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About Us

Who We Are. The Arizona Council of Chapters (AZCOC), an affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), is a dynamic organization of over 1,000 active, retired, and former officers of the United States uniformed services, and surviving spouses thereof. The AZCOC—comprised of [ten chapters](#)—was chartered on 6 Jun 1975 and incorporated in the state of Arizona on 30 Sep 1992.

Vision. MOAA is recognized as Arizona’s most committed and effective advocate for the rights and benefits of—and service to—active duty, retired, former, and reserve component personnel of the uniformed services of the United States and their families and survivors.

Mission. To provide a unified voice and support for all MOAA members and chapters in Arizona in promoting and supporting National MOAA’s goals, objectives, and advocacy for the rights and benefits of—and service to—active duty, retired, former, and reserve component personnel of the uniformed services of the United States and their families and survivors.



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MOAA Council/Chapter/Individual Awards. I extend my heartfelt congratulations to Arizona's very deserving recipients of the 2023 Levels of Excellence and Col Marvin J Harris Communications awards (breakdown on Pg 2), the Col Steve Strobridge Legislative Liaison Award, and the Surviving Spouse Liaison Excellence Award.

- The Levels of Excellence (LOE) Award is one of MOAA's most prestigious awards earned by self nominating councils and chapters. The award is a lookback on the prior calendar year's programs, initiatives and successful experiences shared by council and chapter leaders.
- Colonel Marvin J. Harris, USAF (Ret), Director of Public Relations from 1996 until 2011, delivered effective communications to both military and civilian audiences. National MOAA holds annual communications award contests to identify those councils and chapters that do an outstanding job communicating with their members and community [via Newsletters and Websites].
- The 2023 Col Steve Strobridge Legislative Liaison Award was presented to Grand Canyon Chapter's Tom Waddell. "This annual award recognizes an affiliate Legislative Chair or Liaison who has demonstrated superior service to their council/chapter and national MOAA in support of national and/or state legislation which affects servicemembers, veterans, retirees, and their families."
- The 2023 Surviving Spouse Liaison Excellence Award was presented to Luke Chapter's Linda Wolverton. "Surviving Spouse Liaisons work at the council and chapter level to ensure fellow survivors remain connected to the military family and participate in local and national programs and advocacy efforts. This award honors their efforts."



2023 Levels of Excellence and Col Marvin J Harris Communications Award Winners

	<u>Levels of Excellence</u>	<u>Newsletter</u>	<u>Website</u>
• AZ Council of Chapters	5-Star	5-Star	5-Star
• Arizona Chapter	5-Star	5-Star	5-Star
• Catalina Mountains Chapter	5-Star	—	5-Star
• Coronado Chapter	5-Star	5-Star	5-Star
• Grand Canyon Chapter	5-Star	5-Star	—
• Green Valley Chapter	5-Star	5-Star	5-Star
• Luke Chapter	5-Star	5-Star	5-Star
• Northern Arizona Chapter	5-Star	5-Star	—
• Superstition Mountain Chapter	—	5-Star	5-Star
• Tucson Chapter	5-Star	5-Star	5-Star
• Yuma Chapter	5-Star	5-Star	—

Advocacy in Action (AiA). One of the perks of being council president is the opportunity to serve as the lead for Arizona's three-member AiA team. On 17 April, I had the distinct honor of visiting the D.C. offices of our two →



