



The MCMOAA'n



2010, 2011, 2012 & 2013 5-Star Levels of Excellence Award Winning Chapter

The Newsletter of the Minnesota Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America

One Association. One Voice. Yours.

Published: January – March – May – July – September – November

293

Minnesota Chapter

1,145 Strong

September 2014



The President's Pen

CW2 Rita Cox, ritakcox@gmail.com



Not long ago, VADM Norb Ryan, Jr., USN (Ret), the President of MOAA, published the MOAA Annual Letter. The letter looks back on the past year to our victories in Washington and looks ahead at those that are to come. The letter is on the MOAA website (www.moaa.org) but I've listed a few of the highlights, which help us understand why we all believe in MOAA and what they do for all of us in the military community.

- Won full Consumer Price Index cost-of-living adjustment for retirees, survivors, and disabled Veterans.
- Established a new grassroots record, generating more than 1 million messages to Congress.
- Kept TRICARE affordable by defeating proposals to increase fees, deductibles, and pharmacy copays.
- Avoided a 24% cut in Medicare and TRICARE payments to providers.
- Created financial penalties for fraudulent use of unauthorized military awards and decorations under the Stolen Valor Act.
- Won \$30 million in supplemental aid to school districts serving large numbers of military children.

There are many ways to keep up with MOAA around the web: Facebook, Twitter, MOAA Connect, The MOAA Channel on YouTube, LinkedIn with MOAA, attend MOAA events with Livestream and visit the MOAA Amazon Shop. Check them out and stay in touch. Stay in touch, too, with our website www.mcmoaa.org.

We continue our efforts to recruit new and retain current members. Your Membership Team has been hard at work and we've added over 30 new members this year (over 100 counting our ROTC members). We receive an incentive from MOAA for each new Chapter member and these incentives are what helps us provide ROTC scholarships to cadets/midshipman, as well as provide money to deserving Veterans organizations as mentioned in my last letter. Recruit your fellow retired or former officers who are not members of our Chapter and help us continue helping the Veterans organizations in our communities.

We are also still recruiting for an Associate Member for our Board of Directors. If you are an Associate Member of our Chapter and have a few hours a month to share your ideas and participate as a member of the Board, I would love to hear from you. You can contact me at ritakcox@gmail.com or by phone at 651-460-3787.

Our next Chapter meeting is on 9 SEP and our guest speaker is Mrs. Teri Popp who will talk about the Popp Foundation and the Minnesota Military Family Tribute (MMFT). MMFT is a memorial that broke ground on the State Capitol grounds in early JUN and will be completed in 2015.

As always, I would love to hear from you if you have ideas for our Board and Chapter meetings (ritakcox@gmail.com).

Rita

You are receiving the printed version of our newsletter. If you would prefer to receive our e-newsletter which has twice as much information and saves the cost of printing, please send an email requesting the e-version to editor95@comcast.net.

Upcoming MCMOAA Events

(All Board and Chapter Meetings are held at the Ft. Snelling Officer's Club)

- 9 SEP** – 1630 – Board of Director's Meeting and
– 1730 – Chapter Meeting
- 14 OCT** – 1130 – Board of Director's Meeting
- 11 NOV** – 1630 – Board of Director's Meeting and
– 1730 – Chapter Meeting
- 9 DEC** – 1130 – Board of Director's Meeting

Chapter Dues Update 2014

- Chapter dues are separate from MOAA dues. One of the benefits of Chapter membership is this bi-monthly newsletter which provides pertinent and current information that helps keep you well informed.
- MOAA Life, Premium and Basic members still have annual Chapter dues.
- Our Chapter has no Life membership, only annual dues.
- You can pay multiple years to avoid annual billing.
- Renewal dues are \$15 per year for military officers and \$5 per year for spouses of military officers (living or deceased).
- **Dues are zero for any military officer or associate member who is 90 years old or older.**
- If you make extra full-dues payments, the funds will go towards your next year's dues unless you designate it as a contribution.
- You can check your membership dues status by sending an email to editor95@comcast.net or calling 612-770-2891. Please provide your full name and address to check your status. If you received this issue of *The MCMOAA 'n*, you are paid for 2014.

The MCMOAA'n "USPS (019485)"
 Minnesota Chapter, Military Officers Association of
 America, Inc.
 P.O. Box 11466, Saint Paul, MN 55111-0466

PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID AT ST. PAUL, MN
 POSTMASTER: Send address changes to
The MCMOAA'n
 P.O. Box 11466, Saint Paul, MN 55111-0466

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September Dates in Military History

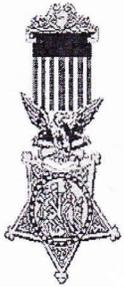
- **2** - 1777 – Battle of Cooch's Bridge, NJ – first use of "Stars and Stripes" in combat.
- **3** - 1885 – First Naval War College Class Convenes.
- **4** - 1886 – Geronimo surrenders to GEN Nelson Miles at Skeleton Canyon, Ariz.
- **11** - 1921 – First test of Carrier Landing Gear at Hampton Roads, Va.
- **12** - 1940 – Italian troops invade Egypt.
- **15**- 1944 – U.S. Marines land on Peleliu in the Philippines.
- **19** - 1957 – First underground nuclear explosion, Nev.
- **23** - 1931 – Navy tests its first rotary wing aircraft, an XOP-1 auto gyro on USS *Langley* (CV-1).
- **26** - 1950 – UN troops liberate Seoul, South Korea.
- **29** - 1962 – JFK authorizes federal troops to integrate Ole Miss University.

2014-15 MCMOAA Board of Directors

- BG (Bvt) John Abrahamson, USA (Ret)
- LCDR Richard Buchman, USN (Ret)
- LTC Kathleen Couillard, USA (Ret)
- CW2 Rita K Cox, USA (Ret) *President*
- CDR Tammy Harstad, USN (Ret)
- CW5 Bruce J Hedblom, USA (Ret)
- CDR Russ Jowers, USN (Ret)
- BG Tim Kennedy, USA (Ret)
- COL Michael J Moran, USMCR (Ret)
- CW4 Don O Nesheim, USA (Ret)
- LTC John C Nowicki, USA (Ret)
- COL Robert G Rupp, USA (Ret)

MCMOAA Business

- July Treasurer's Report CW5 Bruce Hedblom, USA (Ret)
Bank Checking Account Balance - \$16,744.85
- July Membership Report BG (Bvt) John Abrahamson, USA (Ret)
Total Membership count – 1,145



Minnesota Medal of Honor Recipient
The President of the United States
in the name of The Congress
takes pleasure in presenting the
Medal of Honor
to
HAWKS, LLOYD C.

Rank and organization: Private First Class, U.S. Army, Medical Detachment, 30th Infantry, 3d Infantry Division.
Place and date: Near Carano, Italy, 30 JAN 1944.

Entered service at: Park Rapids, Minn. *Born:* 13 JAN 1911, Becker, Minn. *G.O. No:* 5, 15 JAN 1945.

