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~ Five Star ★★★★★ Chapter ~

President's Message...

November 2022 Issue

Greetings Friends,

MOAA National meeting was held October 28th and the Chapter was honored for the third year running as a five-star Chapter. Additionally, Judith Thomas was honored with the Surviving Spouse Liaison Excellence award.



The Chapter's annual meeting was held November 19th at the Buffalo Soldiers National Museum. It was a great venue and we were treated to a guided tour by CPT Paul Matthews the museum's founder. Additionally, several members of the Chapter, Dan Gutierrez, Rollins Collins and myself attended the dedication of the Vietnam Combat Veterans memorial at the Houston Veteran Memorial Park. The memorial is quite striking. E A (Buddy) Grantham co-hosted the ceremony.

Please note there will be no Chapter lunch meeting in December due to the Christmas holiday season.

Finally, I trust that everyone had a wonderful and blessed Thanksgiving. We are most fortunate to be able to enjoy the many blessings of this great country.

Respectfully,
Rob

Robin P. Ritchie, COL, Infantry, USAR (Ret)



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November...Chapter Events:

Saturday, November 19th, 2022 @ 11:30am-1:30pm

MOAA HA Chapter Annual Meeting

Buffalo Soldiers National Museum

3816 Caroline Street

Houston, TX 77004

RSVP to Rob Ritchie

Email: rpritchie@earthlink.net

Tuesday, November 29th, 2022 @ noon

MOAA HA BOD Meeting

Rudi Lechner's German Restaurant

2503 S Gessner Rd

Houston, TX 77063

'The Wall' Turns 40: Reflections on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial

By: Kipp Hanley
NOVEMBER 07, 2022



Vietnam veteran Jan Scruggs, pictured at the Wall in September, led the charge for the memorial, which was dedicated 40 years ago. (Photo by Mike Morones/MOAA) (This article originally appeared in the November 2022 issue of Military Officer, a magazine available to all MOAA Premium and Life members. Learn more about the magazine [here](#); learn more about joining MOAA [here](#).)

It has been 40 years since the Vietnam Veterans Memorial was constructed on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. The dedication was held on Nov. 13, 1982. However, the gratitude the Wall elicited from Col. Pete Peterson Jr., USA (Ret), remains as powerful today as it was when he first laid eyes on it in the mid-1980s.

"It means a lot," said Peterson, a MOAA member and Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) board member. "When we came back, we were the little redheaded stepchildren. So when the monument popped up, I saw it as America's way of saying we thank you for your service, we want to acknowledge that you didn't create the war, nor did you lose it."

Peterson was drafted in 1962, serving in special forces and artillery in his two stints in Vietnam. In his first tour of duty, he spent three months training the locals before being sent back seven years later after finishing Officer Candidate School.

During each tour of duty, Peterson saw someone die in front of him. Many of those memories came flooding back when he got his first look at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

"I went down to the Wall, just me by myself, and it was quite an experience," Peterson said. "I looked at things a little differently, and I was glad I was by myself because you unwind, you unravel. ... You don't realize how much of those pent-up emotions you have stored."

Made of polished black granite, the Wall is inscribed with the names of the more than 58,000 servicemembers who lost their lives during the war, listed in chronological order by date of casualty.

Since the Wall's 1982 dedication, four components have been added to the memorial site: the Three Servicemen statue, a flagpole, the Vietnam Women's Memorial, and the In Memory plaque, honoring those who died after the war ended.

Fellow VVA board member Lt. Col. Sandie Wilson, USAR (Ret), who served as a nurse in Vietnam from 1968-69, said she could not get close to the memorial the first time she visited it.

"You think about what might have happened [to you] when you see all [the] names on the Wall," said Wilson. "It becomes very emotional knowing that those were the people we could not save."

Overcoming Obstacles

While his purpose for the memorial was to honor those who fought and died, Vietnam War veteran and Wall founder Jan Scruggs never dreamed the structure would elicit the response it still does four decades later. Even today, the former Army specialist 4 (E-4) often travels from his Maryland home to the memorial, paying his respects and informally educating tourists.

(Continued on the following page...)



A soldier reads some of the 58,307 names etched into "The Wall" of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. (Photo by Sgt. Ken Scar/Army)

'The Wall' Turns 40: Reflections on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial...*(Continued from previous page)*

"I thought it would be a novelty for the first couple of years," Scroggs said. "A place where maybe Rolling Thunder [on Memorial Day weekend] would come down to for five years and then it would fade away. But what I found after three or four years after the memorial was built, it was everywhere. It was always on the cover of magazines, *Life* magazine, *Time* magazine. The Wall became synonymous with the Vietnam War and with the memories of people there."