President *Page 3 of 3*

Senators and all nine Representatives along with team members Pete Kloeber, *National MOAA Board Member* and Nora Durham, *National MOAA Surviving Spouse Advisory Committee (SSAC) Member*. The AiA teams from each state vary a bit but are basically comprised of each state's team lead and two members of National MOAA. Unlike many of the AiA teams, we were fortunate that all three of our team members are from Arizona; Pete being a founding member of the Grand Canyon Chapter and Nora being the Surviving Spouse Liaison for the Green Valley Chapter. Each year National MOAA determines the organization's top three issues which each team in turn takes to the offices of their respective members of Congress (Note: The details of the 2024 AiA issues can be found in the newsletter's [Legislative Chair](#) section). As you might guess, members of Congress have incredibly busy schedules and for that reason are not always available to meet with constituents and special interest groups in-person, and in those instances, they instead rely on their subject matter experts (i.e., staffers) to take those meetings in their stead. While we did end up meeting with staffers almost exclusively that day, I think it is important to note that Congresswoman Debbie Lesko carved out time in her hectic schedule to sit down with us to discuss MOAA's issues; I don't believe it was a coincidence that she was the only Arizona member of Congress that was a co-sponsor on both bills we were there to champion. In all, it was a very rewarding experience, made even more so by serving with Pete and Nora, two incredibly passionate and dedicated Arizona MOAA members.

Nicholas Knight
AZCOC President



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Federal Legislation

MOAA's mission is to protect the earned benefits of all uniformed service members. The priorities for 2024 are passing the Richard Star Act (H.R. 1282/S. 344), restoring full BAH (H.R. 2537/S. 1823) and protecting TRICARE for Life.

- The [Maj Richard Star Act](#) continues to receive opposition from members who are concerned about the costs associated with the passage of the act. MOAA believes that cost should not be a factor when it comes to military members who have been injured in the line of duty while serving this great nation.
- We all know that the cost of housing has skyrocketed over the last few years. This has shifted a huge financial burden to our active-duty members as they seek housing at their duty stations. [Restoring the Basic Allowance for Housing \(BAH\)](#) is essential for members to meet rising housing costs nationwide.
- [Protecting TRICARE for Life](#) has no required legislation; however, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) continues to make recommendations for cost reductions by suggesting increases for beneficiaries to include enrollment fees and increased co-pays. MOAA's goal is to remind Congress to keep their promise made to all TRICARE beneficiaries that TRICARE for Life is an earned benefit.

I'm asking you to immediately go to the Legislative Action Center (LAC) and send letters to our Senators and Representatives using the links in center. You may want to personalize the opening paragraph with an explanation of your service and that you are an active voter.



Legislative Chair *Page 2 of 3*

These are the three LAC links you will need:

- Richard Star Act: <https://moaa.quorum.us/campaign/43784/>
- BAH Restoration: <https://moaa.quorum.us/campaign/46553/>
- Protect TRICARE for Life: <https://moaa.quorum.us/campaign/56719/> (this link asks you to provide your own narrative on how important TRICARE for Life is to you personally. Provide a short personal narrative.)

To contact our Congressional members on these or any other issues of importance to you personally or to MOAA, you can use the MOAA Action Center to send emails or you can visit the members' websites to send a message. You can also call their offices directly using the contact information found here: [Find Your Members in the U.S. Congress](#)

Arizona Legislation

Hopes dim for the passing of SB1413: Income Tax; Subtraction; Uniformed Services (providing active duty pay parity to all uniformed service members) this session. The Senate has recommended a “strike all” amendment to HB2135 which changes the original language in HB2135 to that of SB1413. HB2135 is currently stalled in the House Ways and Means committee, the House Rules Committee, the House Military Affairs and Public Safety Committee. You can email or call their offices directly on this and other state legislation using the contact information found here: [Member Roster \(azleg.gov\)](#)



Legislative Chair Page 3 of 3

Lastly, remember that grassroots advocacy works...but only if you get involved. Thank you for supporting our legislative efforts both here in Arizona and in Washington, keep up the great work!

Tom Waddell

AZCOC Legislative Chair



Treasurer

Council finances continue to be healthy, and income and spending are consistent with the budget approved last fall. During the spring meeting, the council approved Operating Instruction 1 (OI-1) which codifies how we reimburse Council officers and staff for their attendance at Council-sponsored functions. Not expecting any larger than normal outlays, our balance should continue to be sound throughout the remainder of 2024. The Council's annual budget will be presented for vote at the November meeting.

