

NORTHWEST ARKANSAS MOAA CHAPTER
May - June 2022

SOUND OFF!



Woo Pig Soobie

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 LinkedIn - <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/12595073/>
Chapter Web Site - [Northwest Ark Chapter \(moaa-arkansas.org\)](http://Northwest Ark Chapter (moaa-arkansas.org))
MOAA Take Action web address - www.moaa.org/takeaction

CHAPTER LEVEL OF EXCELLENCE (LOE) AWARDS



5-STAR

2008 2009 2010
2012 2016 2017
2018 2020



4-STAR

2011 2014
2015

COLONEL MARVIN J. HARRIS COMMUNICATIONS AWARD



5-STAR
2015



5-STAR
2016



5-STAR
2017



5-STAR
2018



5-STAR
2020



5-STAR
2021 (NEW!)

CHAPTER ELECTED/APPOINTED DIRECTORS & LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

Pres– COL Bob Crawford, USA (Ret)
1st VP- LTC Jay Stout, USA (Ret)
Tres – LTC Michael Dillingham, USA (Ret)
Legislative–**CAPT Steve Unger, USN (Ret)**
Scholarship–LTC Jay Stout, USA (Ret)
Public Affairs – **VACANT (HELP!)**
RNCIC Liaison – Col Merle Williams USAF (Ret)
Flag Education – **LTC Jay Stout, USA (Ret)**

Past Pres- Lt Col Buster McCall, USAF (Ret)
2nd VP – LTC Eli Ootoshi, USA (Ret)
Secy – CDR Sam Sansom, USN (Ret)
Pers Affairs– LTC John Rownak, USA (Ret)
Mbrship–CDR Sam Sansom, USN (Ret)
ROTC Liaison-COL Bob Crawford, USA (Ret)
NJROTC Liaison-COL Bob Crawford USA Ret

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: Summer is here!!!

Hopefully, everyone is enjoying the warm weather we are starting to have. Summer has arrived as many Americans see the Memorial Day Weekend as the unofficial start of summer. However, we, as Veterans, know Memorial Day Weekend means so much more. It is our country's opportunity to honor those military service women and men who made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of America. I pray each of you was able to honor our fallen comrades in some manner this past weekend.

We enjoyed a fantastic Chapter dinner at Mermaids on April 22nd. For the third dinner in a row, we introduced 15 or more new members, spouses, and guests. Our guests included CAPT Erin Stone, USN (Ret) from MOAA's Office of Council and Chapters Affairs, four Army ROTC cadets, two Navy JROTC cadets, two American Legion representatives, along with six new members and spouses. Special awards were given to Fayetteville and Springdale American Legions for support to Flag Education and to Col Dan Mumaugh, USAF (Ret), for service as our Legislative Affairs Officer. The crowning event was CAPT Stone's presentation of the MOAA National Award for Community Service to CPT Cliff Mosier, USA (Ret), for the Flag Education program and long-term service to the Chapter. Pictured below is Cliff receiving the MOAA certificate from CAPT Stone.



Recently, we were notified the Chapter earned the Five-Star Level for MOAA's 2021 COL Harris Communications Award. The award is based primarily on CDR Sam Sansom's bimonthly newsletter. Last week the medal and MOAA certificate arrived. As you can clearly see in the picture, Sam is identified by name as the editor of the newsletter. WELL DONE SAM and congratulations to all Chapter members who provide input to the newsletter.



In addition to our nomination for the COL Harris Communications Award, the Chapter has submitted our nomination for the MOAA Levels of Excellence Award. The award is based numerous criteria to include percent of Chapter membership who are members in MOAA National, legislative advocacy activities, community engagement, recruiting and retention, leadership succession plan, and Chapter responses to the pandemic. We should get notification of results in mid to late summer.

Top Gun – Maverick has the “need for speed.” Your Chapter has the “need for volunteers”. Two members have already stepped up. CAPT Steve Unger, USN (Ret), has volunteered to become our new Legislative Affairs Officer (his first input to the newsletter is included this month). LTC Jay Stout, USA (Ret), will not only serve as our 1st Vice President and Scholarship Program coordinator, but he has agreed to become the interim manager for the Flag Education Program (his first input to the newsletter in this new position is also included this month). **NOW FOR OUR NEED FOR A VOLUNTEER.** LTC David Phillips, USA (Ret), must step down as the Public Affairs Officer for personal reasons. If you are willing to become the PAO, please let [Sam](#) or [Me](#) know.