Citation:

For gallantry and intrepidity at risk of life above and beyond the call of duty. On 30 January 1944, at 3 p.m., near Carano, Italy, Pfc. Hawks braved an enemy counterattack in order to rescue 2 wounded men who, unable to move, were lying in an exposed position within 30 yards of the enemy. Two riflemen, attempting the rescue, had been forced to return to their fighting holes by extremely severe enemy machinegun fire, after crawling only 10 yards toward the casualties. An aid man, whom the enemy could plainly identify as such, had been critically wounded in a similar attempt. Pfc. Hawks, nevertheless, crawled 50 yards through a veritable hail of machinegun bullets and flying mortar fragments to a small ditch, administered first aid to his fellow aid man who had sought cover therein, and continued toward the 2 wounded men 50 yards distant. An enemy machinegun bullet penetrated his helmet, knocking it from his head, momentarily stunning him. Thirteen bullets passed through his helmet as it lay on the ground within 6 inches of his body. Pfc. Hawks, crawled to the casualties, administered first aid to the more seriously wounded man and dragged him to a covered position 25 yards distant. Despite continuous automatic fire from positions only 30 yards away and shells which exploded within 25 yards, Pfc. Hawks returned to the second man and administered first aid to him. As he raised himself to obtain bandages from his medical kit his right hip was shattered by a burst of machinegun fire and a second burst splintered his left forearm. Displaying dogged determination and extreme self-control, Pfc. Hawks, despite severe pain and his dangling left arm, completed the task of bandaging the remaining casualty and with superhuman effort dragged him to the same depression to which he had brought the first man. Finding insufficient cover for 3 men at this point, Pfc. Hawks crawled 75 yards in an effort to regain his company, reaching the ditch in which his fellow aid man was lying.

Have you seen our Award Winning Website?

www.mcmoaa.org

MCMOAA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
8 JUL 2014

The MCMOAA Board of Directors met at the 934th Services Squadron Officers' Club on 8 JUL 2014 with the meeting called to order at 1130 hrs by the First Vice President, LCDR Richard Buchman. Motion was made to approve the agenda for this meeting, seconded and passed unanimously. The Board then adjourned for lunch returning at 1200 hrs.

Previous Meeting Minutes:

The minutes of the JUN 2014 MCMOAA Board of Directors meeting were approved with corrections.

OFFICER REPORTS:

Secretary: Reported eight Board members were present with four excused. This was sufficient to satisfy a quorum. Present: BG Kennedy, COL Rupp, BG (Bvt) Abrahamson, LTC Couillard, CDR Jowers, CDR Harstad, LCDR Buchman, CW5 Hedblom. Excused: LTC Nowicki, COL Moran, CW4 Nesheim, CW2 Cox

Treasurer: Treasurer's report: The report for the JUN meeting was presented and approved as circulated. CW5 Hedblom noted that \$200 was received from MOAA and that the original check for the P.O. Box rent is still missing and presumed lost.

Reservation Secretary: Mess Fund stands at \$916.10. LTC Couillard stated the price of various dinners are dependent on the choice of meats. Discussion of a price increase for the membership meetings was delayed until the AUG Board of Directors meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Program: Next program set. Teri Popp to make a presentation on the Minnesota Military Family Tribute (MMFT) 9 SEP 2014. TRICARE will be NOV's meeting topic.

Membership: (Report previously submitted) BG (Bvt) Abrahamson reported that our Chapter is currently the 5th top recruiting Chapter for the year. 500 new membership letters will be mailed before our Board meeting in AUG.

Legislative: (Report previously submitted)

Communications: (Report previously submitted)

Career Transition: No report.

OLD BUSINESS:

Associate Position: Remains open. CW2 Cox will write a brief note for our newsletter.

(Continued next page)

Rosemount RAD: BG (Bvt) Abrahamson and LCDR Buchman to attend. CW2 Cox will attend if BG (Bvt) Abrahamson cannot.

Mystic Lake RAD: CDR Jowers, CDR Harstad and possibly COL Rupp to attend.

Audit Committee: LCDR Buchman indicated that the Treasurer's audit will take place in AUG and CW5 Hedblom confirmed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Meeting with HOTL Chapter: COL Rupp gave a brief report.

Donation Requests: LTC Couillard reported on a program for possible donation called "Fly Fishing for Vets" which is coordinated by Paul Riccinti. COL Abrahamson suggested a committee should be formed to study donations in general. Decision delayed to the AUG meeting.

Disabled Veteran Hiring Preference: COL Moran absent – no discussion.

VA Programming: A discussion on this topic was held and it was suggested that the Chapter should investigate having a Board meeting at the VA and invite a VA representative to speak about their programs. BG Kennedy will report back at the AUG Board meeting.

Resolution Recognizing Congressman Tim Waltz: CW5 Hedblom distributed a proposed resolution. COL Rupp will edit and send to CW2 Cox. LCDR Buchman indicated that he will brief CW2 Cox on the discussion.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 1245 hrs.

// Richard Buchman
Respectfully submitted,
Richard Buchman, LCDR USN (Ret)
Acting Secretary

Note: All Committee Reports were provided to the Board prior to or subsequent the meeting

Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Events BTYR

St. Croix Festival Theatre - Military Discount

When: 9 AUG through 7 SEP

Where: St. Croix Festival Theatre, St. Croix Falls, Wis.

About: Sip a glass of wine and watch professional theatre in a historical building. The St. Croix Festival Theatre is offering a 10% military discount to the performance of "The 39 Steps". More Info: 715.483.3387 -

boxoffice@festivaltheatre.org -
<http://www.festivaltheatre.org/>

Tween Overnight - Growlin' With the Grizzlies

When: 22-23 AUG

Where: Minnesota Zoo, Apple Valley About: Military youth ages 9-13 can spend the night at the Minnesota Zoo and discover the resilience of grizzly bears through hands on programs. More Info: Mariah Legvold – 651.268.8378 – Mariah.l.legvold.ctr@mail.mil

Military Family Appreciation Day

When: 30 AUG

Where: Lighthouse Christian Church, Rosemount About: Veteran-Co and Lighthouse Christian Church proudly present Military Family Appreciation Day, a day for all Servicemembers past and present to have fun with their family absolutely free. More Info: Email Christen Bruns at Christen@veteran-co.com

Tween Overnight - Sea Life Aquarium

When: 6-7 SEP

Where: Sea Life Aquarium, Mall of America
About: TBA

Operation Welcome Home

When: 12-14 SEP (Married Couples)

Where: Ironwood Springs Christian Ranch, Stewartville
About: Operation Welcome Home offers several faith-based retreats to provide encouragement, hope, and inspiration to Veterans and their spouses and families. More Info: 507.533.4315 – bob@ironwoodsprings.com – www.miraclelodge.com

St. Croix Festival Theatre - Military Discount

When: 2-26 OCT

Where: St. Croix Festival Theatre, St. Croix Falls, Wis.
About: Sip a glass of wine and watch professional theatre in a historical building. The St. Croix Festival Theatre is offering a 10% military discount to the performance of "The Miser". More Info: 715.483.3387 - boxoffice@festivaltheatre.org - <http://www.festivaltheatre.org/>

Army Special Forces (SF) (Conclusion) military.com

Army Special Operations Command (USASOC)

The U.S. Army Special Operations Command is the largest of the service components that make up U.S. Special Operations Command and provides about 70% of the special operations personnel in



Central Command's theatre. On any given day, dozens of USASOC elements are deployed around the world. Made up of 26,000 personnel, USASOC combines a vast range of

warfighting skills, from raiding and airfield seizures, to human terrain-mapping and cultural analysts.

Mission:

The mission of the U.S. Army Special Operations Command is to organize, train, educate, man, equip, fund, administer, mobilize, deploy and sustain Army special operations forces to successfully conduct worldwide special operations, across the range of military operations, in support of regional combatant commanders, American ambassadors and other agencies as directed.

