

Chapter meetings are held January – April and October – December at Saddlebrooke Ranch, normally on the 3rd Saturday of the month.



Catalina Mountains Sentinel

October 2024 issue

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Chapter luncheon 19 October 2024

Our first fall luncheon is scheduled for Saturday, 19 October at 11:30 AM in the Private Dining Room of the Ranch House Grill & Brewery at SaddleBrooke Ranch. The restaurant's address is 31143 S. Amenity Drive, Oracle, AZ 85623.

Our speaker will be chapter member retired Colonel Martin J. Lenzini, U.S. Marine Corps. Col. Lenzini served 26 years, flying 350 combat missions during the Vietnam War. For these exemplary efforts he was awarded four Distinguished Flying Crosses and 24 Air Medals. Col. Lenzini flew the A-4, A-6, EA-6B, A-7 and F-4 aircraft, commanding both a squadron and an aircraft group.

Following his military career, Mr. Lenzini worked at Hughes/Raytheon Missile Systems in Tucson for 21 years as a project manager in advanced programs and a senior program manager for air-to-ground weapons.

Mr. Lenzini's presentation will focus on the life of a warrior who flew combat missions during the Korean War; and then flew the Lockheed high-altitude reconnaissance A-12 aircraft for the CIA and the Lockheed long-range, high-altitude, Mach 3+ strategic reconnaissance aircraft SR-71 "Blackbird" for the USAF.

Reservations are required for the luncheon. To attend email Col. Kurt McMillen at kmmcmillen@gmail.com or call or text him at 520-420-7475. Seating is limited. Spouses are always welcome.

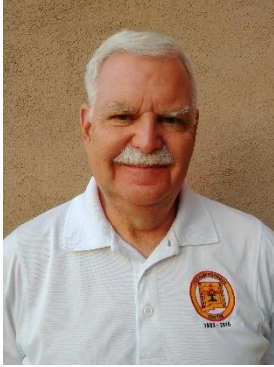
Upcoming luncheons

Chapter luncheons are scheduled for Saturday, 19 October and Saturday, 16 November. The Chapter's Holiday Party will be held on 21 December in place of the monthly luncheon.

National MOAA and the Catalina Mountains Chapter are nonpartisan.

President's message

Hello chapter members!.



There's a lot going on with this chapter.

By the time you read this newsletter we will have presented four laptops to four veterans living at Esperanza En Escalante and provided Esperanza En Escalante

with two new desktops for its computer center. We obtained two grants to fund most of the purchase cost of the computers. The laptops are given to veterans who are short-stay residents of Esperanza En Escalante. We did this last fall also for four veterans of Esperanza En Escalante.

Our fall/spring chapter meeting season begins Saturday, October 19th with USMC Colonel (retired) Martin Lenzini being our speaker. In November our luncheon speaker and his wife will talk about the battle for Iwo Jima during WW II on Saturday, November 16th. Also, in November several of us will be attending Saddlebrooke's annual Veterans Day dinner on Monday, November 11th. A

limited number of tickets are available. Then in December a few of us will participate in Wreaths Across America, placing Christmas Wreaths on veteran's graves at the Arizona Veterans Memorial Cemetery at Marana on Saturday, December 14th. On December 21st, in place of our monthly luncheon, we will have our first chapter Holiday Party, from 12:00 to 4:00 PM, at Saddlebrooke Ranch. More details will be emailed to you concerning this party.

Please welcome, with me, new member Ken Ellis, a retired Army Colonel. Thank you, Ken, for joining our chapter! We will soon be losing chapter member Ritt Schiano, Captain, USN, retired, who has served as our chaplain and headed up our JROTC program. Taking Ritt's place as our chaplain is Ed Brogan, a retired USAF Colonel who served in the USAF as a chaplain. Taking Ritt's place as our JROTC coordinator is Cash Striplin, a retired Army Colonel.

Exercise your right to vote next month on Tuesday, November 5th. If you recently moved here and haven't registered to vote, you have a couple of days to register. See the note on page 8 if you haven't registered to vote - you have until October 7 to register to vote.



2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Charles F. Vaughan, CAPT, USN, retired
Chairman

Bill Nagy, COL, USAR, retired
Member

Rett Benedict, Col, USAF, retired
Member

2024 CHAPTER OFFICERS

Charles F. Vaughan, CAPT, USN, retired
President

Kurt McMillen, COL, USA, retired
First Vice President

Bruce Huffman, COL, USA, retired
Second Vice President

Bill Myers, LT, CEC, USN, former
Secretary

George Bone, LTC, USA, retired
Treasurer

MOAA's Legislative Action Center

National MOAA's Legislative Action Center makes it very easy for you to contact your national legislators on legislation that MOAA is advocating for passage. As noted by national MOAA, "your efforts are critical to our success protecting and expanding the earned pay and benefits for the uniformed services and veteran communities".