Charlie Bitner

AZCOC Treasurer



Secretary

It was very nice seeing all those in attendance at our 3 May Spring Council meeting.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all the presenters for sending me your material before or by the date requested. This gave me time to run off copies prior to the meeting and make sure we had all the requisite presentations.

As I have done in the past, following the Council meeting, I updated the AZCOC Master Roster with the corrections/changes submitted at (or prior to) the meeting and sent the revised copy to all Council Officers and Staff, Chapter Presidents, and Past Council Presidents. Note: Identifying needed roster corrections/changes does not have to wait until a Council Meeting; submitting them as they occur is essential to ensuring the roster is always correct and up-to-date.

Save the Date: Our Fall Council meeting will take place on 8 November at the Colonnade (same place as the 3 May Council meeting). Thank you.

Pam Wojtas
AZCOC Secretary



Surviving Spouse Liaison Page 1 of 3

Well Earned Recognition

For those of you who have not heard, the MOAA 2023 Surviving Spouse Liaison Excellence Awards results were recently announced, and I am proud to inform you that Arizona's own Mrs Linda Wolverton is the Chapter Level award recipient. Linda is most deserving of this prestigious honor. She works tirelessly on behalf of our surviving spouses and is not only there with support and comfort at the time of loss, but she is also a great educator to prepare us all before the need arises. Linda and her fellow associates in the Luke Chapter Surviving Spouse group also highlight the need to recognize and support caregivers...an often overlooked but critical piece of the care our loved ones need. The award was presented to Linda at the Spring Arizona Council of Chapters meeting on 03 May by Capt Frank Michael USN (ret), MOAA Senior Director of Councils and Chapters.

Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter

The chapter meets on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. Every other month is a business meeting with a speaker and the other months are an informal social gathering to exchange information and ideas. In April 2022, the Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter started a quarterly online newsletter. We invite our members to get involved by sending information that you would like shared with our group. To receive the newsletter, please send an email to the MSSVC02@gmail.com address – be sure to include the word “NEWSLETTER” in the Subject Line.



Surviving Spouse Liaison Page 2 of 3

The PACT Act (Surviving Spouse Information)

- The PACT Act has added more than 20 presumptive diseases to the initial list
- Surviving spouses may now submit claims for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) if their spouses had any of the conditions on the expanded list – www.va.gov provides other presumptive conditions from Agent Orange and other exposures
- On 5 March 2024, VA expanded healthcare years earlier than previous, now veterans who served in the Vietnam War, the Gulf War, Iraq, Afghanistan, the Global War on Terror, or any other combat zone after 9/11 and were exposed to toxic substances will be eligible to enroll in VA healthcare
- Veterans who never deployed but were exposed to toxins or hazards while training or on active duty in the U.S. will also be eligible to enroll

MOAA Surviving Spouses and Friends Facebook Group

This group has over 600 members and provides updated information on important surviving spouse issues, especially regarding the Surviving Benefit Plan/Dependency and Indemnity Compensation offset. Surviving Spouses and Friends Facebook Group encourages participation and support among our members, most of whom are DIC recipients. We try to provide information on all benefits and/or benefits changes as we learn about them, as well as on other related matters of general interest to our group. We welcome all surviving military spouses and those who advocate for them.



Surviving Spouse Liaison Page 3 of 3

Tricare for Life

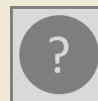
There is a very good article about [Understanding Medicare and TRICARE For Life](#) on MOAA's website. There is also a print booklet available, "Transitioning to Medicare and Tricare for Life."

My Contact Information

Email: sharon.douglas.NACMOAA@gmail.com / Phone: 928-632-5939.