The Vietnam Women's Memorial was dedicated on Nov. 11, 1993. (Photo by Mike Morones/MOAA)

The idea of a memorial was conceived by Scroggs in the late 1970s. After a design competition, the jury selected the minimalist design of then 21-year-old Yale University senior Maya Lin.

But the memorial was never a sure thing as many powerful organizations and politicians opposed the idea right up to its construction date, said Scroggs.

"The Secretary of the Interior in March of 1982 had the construction permit, but he wouldn't give it to me," Scroggs said. "Thirty-two congressmen had called in within a period of 45 minutes and said do not give them the construction permit."

However, with support from inside the White House, the Wall was constructed. According to Scroggs, former Army officer and then White House Fellow Tom Shull told the Department of the Interior not to hold up the permit despite its 11th-hour opposition.

[RELATED: [Wall of Faces Now Includes Photos of All Servicemembers Killed in the Vietnam War](#)]

"We took the permit, ordered bulldozers and heavy equipment, and I told the bulldozer guy, 'just rip the Mall up,' " Scroggs said.

As a representative for the National Urban League's Veterans Affairs Committee, Brig. Gen. George Price, USA (Ret), saw the conflicting opinions of the design of the Wall firsthand at a meeting on Capitol Hill in 1982. During the meeting, someone referred to the winning design as a "black wall of shame," which upset the African-American veteran of the Korean and Vietnam wars. More than 7,000 African Americans died in the Vietnam War, according to the National Archives.

"That rubbed me the wrong way, so I made a statement [during the meeting] that there was nothing wrong with the color black," said Price, a Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund volunteer. "It is a color of honor. There was no reason to go on this tangent."

A supporter of the wall design when it was still on paper, Price remains proud to be associated with the memorial to the fallen.

"I was fortunate to be a part of it, but the credit goes to Jan Scroggs and his volunteers," Price said. "I got captured by the whole concept, and 40 years later we are still here."★



MOAA Interview: Meet the New Board Chairman

By: Kipp Hanley
NOVEMBER 01, 2022

*Photo by Mike Morones/MOAA
Gen. Gary L. North, USAF (Ret), calls his time on MOAA's board of directors a natural extension of his military service.*



The association “has very successfully, and in an outstanding manner, represented both active and our Guard and Reserve members over decades and is well respected,” said North, who took over as board chairman in late October for departing Gen. Walter “Skip” Sharp, USA (Ret).

North noted Sharp's "exceptional leadership" and said it's a privilege to serve MOAA's more than 350,000 members as the association's Chairman of the Board of Directors.

“Our MOAA board, working with the MOAA staff and our members in the councils, chapters and general membership, form the foundation of MOAA. And our collective goal is to serve and represent our membership across our nation and to continue to advocate, inform and educate our members and families,” North said. “It is our collective mission to represent them across our national, state and local communities.”

While in uniform, North flew over 4,700 hours in the F-4, F-15, and F-16, including 83 combat missions. He served in multiple service and joint leadership positions, with his last service as commander, Pacific Air Forces, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii. North has been on MOAA's board since 2018 and recently served as chairman of The MOAA Foundation's board of directors.

He shared his goals for MOAA in a recent interview, which has been edited for clarity and brevity.

[RELATED: [MOAA Announces New President & CEO, Chairman and Board Members](#)]

Q. What would you like MOAA members to know about you?

A. I think I'm representative of the total population of MOAA. I joined the military after college, and I come from a military family. My dad was a Navy sailor in World War II, and his two brothers served in World War II. My dad was a sailor, and his two brothers were in the Army. My older brother is retired from the Army. I served for 36 years in the U.S. Air Force, and we have a son that's currently serving in the Air Force.

Our MOAA motto is “Never Stop Serving,” and I'm proud to continue to serve the over 350,000 members as the Chairman of the Board.

[RELATED: [MOAA Welcomes New Judge Advocate Virtual Chapter](#)]

Q. What role do you see MOAA playing in terms of supporting officers and their families?

A. The advocacy piece of what MOAA does is centered around the Washington, D.C., area. But we reach out all over the United States – all our councils and chapters serve our members at the individual level, both in day-to-day activity, but also in times of need. Certainly, with the weather patterns we have seen over the last several years, our ability to help our members in need is critical. And that's one of the standout things I think MOAA does so very well.

