

Ozark Empire News

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

May 2020

<http://www.oemoaa.org>

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



2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019

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

We are well into the process of quarantine and social distancing and it looks like our efforts, diligence and self-discipline are having positive results both locally as well as nationally. The curves are flattening, and testing is increasing nationwide. Unfortunately, at this point, over 50,000 of our citizens have perished so we simply cannot let up in our determination to defeat this virus. We should all be grateful that we live in the age of technology as we do, which has greatly aided in the rapid identification of the pathogen, and the search for effective solutions.

Isolation isn't normal human behavior and can have negative effects over time, so please be sure to stay in touch with friends, neighbors, and family. We can check on each other and offer to shop for those who may be unable to get out at this time. Another step we can take is to donate blood to the Community Blood Center of the Ozarks or the Red Cross. There is a serious need for blood and plasma in our area at this time. They will temperature screen each potential donor and will practice careful handling and distancing practices. Church and community food banks are also in need of donations of both food and money, to help families who are in serious need.

We hope to be able to hold a May meeting, but are waiting to see what City and State guidelines will be at that time. We are in close contact with Twin Oaks, and will work with them to arrange a chapter meeting, as conditions and guidance will allow. For now, we will plan our meeting schedule as previously announced, and will advise you with a decision as soon as possible. In the meantime, if any member has an immediate need for support, please contact a Board member and we will make every effort to assist you, 24/7. We will get through this!

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®

MOAA “Storming the Hill” to be conducted “Virtually”

The pandemic has put a spotlight on the necessity of a national Military Healthcare System capable of support beyond their focus on our uniformed services – we need MOAA Chapters help to advocate on this issue. The Virtual Storming the Hill will kick off April 30th and last through May. The outreach goal is to conduct meetings with all the Missouri Senators and Representatives. MOAA is asking all MOAA Chapter members to support this effort.

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>

Storming the Hill has been narrowed down to one critical issue:

- 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. Call on Congress to halt military medical billet reductions and MTF downsizing amid COVID-19 uncertainty. The COVID-19 pandemic has caused extraordinary flux in the civilian health care system together with increased demands on uniformed medical providers. Act now to urge Congress to halt plans to cut uniformed medical personnel and reduce military treatment facility capacity.

There are still other major areas of emphasis to keep in focus as we meet the legislative challenges ahead.

- Military Pay and Service-Earned Benefits: Key to Recruiting and Retention.
- 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.
- 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.

MOAA State Legislative Consortium. 24 States are on board as members of the 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.

- Missouri state initiatives.
 1. 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.
 2. 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
 3. HB 1511 -- PROFESSIONAL LICENSING RECIPROCITY. This bill allows any resident or nonresident military spouse to apply for an occupational license in Missouri, as long as he or she holds a valid current license issued by another state or territory of the United States. Signed by Governor Parson, 21 April 2020, effective 28 August 2020. However, Governor Parson signed an Executive Order in March that, due to the pandemic, essentially allows healthcare licenses to be immediately accepted.

Legislative Update (cont'd)

USPHS Ready Reserve Corps Becomes Law With the CARES Act

The U.S. Public Health Service, whose Commissioned Corps officers are deployed across the country and abroad fighting COVID-19, has received the greenlight to build a reserve corps. The CARES Act, which passed into law March 27, includes the U.S. Public Health Service Modernization Act, S. 2629, providing for a ready reserve corps to fill the need for an additional commissioned corps for emergency response missions. MOAA advocated for the measure along with 30 other veteran service organizations in The Military Coalition.

LEGISLATIVE SCORECARD

- **National**

- **2020 NDAA Wins**

- A 3.1 percent pay raise for the troops.
 - A total repeal of the “widows tax.”
 - Medical Billet cuts stopped/delayed
 - And stabilizing TRICARE.

- **2020 Losses**

- Concurrent Receipt for Chapter 61 retirees and retired members of the Armed Forces who have a service-connected disability rated less than 50 percent to receive concurrent payment of both retired pay and veterans' disability compensation.

