

NORTHWEST ARKANSAS MOAA CHAPTER
January – February 2019
SOUND OFF!



Wooo Pig Sooiie

The NWA Chapter of MOAA is 501(c)(3) non-profit organization (Tax ID #47-5390089) whose mission is to benefit members of the uniformed services, their families and survivors and to advocate for a strong national defense, while providing needed support to the community and its members. More information is at our website below.

Chapter Web Site – www.moaa.org/chapter/northwestarkansas
Arkansas Council Web Site (IT'S HERE!) - www.moaa-arkansas.org
MOAA Legislative Update – www.legis@moaa.org

CHAPTER LEVEL OF EXCELLENCE (LOE) AWARDS

5-STAR		4-STAR	
	<p>2008 2009 2010 2012 2016 ***2017***</p>		<p>2011 2014 2015</p>

COLONEL MARVIN J. HARRIS COMMUNICATIONS AWARD

5-STAR	5-STAR	5-STAR
		
2015	2016	2017

CHAPTER OFFICERS/COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Pres–Lt Col Buster McCall, USAF (Ret)
1st VP- COL Brad Welch, USA (Ret)
Tres – CAPT Jim Glover, USN (Ret)
Legislative–CDR Dave Louk, USN (Ret)
Scholarship–COL Brad Welch, USA (Ret) &
Kathleen Dickerson

Past Pres- Lt Col Dan Webb, USAF (Ret)
2nd VP – CAPT Steve Unger, USN (Ret)
Secy – CDR Sam Sansom, USN (Ret)
Personal Affairs–COL Max Barron, USA (Ret)
Mbrship–CDR Sam Sansom, USN (Ret)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: Welcome to a new year chock full of more opportunities to serve our community. Please take a moment to read through the entire newsletter. Packed with information, I assure you will find at least one item of interest where you will say to yourself, "That was worth the read." A few teasers to further pique your interest (split infinitive intended): February's MOAA Dinner will be a Date Night with two delicious options to choose; thanks to your generosity, we awarded 10 \$500 scholarships in 2018; recommend filing your Arkansas State Income Tax form even if you owe zero dollars; we can now update Military ID cards Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday at the Bentonville Armed Forces Reserve Center (just employed their services...5-Star); visit the VA on Valentine's Day for National Salute to Veteran Patients and you might get a chance to meet the new Director, Mr. Kelvin Parks. Without further adieu, I wish you all a joyous and prosperous New Year and may you find ample opportunities to Serve Always.

FEBRUARY DINNER MEETING

WHEN – FEBRUARY 15, 2019 (FRIDAY evening)

WHERE – Butterfield Trail Village, The Lodge

TIME – Social – 6:30 P.M. (1830); Dinner – 7:00 P.M. (1900)

MENU – Special Plated Dinner – **select** from one of the two entree's:

Entree #1 – Chateaubriand or **Entree #2** – Baked Salmon

COST - \$30.00

ATTIRE – Coat and Tie, After 5 attire

PROGRAM - Marilyn Heifner, Lecturer for historic Evergreen Cemetery

R.S.V.P. – **NLT 1530 FRIDAY, 8 FEBRUARY TO DAVE LOUK 927-1743 or**
davelouk@gmail.com

PLEASE REMEMBER - Let Dave know entree #1 or entree #2 when submitting your RSVP. This will be critical for the chef in knowing the number of special dinners to prepare.

NO SHOW POLICY: Dinner cancellations after 8 February or no shows at the meeting, member must pay for the dinner(s). RSVP's made after 8 February can not be accepted.

DINNER VENUE CATASTROPHE AVERTED - Many may not be aware, we are able to use "The Lodge" at Butterfield Trail Village free of charge because a few of our members reside at BTV. This permits us from not being charged the \$300 room rental fee. The two members we relied upon to be our emissaries with BTV haven't been able to attend our dinner meetings, which is a prerequisite to continue meeting at The Lodge without a charge. Stepping up to the plate and into the breach is Ms. Margaret Taylor, a new Chapter member and new resident of BTV. She readily said she would help out and will make every effort to attend our dinner meetings. Chapter service can be performed in many different ways and Margaret has clearly demonstrated that. Please search out Margaret at our next dinner meeting and thank her for helping out.

