

September 1, 2017

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Volume 2017 Number 5

**Presidents Notes:**

**The HOT news item for today is The CACMOAA Christmas Party: STOP EVERYTHING and send in your check to confirm your reservation TODAY. We must have reservations by December 6th, 2017**

The Christmas Party will be at Hangar 1080 on the LRAFB on Tuesday December 12th at 1800 hours. Our guest speaker will be Col Anita Deason USA (Ret), Senator Boozman’s Military Liaison. J R Acree and Bill Kehler have set up a delicious Holiday fare for the Party:

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| Glazed Ham, |
| Roast Turkey and Dressing |
| Mashed Potatoes w/Gravy |
| Seasoned Green Beans |
| Dinner Roll w/Butter |
| Garden Salad w/Ranch & Italian |
| Pumpkin Pie |
| Apple Pie |
| Tea & Water |
| Coffee w/Condiments |

Reservations at $25.00 per person should be sent to CACMOAA, P.O. Box 5046, Jacksonville Arkansas 72078, to arrive no later than December 6th 2017. Because of the caterer must order the proper amount of food, No walk-ins will be accepted, a reservation is required. There will be bar service available at the front of the club.

As usual he CACMOAA Board of Directors and members have been very busy the last few months: with Flag Education, Arkansas Veteran’s Coalition, Congressman French Hill’s Veteran Advisory Committee, The Arkansas Council of Chapters MOAA, Veterans Impact Arkansas, and the Women Veterans Summit. Col Don English and I attended several Elementary Schools Veteran Day Ceremonies as well as the State Sponsored Ceremony at the MacArthur Museum of Military History. **Thank You All for Carrying the Banner of MOAA Forward in Central Arkansas.**

**Awards:**

The CACMOAA Board of Directors at the last meeting voted to make the Chapter’s annual monetary awards to military organizations and individuals in the our area. Here is a list of Awards:

North Little Rock State Veterans’ Cemetery Beautification Committee- $100.00.

 Airman’s Attic - $100.00

Good Neighbors Fund -$100.00

$100.00 Scholarship award to MOAA In honor of COL Don Berry

** WHAT WE DO **

**Central Arkansas Chapter**

**MOAA**

**(CACMOAA)**

**CACMOAA, PO Box 5046, Jacksonville, AR 72078**

[**www.moaa-arkansas.org/central-ark-chapter**](http://www.moaa-arkansas.org/central-ark-chapter)

**(501) 821-6960, Cell (501) 952-5244**

**Advocacy:**  As an active member of the Arkansas Veteran Coalition the Chapter lobbies the Arkansas Legislature and our National Representatives and Senators to pass legislation for the benefit of Active Duty, National Guard, Reserve and Military Veterans and their spouses.

This past legislative session we had great success on the military retiree tax relief to help stimulate economic development in the State, but we were also instrumental in passing 10 of 11 Veteran friendly bills:

* **“Workforce and Economic Development” -- Exempts uniformed services retired pay from Arkansas income tax effective 1 Jan 18**
* **“Gold Star Monument” --** Gold Star Family Memorial Monument enacted making Arkansas the thirtieth state with a monument but the ONLY state with its monument on its Capitol grounds
* **“Guard Tuition Initiative”** -- Tuition assistance for soldiers and airman of Arkansas National Guard making 2 or 4-year programs at no cost to the Guardsman. Recruiting and readiness priority
* **“DSLO 2017 #1”** – Provide notice of child maltreatment to DoD installation family advocacy contact
* **“May to Shall” --** ‘All state boards and commissions shall promulgate rules ...’ to ensure expedited licensure of members of armed forces, veterans and military spouses.’ (fixing DSLO legislation from ’15)
* **“Vet Biz” --** Amends Minority Business Development Act, adds women-owned biz, moves service-disabled veteran-owned biz development from Department of Finance and Administration to Arkansas Economic Development Commission, eliminates exempt contracts, better reporting and oversight
* **“Amend IST”** -- Amend in-state tuition initiative (2015) providing for veterans with an honorable discharge and adding ROTC cadets with DoD contract.
* **“ADH Suicide Hotline”** -- Establish Arkansas Suicide Prevention Hotline

**X “Parental Choice” –** Education savings accounts establish the **PARENTAL**

**CHOICE PILOT PROGRAM**

* **“Uniform Data Collection” –** Create a uniform data collection to locate veterans in Arkansas to ensure appropriate services are provided for veterans and military families
* **“Vet civilian jobs” –** Arkansas Department of Veterans Affairs and Arkansas Department of Workforce Services ‘encouraged’ to establish online capabilities to translate military credentials for transitioning service members; informing state agencies of capabilities.
* Indicates Bill Passed, X Indicates Bill Failed

We work on Veterans Treatment Courts, Veteran Homelessness and Suicide Prevention.

