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Heartland of America Chapter

******* May 2018 *******



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Welcome to Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium! With thousands of animals from around the globe, 160 acres of exhibits and gardens including seven acres of indoor exhibits, the Zoo is a perfect place to escape life's daily tedium.

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The Bulletin Board

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Lt Colonel Patrick L. Jones, USAF (Ret) Editor & Webmaster - (402)650-4457

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT



I just returned from our annual “Storming the Hill” where MOAA members from each State visit their Senators and Congressmen in Washington. While I will discuss my day of Storming, I want to let you know that our Chapter received some very good news. The Harris Communication Awards are announced the day after Storming and I am very happy to report that both our newsletter and website were awarded 5-Star ratings. We thank our very talented and hard-working newsletter editor and webmaster Lt Col Pat Jones, USAF (Ret) for his superior work. We plan to present the 5-Star certificates to Pat at an upcoming dinner meeting.

Last Tuesday, we were taken by bus to a large committee room in the Dirksen Building for the Marix Awards. The first awards are to members of Congress who have been strong supporters of national defense and the uniformed services community. Congresswoman Martha McSally, of Arizona was the first recipient. She is a distinguished graduate of the Air Force Academy, the first female fighter pilot and the first to command a fighter squadron in combat. She also led the successful effort to no longer require female service members to wear Muslim garb when traveling off-base in Saudi Arabia. The other recipient was also a congresswoman from Arizona, Kyrsten Sinema. Two companies were recognized for their strong support of national defense: Starbucks and Vantage Mobility International.

Accompanied again by MOAA National’s Director of Finance, Charlene French, we arrived at the Dirksen Building at 7:30 am as we had a 7:45 am appointment with Senator Ben Sasse and his military assistant Chadd Montgomery. We had two primary issues to discuss: Maintain Military Pay and Benefits-Necessary to Recruit and Retain an All-Volunteer Force and Stop Reducing Pay for Medical Retirees (those with less than 20 years and non-combat related). Our packet of information also had information on the “Widows’ Tax” (SBP-DIC Offset) and to stop having “Military Beneficiaries Forced to Pay Readiness Costs.

At 8:00 am, we attended the Nebraska Breakfast and once again, both our senators and our three congressmen were present. I was introduced by Senator Deb Fischer which gave me the opportunity to give a brief elevator speech on our primary issues. We then walked to the Longworth Building to meet with Congressman Fortenberry's staffer Alan Feyerherm and his new Defense Fellow Pat McAfee. We then met with Congressman Bacon's Chief of Staff (and Chapter member) Mark Dreiling and Senior National Security Policy Advisor, Col Pat Flood, USAF (Ret). After lunch at the Capitol Hill Club, we met with Congressman Adrian Smith's Staffer Sara Rusciano. Finally, we walked back to the Hart Building to meet with Senator Fischer and her Military Legislative Assistant Dan Dunham. All of these meetings went well with most of the delegations understanding the importance of maintaining pay and benefits for the all-volunteer force. There were more questions on the cost of resolving the medically retired issue.

On Thursday, I learned that there are two virtual chapters that will be up and running soon. The first is for uniformed services nurses headed up by Col Gerri Graham, USA (Ret) and the second is for Surviving Spouses headed by Gail Joyce. There will be no dues for these chapters that will probably meet quarterly and they emphasized that one can be a member of both a virtual and a regular chapter. More info to come.

Dan Donovan d.donovan1@cox.net 402-339-7888

WHO DUN IT ??

An "Official" report will be made as soon as the FISA Judge approves the investigation to ensure there was no collusion or Russian influence involved. Detective Russell, Sherriff Wicklund, Special Agent Jones, and Inspector Moore are hard pressed to prevent leaks from "insiders" as to whodunit !!!



Dan, who from Newport, found two more natives of Rhode Island at the Tuesday night MOAA event. On the left is Kathy Prout of Newport and Salve Regina. She met her husband when he went through OCS in Newport and went on to become a Rear Admiral. Although not an aviator, he was killed in an early F-18 accident in a thunderstorm. Kathy is very active in MOAA's Surviving Spouse program. In the middle is Congresswoman, Martha McCallum, from Warwick but now from Arizona. She is an AF Academy graduate and a fighter pilot and the first woman to command a fighter squadron. She led the successful effort to stop female service members from having to wear burkas off-base in Saudi Arabia.

Programs

(from Ken McClure, Maj USA (Ret))

May 16 – Craig Jacobs, currently Director of Human Resources at the Henry Doorly Zoo.

