

President's message

Hello CMC members! I hope your summer is going very well. Even though we are on our summer hiatus from our Saturday CMC luncheon meetings until



October, we still have plenty of chapter activities happening as discussed below. As far as recent and on-going activities:

National MOAA LOE and Communication Awards: In April, we received 5-star

awards (the highest that can be given by National MOAA) on our 2024 MOAA LOE (Level of Excellence) Award submission and our Communications Award submission (for our Sentinel newsletter and CMC website). We have now maintained this level of award since we became a chapter.

National MOAA Grant to support EEE: Also in April, we received notice that CMC was awarded a \$3,250 MOAA Foundation Community Outreach Grant. This grant will provide targeted support to EEE (Esperanza En Escalante) as we have in the past two years. EEE is a tremendous Veterans Support organization located by DM AFB; EEE provides transition support to veterans (and veteran families) from homelessness to self-sufficiency.

I have been working with Suzanne Bond (EEE CEO) to identify the most critical support we can provide. She identified two areas that I agreed with: 1) Once again providing laptops (with a basic level of instruction on most effective use) to transitioning EEE residents that can be used for job searches, resume preparation, family member schoolwork, and other necessary pre- and post-transition responsibilities, and; 2) Supporting a separate EEE grant initiative that will provide residents IT training through Pima Community College (PCC); our support will consist of furnishing computer desks to trainees, and also being mentors and advisors to trainees while they are students. Both areas are significantly important to both EEE and (especially) the residents. We are still in the early planning stage on both, so stay

tuned for much more much more detailed information in the future!

High School JROTC Awards: On behalf of our CMC chapter, our own Michael "Cash" Striplin went above and beyond by coordinating and presenting 2025 Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (JROTC) medals and certificates to outstanding cadets in four local high schools north of Saddle-Brooke:



Poston Butte HS - San Tan Valley (USAF), Coolidge HS - Coolidge (USMC), Casa Grande HS - Casa Grande (USMC), and Vista Grande HS - Casa Grande (USMC). The number one cadet received a medal set with certificate, and the number two cadet received a MOAA coin and certificates.

The MOAA JROTC/SROTC awards program recognizes outstanding cadets or midshipmen in their next-to-last year in the program who have demonstrated exceptional potential for military leadership. The Marine Corps JROTC (MCJROTC) program requires exceptional academic achievement. For the future events, we will look for deserving Army JROTC recipients in our area!

CMC Leadership Position Openings: Looking at our leadership positions from a "Many hands lead to light work!" viewpoint, we still need help filling the following leadership positions:

- 2nd Vice President (immediate need)
- Secretary (starting in January 2026)
- Audio/Visual Coordinator (immediate need)

On a very positive note, please join me in thanking David Bull for stepping up to fill the Treasurer position and thanking Deb McGeehan for stepping up to fill the Public Relations and Communication Director (continued on page 8)

2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kurt McMillen, COL, USA, retired
Chairman

Charles F. Vaughan, CAPT, USN, retired
Member

Bill Nagy, COL, USAR, retired
Member

2025 CHAPTER OFFICERS

Kurt McMillen, COL, USA, retired
President

Bruce Huffman, COL, USA, retired
First Vice President

vacant
Second Vice President

Bill Myers, LT, CEC, USN, former
Secretary

David Bull, LTj.g., USN, former
Treasurer

Join Catalina Mountains Chapter of MOAA

If you are not a member already, consider joining the Catalina Mountains Chapter. Why should you join our chapter? You should join so you can help us make a difference in the lives of some veterans and uniformed personnel. How can you make a difference? Through your gifts of time and money. Chapter members previously donated their time to do some exterior painting at Esperanza En Escalante and three chapter members placed wreaths at the Wreaths Across America event last December. If you can make a financial donation, chapter members sponsored a one-week camp for children of Esperanza En Escalante residents and contributed funds to purchase four laptop computers for Esperanza En Escalante residents.

To join the chapter, you must be eligible to join national MOAA. If you have any questions about joining the chapter contact our membership chair, Don Timian, at dontimian@hotmail.com or by phone at 571-216-3679.

Chapter dues are \$30 per calendar year. Wait until this fall to pay your dues online with national MOAA. Login to MOAA, select Chapters, and select Chapter Dues Payment System. Select the Catalina Mountains Chapter. You can also make a chapter donation at this site.

