

September, 2022

## A Word from the Chapter President

- As is often the case in many of our lives, circumstances change, and we have to re-order our priorities. Such is the case with John Hathcock, who has served admirably as our Legislative Chair for some time. He is asking to be able to step away from this responsibility. Thus, the chapter is in need of someone new to step forward and take this on. This means keeping up with legislative issues as published by MOAA in their weekly updates, as well as keeping tabs on issues before the Missouri Legislature. Their legislative session actually ends during the month of May, though the issues of importance often do not lie dormant until the next year. Thus we need someone who can track these things, and help keep the rest of us informed on matters that make a difference to Veterans and their families. This can be easily handled, as we have been doing, through a column in the monthly OEMOAA Newsletter. Anyone with experience and/or interest in this area is encouraged to contact John Hathcock for more details and let me know. I'll be happy to consider designating you then as the Chapter Legislative Affairs Liaison.
- We recently conducted an on-line survey of our membership, in an effort to discern feelings about our foray into holding daytime meetings this past Winter. According to the responses received, the idea of daytime meetings during the Winter months was well received. There is also interest in considering an additional daytime meeting in September. The overall preference was for Thursday noon meetings, as we held this year. Responses showed strong interest (2/3) in considering other venues for our meetings vs staying with our present meeting host. While this idea has been discussed in the past, options are always changing. We recently met with Bambino's, to see what possibilities might exist there. The venue would be far different than what we have become accustomed to with Twin Oaks. The food would be Italian. No outside liquor would be allowed. All in all, your Board did not feel that this presented a viable option. We are still open to suggestions in this matter. If anyone has ideas about another venue that can serve our needs, either daytime or evening, catering a quality meal at a reasonable cost, while avoiding excessive setup or other hosting fees, please share that with your Board. While we have held our meetings at Twin Oaks Country Club for several years, we are under no long-term obligation with them. There was also strong interest (74%) in developing, as a chapter, some type of coordinated community outreach, where members can serve as volunteers, on behalf of OEMOAA.
- On July 26, in the midst of one of the worst heat waves in modern memory, a few brave souls ventured out to the Redbird Roost at Hammons Field, to have some fellowship and watch a baseball game. None of our members in attendance that day stayed for the whole game, but bailed early, as the heat was just too much. We will try again next year, and hopefully the weatherman will cooperate better.
- As always, our newsletter is freely available on the chapter website, [www.OEMOAA.org](http://www.OEMOAA.org) as well as via email to all members. If anyone wishes to receive this newsletter via US Mail, please make that known to a Board Member or the Newsletter Editor, and we will make that happen.

*Ronald McCall, OEMOAA Chapter President*

**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 eight 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).*

# Legislative Update

September 2022  
OEMOAA Chapter  
Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)



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## Special Legislative Advocacy Issues for the month of September

### 1. Co-Sponsor Milestone Puts Star Act on Key House Calendar

By: Mark Belinsky, MOAA AUGUST 17, 2022

The Major Richard Star Act has reached a milestone goal of 290 co-sponsors in the House – the threshold for it to be placed on the chamber’s consensus calendar. This significant accomplishment, along with ongoing efforts in the Senate, show clear progress in MOAA’s work to expand concurrent receipt to more than 50,000 combat-injured veterans who lose a dollar of retirement pay for every dollar of VA benefits they receive.

[TAKE ACTION: [Ask Your Lawmakers to Support the Major Richard Star Act](#) | [Call Your Lawmakers Today](#)]

### 2. NGAUS Washington Report, 16 August 2022

**PACT ACT** President Joe Biden last week signed the Sgt. First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act into law. The measure will provide medical care to an estimated 3.5 million veterans suffering from health conditions from exposure to toxic substances. The Department of Veterans Affairs has established an online resource for information or filing a claim at [www.va.gov/resources/the-pact-act-and-your-va-benefits](http://www.va.gov/resources/the-pact-act-and-your-va-benefits). Robinson was a member of the Ohio Army National Guard until dying from lung cancer in 2020. He deployed to Iraq and Kosovo.