[RELATED: [Learn More About The MOAA Foundation's Crisis Relief Fund](#)]

Q. What would you like to accomplish as MOAA's new board chairman?

A. Well, I think it's very clear that our organization, like many organizations that support our military communities, is extremely strong. But what we are seeing across the spectrum is that like other organizations, we must evolve. We need to reach our younger members serving in the military. We need to be an organization they can relate to.

Continued on the following page...

MOAA Interview: Meet the New Board Chairman... *(Continued from previous page)*

So, while we have a very strong following with our legacy members and members who have been with us for decades, both on active duty and now retired, we need to reinvigorate how we represent the association to the active force as well as to the retired force. We need to represent the total force in a more valued environment so younger officers can understand how we can advocate for and support them as well as their children with things like [the MOAA Scholarship Fund](#).

In the next two years I want to continue the strengths that Gen. Skip Sharp and [President and CEO] Lt. Gen. Dana Atkins and the board members and the staff at MOAA have done to represent so well and then move forward into the future. As always, we can't exist on what we did yesterday.

Q. How do you view MOAA's advocacy mission, and how does your role play a part?

A. The strength of our nation relies on the strength of our democratic processes and our ability for the U.S. military to support our national strategic objectives. We have certainly seen that in this last year. The challenges of COVID, the challenges of global unrest, the invasion of Ukraine – it's made the world realize the military men and women who serve their respective nations are critical to our collective freedoms.

So, the advocacy piece of this is to continue to highlight to our nation the strength of our servicemembers. We need to help people understand how important those who serve, and their families, are to our nation – not only while they're serving, but how our nation needs to support them once they have served and continue to live as viable members of America and our community.

This ties back into how we reach younger generations of officers and help them understand what MOAA can do for them while they're serving, and then how they can continue to serve as MOAA members throughout their lifetime.

[RELATED: [MOAA's Legislative Action Center](#)]

Q. Another priority is maintaining a strong and active membership. How do you view the benefits of membership? Are there any areas you see to improve recruitment or retention?

A. Many of us have sat with our friends that we have served with for decades and asked, "Are you a member?" And some of them say, "I don't even know what MOAA is."

Once people understand what MOAA does, I've never had anybody say, "Well, jeez, I'm not interested. I don't want to be a member." So, the outreach part of this is extremely important. And you can do it one person at a time. Every MOAA member should be a recruiter. Telling the story is really important, both at the grassroots level as well as the national level.

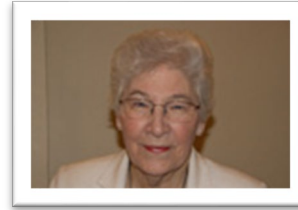
[RELATED: [MOAA Member Benefits and Discounts](#)]

Q. You have served as an adviser and leader for The MOAA Foundation and have seen new causes emerge, like our Crisis Relief Fund. How do you envision the future of the MOAA Foundation?

A. What I see is the adaptation to need. Just because we have done something one way forever doesn't mean that's the way we should continue to do it forever. I think both the scholarship fund and The MOAA Foundation are extremely strong. Bringing in the Crisis Relief Fund was a clear, emerging vector ... there was a strong desire to address a need after the COVID pandemic, and then the following environmental disasters we had. We know one thing: Mother Nature is the strongest force in the world, and Mother Nature is going to give us surprises.

We have an extremely strong scholarship fund and capability to help young men and women, the children of members and of non-members who want to apply. In the past years, we've not had the amount of people that we would like to see applying for these scholarships and grants. Again, this is a grassroots opportunity that we all need to talk about and inform folks it's a great option to help families and their children in attaining a higher education level.

Continued on the following page...



Judith Thomas
Surviving Spouse Liaison
MOAA Houston Chapter
719-331-8485 (cell)
jthomas482@aol.com

Surviving Spouse Corner:

The MOAA Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter November meeting focused on the Internet Protocol Captioned Telephone Service - ITCPS. There is no charge for this service for Hearing Impaired and Deaf individuals. This is funded by a surcharge on every phone in the U.S.

Over 29 million people in the U.S. have hearing loss with the majority being over the age of 60.