You can find a membership application at https://www.catalinamountainsmoaa.org/CM_join.html

ADDITIONAL CHAPTER LEADERSHIP

Bill Nagy, COL, USAR, retired
Programs Chair

Carol Smith
Surviving Spouse Liaison

Don Timian, LTC, USA, retired
Membership Chair

Jeff Peckron, Capt, USMC, retired
Legislative Liaison

Ed Brogan, Col, USAF, retired
Chaplain

Jeff Peckron, Capt, USMC, retired
Audio/Visual Support

Cash Striplin, COL, USA, retired
JROTC coordinator

The Chapter received a 5 star Level of Excellence award for 2024 (our third consecutive 5-star award), shown below. MOAA chapters were graded as 3, 4, or 5 stars based on the performance of each chapter with 5 stars being the highest level of excellence. Thanks to all chapter members for making this happen!



Arizona Legislative update by Tom Waddell, AZ Council of Chapters

The Legislature has recently shifted its focus to the state budget, and unfortunately, there has been little movement on the bills we support. Despite this, I strongly urge you to contact our state legislators and ask them to support the three remaining veteran-focused bills. Additionally, please reach out to the committee chairmen listed below and ask them to advance these bills in the current session. Our veterans deserve action—not delay.

Thank you for standing with us and making your voice heard. These three bills are still awaiting action from the Rules Committee in both houses:

HB2672: Property Tax Exemption for Disabled Veterans – Under review by the Senate Rules Committee, chaired by Senator Farnsworth.

SB1155: Pay Equity for USPHS/NOAA – Under review by the House Rules Committee chaired by Rep. Hendrix.

SB1704: VDF Monies for State Veterans Homes – Under review by the House Rules Committee, chaired by Rep. Hendrix.

Catalina Mountains mission statement

The Chapter's mission is clearly spelled out in the by-laws of the Catalina Mountains Chapter, in Section 1.2 as follows:

“The Chapter is organized, and shall be administered and operated, exclusively for the following purposes, within the meaning of Section 501(c)(19) of the Internal Revenue Code: to promote the purposes and objectives of the national Military Officers Association of America (MOAA); foster fraternal relations among active duty, former, and retired officers of the uniformed services and their reserve or national guard components; protect the rights and interests of active duty, former, retired, and reserve and national guard component personnel of the uniformed services and their dependents and survivors; provide useful services for members and their dependents and survivors; and serve the community and the nation.”

Fly the flag dates

July

July 4 (Fri) – Independence Day

July 27 (Sun) – Korean War Veterans Armistice Day

August

Aug 1 (Fri) – Air Force Day

Aug 4 (Mon) – Coast Guard Day

Aug 7 (Thu) – Purple Heart Day

September

Sept 1 (Mon) – Labor Day

Sept 11 (Thu) – Patriot Day (fly at half-staff all day)