### 3. MOAA Advocacy News

Link to the latest **MOAA Advocacy** Updates [MOAA - News Listing](#)

*We encourage all chapter members and spouses to check and respond to MOAA Calls to Action at least monthly, preferably weekly! Yes, two votes per household are better than 1.*

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All services and components, Retiree Appreciation Day (RAD), October 29, 2022, 9am to 3pm,  
Oasis Hotel and Convention Center, Maui Room



The below is from our Missouri National Guard State Retirement Council, we look forward to seeing them in October. For those wanting to stay, there is a link for Oasis Hotel with MONGA room rate. Full MONGA Annual Convention registration will open later this week, including a 29 October Banquet Only registration.



**Save the Date for the**  
**2022 Retiree Appreciation Day (RAD)**  
**October 29, 2022 (9:00 am – 3:00 pm)**  
**Oasis Hotel - Maui Room**  
**2546 North Glenstone, Springfield, MO 65803**

Plans are well under way to come together and spend the day with other Retirees, Veteran's Service Providers, and National Guard Members! Please come join with registration at 8:00 am!

We will convene at 9:00 am in the MAUI Room of the OASIS Hotel on Glenstone, Springfield, MO. You will be welcomed by the Retirement Services Office and State Retiree Council members as well as our keynote speaker Brigadier General (Ret) Tracy Beckett.

Each Veteran's Service Provider will give a program update with information for their programs. We have some great organizations coming to meet with you. Just a few names; Charlie 22, MO Veteran's Commission, MU Veteran's Law Center and many others!

Lunch will be on your own to network and connect with old and new retirees. Following lunch, the Veteran's Service Providers will be available to meet with you one on one to discuss access to services that you qualify for or to answer specific questions you may have.

We will wrap up by 2:30 pm with a chance for you to meet your 2022-23 Retiree Council members, provide input for a 2023 Retiree Appreciation Day and special recognition.

Our very own Chaplain Gary Gilmore will be on hand to lead us in an invocation and benediction and provide support as needed.

This will be a busy weekend as we are hosting this at the same hotel as the Missouri National Guard Association (MONGA) Annual Conference. MONGA encourages RAD staff and attendees to stay at the hotel (room rate \$96.20 mention MONGA for the rate) and attend the Dinner Saturday night as well. MONGA Invitation/registration will be distributed later.

Be alert for the official invitation to be distributed in September! We look forward to seeing you on October 29<sup>th</sup> at the Oasis Hotel. Let's make this RAD one to remember!



[Click here For Retirement Services Information](#)

## MISSOURI STATE LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES 2nd Regular Session, 101st General Assembly

- The Missouri Council of Chapters continues to focus on key legislation that affects our military, spouses, families and veterans. Chapter members are encouraged to advocate for these issues with their elected officials.

- In 2022, the Missouri General Assembly passed a proposed amendment to the Missouri state constitution to create the Missouri Department of the National Guard. The Governor approved and signed this amendment for approval by the voters in the November 2022 general election.

**Amendment 5 would create the Missouri Department of the National Guard. (HJR116) (SJR35) under the charge of the Adjutant General appointed by the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate, charged with providing the state militia and other defense and security mechanisms as may be required.**

**MOAA members are encouraged to vote “Yes” to approve this constitutional amendment on November 8<sup>th</sup>.**

**Missouri Amendment 5, the Department of the National Guard Amendment is on the [ballot](#) in [Missouri](#) as a [legislatively referred constitutional amendment](#) on [November 8, 2022](#).**

A "yes" vote supports providing the state's national guard with an executive department called the Missouri Department of the National Guard.

A "no" vote opposes this constitutional amendment, thus keeping the state's national guard as part of the Missouri Department of Public Safety.

### What would this ballot measure change?

Amendment 5 would create the Missouri Department of the National Guard as an administrative department within the state's executive branch. As of 2022, the Missouri National Guard is part of the Missouri Department of Public Safety.

As an executive department, the adjutant general, who commands the national guard, would be a member of the governor's cabinet.

Amendment 5 would define the department's purpose as providing for the state militia, upholding the U.S. Constitution, upholding the Missouri Constitution, protecting the constitutional rights and civil liberties of Missourians, and providing other defenses as required.