SCHOLARSHIP AFTER ACTION REPORT: The final 2018 Veterans Scholarship Fund total was \$5,884. Each member that contributed is to be thanked and commended for their generous contributions. The Chapter's Board of Directors voted to award a total of ten (10) \$500 scholarships to Veterans attending the University of Arkansas. Jim Glover delivered all ten checks on [December 11th](#) personally thanking each for their (or their parents') service to our Nation, scholastic excellence, and future career aspirations.

Thanks to COL Brad Welch, USA (Ret), Veterans Scholarship Chairman, for providing the following short bio's on the ten recipients. Five are listed below and the remaining five will be in the next newsletter:

Stuart Wright: Served four and a half years in the U.S. Coast Guard during the '70s. Renewed his education after marriage, family, and life. Previously attained an Associates' degree and is returning to his studies to seek a BS degree in Anthropology/Archaeology to later begin a career in education.

Christopher Farris: Retired Captain in the Arkansas Army National Guard and former Active Duty enlisted veteran of the U.S. Air Force. He previously attained a BS degree in Information Technology and desires to ultimately attain a Masters in Fine Arts-Creative Writing to teach English in the Arkansas Public School System.

Trevor Keyser: The son of an Arkansas Air National Guard Staff Sergeant that served eight years and deployed in support of Operation Desert Storm. This is his second year being awarded our scholarship. He is a Pre-Med student and plans to enter the Army as a way to obtain a scholarship for Med School. As a full-time student, he works as a bus driver for Razorback Transit.

Kiefer Busby: Former U.S. Marine Corps Sergeant that served five years, deploying to the Philippines in support of humanitarian relief after Typhoon Haiyan. Pursuing a Nursing degree and currently works at the Pat Walker Health Center. Desires to work in some high-stress medical specialty.

Stephanie Cumplido: The wife of a recently retired U.S. Coast Guardsman that served over 20 years defending our country. A stay-at-home Mom that ultimately seeks a Master's degree in Social Work and wishes to work with veterans or with parents of infants who are in the neonatal intensive care unit.

CHAPTER DUES AND DUE NOTS! #1 – Due pay. #2 – Due not forget. As has been the case the past few years, most members find the Christmas dinner as the BEST time to pay their annual \$25 Chapter dues. Over half (57%) of our memberships elected to pay their dues at that time.

If you couldn't make the Christmas Dinner (see next article), just write your \$25 dues check payable to NWA MOAA Chapter and send it to Jim Glover, 314 East Parks Street, Prairie Grove, AR 72753. We almost had 100% dues payment for 2018, can you due your part for 2019?

2018 CHAPTER CHRISTMAS DINNER: Wow, what a time we had! Can't recall the exact number but we were well over 45 folks. We had some folks we hadn't seen in a long time. Brian Huntsman was there with his daughter Lindsey and Steve and Annie Zega were also able to make it. Some new faces and strong new membership prospects included Margaret Taylor (a sweet Saint!); Hope Benedict and her dad, Bill Harris (neat guy, did you meet him?) and Bobby and Judy New (wonderful couple) were also there. The Fayetteville High School "Encore" group performed for us and what a wonderful program from these young people – professionals in every sense of the word. Take a look at this video [link](#) and you will have to agree they were great! Here's a picture of the group (on the left) and also a picture of those Chapter members that are still able to get into their uniforms.



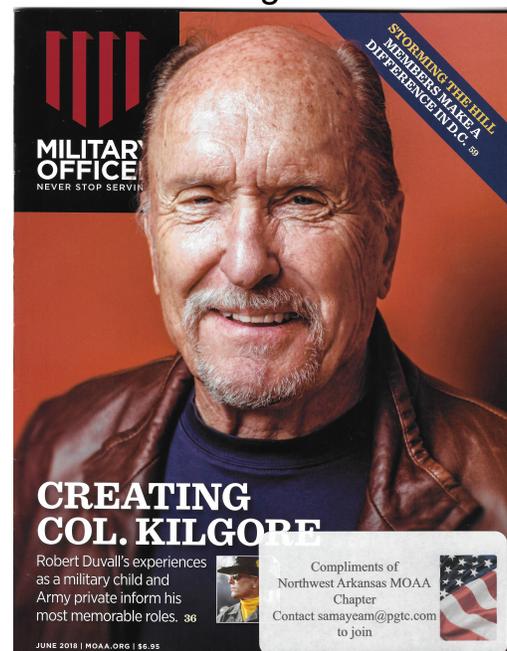
CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP DRIVE: YES, even YOU can recruit new members. Easy, sooo easy, why wasn't this thought of before?