Many Chapter members are active outside the framework of just our Chapter in support of veteran organizations, ranging from the Regional National Cemetery Improvement Corporation to American Legions and others. Another example is COL Mike Anderson, USA (Ret), taking the leading role to create a Razorback Alumni Battalion for Army ROTC (if you are a U of A AROTC alum and have not heard about this initiative, reach out to Mike and he'd be excited to give you more information). In addition, the Arkansas Alumni Association has recently created the Armed Forces Alumni Society (AFAS). Two of your Chapter members serve on the Board of Directors for AFAS. Pictured below is a group of Board members at the recent AFAS Memorial Day dinner. In the back center is COL Tony Coston, USA (Ret), who is the AFAS President and in the back right is me who serves as Board Treasurer.



Below are pictures from the AFAS Memorial Day dinner. Tony is on the left recognizing the keynote speaker, Brig Gen Bernie Skoch from Elkins who is a 1974 graduate of Arkansas. On the right, I'm standing by the Missing Person Table that we had at the dinner.



Last, but certainly not the least, another of our members participated in a very special recognition ceremony at the Walter E. Turnbow Elementary School in Springdale. Col Dan Mumaugh, USAF (Ret), was asked by the Air and Space Forces Association (ASFA), formally the Air Force Association (AFA), to present the “ASFA Teacher of The Year” Award. She was presented this award for her outstanding achievements in STEM. Pictured below from left to right are: Jerry Riechenbach, President Arkansas ASAF, Stephanie Long, Teacher of The Year, Susan Ferguson, Principal, Turnbow Elementary, and Col Dan Mumaugh, USAF (Ret).



May God bless you, your family, our military forces, and America. “Never Stop Serving” with honor, distinction, and character.

COL Bob Crawford, USA (Retired)
President, NWA MOAA Chapter

JUNE DINNER SPECIFICS

WHAT: NWA MOAA Chapter Dinner

WHEN: Friday, June 10, 2022, starting at 6:00 P.M. social hour followed by

dinner at 7:00 P.M.

WHERE: Fayetteville American Legion, 1195 S. Curtis Ave, Fayetteville 72701

MENU: Pot Luck – Harps famous fried chicken provided by the Chapter

COST: “Zip, zero, nada” (ref: Rush Limbaugh, Jan 12, 1951 – Feb 17, 2021)

PROGRAM: Park Rangers from Lake Fort Smith and Prairie Grove

ATTIRE: Completely casual (relax, enjoy)

RSVP: Not later than Wednesday, 8 June, 2022 Contact Jay Stout at jaystout12@yahoo.com or 479-973-3717

NOTES: (1) YEA or NAY RSVP's being requested.

(2) When you contact Jay (jaystout@yahoo.com), let him know if your will be bringing a side dish, salad, or dessert.

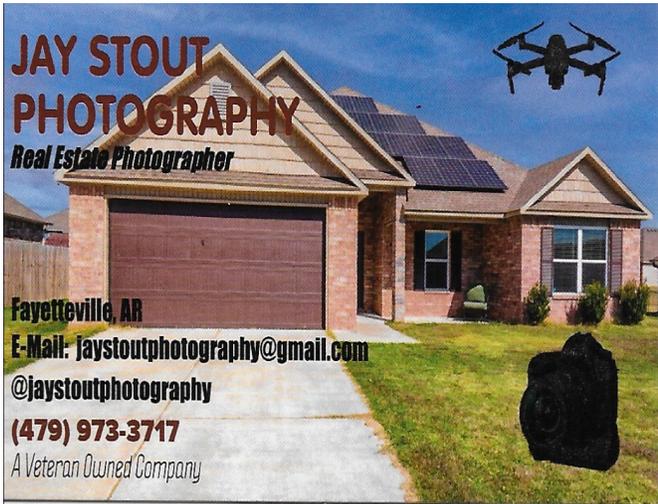
(3) Members bring your own non-alcoholic drinks, ice available.

(4) The Post has a bar available for libation purchases.

(5) RSVP necessary to determine how many tables and chairs to set up. Jay (jaystout12@yahoo.com) is standing by now.

(6) Ample parking available, use main entrance rather than side entrance through bar

CHAPTER DINNER FOR AUGUST 2022: Mark your calendars for the 19th of August. We will feature a speaker from the Shiloh Museum presenting: Hollywood in the Ozarks, this program explores the connection between the Hollywood film industry and the Arkansas Ozarks. Briefly, we discuss the history of cinema in general, including the technological advancements and the role cinema played in World War II efforts. We spend some time with the people from Northwest Arkansas who went on to work in Hollywood and then I will share a little bit of gossip about the films shot here in Northwest Arkansas. This discussion includes a showing of a clip of Kidnappers Foil, a locally shot film from 1937 (like Little Rascals).