[Missouri Department of the National Guard Amendment \(2022\) - Ballotpedia](#)

- **Following are links you can follow for additional Missouri legislative information:**

[Missouri House of Representatives - Home \(mo.gov\)](#)

[Missouri Senate – Missouri General Assembly \(mo.gov\)](#)

## 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).

### **CONTACT YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS**

The Honorable (name), U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510 • Phone: (202) 224-3121

The Honorable (name), U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515 • (202) 225-3121

**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**

Collectively we make a difference - **Never Stop Serving®**

John D. Hathcock  
Colonel, U.S. Army (Ret.)  
Legislative Affairs Chair, OEMOAA Chapter  
Cell: 417.230.9187  
NEVER STOP SERVING. ®

## OEMOAA Recognitions

The Ozark Empire Chapter has once again been recognized and awarded the MOAA 5-Star Level of Excellence award for 2021. My sincere Thanks to all in our Chapter, who contribute to helping run this chapter, and help us accomplish our mission. We were one of two chapters in the state of Missouri so recognized for the year 2021.



Our chapter newsletter has once again been recognized by MOAA, and has been given the Marvin Harris 5-Star Communications Award for 2021. I must acknowledge that I stand on the shoulders of those who have served before me as Editor. In my knowledge, those individuals include Shirley Bridges and Col Phil Samples. My sincere gratitude to them for their efforts. It is an honor to continue in their footsteps.

*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.*



## Chaplain's Corner By Becky Hutchings

September is here and we are entering the final 1/3 of 2022. Where has the year gone? Hopefully you were able to enjoy family and friends this summer. Maybe you were able to squeeze in some traveling too. We will gather together again this month for our first fall meeting and to share a meal.

It is already time to consider what items need to be planted in the ground for next Spring. Those that still have many beautiful flowers showing their faces in gardens, however, have really paid close attention to watering and caring for those blossoms. It has been an unseasonably dry summer.

Jane Hamilton (actress and author) has this to say about seasonal changes;  
“There were so many miracles at work: that a blossom might become a peach, that a bee could make honey in its thorax, that rain might someday fall. I thought then about the seasons changing, and in the gray of night I could almost will myself to see the azure sky, the gold of the maple leaves, the crimson of the ripe apples, the hoarfrost on the grass.”

I love her descriptive language. It brings colors and smells come to life for me.

Hosea 14:5-6 (Bible) says:

“I will be like the dew to the people of Israel. They will blossom like flowers. They will be firmly rooted like cedars from Lebanon. They will be like growing branches. They will be beautiful like olive trees. They will be fragrant like cedars from Lebanon.”

If we remain grounded in truth and faith, we will grow in spirit and act with kindness among those in our circle. May we bloom where we are planted. Like the trees, flowers, and fruits, this will make us a beautiful and fragrant smell to all those around us.

Looking forward to seeing all of your precious faces! May you be encouraged!

## AVCRAD Facility Tour



CW5 (Ret.) Greg McManus invited the members of our Chapter to attend a briefing and tour of the Missouri National Guard AVCRAD at the Springfield airport on July 14<sup>th</sup>. The tour was arranged for local community and business leaders, as well as retired veterans. Nine of our members attended along with several family spouses and grandchildren.

AVCRAD stands for Aviation Classification and Repair Activity Depot of which there are 4 such facilities, scattered around the U.S. They support 32 Guard aviation facilities in 14 States having 372 Blackhawk and Chinook helicopters. Their goal is to perform sustainment aviation maintenance for these aircraft to reduce downtime, which increases operational readiness.

Prior to the tour, we received a warm welcome from Greg followed by an extensive briefing on the extensive capabilities and activities performed by the AVCRAD by LTC Shawn McCroskey the Depot Shop Supervisor. Basically, the AVCRAD has the capability to perform all

necessary maintenance and rebuild functions to assure aircraft repair and timely return to their Army National Guard customers.

We were able to tour this modern facility, sit in the aircraft and ask any questions we could think of. It is truly an amazing facility that employs over 280 personnel and contributes over \$23M to our local economy.

We wish to sincerely thank Greg McManus and LTC McCroskey for their invitation and hospitality. The experience was impressive and inspirational.

## June Meeting Recap



Lyle Whittaker, a Conservation Educator with the Missouri Dept. of Conservation (MDC), was our speaker at the June meeting. He retired from teaching after 31 successful years and joined the Missouri Dept. of Conservation as an educator and spokesman for the MDC. His talk focused on the Black Bear in Missouri and the MDC's efforts to protect and monitor the bear population. Black bears are found primarily in the SE area of the State. Their habits and movements are monitored by tracking collars.