If:

you have ringing or hissing sounds in the ears, have to turn up the sound level on your TV or Radio, find it difficult hearing on the telephone or in a crowded room, or ask others to repeat what they just said, then you should request a full Hearing evaluation from an Audiologist.

Resources for the hearing impaired include Hearing Aids, Cochlear Implants, Assisted listening devices and Close Captioned TV, movie and Telephone. One Program is Caption Call - it can be used with a telephone land line, Smart cell phone or via Internet. Caption Call has real time captioning capability with a Caption Agent providing encrypted transcript or have automatic captioning. It can also save messages.

For more information visit www.captioncall.com or call 833-691-1600.



MOAA Interview: Meet the New Board Chairman...*(Continued from previous page)*

[GIVE TO MOAA CHARITIES: MOAA.org/Donate]

Q. How do you view MOAA's chapters, councils, and virtual chapters? How can they continue to play a vital role in MOAA's future?

A. While you have a Washington, D.C., environment where a lot of our work is done for advocacy at the national level, the strength of any team or any unit is the backbone that is throughout the nation. And we see that every day through our chapters, in our councils, to be able to unite like-minded military people who serve as that backbone. It's just phenomenal for camaraderie and friendship, and to be able to keep people informed.

That proper stream of information at the speed of today – that tie into our virtual chapters, and how we reach people who may be more homebound than they used to be, or who have gotten used to not gathering in large groups but are very interested in environments of common interest. We've recently stood up several virtual chapters to support the needs of our membership. So there is something in the form of a chapter for each of our members.

MOAA, as a large organization, has to think of new ways to reach out to our membership and to recruit new members. There is certainly a divide between younger generations, our millennials and Gen Xers and Gen Ys, and we need to be able to have something that not only satisfies but excites each one of them.



How to Navigate TRICARE Programs for Family Members

By: Michelle Norman
NOVEMBER 08, 2022



Michelle Norman, a Navy spouse and a member of MOAA's Currently Serving Spouse Advisory Council, center, is shown with her children. (Photo © www.ENEPHOTO.com)

Editor's Note: This article is part of [MOAA's 2022-23 TRICARE Guide](#), brought to you by [MOAA Insurance Plans](#), administered by Association Member Benefits Advisors (AMBA). A version of the guide appeared in the November 2022 issue of [Military Officer magazine](#).

When enrolling in TRICARE, families usually consider what best meets the needs of the entire family. The decision is more complex for a family member with specific medical requirements. What plan is right for their exceptional child? What specialty services are available? How far will I need to travel?

Location, Location, Location

Not all TRICARE plans may be available in your new duty location. Do the research to see what is available for in-network providers through TRICARE Prime and TRICARE Select.

TRICARE Prime may be a fantastic option for military families with special needs located near a major military treatment facility (MTF) that has specialty departments, like a developmental pediatrician. TRICARE Prime is the most cost effective; however, it requires referrals from a primary care manager (PCM) for all specialty appointments.

TRICARE Select is often better for a medically complex child based on its flexibility. Referrals are not required for most specialty appointments, and you can access pharmacies out in town.

A Knowledgeable PCM/Pediatrician

Spend some time researching and interviewing pediatricians who have experience serving children with special needs. Do they have connections with the local pediatric hospital? Are they knowledgeable about early intervention/special education resources?

[RELATED: [Coming Full Circle: How MOAA Works for This Military Family](#)]

ECHO

Another benefit for some families in the Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) is the Extended Care Health Option (ECHO) Program. If eligible, you will be assigned a case manager who helps you procure services not normally covered through TRICARE, such as durable equipment, and respite and home health care.

The ECHO program is designed to mimic the benefits that a state Medicaid waiver provides, but Medicaid waivers are difficult to obtain for highly mobile families. With ECHO, there is a monthly copayment based on the active-duty servicemember's rank. Plus, ECHO enrollment is required to access the Autism Care Demonstration Project, which offers Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) therapy.

Non-Participating Providers

There may be times your child with special needs requires a provider that does not accept TRICARE, especially if you are traveling. You can always self-pay in critical situations and ask for a "super bill" with the correct itemized coding. If you submit the claim to TRICARE within one year for reimbursement, with the right coding, TRICARE will reimburse at their rates.

Continued on the following page...

How to Navigate TRICARE Programs for Family Members...(Continued from previous page)

[MOAA CHANGEMAKERS: [Michelle Norman](#)]

Supplemental Insurance

MOAA offers supplemental insurance called [MEDIPLUS](#) for members enrolled in TRICARE Select. This valuable benefit will cover the copayments of appointments until your family meets the catastrophic cap set by TRICARE. Additionally, MEDIPLUS helps cover retail pharmacy copayments for prescriptions that are TRICARE-approved.