Sharon Douglas

AZCOC Surviving Spouse Liaison



Personal Affairs Officer

PACT Act Update

The VA rollout of healthcare coverage of veterans covered under the PACT Act continues expanding. From the VA website:

You're eligible to enroll now—without needing to apply for disability benefits first—if you meet the basic service and discharge requirements and any of these descriptions are true for you:

- You served in the Vietnam War, Gulf War, Iraq, Afghanistan, or any other combat zone after 9/11, or
- You deployed in support of the Global War on Terror, or
- You were exposed to toxins or other hazards during military service at home or abroad

Specific toxins and hazards include burn pits, sand and dust, particulates, oil well or sulfur fires, chemicals, radiation, warfare agents, depleted uranium, herbicides, and other occupational hazards. [Find more military exposure categories on our Public Health website](#)

Note: Even if none of these descriptions are true for you, you may still be eligible for VA health care based on your service. [Check the full health care eligibility requirements.](#)

Polly Parks

AZCOC Personal Affairs Officer



Transition Liaison Page 1 of 2

- What is a Transition Liaison (TL)?
 - A TL is the successor to the former The Officer Placement Service (TOPS)
 - This program was established to provide all MOAA members and their Spouses with another venue for job research and placement
 - The mission of MOAA TL is to compile, publicize, and disseminate job opportunities via its network of industry, MOAA chapters, military leaders, veteran service organizations, and other MOAA stakeholders
 - In Summary, the MOAA TL mission is to provide Professional Guidance and Support for MOAA Members & Spouses in Job Transition
- What is the AZ TL?
 - The AZ TL Organization is comprised of 40+ business and industry executives and other professionals who routinely provide notices of job opportunities in their areas to post to the former MOAA TOPS1 database
 - MOAA TL AZ is an arm of National MOAA that serves the AZ community
 - MOAA AZ operates a [website](#) for posting information of interest to our stakeholders
 - If you have information you want to share, send it to me and I will have it posted on the website
- TL Services Provided
 - Provide local networking contacts for MOAA members and spouses in job/career transition



Transition Liaison Page 2 of 2

- Each chapter is viewed as a primary career and geographic resource
- Each chapter provides needed “sponsor” assistance
- Provide Job Listings on the website for access to the membership
- Provide career related links and information for the membership in transitioning to civilian workforce as well as pertinent military and retired changes in benefits
 - Provide Career Fair Listings
 - Serve the membership with Networking Contacts
- National Resources Available
 - MOAA Career Center Website: www.moaa.org/careers
- Linked In (Join MOAA Career Networking Group) Arizona Resources Available
 - Council and Chapter Policies and Procedures Guide
 - Arizona MOAA Website: moatopsaz.org
- AZCOC TL Contact Information (Darren Venters): dventers@msn.com / 520-490-4479

Darren Venters

AZCOC Transition Liaison



Topics of Interest *Page 1 of 5*

Comprehensive Veterans' Package Stalls in House *by René Campos (MOAA Senior Director of Govt Relations)*

MOAA and other veterans' organizations have called on House and Senate leaders to move [a comprehensive, bipartisan bill](#) designed to help veterans and caregivers across generations through both chambers before members leave for the July 4 holiday.

Advocates were disappointed to learn the Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act ([H.R. 8371](#)) did not advance to the House floor before Memorial Day. MOAA and our advocacy partners have been working on this bill's passage over many months alongside House and Senate members and staffs on the Veterans' Affairs Committees. Hearings, committee briefings, roundtables, and informal discussions have resulted in a compromise package addressing several of MOAA's [highest legislative priorities](#) for those we represent and serve.

In response to the House's inaction, more than two dozen groups (including MOAA) sent a letter to House and Senate leaders, including the respective leaders of the Veterans' Affairs Committees, urging them to "put aside politics, work together in good faith to find a path forward through the House and the Senate, and enact this critical legislation before the Fourth of July."

The Senate will be out of session June 22-July 7, while the House will be out June 29-July 7. Once lawmakers return from their break, they face a growing number of bills and priorities competing for their attention before the Sept. 30 end of the fiscal year. As critical deadlines approach, growing political pressures can impede the →



Topics of Interest Page 2 of 5

legislative process and stall important bills.