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). (Many browsers will remember this information, making it easier to enter other Calls To Action in the future.)

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.

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!**

May US Military History

1602 – Bartholomew Gosnold, an English lawyer, explorer, and privateer who was instrumental in founding the Virginia Company of London, and Jamestown in colonial America led the first recorded European expedition to Cape Cod.

1785 – Kamehameha I, the king of Hawai'i, defeats Kalanikūpule and establishes the Kingdom of Hawai'i.

1787 – Four years after the United States won its independence from England, 55 state delegates, including George Washington, James Madison, and Benjamin Franklin, convene in Philadelphia to compose a new U.S. constitution.

1864 – The Army of the Potomac embarks on the biggest campaign of the Civil War and crosses the Rapidan River, precipitating an epic showdown that eventually decides the war.

1864 – A dismounted Union trooper fatally wounds J.E.B. Stuart, one of the most colorful generals of the South, at the Battle of Yellow Tavern, just six miles north of Richmond.

1868 – By proclamation of General John A. Logan of the Grand Army of the Republic, the first major Memorial Day observance is held to honor those who died “in defense of their country during the late rebellion.”

1904 – The United States begins construction of the Panama Canal.

1918 – The U.S. Post Office and the U.S. Army began regularly scheduled airmail service between Washington and New York through Philadelphia.

1942 – A bill establishing a women's corps in the U.S. Army becomes law, creating the Women's Auxiliary Army Corps (WAACs) and granting women official military status.

1961 – President Kennedy approves sending 400 Special Forces troops and 100 other U.S. military advisers to South Vietnam.

1974 – In the Rajasthan Desert in the state of Pokhran, India successfully detonates its first nuclear weapon.

2010 – The Times Square car bombing attempt was a planned terrorist attack which was foiled when two street vendors discovered a car bomb and alerted a New York City Police Department (NYPD) patrolman to the threat after they spotted smoke coming from a vehicle.

2011 – Barack Obama announces that Osama bin Laden, the suspected mastermind behind the September 11 attacks has been killed by United States special forces in Abbottabad, Pakistan. A treasure-trove of intelligence was gathered from his compound by the Navy SEALs prior to their exfiltration.

This article by Amy Bushatz first appeared on [Military.com](https://www.military.com), the premier resource for the military and veteran community.

About 35,000 military retirees will soon receive cash refunds from [Tricare](#), thanks to a policy change made last year that affects how Tricare calculates annual out-of-pocket maximum payments.

The rebates impact retirees with [Tricare Prime](#) who paid more than \$2,400 out of pocket towards their annual maximum payment in 2018 and 2019. They do not impact [Tricare for Life](#) or [Tricare Retired Reserve](#) users.

[TAKE ACTION: [Ask Your Lawmakers to Waive Mail Order Copays During the Pandemic](#)]

The annual maximum out-of-pocket payment, or "catastrophic cap," for any retiree family with a service member who joined the military before Jan. 1, 2018, is set at \$3,000. For those who joined after Jan. 1, 2018, the annual retiree cap is about \$3,600. Those who joined before 2018 pay about \$600 per year for plan enrollment, while those who joined after 2018 will pay about \$1,000.

A set of sweeping Tricare reforms ordered in 2018 directed that the annual fee paid by retirees who use Tricare Prime no longer counted toward the yearly out-of-pocket max. That meant some families were faced with an increase of about \$600 in their yearly Tricare spending, up to \$3,600 for most retirees.

[But that change was reversed last summer](#), retroactive to 2018, allowing the enrollment payment to count toward the cap once again and reducing the amount of money retirees might pay out of pocket each year by about \$600 for most users.

Retirees should watch their mailboxes for refund notification letters from Tricare's contractors, HealthNet in the west region and Humana in the east, Tricare officials relayed this information to [Military.com](#) recently. The letters will start going out April 20, they said. The reimbursements will be automatically put toward future enrollment fees in the form of an account credit, officials said. Retirees will also have the option of requesting a cash refund, they said.