As a rule of thumb, TRICARE will be billed first, then a supplemental (secondary) insurance plan, and last is a Medicaid waiver plan. There may be times that a provider does not accept TRICARE and won't provide services even if your child has a Medicaid waiver plan.

Be an Effective Advocate

Military caregivers should consider creating a medical binder to include their child's medical records, visits, evaluations, referrals, medical power of attorney, TRICARE Explanation of Benefits, etc. The more organized you are, the easier it will be to advocate on your child's behalf for medical care and eventually give them the tools to advocate for themselves one day.

Ensuring that your loved one with special needs has access to medical care may seem like a daunting task. TRICARE offers many health benefits for active duty families. You can switch plans during open season based on your family's needs and current duty station.

With some research and fully understanding benefits, you will be armed with knowledge to make optimal medical care decisions for your family.

MEDIPLUS® TRICARE Supplement

Works hand-in-hand with your Select or Prime Plan. Count on valuable protection.

[ENROLL NOW](#)

2023 TRICARE Costs Announced

By: Kevin Lilley
NOVEMBER 08, 2022

SDI Productions/Getty Images
Inflation figures which will lead to the highest cost of living adjustment (COLA) for military retirees in decades next year also will lead to significant increases in TRICARE enrollment fees, premium, and other rates.

TRICARE announced the 2023 rates Nov. 7, a week before this year's open season. Find all the rates [at this link](#); click [this link](#) for the same charts from 2022. Costs for next year's TRICARE Reserve Select, TRICARE Retired Reserve, and TRICARE Young Adult plans [were announced in late August](#).



[FROM MOAA's TRICARE GUIDE: [TRICARE and FEDVIP Open Season: Which Plan Is Best?](#)]

Thanks in part to MOAA's persistent advocacy, by law, many fees are indexed to the retiree COLA increase, which will be 8.7% in the new year. MOAA defeated an alternative approach proposed by Congress and DoD which would have indexed increases to national health expenditures, resulting in consistently larger price hikes. One example of a COLA-linked increase for next year: Annual TRICARE Select enrollment fees for most [Group A retirees and their families](#) will rise to \$171.96 for individuals and \$345 for families for 2023, up from \$158 and \$317, respectively.

Continued on the following page...

2023 TRICARE Costs Announced *...(Continued from previous page...)*

MOAA has worked to roll back these enrollment fees, which took effect in 2021 after being enacted in the FY 2017 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).

[TAKE ACTION: [Ask Your Senators to Repeal the TRICARE Select Enrollment Fee](#)]

TRICARE Select Group B retirees (entered service on or after Jan 1, 2018) and their families will pay annual enrollment fees of \$547.92 for individual plans and \$1,095.96 for family plans in 2023, up from \$504 and \$1,008 this year. Annual deductibles for TRICARE Select Group A remain the same year over year (\$150 individual/\$300 family), while Group B rates rose:

- Individual in network: \$182 (up from \$168)
- Individual out of network: \$365 (up from \$336)
- Family in network: \$365 (up from \$336)
- Family out of network: \$730 (up from \$672)

The annual catastrophic cap for TRICARE Select Group A retirees will rise from \$3,706 in 2022 to \$4,028 next year, and Group B retirees will see an increase from \$3,921 to \$4,262. Annual enrollment fees apply to the cap.

The catastrophic cap for TRICARE Prime Group A retirees remains at \$3,000, while Group B retirees will have a \$4,262 cap in 2023, up from \$3,921.

[Click this link](#) for a full listing of costs for the new calendar year.

[TAKE ACTION: [Help MOAA Fight Cuts to the TRICARE Pharmacy Network](#)]

Out-of-Pocket Rates

See below for some of the changes to out-of-pocket costs for retirees and family members for 2023. A full list of changes, including changes to rates for active duty family members, can be found [at this link](#).