The bipartisan package offers [a wide range of improvements](#) to help veterans, caregivers, families, and survivors, including improved access to mental health and long-term care for the veterans who need it. MOAA, like other groups, has been patient and collaborative as proposals were reviewed and negotiated to fit into a legislative package that would benefit the entire veteran community.

MOAA recognizes the difficulty inherent in finding bipartisan, bicameral agreement. The Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act reflects congressional intent to represent, in the broadest way possible, the interest of the entire veteran community. That's why MOAA and our partners are pressing lawmakers to pass this vital legislation as soon as possible ... and why your voice is needed now more than ever.

While the path forward is uncertain, inaction is unacceptable. Congress must do its job by quickly passing this important legislation and remain focused on getting the package signed into law. Doing so would prove to the veteran community that these lawmakers care and recognize their service and sacrifice.

[Click here to contact your legislators](#) and ask them to pass the Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act.

[DoD Report Shows Higher Cancer Rates for Aviators, Ground Crew Members](#) *by Karen Ruedisueli (MOAA Director of Government Relations for Health Affairs)*

Military fixed-wing aviators and aviation support personnel face higher rates of certain cancers than the →



Topics of Interest Page 3 of 5

general population and were diagnosed with the disease at least dozen years earlier on average, according to a DoD [report to Congress](#) filed last month.

The results trigger a Phase 2 report to identify risk factors for the cancer diagnoses. That study, set to start in early 2025, also will determine the appropriate age to begin screening aircrew and ground crew for cancer based on a variety of factors including flying hours, length of service, and mission.

The report examined data for 138,505 aircrew and 659,985 ground crew. It included both active and reserve components, representing all military branches, and identified cancers diagnosed between 1992 and 2017.

Compared to a demographically similar U.S. population, aircrew had a 75% higher rate of melanoma, 31% higher rate of thyroid cancer, 20% higher rate of prostate cancer, and 15% higher rate of cancer for all sites combined. Ground crew members had a 12% higher rate of kidney and renal pelvis cancer but a 5% lower rate of all sites combined.

Data for the general population comparison was obtained from the Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results (SEER) program of the National Cancer Institute, as directed by Congress.

The report noted a younger age at diagnosis for both aircrew and ground crew relative to the general population. The median age at diagnosis for malignant cancer of all sites was 55 years in aircrew and 54 years in ground crew. In contrast, the median age at diagnosis for malignant cancer of all sites was 67 years in the SEER reference population.



Topics of Interest Page 4 of 5

An [interim DoD report](#) from February 2023 included only data for active component aircrew and ground crew. It was released while DoD collected additional data from the VA and state cancer registries for reserve component servicemembers.

DoD cancer registry and TRICARE claims data was used to assess cancer incidence among current and former (retired) aircrew and ground crew. The earlier report indicated active component aircrew and ground crew had a respective 24% and 3% higher incidence of cancer for all sites compared to a demographically similar general U.S. population.

The earlier report also included an analysis of mortality rates and found that aircrew and ground crew had a 56% and 35% lower mortality rate, respectively, for all cancer sites compared to the demographically similar U.S. population in SEER.

Why do aircrew and ground crew members see higher cancer diagnosis rates with lower mortality rates? The report speculates the general population may not be screened for the disease as regularly as those in uniform, who “receive free medical care while in active-duty service and must adhere to strict physical fitness requirements.”

MOAA appreciates Congress’ continued efforts to better understand toxic exposures and their impact on servicemembers and veterans.

