Older adults, or those with underlying conditions, may have a higher risk of developing serious complications.

June Military History

1789 - US Constitution, enacted as Sovereign Law, goes into effect

1800 - Presidential Executive Mansion, later known as the White House, completed. President and Mrs John Adams are the first residents

1876 – Native Americans, under leadership of Sitting Bull and Crazy Horse, wipe out Lt Col George Custer, along with much of his 7th Cavalry, at the Battle of Little Big Horn

1877 – Henry Ossian Flipper, born a slave in Thomasville, Georgia, in 1856, is the first African American cadet to graduate from the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York. Flipper was never spoken to by a white cadet, during his four years at West Point

1942 – Japanese Admiral Chuichi Nagumo, commander of the fleet that attacked Pearl Harbor, launches a raid on Midway Island with almost the entirety of the Japanese navy.

1944 – The U-505 became the first enemy submarine captured by the U.S. Navy under Admiral Dan Gallery.

1944 - D-Day Normandy Invasion

1950 - Armed forces from Communist North Korea, smash into South Korea, setting off the Korean War

1979 - During a summit meeting in Vienna, President Jimmy Carter and Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev sign the SALT-II agreement, providing guidelines for limiting nuclear weapons

1991 – Mount Pinatubo (4,750 feet high) erupted, forcing closure of Clark Air Force Base, Republic of Philippines

2001 - Timothy McVeigh executed at Federal Prison in Terre Haute, Ind, for the April 19, 1995 Oklahoma City bombing.



PRESS RELEASE

PERPETUAL PANDEMIC PARALYZES AND POSTPONES LOCAL HONOR FLIGHT HUB'S TRIPS TO WASHINGTON, D.C., AND ANNUAL FUNDRAISING GALA

DUE TO THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC, AND OUR DESIRE TO PROTECT THE LIVES OF OUR VETERANS, HONOR FLIGHT OF THE OZARKS IS POSTPONING ALL 2020 HONOR FLIGHT MISSIONS FOR VETERANS TO VISIT THEIR MEMORIALS IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

WE HAVE ALSO RESCHEDULED OUR MAJOR ANNUAL FUNDRAISING GALA AND AUCTION AT THE WHITE RIVER CONFERENCE CENTER.

1. Because of concerns for the health and safety of America's high risk aging veterans, all of Honor Flight of the Ozarks missions for 2020 are officially cancelled. Flights will be resume in 2021 with flights scheduled in May, August and October. We will announce specific dates within the next month.

2. Our *Greatest Generations Gala* at the White River Convention Center has been rescheduled for March 21, 2021.

Honor Flight of the Ozarks' sole mission is to take U.S. Armed Forces veterans who served honorably during World War II, the Korean Conflict, or the Vietnam era to visit their memorials in Washington D.C. These trips to Washington, D.C. help to fulfill every American's and visitor's debt to the honor, courage and sacrifices of U.S. military veterans. Veterans who have gone on our trips unanimously declare that the trip is one of the greatest events in their lifetime.

Honor Flight of the Ozarks' medical staff and volunteers work thousands of hours each year putting our flights into the air because of their love for our country and our veterans.

Founded in 2013, Honor Flight of the Ozarks has flown over 2160 veterans, without charge to a single veteran, to their memorials in Washington D.C. Honor Flight of the Ozarks must raise in excess of \$450,000.00 each year to cover costs for three flights to Washington, D.C.

Honor Flight of the Ozarks is located at 2200 East Sunshine Street, Suite 204, Springfield, Missouri 65804, with a mailing address of PO Box 3964, Springfield, Missouri 65808-3964. The phone number is 417-268-9052 and the website is honorflightoftheozarks.org. The Honor Flight office is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. We are strictly enforcing COVID-19 social distancing guidelines published by the Center for Disease Control and local rules and ordinances.

Board of Directors
Honor Flight Of The Ozarks



In consideration of the current COVID-19 pandemic, as most folks are probably aware, no resumption of professional or minor league sports has yet taken place. Our previously scheduled OEMOAA Night at the Ballpark was scheduled for July 6. As if this date, that sounds unrealistic. Therefore, we will **scratch that date**. We may look for a date later in **August** or early **September**, or we may have to cancel our participation for this year. Look for an interim update via email or a mid-summer newsletter.

June 2020 Meeting (Tentative)

DATE 19 June 2020 – 3rd 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, tea, coffee))

COST: \$26 per person (includes meal gratuity)

SPEAKER: Ozarks Elder Law: Legal Issues for Seniors

RSVP: By noon, Monday, 15 June 2020

To: LtCol William Pickett, USAF, Retired

417-888-0135 or 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, COL, USA Retired

520-820-7339

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

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gnicholson013@yahoo.com

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

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

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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

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06mmurphy@gmail.com

AMBASSADOR: David Reed, CDR, USN, Retired

417-840-6600

dreed7272@live.com

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR: (Position Open)

2020 OEMOAA Monthly Schedule

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

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: Greg McManus – Adventures in Flying

16 October 2020 Speaker: Kristy Frans – Retired Senior Volunteer Program

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

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.