TRICARE Select Group A *(Per statute, TRICARE Select Group A fixed-dollar copays are calculated each year to be cost neutral with former TRICARE Standard/Extra percent cost shares.)*

- **Primary care:** \$34 in network, up from \$32 (remains 25% out of network)
- **Specialty care:** \$49 in network, down from \$50 (remains 25% out of network)
- **ER visit:** \$138 in network, up from \$133 (remains 25% out of network)
- **Urgent care visit:** \$34 in network, up from \$32 (remains 25% out of network)
- **Ambulance (ground):** \$100 in network, up from \$99 (remains 25% out of network)

TRICARE Select Group B

- **Primary care:** \$30 in network, up from \$28 (remains 25% out of network)
- **Specialty care:** \$48 in network, up from \$44 (remains 25% out of network)
- **ER visit:** \$97 in network, up from \$89 (remains 25% out of network)
- **Urgent care visit:** \$48 in network, up from \$44 (remains 25% out of network)
- **Ambulance (outpatient, ground):** \$73 in network, up from \$67 (remains 25% out of network)

TRICARE Prime Groups A and B

- **Primary care:** \$24, up from \$22
- **Specialty care:** \$36, up from \$33
- **ER visit:** \$73, up from \$67
- **Urgent care visit:** \$36, up from \$33
- **Ambulance (outpatient, ground):** \$48, up from \$44

More TRICARE Resources

- Visit [MOAA's TRICARE Guide](#), newly updated for 2022-23, to learn more about choosing a plan, how to navigate the transition to Medicare/TRICARE For Life, and much more.
- Updated monthly, [MOAA's TRICARE Toolkit](#) offers often-overlooked details on your benefit, cost-saving suggestions, and much more.
- [MOAA's Health Care Resources](#) page offers more TRICARE guidance, including links to publications ★



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MOAA Vacations ...(continued from previous page)

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Roundtrip Reykjavik

September 13-22, 2023

10 days

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2024 Upcoming MOAA Signature Cruises & Tours:

Paris and Normandy - 80th Anniversary of D-Day

Roundtrip Paris, 7-nights

June 2-9, 2024 - SOLD OUT

June 9-16, 2024 - LIMITED SPACE AVAILABLE

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Chaplain's Corner...



IDEAFILE

An American Lady and the Coronation-The crown and Green Energy Policy?
Why I believe in evolution to a certain extent.

This is November, Thanksgiving Season, moving on toward Advent, Hanukkah and Christmas. We can be thankful for so many things around us. In looking back, we survived the elections, we still have our freedoms intact, most of us have food on our table and our roof over our heads. Our Scriptures tell us to be content with what we have and we attempt to do so. They also tell us to respect our governments and one another and share with others, which we also attempt to do. The hard part is to live that way. We live in the United States of America and we are all on the same team, we just don't act that way. We can, however have hope and also move forward.

In retrospect we've seen Great Britain crown a new king after the passing of Queen Elizabeth. She was a beloved queen, respected and loved around the world. She reigned as the queen nearly 70 years. I and many of us watched the ceremonies honoring and celebrating her life and accomplishments. I was reminded of this as I am reading CS Lewis book, LETTERS TO AN AMERICAN LADY. In one letter dated July 10, 1953, he comments on the coronation of the new, young queen. He reflects:

“...Over here (in London) people did not get that fairy-tale feeling about the coronation. What impressed most who saw it was the fact that the Queen herself appeared to be quite overwhelmed by the sacramental side of it. Hence in the spectators, a feeling of (one hardly knows how to describe it) – awe – pity – pathos-mystery. The pressing of that huge, heavy crown on that small, young head becomes a sort of symbol of the situation of humanity itself: humanity called by God to be His vicegerent and high priest on earth yet feeling so inadequate. As if He said, “In my inexorable love I shall lay upon the dust that you are glories, dangers and responsibilities beyond your understanding.” Do you see what I mean? One has missed the whole point unless one feels that we have all been crowned and that coronation is somehow, if splendid, a tragic splendour.”

As I thought about this I reflected back to our discourse about evolution. Not the evolution vs creation debate but rather the evolution of our humanity during our lifetime. In Genesis chapter 1, God creates Adam and Eve and tells them: “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”

I take that to say, “manage the earth”. The evolution I'm thinking of is the fact that in my lifetime I learned about the Renaissance, and the Industrial revolution In my lifetime I have experienced heat moving from coal to gas, to electric and to solar. I moved from a slide-ruler to a 100 key calculator, to a scientific calculator, to the cell phone that is a computer. The bottom line is why should I worry about what we spend to try to save the planet. That isn't just science, that's humanity, religious and secular. God gave us the mandate to manage and to think and to care for and to improve His creation. My theology says this and we are all part of His plan.