Sept 17 (Wed) – Constitution Day

Sept 18 (Thu) – Air Force Birthday

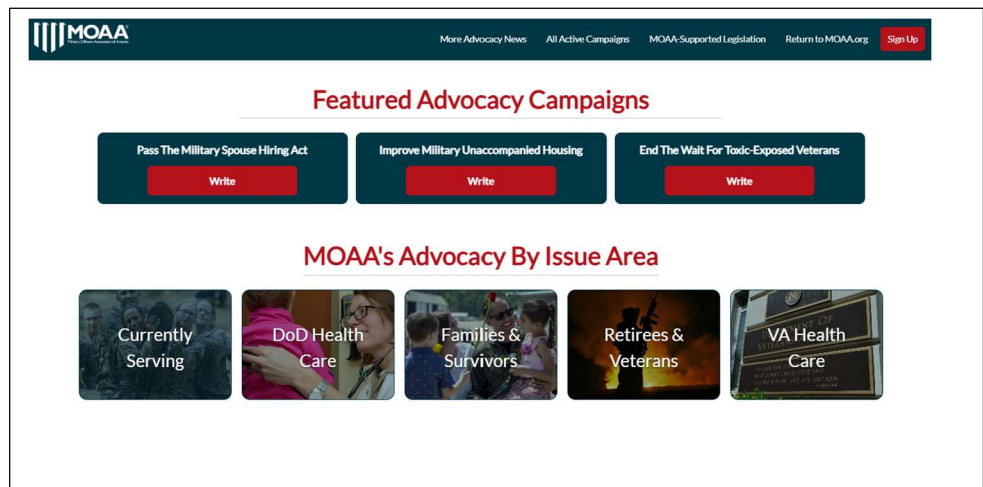
Sept 19 (Fri) – POW/MIA Recognition Day

Sept 28 (Sun) – Gold Star Mother's Day

MOAA Advocacy and the Legislative Action Center



The optimal location to obtain the most relevant and current legislative information at national MOAA level is on the national MOAA website at: <https://www.moaa.org/>. After logging into the site with your **User Name** and **Password**, click on the “**Advocacy**” link at top of the page. Here, you can click on any of the secondary links (shown to the left) in order to navigate all the most relevant and current legislative information at the national level. Much of the most important information applicable to CMC is within the “**Legislative Action Center**” (LAC) secondary link. Once you click on it and sign into the LAC, you will see the LAC page header shown below:



Not all CMC members are “registered” in the LAC. **Please register to help bolster our support of key service member and veteran related legislative issues!** **NOTE:** Individuals must register themselves. If you are not registered, click on the red “Sign Up” button in the upper-right corner. Then fill in the “Sign Up” information on the next page. In the “MOAA Chapter Affiliation” **make sure** to select “AZ12 – Catalina Mountains Chapter”. Once you are registered, will see the initial LAC web page shown above.

The initial LAC web page shown is filled with valuable capability! From this page, you can “Write” your congressional representatives on all “Featured Advocacy Campaigns” items and the “MOAA’s Advocacy By Issue Area” items. The emails are pre-written; all you must do is select the representatives you want the emails to go to, modify the emails (only if you want to) and hit “send”. It is that easy!

A strong recommendation: After you register and sign into the LAC, **DO NOT “Logout” of the LAC.** If you do, the next time you enter the LAC you will have to re-register.

Please take advantage of this fantastic online capability so that your voice can be heard at national level.

Member in the spotlight - by Kurt McMillen

When our Catalina Mountains Chapter (CMC) publishes the Sentinel newsletter, we enjoy highlighting the accomplishments of our CMC members. All our members have diverse backgrounds. We think you will appreciate our members' contributions over their previous career, and within CMC and outside of our chapter now.

This "spotlight" shines on our own Charles Vaughan, CAPT, USN, retired. Charles Vaughan, who prefers to be called Chuck, grew up in Albert Lea, Minnesota, the oldest of four children. He didn't excel at anything in school – he was just a better-than-average kid in school. He and one of his brothers helped out on an uncle's farm during the summers, bailing hay or doing whatever needed to be done. In July of 1970, after graduating from high school with no post high school plans, he enlisted in the U. S. Navy, just like a friend of his had done a year earlier.

Chuck enlisted for six years to get an advancement after completing his schooling and to get trained in a technical field. After completing boot camp in San Diego (July to September in San Diego is very nice, thank you U. S. Navy), he spent a year in Millington, Tennessee (the Navy's in Tennessee? Who would have guessed?) studying to be an Aviation Electronics Technician, a Navy AT, graduating as an AT3. He remembers getting to Millington and initially, with all the other new students, working as a mess cook, getting up at 04 dark-thirty to go to work in the chow hall to help prepare breakfast. Luckily he survived that experience.

His first assignment was with Fleet Air Reconnaissance Squadron Two (VQ-2) in Rota, Spain where he worked on the EA-3B Skywarrior electronic reconnaissance aircraft. At VQ-2 Chuck learned of the Navy Enlisted Scientific Education Program, NESEP, which offered young enlisted sailors the opportunity to study engineering at a limited number of universities and, upon graduation with a B. S. degree, receive a commission as

an Ensign in the U. S. Navy. In 1972 Chuck applied for acceptance to NESEP and found himself, in August 1973, studying Aerospace Engineering at the University of Kansas in Lawrence, KS.

At KU he met his wife Kris – their most memorable dates were going to the computer center at KU to run Chuck's Fortran computer programs which consisted of punch cards with each punch card containing one line of computer code. It might take two hours to have a program run and get the output as there was usually a queue of programs waiting to be run. (If you remember punch cards, you are old!)