June 20 – Neb. In WWI

July – No official meeting (but.... Something un-official is brewing)

August – Omaha Police program



Program Chair, Ken McClure

Time Is Running Out to Weigh In On Arlington's Burial Eligibility Issue

(MOAA & DFAS WEBSITES)

All retirees,

Time is of the essence at Arlington National Cemetery, Va. After a handful of advisory committee meetings and a Congressional hearing this spring, the latest study of the capacity issue feels more urgent.

The Advisory Committee on Arlington National Cemetery (ACANC) recently opened a second survey, with the intention of getting more granular data on people's leanings concerning eligibility restrictions. The first survey results provided some significant information, but the committee is doing its due diligence to make sure preferences are clearly defined.

The primary focus of the second survey suggests any recommendation out of the committee likely will be related to eligibility. Whether that recommendation suggests restricting eligibility or leaving it the same largely depends on you and other survey respondents.

MOAA and DFAS strongly encourages all interested individuals to [TAKE THE SURVEY.](#)

Rep. Mike Coffman (R-Colo.), chair of the House Armed Services Committee's Military Personnel Subcommittee, stated recently he was more than willing to give up his earned plot at Arlington to a Medal of Honor recipient at some point in the distant future. Rep. Don Bacon (R-Neb.) echoed those sentiments. There is no mistaking that restricting eligibility is their preferred way of keeping the cemetery open for new burials well into the future.

While the most recent survey does not explicitly ask respondents to make that choice, the gist is to rank the perceived importance of different categories of servicemember for the purpose of burial eligibility at Arlington.



In a MOAA survey, members expressed very different opinions than the congressmen. Acquisition of additional land was clearly

preferred over restricting burial eligibility. Further, nearly 70 percent of MOAA respondents said the cemetery should be closed to future burials once it is full.

You can expect there to be a decision of some kind by the end of this year. In this situation, a non-decision is a decision, too. Space is going to run out - it is just a matter of when, based on burial, eligibility, and expansion options. Weigh in on that decision by *taking the survey*.

The following message is sent on behalf of Arlington National Cemetery.

As a military retiree, your input is requested to help determine the future of Arlington National Cemetery. Military and civilian leaders are facing difficult decisions as they work to preserve Arlington National Cemetery as the shrine to the nation's heroes and history. With limited space for expansion, eligibility rules are being considered to extend the site's role as an active military cemetery for decades to come.

Your input is important and can help shape the future of Arlington National Cemetery. The survey is available now at www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/eligibility-survey.

You can learn more about Arlington National Cemetery by visiting www.arlingtoncemetery.mil.

**Female Pilot Who Saved Southwest Flight Once Flew Navy F18 Fighters
(from MOAA website, by writer Jeff Schogol)**

It should come as no surprise that the heroic pilot who landed a stricken Southwest Airlines 737 after its engine exploded and shattered a window is former Navy fighter pilot.

Tammie Jo Shults, who was reportedly at the controls of Flight 1380 during the April 17 in-flight emergency, was one of the Navy's first F/A-18 Hornet pilots and left the service in 1993 as a lieutenant commander, the Washington Post reported

on Wednesday. The plane's co-pilot is also reportedly a veteran: Darren Ellisor served in the Air Force, according to Newsweek.

Growing up, Shults dreamed of becoming a military pilot, but the Air Force showed no interest in her. So she eventually became a Navy aviator, the Post reported. During training, she still had to overcome the military's bias against female pilots.



“In ACOS [Aviation Officer Candidate School], if you're a woman ... you're under more scrutiny,” then-Lt. Shults told the Navy's “All Hands” magazine in 1993. At the time, Shults was assigned to Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron 34, an electronic aggressor squadron, “All Hands” reported. She said gender was not an issue within her squadron, but female pilots still faced limited opportunities in Navy aviation.

“It would be nice if they would take away the ceilings [women] have over our heads,” she told the magazine.

Southwest Airlines declined to officially say that Shults was the pilot of Flight 1380. “We are not sharing details about the flight crew, though we couldn't be more proud of their actions,” a company spokeswoman told Task & Purpose on Wednesday.

Attempts to reach Shults were unsuccessful. She was commissioned in June 1985 and served on active duty until March 1993, according to her official personnel record, provided by the Navy. Shults continued to serve as a reservist until August 2001. Her military awards include two Navy Marine Corps Achievement Medals, the National Defense Service Medal and the Pistol Marksmanship Medal (Expert).

Flight 1380 passengers have praised how Shults skillfully landed their plane after it depressurized and how she greeted each passenger after they were safely on the ground.