About U.S. Army Special Operations Command

Since 11 SEP 2001, few elements of the U.S. military have been more involved in the Global War on Terrorism than the Soldiers of the U.S. Army Special Operations Command, or USASOC. In Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom and numerous other hotspots around the world, USASOC Soldiers have been among the first forces to deploy in support of U.S. and coalition force objectives. Many of these Soldiers, most of them having served in numerous combat rotations, remain deployed to those locations along with conventional forces and multinational partners to help ensure the success of all GWOT operations, whether in a frontline combat role or a humanitarian assistance function.

USASOC Subcommands

With an allocated strength of approximately 22,000 Soldiers, USASOC commands both active-duty and Army Reserve special operations forces. The command also provides oversight of Army National Guard special operations forces' readiness, organization, training and employment in coordination with the National Guard Bureau and state adjutants general.

USASOC controls seven major subordinate elements, which in turn train and maintain forces for deployment by USSOCOM to combatant command theaters worldwide.

USASOC's major subordinate commands include the U.S. Army Special Forces Command (Airborne) and the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School, both located at Fort Bragg, N.C. Its major subordinate units include the 75th Ranger Regiment at Fort Benning, Ga., the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne) at Fort Campbell, Ky., the 4th Psychological Operations Group (Airborne), the 95th Civil Affairs Brigade (Airborne) and the Sustainment Brigade (Special Operations) (Airborne), all at Fort Bragg, N.C.

U.S. Army Special Forces Command (Airborne), Fort Bragg, N.C., controls five active Special Forces groups and has training oversight for two groups in the Army National Guard. The Green Berets are uniquely selected, trained and equipped for deployment around the world during peacetime, conflict and war. Regionally and culturally oriented, Special Forces Soldiers are experts in unconventional warfare, direct action, special reconnaissance, foreign internal defense and combating terrorism.

U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School (SWCS) at Fort Bragg, N.C., is one of the Army's premier education institutions, managing and resourcing professional growth for Soldiers in the Army's three distinct special-operations branches: Special Forces, Civil Affairs and Military Information Support.

75th Ranger Regiment, Fort Benning, Ga., is the Army's premier light infantry force. The Rangers are flexible, highly-trained and rapidly deployable Soldiers with specialized skills who can be employed against a variety of targets. The regiment's three battalions plan and conduct direct action missions in support of U.S. policy objectives.

U.S. Army Special Operations Aviation Command organizes, mans, trains, resources and equips ARSOAC units to provide responsive, special operations aviation support to Special Operations Forces and is the USASOC Aviation staff proponent.

95th Civil Affairs Brigade (Airborne), Fort Bragg, N.C., is the only active component civil affairs brigade within the Department of Defense. Its primary mission is to provide operational and tactical civil affairs support to special operations forces and rapidly deploying contingency forces. It must also maintain the ability to provide operational and tactical civil affairs support to conventional forces in collaboration with Army Reserve civil affairs forces.

528th Sustainment Brigade (Airborne), Fort Bragg, N.C., supports all elements of the special operations community in the Global War on Terrorism. The unit is composed of the 112th Special Operations Signal Battalion, which provides cutting-edge telecommunications; ARSOF Liaison Elements (ALE), which are regionally oriented on Army special operation forces logistics; and the Special Troops Battalion. The 528th Sustainment Bde. (A) also provides ARSOF with two unique capabilities: the ARSOF Support Cell (ASC) and two Medical Level II teams.

4th Military Information Support Group (Airborne), Fort Bragg, N.C., is the only active-duty Army psychological operations unit, constituting 26 percent of all U.S. Army psychological operations units. The unit is divided into four Strategic PSYOP Battalions (or POBs), one Tactical PSYOP Battalion and one PSYOP Dissemination Battalion. The four Strategic PSYOP Battalions are regionally oriented and support the Regional Combatant Commands in the planning and production of PSYOP programs.

U.K. Humor – Classified Ads

Wedding Dress for Sale – Worn once by mistake – call Stephanie.

Free Puppies – Mother is a Kennel Club registered German Shepherd, Father is a Super Dog, able to leap tall fences in a single bound.

Minnesota National Guard News

2014 Military Appreciation Day at the State Fair - Booth

26 AUG is the 4th Annual Military Appreciation Day at the Minnesota State Fair presented by USAA. Military Appreciation Day at the State Fair is an opportunity to educate fair visitors about the military community and military support organizations in Minnesota. This year, the theme will be honoring children of Service Members and Veterans.

Throughout the day there will be:

- Performances by the 34th Infantry Division Red Bull Band
- Performances by several kid-friendly entertainers
- Military representation in the daily parade
- Flag raising
- More than 50 educational booths from the military and organizations that support military members and their families
- Live broadcast by Minnesota Military Radio
- Military Discount on entrance tickets for Veterans and their families

Is your organization interested in being part of the day? We welcome all Minnesota military supportive organizations to participate on a first come, first served basis. This year's booth exhibit location will be different from previous years. We will be located on the north end of the fairgrounds near the pet center.

To reserve a booth, call 651-282-4414 or email blair.l.heusdens.mil@mail.mil or mail to SFC Blair Heusdens (PAO), 8180 Belden Blvd., Cottage Grove, MN, 55016, before 19 JUN.

What booth owners can expect: Convey into fair grounds in the morning with one vehicle to set up booth, man booth from 8:00 am - 4:00 pm, free entrance tickets for booth workers. You will need to bring all equipment for your booth (to include table and chair). You will be invited to call into coordination meetings bi-weekly starting in late June.

The Minnesota Military Museum at Camp Ripley

Seeking photos, stories and artifacts used and worn by Minnesota Veterans in Vietnam, from all branches of the service, along with Viet Cong and North and South Vietnamese items. These items will be utilized for the 50th Anniversary Vietnam Exhibit that will open in JUL 2015.

"The intent of the exhibit will be to tell the story of the war through the artifacts, words and photographs of the Minnesotans who served," stated Curator Doug Bekke. The

exhibit will give a brief overview of the history of Vietnam and the rise of Ho Chi Minh. Part of the exhibit will be a timeline of significant events in the war. The main body of the exhibit will be a series of short veteran's stories covering the earliest involvement to the ending involvement, including the involvement of General John Vessey in the 1980s and 1990s on MIA recovery. The exhibit will include stories of Minnesotans who were involved in Vietnam from the end of World War II, when a Minnesota member of an OSS Operational Team parachuted into Hanoi, to the son of a Vietnamese officer who, as a nine-year-old, was evacuated by helicopter from the U.S. Embassy in 1975 and now teaches in Minnesota.

Bekke explained that the exhibit will focus on more than just combat and will portray the stories of the mechanics, cooks, clerks, logisticians and other support troops from all branches. "I need vignettes that represent some aspect of your Vietnam experience," he requested. "No exhibit will tell the entire Vietnam story, but with your help, my goal is that the stories, placed together chronologically under the timeline, will paint a picture of the Minnesota veteran's experience in Vietnam."

Minnesota Veterans who have written books or stories about their experiences are asked to send a copy with good quality hard copy pictures for the Museum and archives, and to highlight the story that best represents their service. "If you have never told or recorded your experiences, this is an opportunity to start the process to preserve a memory of this chapter of your life, good or bad, for the military history of Minnesota and perhaps more importantly, for your family," stated Bekke.