The Defense Health Agency, which oversees Tricare, announced a plan early this year to bar retirees from access to many on-base medical facilities, instead requiring them to be seen off base.

That means retirees on Tricare Prime will increasingly be paying out of pocket for care -- and coming closer to hitting that annual out-of-pocket maximum. While retirees using Tricare Prime face no out-of-pocket costs if they are seen by an on-base providers, they do cost share when seen off-base, including \$20 per primary care visit and \$31 for specialty care.



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.

Member Bio



Major Stephen D. Presley, USA Retired

Major Steve Presley was born and raised in Maplewood, Missouri, a suburb of St. Louis. His father, Aubra, a WWII Veteran, was a Police Officer by night and maintained a small local delivery business by day. His mother, Allyne, was the Secretary to the Superintendent of the Maplewood School District. After high school, Major Presley received an appointment to the United States Military Academy at West Point and was commissioned a 2nd Lt. in the Infantry with the Class of 1972. He received a master's degree in Business Administration from the University of Northern Colorado while on Active Duty. Married to Jacqueline (Coons) Presley, they have two sons Sam and Dan, and three grandsons Xander, Logan and Clarke.

After Infantry Officers Basic Course, Ranger and Airborne schools at Ft. Benning, GA, Major Presley served most of his company grade time with the 1st Infantry Division at Ft. Riley, KS, as Platoon Leader, with 2-16 Inf Rangers, and XO and Company Commander with the 1-18 Inf Vanguard. Deployments with the 1st Infantry Division included Brigade '76 for 6 months in Wiesbaden Germany, two REFORGER exercises and he led C Company, 1-18 Inf through the Winter Warfare School in Alaska. He served as an APMS in the ROTC Department at the University of Southern Colorado, Pueblo, CO from 1979-1983. He was then assigned to the Special Troops Command, in Yong Song, Korea as the Plans, Operations & Training Officer (S-3) for the Brigade. His final tour of duty was back with the 1st Infantry Division as the Deputy G-3 and Director of the Reserve Training Component at Ft. Riley, KS.

Upon retirement in June of 1992, Major Presley moved to Springfield, MO as a manager for the Pepsi Cola Corporation. Eighteen months later, he ventured out on his own, purchasing a travel agency, Eagle Travel, and moving the travel business to Kimberling City, where he maintained a storefront in the Kimberling Inn, selling Branson Show tickets and doing inbound Branson reunions, conventions and conferences. As Eagle Travel matured in the travel industry, Major Presley co-founded Operation Homecoming USA (OHUSA), the first national homecoming for Vietnam Veterans, 13-19 June 2005 in Branson, MO. This national event drew 35,000 Vietnam Vets, friends and family to this celebration of service and Welcome Home, something they had waited for 35 years to receive. Ross Perot was the primary donor to this \$4.5 M production and featured a Grand Finale with 12 Top groups of the era that included The Beach Boys, Four Tops, The Supremes (with Mary Wilson) and The Doobie Brothers, with special guests Anne Margaret, Tony Orlando, Jim Bohannon and Adrian Cronauer. The DVD of OHUSA can be seen on You Tube at the link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChzs0vEaptCQlrZnQftL8MQ>. Another large event is planned for November 2021, Heroes Homecoming USA (OHUSA), that is being billed as a Health and Wellness Summit that addresses the current issues facing active duty and veteran families that includes suicides, PTSD, traumatic brain injuries, job transition and many others that experts in each field will address.

Major Presley is a lifetime member of MOAA national and former VP and President of the MOZARK Chapter in Branson.

May 2020 Meeting (Tentative)

DATE 15 May 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: Kristi Franz, Retired Senior Volunteer Program

RSVP: By noon, Monday, 11 May 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.

2020 OEMOAA Monthly Schedule

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

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

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 gjnicholson013@yahoo.com

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

417-840-1657 mrtaf@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 mrtaf@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)

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.