Audio recordings of Shults talking to an air traffic controller show she kept her calm while bringing the damaged plane in for a landing.

“We have part of the aircraft missing so we're going to need to slow down a bit,” she told air traffic control. “Could you have medical meet us there on the runway as well? We've got injured passengers.”

When the air traffic controller asked if the plane was on fire, Shults responded carefully and respectfully: “No, it's not on fire but part of it is missing. They said there is a hole and someone went out.”

Rep. Martha McSally, a fellow fighter pilot, praised Shults as a “bad-ass” who showed extraordinary courage when the lives of more than 100 passengers and crew were at risk.

“I am so proud of her,” said McSally, R-Ariz. “The world is seeing that the attributes that both or men and women have as they go through military training to be a pilot are those where we are trained over and over again and over again to make sure we know exactly what to do in the most harrowing of circumstances.

“We make good decisions. We fly the airplane while we're working through checklists. We analyze situations. We figure out how to safely on the ground and minimize any damage - and we do it in our sleep. The training that we go through from our first day of flight school is just to be able to do it unconsciously in case anything happens and she really demonstrated that in this emergency.”

McSally is a trailblazer herself: She is both the U.S. military's first female pilot to fly a combat mission and the first woman to command a fighter squadron in combat, according to her online biography. She said it is cruel that Shults was not allowed to fly fighters in combat because of the law at the time.

“They should have,” McSally said. “Her courage and her calmness under pressure that she showed from all of her years of experience is just a reminder that it doesn't matter if you are a boy or a girl; the airplane doesn't care if you have ovaries or not, as long as you have the qualifications and the training you're going to be able to complete the mission - and she did that yesterday.”

Retiree Activities Office could use some help

(from BGen Cohen via Offutt Update)

Most active duty members have experienced frustration trying to track down seemingly simple information and requirements needed in their lives only to be met with the byzantine-like bureaucracy inherent in large organizations that often leads to multiple office visits, multiple phone calls, and referrals to other offices.

Imagine how much more daunting that can be for a military retiree, their spouse or survivor who may be at an advanced age; perhaps doesn't hear well; or is a retiree from a branch other than the Air Force and doesn't understand the Air Force structure.



That's where the Offutt Retiree Activities Office (RAO) can be a great assist and they sure could use your help.

RAOs are made-up of retired volunteers from all services, including surviving spouses, whose sole mission is to assist retirees and surviving spouses by serving as an information center for base services including TRICARE; offering referrals for financial assistance and pay matters; and providing guidance and advice on retirement issues.

Offutt's ROA currently consists of five volunteers who work one day per week from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. answering phones and questions.

According to Joe Schwartz, a retired U.S. Army Master Sergeant and Offutt RAO deputy director, those hours are becoming "hit or miss" as the volunteers are advancing in age and sometimes encountering health issues of their own.

"We'd really like to be able to schedule two people per day," Schwartz said, "Not only would it provide redundancy, but also give the folks someone else to share the day with."

Schwartz stressed the flexibility that comes with RAO volunteerism.

"We'd like someone to be able to provide four hours one day a week, but if they can only do two, that's ok," he said.

According to Schwartz, volunteering for those two or four hours is worthwhile.

"For the retiree and their spouse, the military is their home," Schwartz said. "When they reintegrate into society outside the gate, they sometimes lose touch with what is going on inside the gate including resources and benefits they are entitled to. Helping them navigate "the system" is a way to continue serving and makes you feel good."

In addition to their normal duties, the RAO is integral to the Retiree Appreciation Day held each year.

"It's our Super Bowl," Schwartz said.

The event, usually held at the Base Exchange, offers a variety of free services to retirees, spouses, widows and widowers including immunizations, identification card assistance and legal services.

According to Schwartz, while they might get a few calls daily the rest of the year,

in the weeks leading up to the appreciation day, they receive dozens.

It's an important event which, depending on individual circumstances, might be the only time they get on-base the entire year or can get their immunizations updated.

If more volunteers can augment the RAO's manning, Schwartz envisions expanding the agency's offerings to include more social activities involving retirees to keep their common bonds strong.

"Our retiree community has a wealth of experience that can be valuable to their fellow retirees," Schwartz said. "Sometimes, it is just as important to come together, share memories, and enjoy each other's company.

For more information call (402) 294-4566 or email joseph.schwartz.9@us.af.mil.