Question, what do you do with your copy of the MOAA Military Officer magazine when you finish reading it? Yup, same thing I did – good ole circular file. Have you ever noticed how easily the address label can be removed? Trust me, it's easy.

Here's the deal – after you finish reading the magazine, remove the label and bring the magazine to the next dinner meeting. If you can't make the meeting, just hold onto the magazine(s) until you do make a dinner meeting.

The Chapter's Membership Chairman will take your copies, affix a new label on the magazine front and ask you to pick up one or two and distribute them to your doctor, dentist, hospital, barber shop, beauty shop, etc., anywhere magazines or publications are left for folks to read.

The newly “addressed” copies will do their own thing. An example is on the right with the special label reading, **“Compliments of Northwest Arkansas MOAA Chapter. Contact samayeam@pgtc.com to join.”** Whatcha think? Easy peasey, right?





Ask Bruno about his Veterans Discount!

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS REPORT: CDR Dave Louk, USN (Ret) is our Chapter's Legislative Affairs Officer and he always keeps us up to date on various issues that pertain to and may impact our lives. Dave's been busy again and has a few items for us to review:

FEDVIP UPDATE: Have you checked your MyPay account to verify the allotment deduction for the new dental plan? Some of you probably didn't have to shift from your current dental program but quite a few of us were affected by the cancellation of TRDP and the implementation to FEDVIP. If you have any doubts or questions don't hesitate to contact Dave (davelouk@gmail.com) or Sam (samayeam@pgtc.com).

STATE INCOME TAX FILING: Yes folks, 2018 was the year military retirement pay was excluded from Arkansas State Income Tax. Some Chapter members (i.e. newsletter editor and staff) have already finished their State Income Tax forms and based on their particular situation, they owe zero, zip, nada State Income Tax.

Now a word of caution, this DOES NOT mean all military retirees in the state don't have to pay state income tax. Every situation is different, especially if you are receiving income from other than military retired pay. So exercise care.

One final word, EVEN AFTER completing your Arkansas State return and you find you owe no tax, it is strongly recommended you still file that "no tax due" form. We contacted the State Tax Board and they made that recommendation due to the fact the State gets notification of you paying Federal Income Tax.

The State would then use your Federal return and send you an "estimated" amount due to the State. Yes, you can simply write a letter back explaining everything and within 3-6 months it might be resolved. Why not cut it off at the pass and send in a State Income Tax return with zero, zip, nada tax due?

HAVEN'T RECEIVED YOUR MILITARY 1099-R YET? For those of you enrolled in MyPay, you have found getting your military 1099-R is no problem. Simply log on, go to the main menu, select 1099-R and print. You can also obtain a copy of the 1095-B Health Form as well.

If you are not enrolled in MyPay, not to worry. Simply call 1-800-321-1080 and press "1", you don't even have to listen to all the lead in information from DFAS. After you press "1" that will take you to the area to request a hard copy of your 1099-R. It's quite easy. If you have any problems, drop Dave (davelouk@gmail.com) or Sam (samayeam@pgtc.com) a note.

DEPENDENT ID EXPIRED? When the last time you or your dependent checked the expiration date of their Military ID Card? What do you do? Where do you go? Here's the best source and it has been used recently by a number of Chapter members. The Armed Forces Reserve Center located at 6800 Southwest Minuteman Ave., Bentonville is your best bet. They can be contacted at (501) 212-7421. They're open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday with slightly different hours on a couple of the days. Mon/Thu/Fri hours at 8:00 – 12:00 and it's first-come/first-served with no requirement for an appointment. This is much closer than Fort Smith and not as busy. Be sure and check that ID card date today!