Chuck was commissioned an Ensign in May, 1977; his next stop was Pensacola, FL for Naval Flight Officer (NFO) training. After completing some of his training at Pensacola the next stop was NAS Miramar in San Diego where, as a student NFO, he completed training in the E-2 Hawkeye aircraft to control fighter aircraft and monitor the airspace around a Carrier Strike Group for hostile targets. When his small class was told two students would be sent to Japan to fly with Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron 115 aboard the USS Midway (CV-41), after consulting with his wife, of course, Chuck and Kris were off to Yokosuka and Yokohama, Japan.

After collecting 83 arrested landing aboard the USS Midway, Chuck decided to pursue his first love of engineering. He became a Navy Civil Engineer Corps officer and was sent to NAS Patuxent River, MD where he supervised 300+ "shops" personnel in the Public Works Department, providing facilities and grounds maintenance, utilities services and transportation services for the base. He went from there to Monterey, CA where he earned a M. S. in Management from the Naval Postgraduate School. From there he went to Wallops

President's message - continued

Island, VA (Wallops Island is near Chincoteague, VA where Chuck and Kris and their two kids lived) where he supervised construction for the Navy Civil Engineer Corps.

In the summer of 1986, the unbelievable happened—Chuck was not selected for promotion to Navy O-4. It happened again in 1987 which meant Chuck needed to find himself a job. He and his wife had recently visited New England and liked New England so he applied for an engineer job at two Navy installations in Maine. By October 1987 he was working for the Public Works Department at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard (PNSY) in Kittery, Maine; shortly thereafter he associated with the Navy Reserve (eventually serving almost 20 years in the Navy Reserve). Chuck worked at PNSY for 21 years as a Navy civil service General Engineer, an Admin Officer, an Environmental Engineer and a Supervisory Industrial Hygienist. Kris worked for 20+ years as a RN at York Hospital in York, Maine. Their two children, Kelsey and Ryan, grew up in Maine. Chuck and Kris bought a home in Kittery Point approximately mid-way between PNSY and York Hospital. On Chuck's approximately 4-mile commute to work he stopped at two stop signs—only two stop signs, no traffic lights. Kris' commute, also approximately 4-miles in the opposite direction, also involved two stop signs and no traffic lights. Where else, other than in Kittery Point, Maine, could you find two commutes like that?

In 2007 Chuck, now a retired Navy Captain after serving as a Navy Seabee battalion Operations Officer, an Executive Officer, and Commanding Officer, along with a couple of other assignments, applied for a DoD Science, Mathematics, and Research for Transformation (SMART) scholarship. He received a full scholarship to study operations research at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California. In 2008 Chuck, now 56, and his wife, empty nesters, sold their home in Maine and moved cross country to California. He studied Operations Research and after 21 months

found himself working as an Air Force civil service Operations Research Analyst for the Joint Navigation Warfare Center (JNWC) at Kirtland Air Force Base in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

When he was 60, while working at the JNWC, Chuck went back to school one last time as a part-time PhD student. At age 64 he earned his PhD in engineering from New Mexico State University in Las Cruces, New Mexico. A year or so later he left the JNWC and went to work for the Air Force Research Laboratory, Space Vehicles Directorate, also at Kirtland Air Force Base.



So how did Chuck and Kris end up in Oro Valley, AZ and a member of the Catalina Mountains Chapter of MOAA? At the end of the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic, 2020, when he had worked from home for 8 or 9 months of the year, Chuck decided he liked being home and consequently retired at the end of 2020. During 2020 he and Kris began looking for a place to retire to with lots of sunny days, low crime, an airport not too far away, and a medium-sized city, say 50-70,000 population. When Chuck and Kris visited Oro Valley in 2020, Kris fell in love with Oro Valley (and Chuck liked it too). They moved to Oro Valley in April 2021, had a new home built, and have since enjoyed living in Oro Valley.

Editorial Policy. This MOAA newsletter, published periodically throughout the year, is solely for the benefit of members of the Catalina Mountains Chapter of MOAA. The opinions expressed herein are those of the authors or editor and do not necessarily reflect those of the national MOAA organization nor any official government policies or agencies.

Charles F. Vaughan, Editor, Catalina Mountains Chapter of MOAA

President's message - continued

position (a great title suggested by Bill Myers!). As a reminder, you can read about what is happening at both the Arizona state MOAA level and National MOAA level through the following links:

- Arizona Council of Chapters (AZCofC) website: <https://www.azcouncilofchapters.org/>
- National MOAA website: <https://www.MOAA.org>

As far as the most convenient way to submit future CMC dues and donations, please remember that we are now using the online "Cheddar Up" system at: <https://my.cheddarup.com/c/cmc-moaa-2025-dues/items?cart>

Happy birthday!