In 1937, citizen-led efforts created the Department of Conservation to restore, conserve and regulate Missouri's over-stressed fisheries, forests and wildlife populations. During its first 40 years, hunting, fishing, and trapping permits provided most of our funding, but in 1976 an expanded program, the "Design for Conservation," was passed to set aside one-eighth of one percent sales tax directly to the agency. That consistent funding, plus a strong, non-political structure and very supportive public helped make Missouri a national leader in conservation. Today they continue a legacy of protecting our State's wild resources and helping Missourians connect with their natural heritage. The MDC goal is to sustain diverse, healthy plant and animal

communities — well into the future. For more information about the MDC, go to their website at [mdc.mo.gov](http://mdc.mo.gov).

The Missouri Department of Conservation administers more than 975,000 acres located throughout the state of which about 63 percent are forested.

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## Taps



None to report at this time

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**Our host, Twin Oaks Country Club, has transitioned our service to Plated Meals. This should help keep our cost down, and allow our host to better anticipate our needs.**

**Our options this month are: Lemon Caper Salmon, with parmesan herb risotto & asparagus**

**Or**

**Chicken Florentine, with parmesan herb risotto & asparagus**

**Either meal will be available for the same cost: \$32 per attendee**

## September 2022 Meeting

**DATE** 16 Sep 2022

**PLACE:** Twin Oaks Country Club (Oak Room)  
1020 East Republic Road  
Springfield, Missouri 65807

**TIME:** 1815 – Social Hour (Drinks can be purchased from the 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 presentation.

1900 – Meal/Program

**MENU:** Plated Dinner, options as outlined on the preceding page.. Includes small house salad, Rolls, Table Beverages, Chef's choice dessert, Gratuity.

**Cost:** \$32 per person

**SPEAKER:** John Sellars, History Museum On The Square

**RSVP:** By noon, Monday, 12 Sep 2022  
To: LtCol William Pickett, USAF, Retired

LtCol Pickett will acknowledge ALL reservations received within 24 hrs. If you do NOT receive a confirmation, please contact Bill.

## 2022 OEMOAA Monthly Schedule

Chapter meetings during Jan, Feb, Mar, will be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday, Twin Oaks Country Club, Oak Room. All remaining monthly meetings will be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday, unless otherwise noted.

2022 OEMOAA Meeting Dates:

16 September: John Sellars, History Museum

21 October

18 November

9 December (2<sup>nd</sup> Friday)

Speaker Schedule – being developed by a very dedicated and capable staff. If anyone knows of a person or topic that you would like to see presented at one of our monthly OEMOAA meetings, that would be of interest to our group, please let Col. Chuck Guy know. He is always open for good suggestions.

## ELECTED CHAPTER OFFICERS

**PRESIDENT:** Ron McCall, Capt, USAF, Retired

**1ST VICE PRESIDENT:** Becky Hutchings

**2ND VICE PRESIDENT:** (Open)

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

**IMMED PAST PRESIDENT:** Chuck Guy, Colonel, USA, Retired

## APPOINTED CHAPTER OFFICERS

**CHAPLAIN:** Becky Hutchings

**LEGISLATIVE CHAIR:** John Hathcock, COL, USA, Retired

**AWARDS COORDINATOR:** Phil Samples, Col, USAF, Retired

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

**SURVIVING SPOUSE LIAISON:** Becky Hutchings

**NOMINATIONS CHAIR:** Steve Vanderhoof, COL, USA, Retired

**AMBASSADOR:** David Reed, CDR, USN, Retired

**MEMBERSHIP CHAIR:** Chuck Guy, Colonel, USA, Retired

**WEBMASTER:** Keith Oxyby, W/O British Navy

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

As I watch this generation try and rewrite our history, one thing I'm sure of – it will be misspelled and have no punctuation.

Hard to believe that I once had a phone attached to a wall, and when it rang, I would race to pick it, with NO IDEA who was calling!

There is no such thing as a grouchy old person. Truth is, once you get old, you stop being polite, and start being honest!

If you find yourself feeling useless, remember that it took 20 years, trillions of dollars, and four Presidents to replace the Taliban with the Taliban.

## 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 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.