USS INDIANAPOLIS GOLD MEDAL BILL: Awhile back an email "blaster" went out to all Chapter members requesting they contact our Senators regarding S. 2101 a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the crew of the USS Indianapolis, in recognition of their perseverance, bravery, and service to the United States. On December 20, 2018, President Trump signed the bill into law. Thank you very much for all that contacted Senators Boozman and Cotton. If interested, the full text of the bill providing the history behind the USS INDIANAPOLIS (CA-35) can be found [here](#). Here's a great picture of that fine Portland-Class heavy cruiser. They just don't make them that way anymore:



BY THE WAY! If any Chapter member has a relative or friend with a relative or just knowledge of a USS INDIANAPOLIS survivor, please let Buster (ttigger68@aol.com) Sam (samayeam@pgtc.com) know as the Board would like to recognize them in some special way.

VA HOSPITAL HIGHLIGHTS: LTC Mike “Dilly” Dillingham, USA (Ret), one of our newest Chapter members, works in the Veterans Records Management Department at the Fayetteville VA Hospital. We are truly indebted to him as he has agreed to feed the newsletter staff with future items of interest taking place in the Va Hospital system.

1. **NEW DIRECTOR** - The Department of Veterans Affairs is pleased to announce the appointment of Kelvin L. Parks as the new Director of the Veterans Health Care System of the Ozarks (VHSO), Fayetteville, Arkansas effective November 25, 2018. Mr. Parks is a retired Navy Chief Petty Officer and has held leadership positions in Veterans Health Administration in major medical centers during his career. His most recent assignment was that of Associate Director, Veterans Health Care System of the Ozarks (VHSO). He received his Bachelors of Science in Organizational Management from Crichton College, Memphis, TN.; and he holds a Master’s of Arts in Management and Leadership from Webster University, St. Louis, MO.

2. **NATIONAL SALUTE TO VETERAN PATIENTS** - Thursday, February 14, 2019, from 10:00 A.M. – Noon in the main lobby of Building 21. The purpose of the National Salute is to increase community awareness of the role of the VA, pay tribute and express appreciation to Veterans, and encourage citizens to become volunteers.

3. **NEW VA HEALTH CLINIC** - Veterans’ Health Care System of the Ozarks opened a new outpatient clinic in Springfield, MO. Address is 1850 West Republic Street, Springfield, MO. Standby for future information concerning a new clinic in Joplin, MO.

4. **VETERANS HISTORY PROJECT** – This project collects, preserves and makes accessible the personal accounts of American Veterans. This effort will allow for future generation to hear directly from the Veteran and hear their story. Please consider participating in this “story-saving” event by contacting Wanda Shull, VA Public Affairs office at wanda.shull@va.gov.

5. **VA BENEFITS** - Ever wondered exactly what your VA benefits are? You can easily explore VA benefits and find out which ones you and your family may be eligible to receive. It's easy at <https://explore.va.gov/benefits-navigator>

CHAPTER CONCERNS: COL Max Barron, USA (Ret), is the Chapter's Personal Affairs Officer and he looks out for the concerns of Chapter members by sending various types of cards. Max sends cards of sympathy, condolence, get well soon, and many others during the month. He's got a tough job because a members health or wellness situation doesn't always find its way to him so he can send a card.

The following reflects the last month of, "Chapter Concerns:" Elizabeth Hogue, Sharon Glover's mom in Mississippi; Robin Buffington; Gary and Susan Culp; Sam Hutcheson; Dan Webb; and condolence cards to Marsha Nolan and Pat Matthews. **Please let Max (hognight@aol.com or 521-5839) or Sam (samayeam@pgtc.com or 761-3772) know of any Chapter members needing a "card comfort."**

SERIOUS INFORMATION: The Northwest Arkansas MOAA Chapter is an affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America which is the nation's largest and most influential non-partisan association of military officers.

MOAA has over 350,000 members worldwide from every branch of service. There are 400+ Chapters throughout the United States. Nearly 5,000 MOAA members reside in Arkansas served by nine chapters under the umbrella of the Arkansas Council of Chapters.

If you know of anyone wanting to join our Chapter just give them Sam's contact information: samayeam@pgtc.com or 761-3772, and he'll take it from there.



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We'll be There.**



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