[AZCOC Newsletter](#). A few years ago, we refreshed our semiannual AZCOC newsletter with the objectives being making it easier to use and broadening the audience. For the first objective, the PDF format was adopted to →



Topics of Interest Page 5 of 5

simplify access (easily read or downloaded directly from the AZCOC website or distributed as an email attachment), the document view was changed to landscape (easily read on a computer screen or tablet), and navigation links were added throughout to minimize scrolling (note the icons in the bottom right corner of this page). For the second objective, we have worked toward providing content that would be informative and helpful to all our Arizona chapter members, not just the chapter leaders. Despite the fact our newsletter received MOAA's 5-Star award for both years it was submitted, we do not know with any real certainty if we have met our objectives. With that in mind, please consider providing feedback on this edition's ease-of-use and the general appeal of its content from the chapter member perspective. To simplify the feedback process, there is a "questions and comments" icon that will start an email for you in the bottom right corner of each page (Hint - it's the one with the question mark). I look forward to hearing back from you.



Chapter Highlights *Page 1 of 8*

Arizona. The April membership meeting featured the presentation of \$2500 scholarships to three ROTC cadets/midshipmen enrolled in their respective service programs at ASU. The 2024 scholarship recipients were:

- Army CDT Thomas Rubeck
- Navy MIDN Samuel Reed
- Air Force CDT Hannah Garcia.

The Arizona Chapter's scholarship program is intended to help ROTC students with the cost of their education so that they can be commissioned into the U.S. Armed Forces. The Scholarship Luncheon gives chapter members a chance to see where the money they donated to the Scholarship Fund is going and to hear from the recipients about their plans for military service.



Chapter Highlights *Page 2 of 8*

Catalina Mountains Chapter. During April 2024 chapter members presented MOAA (and chapter) JROTC awards to high school students at Casa Grande High School, at Coolidge High School, at Poston Butte High School and at Vista Grande High School. The three awards – a MOAA medal and ribbon with certificate, a MOAA challenge coin, and a \$100 bill (MOAA money) were presented to recognize leadership traits, self-discipline and self-confidence, and performance, character and bearing that uphold the values of U. S. military personnel.

This was the first time Catalina Mountains Chapter members presented MOAA and chapter awards at these four high schools. Catalina Mountains Chapter recently adopted these four high schools from the Superstition Mountain Chapter.

Chapter members Cash Striplin (shown with his three

awardees), CJ Hindman, Bruce Huffman and Chuck Vaughan presented the awards, with two of the members in uniform. Presenting awards to high school students at these four high schools was a great way to engage with the students and encourage them to do their best. Chapter members are already looking forward to presenting MOAA and chapter awards to students at the four high schools next spring.



Chapter Highlights *Page 3 of 8*

Coronado Chapter. In addition to a robust recruiting drive this year (which has already resulted in 43 new chapter members in the second quarter of CY24 alone), the chapter continues to increase our visibility in the local area through support and participation in community events. Our recent participation in Sierra Vista's West End Street Fair and Fort Huachuca's Wine and Jazz Festival are just two events that have not only provided the chapter with increased visibility but also name recognition throughout the local civilian community as well. In addition to our scholarship program, our Distinguished Honor Graduate program on Fort Huachuca and our Surviving Spouse group the Coronado Chapter is alive and well and looking forward to the latter half of 2024.



Chapter Highlights *Page 4 of 8*

Grand Canyon Chapter. The Inaugural Sedona Stand Down was a Great Success!

The Grand Canyon Chapter supported a new stand down this year – the Sedona Stand Down in memory of James David Warfield, USMC. Note that, officially, this was the third Verde Valley Stand Down. This stand down moves throughout the Verde Valley each year. This is the fourth stand down we now support each year. We also debuted our new chapter table cloths!

We had two tables, one for our chapter and one for our food bag distribution. Also, as we have done for several years now, we handed out the DVNF health and care kits (think toiletries, water bottles, socks, etc.).

Our successes at this stand down far outpaced the attendance! We discussed the benefits of and great work we do with five prospective members, handed out all of the health and care kits (close to 50), distributed

five food bags to homeless veterans, identified two more potential organizations to support the Northern Arizona Veterans Advocacy Coalition, and worked with Nation's Finest and the Northern Arizona Chapter to support a Prescott veteran in need. Not bad for a day's work!