CHAPTER DUES PAYMENTS: Currently we have 69 of our 91 (yes 91!) members having paid their 2022 Chapter dues. That's an incredible 76% and the year's not even half over. Have I paid my dues? Ask Sam (samayeam@pgtc.com). How do I pay my dues? Two ways: (1) mail your \$25 check (payable to NWA MOAA Chapter) to Mike Dillingham, 4356 Oakmont Drive, Fayetteville, A 72701; (2) if you have a Venmo account send your \$25 dues to Jay Stout' Venmo account; @Jay-Stout-4. Be sure and let him know it's your 2022 dues payment. Thanks folks.

CHAPTER "REACHES OUT" TO TOUCH MORE PEOPLE: Your Board of Directors is always trying to find ways to "reach out" and touch more people to let them know about our Chapter. Chapter 1st VP LTC Jay Stout, USA (Ret) took the lead and requests everyone join out Chapter LinkedIn account at:

<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/12595073/>

CHAPTER MEMBER-OWNED BUSINESS AIDS VETERANS: A little know Chapter fact is there are at least two local businesses headed by Chapter members. One business by the name of Bio-Tech Pharmacal (<http://biotechpharmacal.com/>) is a small, veteran-owned family business. The company was founded by Dale Benedict, a Korean War Veteran, over 35 years ago and daughter Hope Benedict, a MOAA Chapter member, is a member of the family business. Dale, Hope and Bio-Tech Pharmacal have been contributors for a long time to the Project Echelon Racing Team. The project's mission states it equips and empowers veterans to experience life in a new, healthy way by helping them develop their emotional intelligence and connecting them with a physical challenge. As veterans grow stronger both mentally and physically, the program fosters their desire to become visible and known. Thanks to Dale and Hope for supporting Veterans through this very worthwhile program.

CHAPTER FLAG EDUCATION PROGRAM: As Bob mentioned in his President's message, there's been a change at the helm of the Flag Education Program. Interim coordinator, LTC Jay Stout, USA (Ret) has the following report:

5th Grade Flag Education Program has gone through a Change of Responsibility. Cliff Mosier has passed the guidon to Jay Stout who will serve as the Interim Coordinator until a more permanent solution is found. CPT Cliff Mosier has done an outstanding job with this past School Year as Coordinator and scheduled classes in over 40 area schools. This school year alone over 4870 Students received instruction from the program, and we've received commendable reviews. We will continue to improve on this success and will be looking for more instructors to help the next school year. Anyone interested, please contact LTC Jay Stout, USA (Ret) (jaystout12@yahoo.com), he already has a lesson plan with power point presentation that you would be welcomed to use during your classes. Would you want to observe a class before you commit? Again, send Jay a message to see how this program impacts the 5th Graders of our communities. Community Service continues to be a vital part of the success of this chapter and the success is only possible through selfless member involvement.

ROTC LIAISON OFFICER (RLO) REPORT: COL Bob Crawford, USA (Ret) is the Chapter's RLO.

AROTC and AFROTC at University of Arkansas:

The Chapter had a very active time period with the ROTC departments at the University since our last newsletter. This includes award and commissioning ceremonies, as well as the last mentorship meetings with seniors prior to them becoming Second Lieutenants (2LT).

Pictured below (on the left) is our Chapter rep, COL Bob Crawford, USA (Ret), presenting the MOAA Award for Leadership to junior Army ROTC

cadet Isabelle Cunningham. On the right is AFROTC cadre Major Amie Murtha, USAF, presenting the MOAA Award to junior Air Force ROTC cadet Chase Abraham. Chase attended our Chapter's Potluck in October 2021 with his fiancé Cadet Janie Amerine.



Chapter member Col Bill Murphey, USAF (Ret), and volunteer mentor for senior cadets is pictured below speaking at the AFROTC end-of-year Dining-In and Award Ceremony. Lt Col Jimmy Malloy, AFROTC Professor of Aerospace Studies and a member of our Chapter, invited one of our members to give the keynote remarks at the event.



The Chapter was well represented at the AROTC commissioning ceremony in May. Chapter member COL Brynt Parmeter, USA (Ret), (pictured below) was invited to be keynote speaker at the Army's commissioning ceremony. Brynt is the Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army (CASA) for Arkansas (North).