MOAA's and Heartland Chapter's Missions are the Same

The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization, working to support military and their families at every stage of life. It actively petitions Congress on behalf of the military community on issues affecting the career force, the retired community, and veterans of the uniformed services. MOAA offers a wide range of personal and financial services exclusive to MOAA members. Whatever the stage of a career, MOAA membership delivers benefits geared specifically to you – and your family. You become part of the strongest advocate for our military and their families. Those with prior officer service in any of the seven uniformed services can become members. Consider joining today because every voice counts! You will be protecting not only your earned benefits but for all serving today. Our Heartland Chapter also focuses on state and local issues, interfacing with the Legislature and the Governor. We provide a really great environment for camaraderie and mutual support with our meetings, speakers, newsletters, website, and community involvement. You will feel like family.

As MOAA does, WE NEVER STOP SERVING....

We are One Powerful Voice –

For every officer at every stage of life and career...

Join Us !! You will be glad you did!

Selection of Membership

<p>When you join MOAA, you become part of the strongest advocate for our military's personnel and their families. The stronger our membership is, the stronger our voice becomes. Consider joining today because every voice counts. Three membership levels to meet the needs of all Officers.</p>	 Good Value BASIC	 Better Value PREMIUM	 Best Value LIFE
<p>Features of each Membership level</p>	<p>No-cost electronic Membership designed for today's junior officers.</p>	<p>Full access to MOAA's career resources, countless discounts on products and travel, & access to all of MOAA-exclusive publications & news updates. Full access to a wide variety of member benefits for today's career officer.</p>	<p>Receive all the benefits that PREMIUM membership has plus exclusive privileges and benefits.</p>
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<p>Support of critical advocacy efforts to protect the benefits of the entire military community.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>Electronic access to several of MOAA's news updates.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>Discounts on products and travel.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>Career transition resources MOAA helps transition efforts by hosting career fairs, resume critiques, training sessions & much more.</p>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>Expert advice on your military pay & benefits MOAA's team of highly trained professionals can help you receive the military benefits you've earned through one-on-one counseling.</p>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>Financial planning and investment advice</p>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>Military Office magazine</p>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>Access to all MOAA-exclusive publications</p>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>Scholarships, interest-free loans, & grants</p>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>MOAA Chapters Take advantage of the opportunity to get involved & meet fellow offices in your community. A PREMIUM or LIFE membership makes it easy.</p>	<p>Dues vary by Chapter.</p>	<p>New chapter members receive a voucher good for one year of chapter dues.</p>	<p>New chapter members receive a voucher good for two years of chapter dues.</p>
<p>Bonus travel rewards and discounts</p>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>Initiation fee waived at the Army and Navy Club of Washington, D. C.</p>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>Protection for your spouse Membership benefits transfer to your spouse should something happen to you.</p>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		<p style="text-align: center;">SURVIVING SPOUSE DUES 1 Yr - \$40 2 Yr - \$72 3 Yr - \$95</p>	



The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) is the country's leading organization protecting the rights of military servicemembers and their families. Those who belong to MOAA not only lend their voices to a greater cause, but they also gain access to extensive benefits tailored to the needs and lifestyles of military officers. MOAA members 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.

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Age 66-70	\$551
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Age 76-80	\$389
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PREMIUM Membership Dues

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Two-Year PREMIUM
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Local Membership Form



Heartland of America Chapter
Military Officers Association of America
P.O. Box 1756
Bellevue, NE 68005-1756

LOCAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

(Heartland Chapter members must also be a National MOAA Member)

Membership: Initial or Renewal

Annual local dues \$20.00 \$10.00 (new ones after 1 July) Aux. \$5.00

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Rank _____ Service _____ Retired NOAA USPHS

Active Duty Regular Reserve Nat'l Guard Former Officer

Spouse's Name _____

National MOAA Membership # _____ Life Member? Yes No

Brief Bio: (entered service: branch: assignment summary: Interesting career anecdotes:

Signature _____ Date _____

Contact Chapter Officers for more info: **President** Dan Donovan - 402-339-7888, **Ask about Membership:** Lou Zuccarello - 402-739-3521, **Programs:** Ken McClure - 402-504-8796, **Surviving Spouse Affairs** - Paula Muth - 402-292-1663, **Legislation:** Paul Cohen - 402-491-3551, **Treasurer:** Rene Dreiling 402-740-3127, **ROTC:** Brook Stafford - 402-916-9759, **Personal Affairs:** Paula Muth - 402-292-1663, **Hospitality & Reservations:** Ron Russell, 402-297-4244, **Webmaster & Newsletter:** Pat Jones - 402-650-4457

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May They Not Be Forgotten:

I mean the men and women who have answered the call and paid the ultimate price so that we and future generations could have the freedoms so cherished by human beings. We must ever be vigilant and prepared to defend our way of life against those who would deny it. Callous politicians, power hungry egoists, corrupt individuals, adversarial religions, and even our latest self-oriented generations pose grave threat to the preservation of what many take for granted. Every citizen should take a few moments from time to time and reflect on the benefits we have in our country. They should give thanks to those who have served and preserved our way of life.