Chapter Highlights *Page 5 of 8*

Green Valley Chapter. In these past few months, the Green Valley Chapter of the Military Officers of America has continued to widen its presence and recognition within the Green Valley / Sahuarita Community in Southern Arizona, by attending various community expos and events. In March, our chapter members set up a Green Valley MOAA presentation table at the Green Valley City Council's First Responders Fair at the Historic Canoa Ranch to honor and thank all those who serve and protect us. Our MOAA Chapter was pleased to represent MOAA along with other agencies and departments, such as the Pima County Sheriff's Department, the Green Valley Fire District, the Sahuarita Police Department, the AZ Department of Safety, the AZ State Police, officials from the Davis Monthan AFB, the AZ Fish and Game Department, the USDA Department of Forestry, the US

Customs and Border Protection Agency, recruiters from the Army, Navy, Marines, and Air Force, and many more. Our chapter was afforded a special welcome at the opening ceremonies, where we were represented by one of our members, MG, USAF, Ret, Jim Whitehead. We managed to interact with these different agencies during this Fair and were also able to recruit some new chapter members during the day's festivities.



Chapter Highlights *Page 6 of 8*

Luke Chapter. The chapter awarded 23 scholarships valued at \$30,000 to applicants attending colleges and universities throughout the country. The chapter awarded JROTC MOAA awards to students at 16 West Valley high schools. The Chapter was awarded a \$25,000 from the Arizona Department of Veterans Services grant to assist veterans with financial assistance to prevent homelessness and loss of housing. The Chapter anticipates that over \$35,000 comprised of grants, member and community sponsor donations will be used to assist local veterans in need.



Chapter Highlights *Page 7 of 8*

Northern Arizona Chapter. Our focus for 2024 is civic and community engagement.

Our guest speakers this year are all involved in giving back to the community. Two of whom are Zena Krogedal from the Veterans Association of Real Estate Professionals, a nonprofit dedicated to increasing homeownership and Veteran Support, and Michelle DiMuro from the Veterans Heritage Project, which connects students with Veterans to develop student character and civic responsibility while recognizing our veteran's legacy.

As for chapter initiatives, with the use of our Golden Retriever, Bos'n (a certified therapy dog), we made numerous visits to various senior centers and to the public library, providing emotional support and therapy to those in need. And, as always, this time of year we had the honor of presenting scholarship awards

to Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University Army and Air Force ROTC cadets and to the JROTC cadets at the two local high schools.



Chapter Highlights *Page 8 of 8*

Yuma Chapter. The chapter's presentation of their 2024 Young American Award (YAA) and Graduating Senior Scholarship (GSS) took place on 15 May at their monthly dinner meeting. YAA winner Darianna Castillo (Southwest Jr High School), GSS winner Eva Garcia (Yuma Catholic High School), and their parents were the honored guests for the evening. Following the presentation, Darianna and Eva took a few moments to share their academic goals and career aspirations. As indicated by their YAA and GSS applications, both have countless academic accomplishments, but perhaps most notability among them, Darianna has already completed six college courses (as a seventh-grade student) and Eva graduated from Arizona Western College with an Associates Degree in Science a few days in advance of her High School graduation.



AZCOC Meeting Information

- Fall 2024: The meeting is tentatively scheduled for Friday, 8 Nov 2024 with a social/or dinner the evening prior. Location: The Colonnade in Surprise, AZ (Tentatively)
- Spring 2025: The meeting is tentatively scheduled for Friday, 2 May 2025 with a social/or dinner the evening prior. Location: The Colonnade in Surprise, AZ (Tentatively)



Photo Gallery Page 1 of 3

Photo Gallery images provided by Kaylee Nix-Wozniak, Nicholas Knight, Mary Jonas, Rebecca Seeger, & National MOAA



**AZCOC Meeting
3 May 2019**



**AZCOC Meeting
7 May 2021**



**Arizona State
Veterans Home
(Yuma)**



**National MOAA
LOE Presentation
15 Oct 2021**



**AZCOC Meeting
8 Nov 2019**



**AZCOC Meeting
6 May 2022**



Photo Gallery *Page 2 of 3*

Photo Gallery images provided by Kaylee Nix-Wozniak, Nicholas Knight, Mary Jonas, Rebecca Seeger, & National MOAA