The purpose of the Legislative Action Center is to get legislation, beneficial to members of the uniformed services, veterans and their dependents, passed into law. MOAA members use the Legislative Action Center to write to their legislators to encourage passage of specific legislation. The Legislative Action Center makes writing to your legislators simple—in fact, very simple—as the letters are written for you, they are addressed to your legislators (based on your mailing address), so all you have to do is select the recipients, edit the letter if you want to, and click submit. Easy-peasy! If you haven't tried it yet, please do.

MOAA's Legislative Action Center is located at <https://moaa.quorum.us/>

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 2023 (our second 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!



Legislative update by Tom Waddell, AZ Council of Chapters

As you read this, the deadline for registering to vote in Arizona has probably passed (Monday, October 7, 2024). Now is the time to make sure you are registered to vote and whether you are registered for early voting by mail or for in person voting. You can check that information at <https://my.arizona.vote/PortalList.aspx>. You can also use the site to check the status of your ballot to include whether it was received and, more importantly, whether it was validated. It took me all of 3 minutes to completely review all my voter registration information. Remember, an essential part of being an effective grass-roots advocate is being an active voter. I ask that you carefully review all the candidates' views on military and veteran issues and include those positions when you choose your candidates on Tuesday, November 5.

The Senate and House are back in session but will soon adjourn until after the election. They will return to DC on November 12th for what is known as a "lame duck" session. However, the name can be misleading. After the midterms in 2022, many important legislative actions were completed and sent to the President to be signed into law. MOAA is asking for your continued advocacy for the passing of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). The NDAA is must-pass legislation that includes many key MOAA priorities.

This includes passing the Richard Star Act (H.R. 1282/S. 344), restoring full BAH (H.R. 2537/S. 1823) and protecting TRICARE for Life. I urge you to once again visit the MOAA Action center and send the prepared letters to our Senators and Representatives. Please take time to personalize the letters by explaining why these issues are important to you. Here are the priority links that you should consider:

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.)

I don't need to remind you that grassroots advocacy works....but only if you get involved! Thanks for all your support on these important issues!! 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 direct.

Senator Kyrsten Sinema – <https://www.sinema.senate.gov> – 202-224-4521
Phoenix office: 602-598-7327

Senator Mark Kelly – <https://www.kelly.senate.gov> – 202-224-2235
Phoenix office: 602-671-7901

Representative Eli Crane – District 2 – <https://crane.house.gov/> – 202-225-3361
Prescott office: 928-286-5338

Representative Juan Ciscomani – District 6 – <https://ciscomani.house.gov/> – 202-225-2542
Tucson office: 520-881-3588

Join the 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 life of some veterans and uniformed personnel. How can you make a difference? Through your gifts of time and money. Chapter members donated their time last year to do some exterior painting at Esperanza En Escalante and two chapter members placed wreaths at the Wreaths Across America event in 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 at \$30 per calendar year. You'll have to wait another month or so before you can pay your dues online with national MOAA due to computer software implementation problems. You can find a membership application at https://www.catalinamountainsmoaa.org/CM_join.html

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, with 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."



SAVE THE DATE – Our first holiday party is being planned for Saturday, 21 December 2024 in place of our regular monthly luncheon. You should be getting a separate flyer by email with details of our first Holiday Party. Save the date and **PLAN TO ATTEND!**

Arizona Legislative update by Tom Waddell, AZ Council of Chapters

Thanks to the hard work of Lt Col Darren L Venters USAF (Ret), Legislative and Transition Director for the Green Valley Chapter, we have both an Arizona state Senator and Representative signed on to reintroduce legislation in support of state income tax parity for USPHS officers serving in Arizona. Senator David Gowan (R), District 19 and Representative Stacy Travers (D), District 12 have expressed their willingness to reintroduce the bill in their respective houses. Hopefully with their bipartisan support, we will get this done this coming session starting in January 2025. I ask that you send a personal note of thanks to Senator Gowan and Representative Travers for their support.

Sen Gowan: DGOWAN@AZLEG.GOV

Rep Travers: STRAVERS@AZLEG.GOV

Governor Hobbs has named John Scott II as the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services Director. You can find Scott's bio at: <https://dvs.az.gov/about/leadership/john-scott> Mr. Scott will be up for Senate confirmation in January.

The ADVS Director is a critical leadership position for protecting the rights of veterans at the state level. It is extremely important to ADVS to have a confirmed and permanent Director to ensure that ADVS serves the needs of Arizona Veterans. The Arizona Senate has established a committee dedicated to overseeing nominations and named AZ Sen. Jake Hoffman as the chairman. I urge you to write to Sen Hoffman and ask him to support Arizona veterans by asking his committee to approve Mr. Scott's nomination when the committee meets in January. You can send emails to Sen Hoffman at: JAKE.HOFFMAN@AZLEG.GOV or calling his office at 602-926-3292.

Fly the flag dates

October

Monday, October 14 – Indigenous Peoples' Day
Sunday, October 27 – Navy Day

December

Saturday, December 7 – Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day = fly flag at half-staff all day
Friday, December 20 – Space Force Birthday
Wednesday, December 25 – Christmas Day

November

Tuesday, November 5 – Election Day
Sunday, November 10 – Marine Corps Birthday
Monday, November 11 – Veterans Day
Thursday, November 28 – Thanksgiving Day



Join other chapter members at Saddlebrooke's annual Veterans Day dinner on Monday, November 11th. Dinner cost is \$38 per person. Watch for a chapter email with additional details.