Pictured below are the Army's brand newest 2LTs from the University of Arkansas along with the AROTC cadre. Two cadre are members of our Chapter: CPT Andrew Pang, USA, is second from the left and Professor of Military Studies, COL Rick Frank, USA, is third from the right.



Several members of our Chapter were able to participate in the ceremony. Pictured on the left below is COL Mike Anderson, USA (Ret), giving the oath of office to his son and mentee, U.S. Army 2LT Collin Anderson, and on the right is Mike and Carla Anderson with son Collin and family.



On the left below is COL Bob Crawford, USA (Ret), giving the oath to one of his mentees, U.S. Army 2LT Braden Hvasta. On the right is Bob with two of his mentees, U.S. Army 2LTs Lydia Miller and Hvasta.



Pictured below on the left is Chapter 1st Vice President, LTC Jay Stout, USA (Ret), with one his mentees, 2LT Colby Adler. Colby attended our Chapter dinner at Mermaids Restaurant in April. (FYI, Jay and Colby's picture appeared on the MOAA National website.) On the right is Bob giving "brief" remarks to the cadets and attendees about leadership and the importance of family.



The Chapter was also well represented at the Air Force ROTC commissioning ceremony. Our own RADM Jack Buffington, CEC, USN (Ret), was invited as the keynote speaker for the ceremony. Col Dan Mumaugh, USAF (Ret) and Chapter member, made brief remarks and presented 2LT bars, copy of the U.S. Constitution, and MOAA Certificate of Achievement to each of the new Air Force 2LTs. Firsthand feedback about the ceremony, "Admiral Buffington was great!!!"

Mentorship Program. Chapter members are encouraged to become mentors next academic year for AROTC and AFROTC senior cadets. Not only is this a very rewarding program for both mentors and mentees, but the Chapter has received generous funding from the MOAA Foundation Grant office in support of our Mentorship Program. This funding demonstrates the very high opinion that MOAA National has for the NWA MOAA Chapter's program as well as the groundbreaking value added to the next generation of military leaders. A data call will come out this summer looking for mentor volunteers.

Navy JROTC at Bentonville and West High Schools:

There was a large turnout from the Chapter at the NJROTC Change of Command Gala at the Arkansas Air and Military Museum on May 13th. In attendance were RADM Jack Buffington, CDR Sam Sansom, LTC Jay Stout, and COL Bob Crawford. The Senior Naval Science Instructor of the program, CDR Mike Davis, is also a Chapter member.

An important part of the program was the single award presentation of the MOAA Leadership Award to a junior NJROTC cadet. Pictured below is CDR Sam Sansom describing the award criteria and presenting the award to Cadet Ashton Arrington. Ashton has also been selected as next year's Corps Commander of the Naval Corps of Cadets (the top position in the Corps).



NJROTC program supported the Memorial Day dinner of the Armed Forces Alumni Society (AFAS) of the Arkansas Alumni Association on May 30th. The Color Guard from the NJROTC program Posted and Retired the Colors at the Memorial Day dinner. Pictured on the left is the Color Guard (Ashton Arrington, Bo Bates, Will Bollinger, and Drew Newton) preparing the march forward to post

the Colors. On the right is COL Tony Coston, USA (Ret) and AFAS President, presenting AFAS coins of appreciation to CDR Mike Davis, USN (Ret) and members of the Color Guard. Tony is also a member of our Chapter.



PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER: As Bob mentioned in his President's message above, we desperately need a replacement for LTC David Phillips, USA (Ret), our outgoing Chapter Public Relations Officer. David will be extremely hard to replace as he was clearly the best Chapter "Horn Tooter" we've had in a long time. He was instrumental in getting the Chapter a flood of recognition at both the local and national level. David also acted as our voice at the Northwest Arkansas Veterans Coalition. Yes, a big pair of shoes to fill but there has to be just one of our 90+ membership out there that can fill them. Contact Bob (robertwcrawford@outlook.com) or Sam (samayeam@pgtc.com) if you're willing to step up to the plate to help the Chapter.

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS REPORT: Speaking of stepping up. CAPT Jeff McCune, MSC, USN (Ret), had to step down as our Legislative Affairs Officer due to his involvement with a non-profit organization he established to help Veterans. But quickly stepping up to the plate and taking on the responsibility was CAPT Steve Unger, USN (Ret). Thanks Steve! Here's his report:

COLA WATCH: The latest COLA can be found at this [LINK](#).