**National MOAA
LOE Presentation
28 Oct 2022**



**Advocacy in Action
26 Apr 2023**



**AZCOC Meeting
4 Nov 2022**



**AZCOC Meeting
12 May 2023**



**Catalina Mountains
Charter Ceremony
5 Nov 2022**



**MOAA Western
Region Chapter
Leaders Workshop
17-18 Nov 2023**

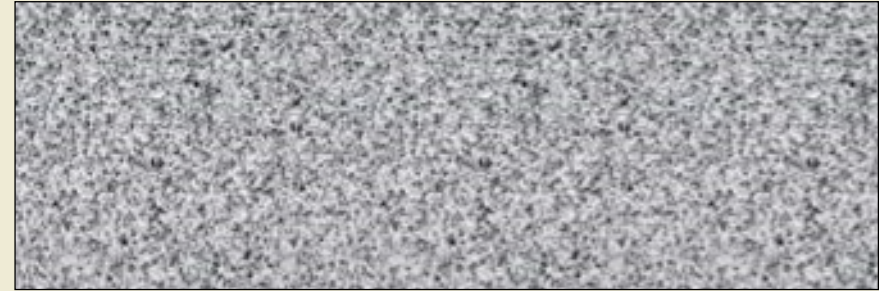


Photo Gallery *Page 3 of 3*

Photo Gallery images provided by Kaylee Nix-Wozniak, Nicholas Knight, Mary Jonas, Rebecca Seeger, & National MOAA



Advocacy in Action
17 Apr 2024



AZCOC Meeting
5 May 2024



Helpful Links Page 1 of 2

- [AZCOC Chapter Position Responsibilities Guide](#)
- [MOAA Legislative Action Center](#)
- [MOAA National Homepage](#)
- [MOAA Publications](#)
- [MOAA Councils and Chapters](#)
- [MOAA TOPS Arizona](#)
- [MOAA Newsletter - Opt-in Page](#)
- [MOAA Council and Chapter Policies and Procedures Guide](#)
- [Arizona Department of Veterans Services \(AZDVS\)](#)
- [Arizona State Veterans Home - Flagstaff](#)
- [Arizona State Veterans Home - Phoenix](#)
- [Arizona State Veterans Home - Tucson](#)
- [Arizona State Veterans Home - Yuma](#)



Helpful Links Page 2 of 2

- [VA Northern Arizona health care \(Bob Stump Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center\)](#)
- [VA Phoenix health care \(Carl T. Hayden Veterans' Administration Medical Center\)](#)
- [VA Southern Arizona health care \(Tucson VA Medical Center\)](#)
- [VA Benefits Administration Links](#)
- [Unified Arizona Veterans \(UAV\)](#)
- [Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame Society \(AVHOFS\)](#)
- [AVHOFS Copper Sword / Copper Eagle Nomination Criteria and Forms](#)
- [Arizona Be Connected](#)
- [Arizona Military Family Relief Fund](#)
- [How to obtain a copy of DD-214 on the Internet](#)
- [Veterans Asbestos and Mesothelioma](#)



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The advertisement features a blue background with a dark blue header and footer. The header contains the MOAA logo, which consists of four vertical bars of increasing height to the left of the text 'MOAA' in a bold, sans-serif font, with 'INSURANCE PLANS' in a smaller font below it. The main body of the ad contains the text 'Standing with you at every stage.' in a large, white, sans-serif font. The footer contains the phone number '1-800-247-2192' and the website 'www.moaainsurance.com/plans' in white text. A small number '97017' is located in the bottom right corner of the main text area.

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MOAA National, State Councils, and Chapters are independent, nonprofit, politically nonpartisan organizations.



Council Member Directory Page 1 of 2

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