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 of our members have a diverse military background, civilian background, and they are typically very involved in the local community. We think you will appreciate our members' contributions both within CMC and outside of our chapter.

This "spotlight" shines on our own COL(R) Rett Benedict. After graduating from Union College with a degree in Physics, Rett joined the Air Force through the Union College ROTC program. He then completed 20 years of Research, Development and Acquisition assignments, plus four years of major command staff work, which started during the military buildup in Vietnam. Rett's first assignment was at the Ballistic Systems Division of AF Material Command working the Minuteman II ballistic missile program (specifically advanced guidance and navigation systems and nuclear effects). He then performed a short tour of duty to complete a Master's degree at the Air Force Institute of Technology (AFIT), and was subsequently stationed at the AF Weapons Laboratory at Kirtland AFB in Albuquerque. There he addressed the issues of nuclear weapons effects on space systems as part of the Nuclear Criteria Group.

Rett then cycled back to AFIT for a PhD in Physics, awarded in 1977, and returned to Kirtland AFB to the Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL). His work at AFRL concentrated on high energy laser development. His AFRL employment led to an assignment at the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) for five years as a Program Manager in the Directed Energy Division, where he helped develop technologies for high power lasers as well as communication with lasers (primarily to submarines from space). Rett rounded out his career at AF Space Command in Colorado Springs in Space Defense activities and the

Strategic Defense Program – "Star Wars" as it was nicknamed.

Rett retired as a Colonel in 1988 and joined a small (400 people) defense company in Albuquerque and ran the Space and Defense Division for many years. He also served as the company's Chairman of the Board prior to its leveraged buyout. Rett joined the local MOAA Chapter in Albuquerque and became Treasurer for several years. Rett's wife Michele decided that she should be able to select one of their moves, so both relocated to SaddleBrooke in 2014 where he joined the Catalina Mountains Satellite Chapter (CMSC) in early 2015 (good for Michele, and good for CMSC!). Coincidentally, CMSC was started by COL(R) Tom Owens, President of the Tucson MOAA Chapter, as a satellite under the Tucson Chapter right around that time. After a short transition, Rett became President of CMSC and spent about four years working add new members, especially ones that were willing to accept responsibility for helping the organization grow. Rett believes that two of the most dedicated and energetic members, Bill Nagy (COL(R)) and Kurt McMillen (COL(R)), served CMSC and were instrumental in growing it to a regular chapter and getting their 1st 5 Star Level of Excellence (LOE) award.

Rett, thank you so much for your long-term support of our chapter from its infancy to what it is today!



Are you registered to vote? – by Chuck Vaughan, chapter president

I am sure you know that we have a general election and primary election scheduled this year. The primary election occurred on July 30th with the general election occurring on Tuesday, November 5th. By the time you read this you will only have a couple of days left to register to vote if you haven't already done so. The last day to register for the November 5th general election is Monday, October 7th. Exercise your right to vote – if you haven't registered yet, do so today!

For Arizona residents there are three ways to register to vote. You can register online if you have an Arizona Driver License and/or an Arizona non-operating I.D. card issued by the Motor Vehicle Division. Use the Service Arizona website to register: the website is located at <https://servicearizona.com/VoterRegistration/selectLanguage>.

You can register to vote by mail. Per the Secretary of State's website, you can either print off a form online or request that a registration form be mailed to you from your County Recorder. After completing the voter registration form, mail it to your County Recorder's office. Use this site to your County Recorder's office. <https://azsos.gov/elections/about-elections/county-election-officials-contact-information>

Lastly, you can visit your County Recorder's office and fill out a registration form in person.

Happy Birthday!

The following chapter members had a birthday in October:
George Bone Vince Gwiazdowski Joe Harris

The following chapter members have a birthday in November:
David Dobson Wayne McCarey Charles Meiselman Bill Nagy Terry Turner

The following chapter members have a birthday in December:
Don Evans Stuart Kraft Donna McArthur Ken Miller

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

Jim Click raffle tickets for sale – by Chuck Vaughan, chapter president

The chapter has Jim Click raffle tickets for sale again this year. The grand prize is a new 2024 Jeep Wrangler Rubicon 4xe plug-in hybrid (shown below). Second prize is two round-trip, first-class airline tickets to anywhere in the world. Third prize is \$5,000 cash. Tickets are \$25 each or 5 for \$100. See president Chuck Vaughan to purchase your tickets. Winner need not be present to win. Tickets will be on sale now through our November luncheon. All proceeds from ticket sales stay with the chapter!



How to contact us

To contact the President, email Chuck Vaughan at chuck.vaughan@comcast.net or call him at 505-553-4364.

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.

Donations are being accepted to sponsor a one-week fall camp for children at Esperanza En Escalante. Last year the chapter donated \$2,050.00 to send children to camp for one week. Donations can be made on-line or by check to the treasurer – contact George Bone, our treasurer, at gbone39@gmail.com or by phone at 520-314-3595..