ID CARD EXPIRED, WHAT NOW?: What should I do if my or maybe my dependent's ID has expired? Glad you asked because there's a simple and close by solution. **The [Armed Forces Reserve Center](#) located at 6800 Southwest Minuteman Ave., Bentonville is your best bet to get it renewed. They can be contacted at (501) 212-7421.** It's first-come/first-served with no requirement for an appointment and they are open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday with slightly different hours on a couple of the days. **[Give them a call](#)**

[before heading out!](#)

MOAA-BACKED LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES

Major Richard Star Act: The Major Richard Star Act ([H.R. 1282](#)|[S. 344](#)), which would allow combat-injured veterans to receive both DoD retirement pay and VA disability pay without a dollar-for-dollar offset, had grown to 227 co-sponsors in the House of Representatives and 58 in the Senate as of May 10. Reaching 290 in the House remains the goal.

Stop Co-pay Overpay Act: MOAA's spring campaign built awareness and support for the Stop Copay Overpay Act ([H.R. 4824](#)), a bill that would reduce TRICARE mental health co-pays. We are still seeking an office to introduce a Senate companion bill and are addressing legitimate concerns about direct spending impacts. MOAA will not support a solution that raises any other TRICARE fees to fund a mental health copay fix.

Military Pay Raise: Ensuring a 4.6% pay raise for all unformed service members – a figure in line with federal statute and included in the president's budget – has seen strong support from members of Congress for this year. While that figure is tied to the Employment Cost Index (ECI), it has fallen significantly behind [inflation rates](#). Continued advocacy is needed to ask lawmakers to ensure the pay raise keeps up with inflation, and to close the “pay gap” – the 2.6% gap between the raise and the ECI created over three years (FY 2014-16) of shortfalls.

What's Next?: Although MOAA members have contacted every Capitol Hill office regarding these advocacy topics, MOAA will continue to engage with Congress to build support for including these important issues in this year's NDAA. Work on the NDAA and the FY 2023 Budget will [pick up in late June](#), which means MOAA must continue to work with lawmakers from both sides of the aisle on key issues important to service members, their families, retirees, veterans, caregivers, and survivors.

Here are a few ways you can engage with members of Congress to keep MOAA's priorities on their radar:

- Utilize MOAA's [Legislative Action Center](#) to send pre-written letters to Capitol Hill. You can even customize these letters to share a personal story.
- Use MOAA's Capitol Switchboard to call your lawmakers. Call toll-free via MOAA's direct line to the U.S. Capitol Switchboard at (866) 272-6622.
- Engage with congressional offices via social media. This is also a great way to stay informed about what your lawmakers are doing on Capitol Hill.

· Stay up to date with the latest news on our spring advocacy campaign topics, the NDAA, and the FY 2023 budget by subscribing to *The MOAA Newsletter*. You can check your MOAA newsletter subscription preferences at this link.

VA HIGHLIGHTS: LTC Michael Dillingham, USA (Ret), Chapter Treasurer, also keeps us informed on future items of interest taking place at the VA Hospital and elsewhere in the greater VA system. Many of the items Mike provides need quick dissemination so they are sent to all Chapter members via an email “blaster.” Other items are not a time critical and they're published in the newsletter.

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>

DD-214S ARE NOW ONLINE - Can YOU answer this question? “Where can I get a copy of my DD-214?” Well, here's your answer - the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) has provided the following website for veterans to gain access to their DD-214s online:

<http://vetrecs.archives.gov/> or try <http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/>

SUPERFULOUS INFORMATION: Certainly can't end this newsletter edition without a few one-liners we can smile/think about. A gracious thank you to those Chapter members who for years have contributed to this section. Here we go, hang on:

Stewardesses is the longest word that can be typed with only the left hand.

Lollipop is the longest word that can be typed using only the right hand.

Typewriter is the longest word using just one row on the keyboard.

The average person's left hand does 56% of all their typing.

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 355,000 members worldwide from every branch of service. There are 400+ Chapters throughout the United States. Over 5,000 MOAA members reside in Arkansas served by nine chapters under the umbrella of the

Arkansas Council of Chapters.

WHAT OUR CHAPTER DOES

Network with fellow officers; support our local communities; support a Veterans Scholarship Program; teach U.S. Flag Education to 5th graders; involved with Arkansas ROTC/JROTC Programs; and influence pro-military legislation at the State level.

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.

The newsletter is provided to Chapter members electronically via email and is also available electronically on our NWA Chapter Linked-In group and the NWA Chapter Website ([Northwest Ark Chapter \(moaa-arkansas.org\)](http://NorthwestArkChapter(moaa-arkansas.org))) Those unable to receive the newsletter electronically are mailed a “hard copy” of the newsletter.