**Service:**

We participate in our service goal by giving money to worthwhile organizations like Airman’s Attic and First Sergeant’s Club on the LRAFB, and Darby’s Warrior Support.

We provide scholarship money to National MOAA for Scholarships

We present MOAA awards and support the Arkansas Council of Chapters MOAA with a student mentorship programs to the ROTC and JROTC units in our area of the State.

We have also adopted the Arkansas State Veterans Cemetery in North Little Rock as a Chapter project.

We work with the Military Order of World Wars and the Arkansas Department of Education to present Flag Education to all of the fifth graders in Central Arkansas.  Last year we presented classes to over 6000 students.

CACMOAA has a seat on many Veteran Service Provider groups in Central Arkansas. We Co-Chair, Veterans Impact Arkansas, an organization that is designed to bring community stakeholder to the table to help solve veteran issues. We regularly attend the Veterans Mental Health Council at the CAVHS. We are on the Arkansas Veterans Coalition Homeless Veteran subcommittee; we work with VA and local community organizations through Community Homelessness Assessment, Local Education and Networking Groups (CHALENG) to help solve Veteran homelessness. We have membership on the Arkansas State Veterans cemetery Beautification Committee, we have representation on the LRAFB Community Council, many of our members volunteer at LRAFB services and community outreach programs, and we maintain a very close working relationship with the National Guard Association at Camp Robinson.

**Friendship:**  There is no better place in Central Arkansas to meet fellow Veterans

We have monthly meetings and everyone is welcome.  Starting in January and every other month thereafter we have a Board Meetings at which we conduct most of our business.  These meeting are held on the first Tuesday of the month at Old Chicago in North Little Rock at 1800 hours.

Starting in February and every other month thereafter we have a General Meeting which is designed for spouses and guests with a speaker and a limited agenda.  We meet at 1800 hours at the China Pavilion, Hunan in the Apple Valley Shopping Center on JFK in Sherwood.

Every month on the first Monday, except for holidays, then it is the second Monday at 1130 hours at Corky’s in North Little Rock a group of veterans have been meeting for over 50 years.  This is called the Hank’s Dog House group.

Then of course there are the Retiree Breakfasts at the LRAFB on the third Friday of the month at Hanger 1080, 0800 hours.

**Member Profiles**

At our last Board Meeting the members agreed to include a member profile in each newsletter and that the President should go first. So here it is.

**Colonel Dave Beranek, USA (Ret)** graduated with a degree in chemistry from the University of Wisconsin at La Crosse in 1968, and enlisted in the US Army. After obtaining a commission as a second lieutenant from the Infantry Officer Candidate School at Ft. Benning he served as an instructor at the Infantry School followed by a tour in Vietnam as an Infantry Advisor to the Vietnamese. After Vietnam he was stationed at Fort McClellan. Alabama as an instructor and executive officer. Released from active duty in 1972 he obtained a Master’s Degree in Biology and continued his military service in the United State Army Reserve serving as a Company Commander in a Combat Engineer Company. After assignments in teaching and staff work both in Missouri and Arkansas he received a branch transfer to Chemical Corp, commanded a Chemical Battalion and was assigned as the Deputy Commander of the 460th Chemical Brigade. Retiring in 2004, his military education included the Command and General Staff College, Industrial College of the Armed Forces and the Army War College. COL Beranek was awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge, the Bronze Star Medal and the Air Medal with “V” device along with other awards.

In the private sector COL Beranek worked for the Food and Drug Administration at the National Center for Toxicological Research (NCTR) in Jefferson, Arkansas. During his twenty seven year career at NCTR he conducted research on cancer, received a Ph.D. degree in Biochemistry, and worked in budget and project management. Retiring in 2004, COL Beranek filled his retirement enjoying his 10 grandchildren and has served on the University of Arkansas for Medical Science Institutional Review Board for 10 years and on the Board of Directors of a Central Arkansas Veteran Health Center affiliated Biomedical Research Foundation. He is also the co-chair of the Veterans Impact Arkansas, a community veteran joint committee. He is the Arkansas Council of Chapter’s representative on the Arkansas Military Coalition, and is active in Military Officers Association of America’s (MOAA) JROTC/ROTC Awards program. He is a member of the American Legion and the Association of the United States Army. He also is currently the President of the Central Arkansas Chapter of MOAA and President of the Arkansas Council of Chapters of MOAA.

Besides volunteering and chasing 10 grandchildren COL Beranek has traveled both in the United States and in Europe visiting, Germany, France, Italy, Belgium, The Netherlands, the Czech Republic, Great Britain and Russia.

**CACMOAA**

**P.O. Box 5046**

**Jacksonville, AR 72078**