Anyone who has questions or items to donate should contact Bekke at dpbekke@yahoo.com or call (612) 729-7651. Anyone who has stories or pictures to share can also contact Bekke or simply write them up. Be sure to include name, home town (where you live or lived as a Minnesotan), branch of service, unit, dates of service and your contact information. Stories should represent your service with dates and locations. Too many stories or too much information is OK, but we may need to edit. All information provided will be preserved in the Museum's archives and in the Veterans' data base. Photos and stories should include a note giving the Museum permission to edit and use in the exhibit. Mail material to Military Museum, 15000 Hwy. 115, Little Falls, MN 56345.

The Minnesota Military Museum encourages Minnesota's Vietnam Veterans to become part of this exhibit by sharing their stories to make this exhibit a success.

Naval Aviation Leadership Notes

- Things get worse under pressure.
- The sooner and in more detail you announce bad news, the better.
- Nothing is impossible for the man who doesn't have to do it himself.
- Never argue with a fool – people may not know the difference.
- Men and nations will act rationally when all other possibilities have been exhausted.
- Once you've exhausted all possibilities and failed, there will be one solution, simple and obvious, highly visible to everyone.

Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans (MACV)**Upcoming StandDowns**

MACV hosts a number of StandDown events throughout Minnesota during the year. The Metro StandDown is a two-day event, the other MACV StandDowns that are held throughout the year are one-day events. These events offer the same one-stop services – this ability to gather so much information and receive assistance from multiple agencies at one time is what makes each MACV StandDown such a huge success.

Location and contact:

Virginia, 21 AUG - Paul Pedersen 218-722-8763

Duluth, 22 AUG - Paul Pedersen 218-722-8763

Check back to verify any changes:

<http://mac-v.org/programs/standdown.html> or with contacts shown.

Retiree Appreciation Days 2014 Schedule

Retiree Appreciation Days (RADs) are designed with you in mind. They're a great source of the latest information for retirees and Family members in your area. RADs vary from installation to installation. If you plan to travel long distances to attend a RAD, before traveling, you should call the sponsoring RSO to ensure the RAD will held as scheduled and, if applicable, whether or not DFAS reps will be available.

Rosemount, Minn. 15 AUG 507-474-9297

Duluth, Minn. 12 SEP 218-590-3144

Mystic Lake Casino, Minn. 27 SEP - Additional Information and Registration Form are found at:

<https://sites.google.com/site/metrojrad>

Early Bird Registration received at Navy RAO by 15 AUG:

A drawing will be held for a one night stay at Mystic Lake Hotel and Casino for two: buffet for two; and concert tickets of your choice for two.

Regular Registration is needed by 12 SEP.

MN Legislative Update

COLMikeMoran MCMOAA

LegislativeCommittee

This is the 'short session' of the legislature, as the two-year budget cycle was passed last session.

Bills which were signed into law are:

- Training for police officers to deal with Veterans in crisis was funded.
- Several bills to expedited state licensing or grant temporary state licenses for active duty, Veterans and their spouses.
- Several Veterans' memorial bonds were authorized.
- Surviving spouses of disabled Veterans (70% to 100% disabled) have had their homestead valuation exclusion for property taxes extended from five years to eight years.
- Combat wounded Veteran's special motorcycle plates authorized.
- Certification of Veteran-owned businesses for state contracts to be accomplished in-state, vice relying on the Federal VA to accomplish this.
- Military reserve income tax subtraction extended to Active Guard/Reserve income.
- Women Veterans license plates authorized.
- A study and assessment on the state Veteran's homes, Veterans housing needs and long-term care need was funded.
- The Camp Ripley state Veterans cemetery to be designated the Alcuin G. Loehr Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery. Also, a Veterans trail at Camp Ripley was funded.
- The Veterans Voices Program was funded.
- Several bonds for the MPLS Veterans Home renovation were authorized.
- Expedited state licensing for police officers with a military MP background.
- All Veterans with an honorable discharge now qualify for in-state tuition rates at public institutions of higher learning. (This is to encourage Veterans to use their GI Bill here and, hopefully, add to the skilled work force.)
- A grant was made to expand free public transportation to disabled Veterans throughout. (This applies primarily to rural regions of the state.)
- Fish & Game licenses are now free for 100% permanently disabled Veterans.
- Minnesota is now part of the national Interstate Educational Opportunity for Military Children.

"Old age comes at a bad time."

Sue Banducci

"To me, old age is always 15 years older than I am."

Bernard Baruch

Desk of the MDVA Commissioner – July

MGLarryShellitoUSA(Ret)

I recently had the privilege of being a speaker at the inaugural dedication of what is to become the Minnesota Military Family Tribute (MMFT). This tribute is the brainchild of Bill and Teri Popp, strong supporters of Veterans in the State of Minnesota. Most people in the metro area know of Bill through his strong support of the Minnesota Military Family Foundation. His emphasis on the military, specifically the deployed service member and the needs of their family, have been a priority for him since the war on terror began. The Family Tribute is the next major project and will be located on the Capitol grounds here in St. Paul. The design consists of walkways, trees, and spots to reflect on the service of Minnesotans. The intent centers on a common phrase “when you deploy a service member, you also deploy their family.”



I strongly believe, and have witnessed, that when a parent sends their young son or daughter off to war, they are placed in a new realm of emotions – even though everything will seem the same. Should the parent be watching television and the nightly news begins talking about what has happened in the war zone you can be assured their attention will be focused on the who, what, when and where – praying that their son or daughter is not involved. There will be that constant fear in the back of one’s mind when a loved one is deployed into harm’s way.

One of my personal goals for the Tribute is the development of materials that can be given to people who visit the Capitol grounds and tour the Veteran Memorials. The study guides would help make Minnesotans more aware of the sacrifices Minnesotans have made in the past. Just recently I heard a news commentator ask the question, “Do today’s younger generations really understand the origin and meaning of the 4th of July?” At first I didn’t know how to react to that question. But we all seemingly know that many of the holidays that honor the sacrifices of earlier generations are treated as holidays, a day off, with little effort to meet the intent of the day. Interestingly enough, that same commentator felt that more attention was being given to the US soccer team than to the sacrifices of our Veterans.

I will give ongoing updates on the progress being made with this tribute and hope that all of you will have the opportunity to see the beauty that it will bring to the Capitol grounds, not only in the spring with an abundance of fresh new flowers, but also with the beauty of the trees fall colors. The MMFT will use natural beauty to pay honor to the sacrifice of our service members and their families, both past and present.

Bottom Line - Pay Commission: MOAA is Right on Personnel Costs

MOAACOLMikeHaydenUSAF(Ret) 10JUL

In a recent *Army Times* article “[Curbs on pay and benefits finally taking hold](#),” retiring DoD Comptroller Robert Hale (who left the Pentagon at the end of June) acknowledged military personnel costs are coming down and claimed, “We are making some progress.” Now hold on a minute.