Most religions give us hope for the future and tell us to give thanks for the present. Most tell us that suffering, sacrifice and sharing is a part of life, faith and our religion. Buddha, Jesus, Mohammad and other religious leaders and Scriptures give us hope for the future, teaching, advice and mandates for the present and tell us to reflect on the past and move forward. They tell us that we will be judged by our words and actions. And they tell us that our words, sharing, sacrifice, failures and decisions both good and bad will be judged. Our faith tells us how to live. Our humanity allows us to live our lives. Let us give thanks and live our lives in a manner which demonstrates that faith.

~ David Essells, USAR, MAJ, RET



MOAA HA Chapter Annual Meeting Saturday, November 19th, 2022

Buffalo Soldiers National Museum



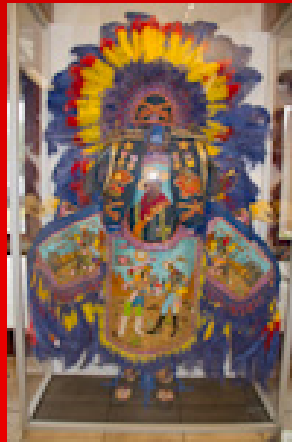
**CAPT Paul Matthews, Museum Founder
and Robin P. Ritchie, COL, Infantry, USAR (Ret)**



Dan Gutierrez



Frank Tricomi



Teresa Otto



Rob Ritchie



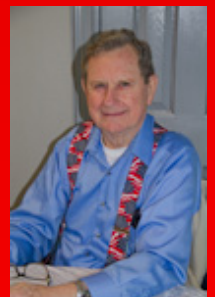
**Kathy and Rick
Frank**



Barbara Tricomi



Mike Martin



Tucker Coughlin



David and Lois Essells



Paul and Dee Brennan

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*We need YOU...
to remain a
MOAA HA Member!*



Debating whether to renew your chapter membership?

Talking to a potential new member?

Benefits to belonging to a chapter:

- **Camaraderie and Connections:** when you attend chapter functions, actively serve on a committee, or take a prominent leadership role, you forge lasting ties with other MOAA members.
- **Community Involvement:** Membership provide opportunities to contribute to your community in a variety of ways, from providing scholarships to local students, to supporting causes that support wounded warriors and their families.
- **Legislative Advocacy:** We advocate for the entire military community-all ranks. Members play a critical role in advancing legislation in both Austin and Washington, D.C. This grassroots advocacy is key to MOAA achieving its legislative goals.

Chapter dues reminders will be emailed/sent out in November to those members needing renewal. We are on a calendar year for our chapter dues.

Annual renewal is \$30 for one year, \$20 for each additional year paid with renewal. Surviving Spouse \$15 initial membership; \$10 annual renewal.

Membership Application on the last page!

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM

MOAA's Core Mission

The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) is the country's leading organization protecting the rights of uniformed servicemembers and their families. MOAA's constituents proudly hail from every branch of the uniformed services. To them, we have made the same promise that they have made to their country: Never Stop Serving.

MOAA's greatest mission is to improve the lives of those who serve and their families, which is achieved largely through the tireless advocacy efforts taking place in our nation's capital. For more than 90 years, MOAA has supported legislation that benefits the uniformed services community and has remained equally vigilant when fighting to stop legislation that threatens our livelihood. The larger our numbers, the greater our voice. For more detailed legislative actions see [MOAA | Take Action Center \(quorum.us\)](http://MOAA | Take Action Center (quorum.us))

Name: _____
(Please print) Last First Initial Rank

Branch _____ Status _____ MOAA Nat'l ID _____ *

Spouse's First Name: _____ Tel. for Directory _____

Home Address: _____

Email: _____

Dues: Regular Membership – \$30 first year; annual renewal \$30 (Discount for multiple years if paid with renewal: \$20 for each add'l. year **paid with renewal**)
Surviving Spouse – \$15 first year; annual renewal \$10 (same discount for multiple years)

Chapter Assistance Fund

\$100.00 \$50.00 \$25.00 Other _____

Make check payable to MOAA-HA and mail to:

MOAA-HA
PO Box 18372
Sugar Land, TX 77496



For more information, call COL Robin Ritchie, 713-818-0408

**If not a MOAA national member, another benefit of chapter membership is the opportunity to become a national MOAA member at the BASIC LEVEL for free! If you would like to do so, please indicate here:*

YES NO

Signature: _____