June birthdays

Leonard Alcantara	Jim Keller
Rett Benedict	Bruce Kelly
Alan Berg	Randy Long
Cecil Burnside	Doug May
Todd Hawkinson	Jerry Sharp

July birthdays

Delores Fantin
Clarence Hindman
Kurt McMillen
Don Timian

August birthdays

Bill Blisset
David Bull
Ken Ellis
Andrew Fairchild
Leneille Hudgins
Phil Osterli

How to contact us

To contact the President, email Kurt McMillen at kmmcmillen@gmail.com or call him at 520-420-7475.

For membership questions, email Don Timian at dontimian@hotmail.com or call him at 571-216-3679.

For luncheon speaker suggestions, email Bill Nagy at wjnagy@yahoo.com or call him at 520-355-5064.

For Surviving Spouse information contact Carol Smith at carol.chisari.smith@gmail.com or call her at 915-549-6917.

Contact your legislator

State Legislators				
District		Name	Email/Phone	Mailing Address
7	Senator	Wendy Rogers	WRogers@AZleg.gov 602-926-3042	Senator Wendy Rogers AZ State Senator 1700 W Washington Street - Senate Phoenix, AZ 85007
7	Representative	Walt Blackman	WBlackman@AZleg.gov 602-926-3244	Representative Walt Blackman AZ State Representative 1700 W Washington Street - House Phoenix, AZ 85007
7	Representative	David Marshall, Sr	DMarshall@AZleg.gov 602-926-3579	Representative David Marshall AZ State Representative 1700 W Washington Street - House Phoenix, AZ 85007
17	Senator	Venden "Vince" Leach	VLeach@AZleg.gov 602-926-3694	Senator Vince Leach AZ State Senator 1700 W Washington Street - Senate Phoenix, AZ 85007
17	Representative	Rachel Keshel	RKeshel@AZleg.gov 602-926-3558	Representative Rachel Keshel AZ State Representative 1700 W Washington Street - House Phoenix, AZ 85007
17	Representative	Kevin Volk	KVolk@AZleg.gov 602-926-3498	Representative Kevin Volk AZ State Representative 1700 W Washington Street - House Phoenix, AZ 85007

Federal Legislators				
District	Website	Name	Phone	Mailing Address
	Senator	Mark Kelly	520-475-5177	Senator Mark Kelly
				https://www.kelly.senate.gov/contact/contact-form
				Hart Senate Office Building
				Suite 516
				Washington, D. C. 20510
	Senator	Ruben Gallego	520-777-0400	Senator Ruben Gallego
				https://www.gallego.senate.gov/share-your-opinion/
				SH-302 Hart Senate Office Building
				Washington, D. C. 20510
6	Representative	Juan Ciscomani	520-881-3588	Representative Juan Ciscomani
				https://ciscomani.house.gov/address_authentication
				461 Cannon House Office Building
				Washington, D. C. 20515

Our next luncheon - continued

Our next CMC luncheon is on October 18th, 2025 since we will still be on our summer hiatus until then. Our speaker will be Air Force Col. (retired) Tim Tarris. Besides having a very successful educational, military and civilian career, the main topic of his presentation will be on his planned 2024 “Centennial Flight” commemorating the 100th anniversary of the U.S. Army Air Service’s first world circumnavigation (accomplished over the course of six months in 1924). A younger aviator and Tim were going to duplicate the event (but in a more current aircraft and 100 years later, of course . . .). Comprehensive planning worked very well until the two got to South America (Peru) where, after several days, they were stopped bureaucratically. The pair did have State Department approval and official consent from all countries enroute, but officials in Peru “changed their mind” after the flight started. As Tim said, “The situation was very frustrating and very expensive”.



Please come and hear “the rest of the story” on October 18th. I am positive that you will appreciate both the excitement and frustration of the planned trip yourself!

Reservations are required to attend the October 18th luncheon. To attend, please contact Col(R) Bruce Huffman at bruceh426@gmail.com or leave a voicemail for Bruce at 518-578-7089. Seating is limited. Spouses are always welcome.