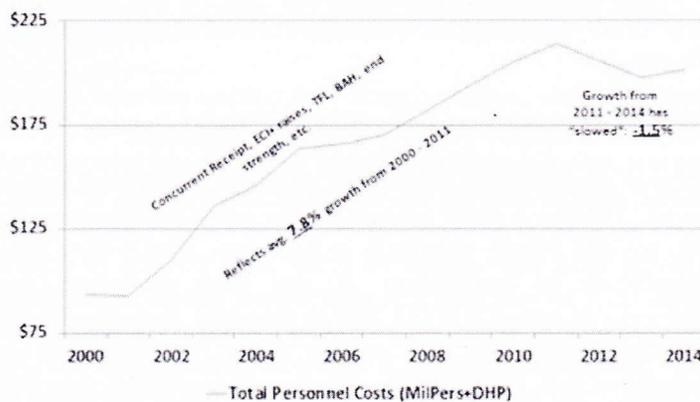


For years, and as recently as this spring, DoD and service leaders have insisted military personnel pay and benefits costs are “exploding out of control,” that “by 2025 ... 98 cents of every dollar will be going to pay and benefits,” and the time will soon come when “all we’ll be doing is paying our people.” A few short months later, DoD leaders (whose proposals to whack pay and benefits had been mostly rejected by Congress) are saying costs are falling — and it’s due to their plan? Here’s the truth. MOAA’s analysis of the Pentagon’s own budget data showed:

- Personnel costs have held steady at about 30% of the defense budget for more than 30 years, and
- Despite Congress’ rejection of draconian pay and benefits cuts year after year, personnel cost growth was already in decline.

Personnel/Heath Care Growth Rate

(Outlays in \$ Billions)



The 3 JUL release of the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission’s (MCRMC’s) interim report removed any doubt about who’s been stating the facts and who’s been blowing smoke.

- The MCRMC validated [MOAA's analysis](#) that military personnel costs have remained steady at about 30 percent of the defense budget — not 40, 50, or 70 percent as various DoD and service officials have stated to the media, the public, and Congress.

- The MCRMC agreed with MOAA that DoD leaders' claims of "significant cost growth since 2000" ignores that compensation levels in 2000 are a dubious standard because both DoD leaders and Congress at the time deemed those levels too low to sustain the career force.

Cost growth from 2000 through 2010 was necessary to fix the retention problems of the late 1990s caused by years of cuts to pay and benefits. Congress initiated pay raises that exceeded private sector pay, eliminated out-of-pocket housing costs, and provided health care to retirees forced out of the military health care system. Cost growth since 2011 hasn't just leveled off; it has actually declined.

Now that a Presidential Commission independently has validated MOAA's analysis, DoD claims military pay and benefits are unsustainable and "eating us alive" are no longer credible. DoD's repeated draconian proposals to cut pay, health care, and other benefits have been shown to be inappropriate and unnecessary. Congress' adoption of far more modest alternative savings options MOAA suggested is what has worked and costs are declining just as MOAA predicted. So what now? Even as they acknowledge the reality of personnel cost decline, DoD leaders continue to press Congress for massive benefits cuts including huge TRICARE fee hikes, the elimination of TRICARE Prime, years of capped pay raises and housing allowance cuts, and cuts to the commissary benefit. The House has again rejected these disproportional cuts, but the Senate Armed Services Committee reluctantly agreed to some of them after drinking the Pentagon's "exploding personnel costs" Kool-Aid.

The bottom line: The MCRMC's interim report, which validates MOAA's analysis, should dispel the myth that military people and families are the problem and put Congress' cost-saving focus where it belongs, back on the Pentagon's well-documented procurement and mismanagement fiascos.

Military History-Enemy Compassion over Nazi Germany

TogetherWeServed 24APR2014



On 20 DEC 1943, 2LT Charles "Charlie" Brown was desperately trying to keep his heavily damaged plane, a B-17F bomber known as 'Ye Olde Pub,' aloft over Germany. This was the crew's first mission and they had been in the second wave of bombers targeting Focke-Wulf airplane manufacturing plant near Bremen in northwest Germany when they ran into very heavy flak during their bombing run. The anti-aircraft fire blew out the Plexiglas nose, destroyed one engine and damaged two others. There were holes all over the fuselage and the tail was half gone; they couldn't keep up with the rest of the bombers. Suddenly, they were attacked by a wave of eight Messerschmitt fighters, followed by

another seven. The crew fought back and downed one or two of them, but then 2LT Brown, who was wounded along with most of his crew lost control of his plane. It flipped over and spiraled down, causing Brown to lose consciousness. The Germans figured the bomber was spiraling to its death and left. What they could not have known was Brown had finally regained control with just hundreds of feet to spare. Of his crew members, one was dead and six wounded, and Brown was alone in his cockpit since his co-pilot copilot Spencer "Pinky" Luke along with two other unharmed men, were tending to the others. Blood of the wounded crew was splattered throughout the plane's interior. When Brown asked for a damage report, one of the crew replied, "We're chewed to pieces." Directly below them was a German airfield. On the airfield German pilot Franz Stigler, a former commercial airline pilot whose father and brother had both died while serving their country, was refueling and re-arming his Messerschmitt Bf-109. When he heard Brown's B-17 Flying Fortress roaring overhead, barely 200 above the ground, he looked up, dismayed at how low it was. Oberleutnant (LT) Stigler had already shot down two B-17s that day and one more added to his total would mean he would receive the Knight's Cross, Germany's highest military award. He took off in his fighter as soon as he could.

Soon after taking off, Stigler located the B-17 and approached from behind and above the bomber. At that distance he could see the tail was half shot away. Stigler dropped lower, closing, watching for the tail-gunner's machine guns to rise, meaning he'd been spotted, but they never moved. He got close enough to see that the tail-gunner was dead or dying, his blood running down the gun barrel. Stigler edged his fighter alongside the stricken bomber. He had never seen a plane with so much damage still able to fly. There were so many holes in its fuselage he could see crew members tending to their wounded. Stigler remembered a former commander who, during the campaign in North Africa, told them: "You are fighter pilots first, last, always. If I ever hear of any of you shooting at someone in a parachute, I'll shoot you myself." Stigler considered that shooting these men down now would be the same as machine gunning them in parachutes. Pulling in behind the Pub and concerned he would come under fire, Stigler had his finger on the trigger, one eye closed and the other squinting through his gun sight. He took aim and was about to fire when he realized what he wasn't seeing: This plane had no tail guns blinking. This plane had no left stabilizer. This plane had no tail-gun compartment left, and as he got closer, Stigler saw the terrified tail gunner himself, his fleece collar soaked red, the guns themselves streaked with it, icicles of blood hanging from the barrels. Stigler was no longer energized.



(Continued next page)

He was alarmed. He pulled alongside the plane and saw clean through the middle, where the skin had been blown apart by anti-aircraft shells. He saw these terrified young men attempting to tend to their wounded. He drew equal to the B-17 and saw that the nose of the plane, too, had been blown away. How was this thing still in the air? He maneuvered toward the disabled bomber's wingtip.

At first, Brown didn't notice the small German plane. He was thinking, thinking, thinking. He had six wounded men in the back. Some were strong enough to jump out, but the critically injured would never survive the cold German forest. He'd have to keep flying, try to make it to England, but the others should jump. He then noticed the German fighter. Flying along the wingtip of the Pub, a relaxed Stigler nodded to Brown but he was in such a state of shock he did not return the greeting. Running through Brown's mind was how daring the German pilot in flying that close to even a badly crippled enemy bomber. Stigler signaled to Brown to land in Germany. Brown, in pain and still recovering from oxygen deprivation, refused. Stigler reconsidered and then tried to get Brown to swing northeast toward neutral Sweden, only 30 minutes away. He didn't think the B-17 could make it back to England. Again, Brown refused, sticking to his course. Stigler continued to escort Brown's Flying Fortress through the skies over Germany partly because he didn't want anyone to shoot them down. When they were finally over the North Sea, Stigler saluted and turned away. He didn't think much of their chances. Brown himself did not think much of their chances either but a crash-landing was never seriously considered since all pilots of B-17's were under strict instructions that if a crash-landing became necessary as a last resort, survivors were to destroy the aircraft and activate the explosive charge in the highly secret Norden bombsight. Since it appeared to Brown most of the crew would not survive a parachute jump into northern Germany in the winter, and possibly all of them would perish in a crash-landing, Brown would fly back over land to let any of the crew bale out who wished to do so, and would then try and fly the aircraft back to England. All agreed to stay on board and take their chances. Brown managed to get his B-17 back to base.