Hopefully, they will also pledge to do their part to keep it so. – pj



Wandering Mind of An Old Retired Guy



Kidnappers are not very interested in us old folks and no one expects you to run -- anywhere.

.People call at 9 PM and ask, 'Did I wake you?' And, people no longer view you as a hypochondriac.

There is nothing left to learn the hard way and things you buy now won't wear out.

You can eat supper at 4 PM, or 3 PM, or 2 PM, or 10 AM, or whenever you want to.

You get into heated arguments about pension plans., with words like “I told you so”

You no longer think of speed limits as a challenge or naps as a punishment...they are actually kinda nice...

You quit trying to hold your stomach in no matter who walks into the room, and standing tall isn't worth it.

You sing along with elevator music, and the dog howling is proof he identifies with you and considers you family.

Your eyes won't get much worse and your investment in health insurance is finally beginning to pay off.

**"GOOD FRIENDS ARE THE RARE JEWELS OF LIFE
DIFFICULT TO FIND AND IMPOSSIBLE TO REPLACE!**

**TODAY IS THE OLDEST YOU'VE EVER BEEN, YET THE YOUNGEST YOU'LL EVER BE,
SO ENJOY THIS DAY WHILE IT LASTS.**

Summer 2018 MOAA Military and Veteran Virtual Career Fair

(MOAA website 25 March)

MOAA's Virtual Career Fair is open to all who have served or are currently serving in the U.S. Military, and their spouses!

Do you want to meet employers, but have limited time? Looking to connect with employment opportunities focused on high-performing individuals? Are you willing to relocate to another area for the best fit job? MOAA has found that Virtual Career Fairs are very effective in connecting talented military and veterans with great companies who value your skills. And, because of the ease of connecting and low cost (time and money), virtual career fairs are proving effective and on the rise. To increase your chances of connecting with a great company take these important steps:

Be sure to upload a photo, current resume and your LinkedIn URL

Research the companies prior and identify “best fit companies” you'd like to work for

Keep conversations flowing with short text chats to “create the connection”

Follow-up with companies of greatest interest

MOAA's *free* Virtual Career Fair is open to all job-seeking military, veterans, and spouses. Space in these virtual events is limited, so register today.

Exclusive member benefits are available to MOAA PREMIUM and LIFE Members. A MOAA BASIC Membership will be given to all eligible participants after this event.

CLICK BELOW TO

[REGISTER](#)



Heartland of America Chapter

Reservation for Members and Invited Guests

Date: **Wednesday, May 16, 2018**

After dinner, our speaker will be Craig Jacobs, the Director of Human Resources at the amazing Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium.

Remember the expression, “The more, the merrier”? We ask you to make our meetings better, with your presence. We strive to provide a good meal, a stimulating program, and camaraderie. We’ll do our best to provide the first two, but only you can increase the camaraderie we share. Please attend.

Time: Social Hour – 6PM

Dining Hour – 7:00PM

Place: Anthony’s Steakhouse

7220 F Street – Omaha

Meal selections are as follows:

Lasagna - \$23.65

_____ - *With Chocolate Ice Cream* - \$26.65 _____

Chicken Cordon Bleu w/ Rice Pilaf & Chef’s Choice \$24.95

_____ - *With Chocolate Ice Cream* - \$27.95 _____

Cobb Salad - \$14.45

_____ - *With Chocolate Ice Cream* - \$17.45 _____

RSVP: Lt Col Ron & Sharon Russell

Tel: 402-297-4244

heartlandmoaa@hotmail.com

Please specify names of attendees, meal choices and include a phone number in case we need to contact you.

Reservations should be in by Monday night before the dinner! If you must cancel your reservation, please call Ron at (402) 297-4244 prior to 4:00 pm on the day of the event; otherwise the chapter will be charged if you are a NO-SHOW and we will have to send you a bill for the cost.

Your pre-filled out check for the amount made payable to Anthony’s will greatly assist in processing.



Sharon and Ron Russell

Dress: Business attire or as appropriate

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