For getting his plane and crew back under such conditions, a Colonel told him he would be nominated for the Medal of Honor. However, during debriefing, he and his crew kept talking about the crazy German who had escorted them to the sea. Immediately after, he and his crew's participation in the mission was classified Secret and ordered not to discuss it with anyone. He never officially received so much as a pat on the back. Stigler returned to his base and reported that he had shot-down the B-17 over the North Sea. To have done otherwise he would have been court-martialed and possibly shot for letting an enemy go free. By the end of the war he'd flown 487 combat missions and had 28 confirmed kills. He never received the Knight's Cross. He served through the end

of WW II and, unable to ever feel at home in Germany living in fear that he'd be found out, relocated to Vancouver, Canada, in 1953. Brown served right up until the start of the Vietnam War, eventually settling with his wife in Miami. Still deeply traumatized by the incident, he thought about searching for the German and finally in JAN 1990, he took out an ad in a newsletter for fighter pilots, looking for the one "who saved my life on 20 DEC 1943." He held back one key bit of information: Where the German pilot had abandoned his B-17.

At home in Vancouver, Stigler saw the ad. He yelled to his wife: "This is him! This is the one I didn't shoot down!" Franz had always wondered if the great risk he'd taken had been worth it, if the American had made it home. Brown had always wondered what the German had been planning to do to him, and why he had let him go. He immediately wrote a letter to Brown. Brown was too impatient to actually read it. He called the operator and had her look up Franz Stigler's number, then placed the call immediately. "When I let you go over the sea," Stigler said, "I thought you'd never make it." "My God," Brown said. "It's you." Tears were streaming down his face. Stigler had answered Brown's secret question without Brown having to ask it. "What were you pointing for?" Brown asked. Stigler, too, was crying. He explained everything: that he could tell that Brown had no idea how bad the plane was, that he was pointing first to the ground, to Germany, and then pointing away, mouthing "Sweden," that he was trying to escort them to safety and that he abandoned them only when he saw the gun swing from the turret. "Good luck," he'd said to Brown from his cockpit. "You're in God's hands."

They met at a 379th Bomber Group reunion, together with 25 people who are alive now - all because Franz never fired his guns that day. For the rest of their lives, Charlie Brown and Franz Stigler became close friends. Both also felt that they should tell their story to as many people as would hear it, not for money but to make people realize that there's always another way that the world could be infinitely better than it was. Stigler and Brown both had heart attacks and died in 2008, six months apart. Stigler was 92; Brown, 87. In their obituaries, each listed the other as "a special brother". The complete story can be found in a book written by Adam Makos and Larry Alexander, entitled [A Higher Call](#).

Pilot Program to Help Veterans Gain Employment

It just got a little easier for military Veterans who are looking for work, to find it here in Minnesota. The state has joined three other states in a new pilot program that provides free hotel accommodations to Veterans conducting job searches outside the regions where they live. Hilton Worldwide and the National Association of State Workforce

Agencies (NASWA) are partnering to offer the Hilton HHonors program to Veterans and their families in Minnesota, Iowa, Texas and Arizona. "Our Veterans deserve more than our gratitude and support. Through their service to our state and nation, they have earned every opportunity to find meaningful work," said Governor Mark Dayton. "On behalf of all Minnesotans, I thank Hilton Worldwide and the National Association of State Workforce Agencies for partnering with us to help connect military Veterans with good-paying, fulfilling jobs here in Minnesota."

Under the new pilot program, Veterans who are searching for employment, attending job interviews or skills training, or are looking for new housing in Minnesota, are eligible for three free nights at a Hilton hotel in our state. According to Hilton Worldwide, the average hotel stay in the Twin Cities Metro Area costs \$200 per night. That means Veterans who are eligible for free hotel accommodations can save up to \$600 under the new pilot program. "This program is an opportunity to show our support for Minnesota's military Veterans and thank them for their service," said Commissioner Katie Clark Sieben of the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED). "Looking for a job can be costly, and this effort will help offset some of the expenses that Veterans face when they travel outside their home regions for job opportunities." "Hilton Worldwide has been strongly committed to supporting military Veterans and their families since our founding nearly a century ago by Conrad Hilton, a U.S. Army Veteran who served in World War I," said Rodney Moses, vice president of global recruitment for Hilton. "We are proud to have partnered with NASWA and look forward to working with the state of Minnesota as they launch this exciting Hilton HHonors program."

"The publicly-funded workforce system serves nearly 2 million registered Veterans annually, offering access to job openings, training and employment resources," said Rich Hobbie, executive director of NASWA. "State workforce agencies are committed to helping our nation's Veterans, and the launch of the Hilton HHonors military initiative will support Minnesota's military families in the pursuit of a civilian career. Veterans traveling to Minnesota, or to a different region within the state to search for employment or housing, can access free hotel accommodations through the Hilton HHonors program. Veterans should contact their local Disabled Veterans Outreach Program Specialist (DVOP) to be enrolled in the program. Once enrolled, Veterans are eligible for 100,000 HHonors points per year. More information about the program is here: http://mn.gov/governor/images/2014_07_08_Hilton_HHonor_s_Military.pdf. Veterans can also visit JoinHHonors.com, or call 1-800-HHONORS.

Gold Star Family Weekend – 22-24 AUG

Gold Star Family Weekend announces its 4th Annual Gold Star Family Weekend to be held 22-24 AUG, at Camp Ripley, near Little Falls, Minnesota. Gold Star families are children, spouses, parents, and siblings of those who gave their life in service to our country in Iraq, Afghanistan, Vietnam, Korea or any other conflict. These families are invited guests for this special weekend to Honor, Remember, and Cherish the lives of their loved ones. Please take a moment and share this invitation with the families of America's fallen. For more information, please email - GoldStarFamilyWeekend@gmail.com.

Investing Doesn't Have to be That Complicated

[LTCSHaneOstrom.USAF-\(Ret\)](mailto:LTCSHaneOstrom.USAF-(Ret)) MOAADeputyDirector.Benefits
InformationandFinancialEducation

I wish I had a dollar every time someone told me about their cosmic investment strategy. Maybe it works for them; maybe not. Investor psychology indicates we tend to remember our gains and forget our losses—remember that fishing trip when we caught the big fish? We don't tend to remember the hours or days before we bagged the big fish. Plus there are trading costs to consider. Put the gains, losses and costs together and what's their net performance? Surveys and analyses from investment firms are not encouraging about individual investors' trading successes. Even professionals pick numerous stocks hoping a small number of selections will carry the load for the majority of picks that won't work out. The majority of mutual fund managers can't beat the free flowing markets we pay them to beat.



The average investors I meet who are saving for a dream retirement tend to think investing is naturally complicated. Can you blame them? Look how investing is portrayed in publications, TV, radio, and the web. It's a process heavily laden with detailed numbers, analysis, and market sensitive, time critical trades. "The pros can't get it right, how can I!?" is what I hear. People tend to think investing is a direct relationship with their account value since they understand their account statement and value. For many, if the stock market goes down, it's a bad thing. After all, have you heard the news reports during a down market? "And look at my account value going down!" This compels people to think they have to act to protect their account value by dumping the stock funds that are bringing down their retirement account value. After being burned by the down market, they are reluctant to re-enter the stock market until it has gone up for years thereby proving it's safe to return to water, so to speak. This whole mindset couldn't be more wrong.

Truth is it doesn't have to be complicated. Don't believe the talking heads and marketing hype. (Continued next page)

Investing can be simple for the great majority who are building wealth over the course of their working lives. The ingredients for wealth creation to retire comfortably are pretty simple:

- Contribute to your retirement account regularly; every pay period.
- Invest 10% or more per pay check.
- Have a portfolio heavier in stocks than bonds/cash.**
- Don't take loans or withdrawals from retirement accounts.
- Re-balance your portfolio annually to maintain the appropriate stock/bond/cash mixture.
- Increase your contributions after raises, promotions, and job changes—max it out.

***The proportion of stocks typically decreases as you close in on retirement but will normally remain at least 30-50% of your portfolio to maintain some growth potential in your assets in retirement. I'm talking about the mutual funds you can purchase in your retirement accounts.*

The above ingredients ensure that as the stock market rises and falls over the years (which it will), your steady contributions buy more stock ownership shares in depressed market periods. It is a key wealth building strategy that lower stock markets are necessary for us to build wealth. Down stock markets are normal occurrences that are historically short-lived. We never know what the stock markets will do in advance, so regular contributions ensure you are buying stocks on the cheap when stock prices fall. As the stock markets return, you'll be happy with the results.

Jobs – Paid and Voluntary -

Associate Board Member

The Voluntary Associate Board Member of MCMOAA helps spouses continue to feel a part of the military family and raise the chapter and national awareness of their needs. Essential Functions include: Relaying information to Associate Members via announcements, chapter meetings, etc. Encourage spouses to participate in legislative issues to protect their benefits by sending emails, etc. Help support the Minnesota Chapter (MCMOAA) by recruiting and retaining spouses as Associate Members. Contact CW2 Rita Cox at ritakcox@gmail.com or 651-460-3787 if you are interested in this position.

National Marrow Donor Program (NMDP)/Be The Match

Be The Match® is a global leader in bone marrow transplantation. We conduct research to improve transplant outcomes, provide support and resources for patients, and partner with a global network. Achieving this strategic objective resonates in us all and drives us to provide the

highest possible value in all we do. We need mission-driven people to help us achieve this objective.

Paid Job Opportunities:

- Project Manager - I.T., Application Development, Agile background.
- Member Services Manager - Call Center & Management, Marketing focus.
- Sr. Systems Engineer - Network capacity and performance for development, test, production systems, and remote sites.

Volunteer Positions: As a "Be The Match" volunteer, you have a direct impact on the lives of patients and donors worldwide. Be a Volunteer today!

Contact: Cherise Vincent: 612-884-8626

www.bethematchvolunteer.org

Retiree Council Advises the Army's Senior Leaders

MarkEOverberg, Deputy Chief, Army Retirement Services

On 2 MAY, the Chief of Staff, Army (CSA) Retiree Council concluded its 54th meeting after advising Army Chief of Staff GEN Raymond T. Odierno and SGTMAJ of the Army Raymond F. Chandler III about the concerns of the retired community. The Council's Co-Chairmen, retired LTGEN James Lovelace and retired SGTMAJ of the Army Kenneth Preston, emphasized their appreciation for the Army's Soldier For Life (SFL) program and the May 1 launch of the new SFL website with its robust section for Retired Soldiers at <http://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement>.

At the time of its annual meeting, the CSA Retiree Council represented 918,000 Retired Soldiers and 246,000 surviving spouses. In addition to advice and recommendations, the Council provided the CSA with an assessment of how current Army programs and initiatives and proposals for new laws and policies may affect the retired community. During its annual meeting, the Council discussed policies and programs with 18 Army and Department of Defense senior leaders. They also reviewed 22 issues nominated by installation and Army Service Component Command retiree councils. Six issues involved health care, seven related to benefits or entitlements, and nine concerned retirement services or communications.

The Council's most significant recommendations included:

- Sustaining the Army Surgeon General's initiative to increase the number of Medicare-eligible Retired Soldiers and their families being cared for within Army medical treatment facilities where capacity exists.
- Sustaining no-cost copays for generic drugs ordered through Express Scripts, minimal co-pay increases for brand name pharmaceuticals, and never raising pharmacy copays more than the current year's cost of living adjustment.

- Retaining the commissary benefit in the continental United States, adding generic products and incorporating the Commissary into the Exchange to maintain the benefit, if necessary.
- Supporting legislation that maintains the current cost of living adjustment method instead of the "chained" consumer price index method.
- Issuing permanent identification cards to spouses over age 65.
- Reviewing current funding procedures in order to fully fund retiree appreciation days.
- Institutionalizing the Soldier For Life (SFL) program within the Army G-1's authorization document and funding requirements.
- Promoting the SFL message, "Once a Soldier, Always a Soldier . . . A Soldier For Life" to Soldiers from initial entry training through and after retirement.

The Council's complete report is available at:
<http://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement/RetireeCouncil.html>



Prescriptions

A distraught senior citizen
 phoned her doctor's office.
 "Is it true," she wanted to know,
 "that the medication
 you prescribed has to be taken
 for the rest of my life?"
 "Yes, I'm afraid so," the doctor told her.
 There was a moment of silence
 before the lady replied,
 "I'm wondering, then,
 just how serious is my condition
 because this prescription is marked
 'NO REFILLS'.."

Performance Triad Health Targets

USAMYEchoes

Sleep

- 8 hours of quality sleep per 24 hour period
- Go caffeine-free 6 hours before bedtime to reset sleep

Activity

- At least 10,000 steps per day (spread throughout the day with a goal of 10 minutes of walking per hour)

- At least 150 minutes of moderate or greater intensity aerobic exercise per week
- Resistance training on 2 or more days per week (include all major muscle groups)

Nutrition

- Eat at least 8 servings of fruits and vegetables per day
- Eat at least 3 meals per day (spread throughout the day with a goal of refueling every 4-5 waking hours)
- Drink at least 8 cups of water each day (total 64 oz).

Winston Churchill Quotes

- Lady Astor: "Winston, if I were your wife I'd put poison in your coffee."
 Winston Churchill: "Nancy, if I were your husband I'd drink it."
- "The Americans will always do the right thing... after they've exhausted all the alternatives."
- "An appeaser is one who feeds a crocodile—hoping it will eat him last."
- "It has been said that democracy is the worst form of government except all the others that have been tried."

VA Burial Benefit Update - Auto Payment Goes into Effect

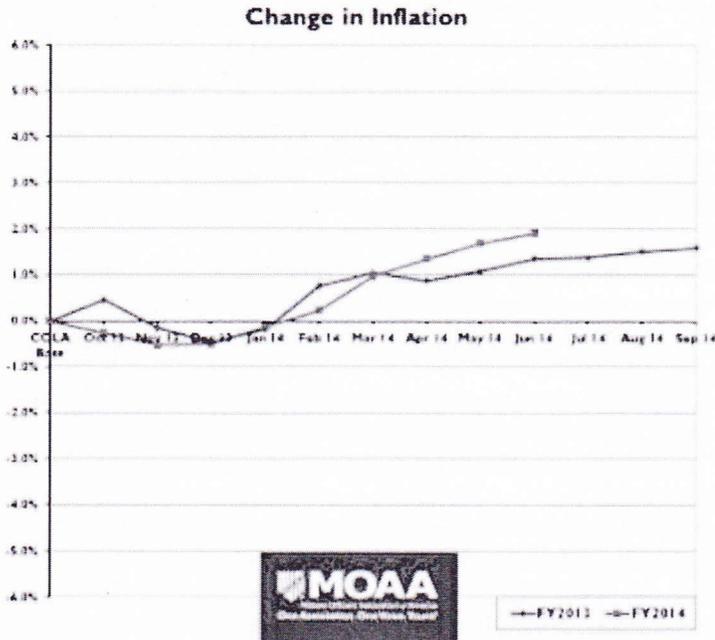
VA News Release 7JUL

New burial regulations effective 7 JUL will now allow the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to automatically pay the maximum amount allowable under law to most eligible surviving spouses more quickly and efficiently, without the need for a written application. Under former regulations, VA paid burial benefits on a reimbursement basis, which required survivors to submit receipts for relatively small one-time payments that VA generally paid at the maximum amount permitted by law. "VA is committed to improving the speed and ease of delivery of monetary burial benefits to Veterans' survivors during their time of need," said Acting VA Secretary Sloan Gibson.

This automation enables VA to pay a non-service-connected or service-connected burial allowance to an estimated 62,000 eligible surviving spouses out of a projected 140,000 claimants for burial benefits in 2014. Surviving spouses will be paid upon notice of the Veteran's death using information already in VA systems. The burial allowance for a non-service-connected death is \$300, and \$2,000 for a death connected to military service. For more information on monetary burial benefits, visit <http://www.benefits.va.gov/compensation/claims-special-burial.asp>.

COLA Update – JUN

The Consumer Price Index increased another 0.2% in JUN, rising to 234.702. It now stands 1.9% above the FY2014 COLA baseline of 230.327.



Operation Endure and Grow

AnitaBStone OfficerMag

The Operation Endure and Grow Program offers an online course and resources to assist Guard Members and Reservists and their family members in starting up or growing and sustaining small businesses, with the support of Syracuse Univ., N.Y., and the Small Business Association.

The course costs \$75 and runs for eight weeks. Lessons range from basics like planning and marketing to accounting on a shoe-string budget. The program also provides the analytical tools, methodologies, and frameworks useful in creating business plans and teaches participants to pitch their businesses. Read more at <http://vets.syr.edu/education/endure-grow>.

MOAA’s 2014 Annual Meeting – 27-28 OCT

Save the date for MOAA’s Annual Meeting to be held in Washington, DC on 27-28 OCT. Top MOAA Chapters will receive four- and five-star streamers at a recognition dinner. Network with employers at a military and spouse friendly career fair, and attend seminars on topics such as employee benefits and negotiating strategies. Find out what’s going on at MOAA at the annual meeting, and join us as we salute caregivers of wounded/injured Service Members from the national capital region at the Community Heroes Award. For more information - visit www.moaa.org/2014annualmeeting.

Navy Decommissioning 2015 Plan -- Farewell Frigates

DavidLarterNavyTimes art14JUL

By OCT 2015, the U.S. fleet will be devoid of frigates for the first time in more than 70 years, according to the Navy’s latest decommissioning plan. The Navy plans to retire all of the remaining frigates, as well as five ships and two subs, during fiscal year 2015, the service announced 1 JUL. The last Oliver Hazard Perry class frigate scheduled to be decommissioned is the USS *Kauffman*, set to leave the fleet 21 SEP 2015. After that, the battle force will be without a frigate class for the first time since 1943, according to fleet composition records kept by Naval History and Heritage Command. Most of the frigates are to be sold to foreign navies. The only technical exception to frigate retirements is “Old Ironsides”: The USS *Constitution*, rated as a frigate when it was launched in 1797, remains in commission in Boston, Mass., and does not count toward the Navy’s force levels.

The missions conducted by the frigate fleet will pass to the littoral combat ship, a platform that will be up to the task once the mission packages are ironed out, said a retired frigate CO. “LCS will bring additional capabilities that frigates never had,” said retired CAPT Rick Hoffman, who commanded the frigate USS *De Wert*. “And it’s true that it has limited anti-surface capabilities in a conventional sense, but when you look at the threat, they are more than adequate.”

The Babysitter



RESERVATION for CHAPTER MEETING**9 SEP: 1730 - Social -- 1800 - Dinner & Meeting****Officers Club - Hwy 5 & Post Road, St. Paul, MN - turn left at Fort Snelling entrance
612-767-1960**

Member's Name _____ Rank _____ Service _____ Phone _____

Spouse or Guest _____ (First & Last Names) _____

_____ Dinners @ \$26.00 = *\$ _____
(*Gratuity is included)Will attend but not have dinner _____ ^ **Please note below**

Is this your first meeting: Yes__ No__

*Send this form and a check payable to MCMOAA to:***Kathleen Couillard
327 Oak Hollow Lane, Lino Lakes, MN 55014**

Reservations may also be made by calling 651-783-8172.

Checks must be received by 1 SEP 2014.

Cancellations must be received by noon, 9 SEP

Casual Business is the desired dress code ^ **Attendees not participating in the meal,
please refrain from entering the ballroom until the meal is begun.**-----*Detach and mail Reservation*-----**Program – Guest Speaker**

Teri Popp is the President of the Military Family Tribute. Her father was a member of the U.S. Air Force so she knows first-hand what it is to be a military family member. Teri and Bill, her husband, wanted to create something to thank the families for their contributions which enable military members to serve. They worked with Governor Tim Pawlenty and the Capitol Planning Commission to get the Tribute approved and the funds raised to build it. Ground was broken in June of this year and the Tribute will be opened in June of 2015. Mrs. Popp will speak about the work that went into creating the Tribute.

MENU

Sautéed Chicken Breast Served in a Rich White Wine Sauce with
Capers and a Hint of Lemon, Served with Rice Pilaf and Chef's Vegetables,
House Salad, Freshly Baked Rolls with Butter,
Ice Cream,
Water, Coffee and Tea

The MCMOAA'n
Minnesota Chapter,
Military Officers Association of America
P.O. Box 11466
Saint Paul, MN 55111-0466

PERIODICALS

Membership Application/Renewal/Address Change - Minnesota Chapter - Military Officers Association of America

Mail this completed chapter application with a check to MCMOAA, PO Box 11466. St. Paul, MN 55111-0488

Regular Members: \$15 per year ~ **Associate Members: \$5 per year** (Associate Members are spouses or survivors of Eligible Members)

Name: _____ Rank: _____
 (Print) First M.I. Last

Spouse Name: _____ E-mail Address: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip _____ - _____ Home Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____ Birthdate:((MM/DD/YEAR) _____ MOAA Member: Yes No

STATUS: Active Duty _____ Nat'l Guard _____ Reserve _____ Retired _____ Regular _____

Former Officer _____ Spouse of an Eligible Officer _____ Surviving Spouse of an Eligible Officer _____

SERVICE: Army _____ Navy _____ Air Force _____ Marine Corps _____ Coast Guard _____ NOAA _____

USPHS _____ SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

For Official Use: Date Received: _____ Member No.: _____

Editor's Note: You are receiving the printed version of our newsletter. If you would prefer to receive the e-newsletter which has twice as much information and saves the cost of printing, please send an email requesting the e-version to editor95@comcast.net.