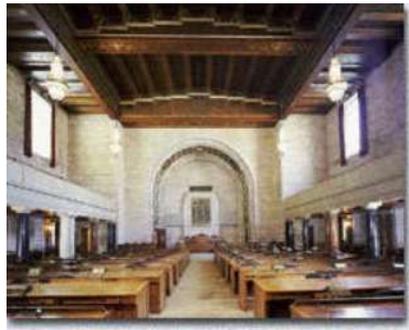




# Heartland of America Chapter

-- **We Never Stop Serving** --  
-- **We Are One Powerful Voice** --  
--- **for Every Officer at Every Stage of Life and Career** ---  
\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\* **May 2019** \*\*\*\*\*



The Nebraska Senate Room

---

**Like Yogi Berra said... "It ain't over 'til it's over!"**

**Not much seems to be happening with LB 153, the military retiree income tax bill, because of the battles over Property Tax issues. It might get lost in the background. But, amendments can always be made to whatever property tax bill finally comes out! Remind our State Senators, the logical reasoning that makes LB 153 a Win-Win for Nebraska is still valid and should not be ignored or forgotten and actually helps the property tax solution.**

**[Contact your Senator and the Speaker of the Legislature](#)  
**A Win-Win for All Nebraskans!****

\*\*\*\*\*  
**-- Our Next Official Dinner Meeting, Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May --**  
(see inside back cover for details)

Check out our website at  
[www.heartlandMOAA.us](http://www.heartlandMOAA.us)  
or call (402)339-7888

# The Bulletin Board

Is the Newsletter of the Heartland of America Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America. Content is from members, MOAA's [Take Action](#), [Legislative Action Center](#), and other military-oriented sources. Material used is public domain or attributed as to source and copyright. Our editorial policy is the same [non-partisan policy as MOAA](#).

\*\*\*\*\*

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

Volume XXXIII

Number 5

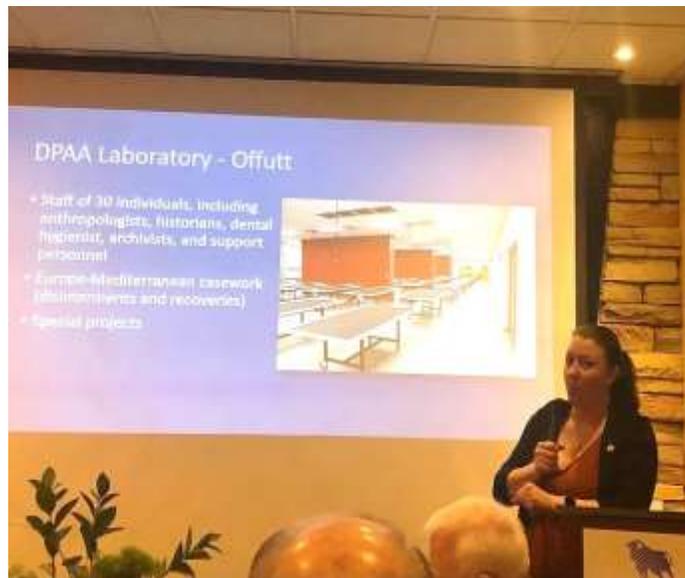
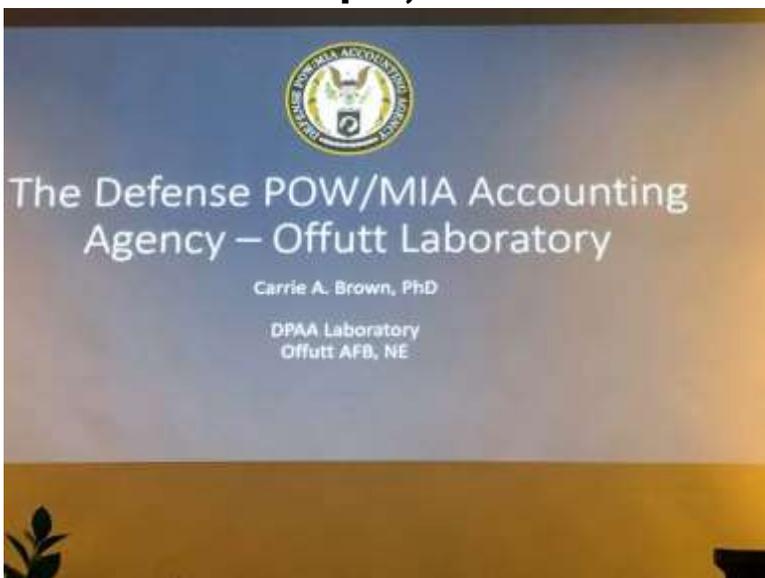
May 2019

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT



**Our speaker for our April dinner meeting was Dr. Carrie Brown of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA). She is a forensic anthropologist and was recently promoted to Laboratory Manager of the Offutt AFB facility. She received her BA in Anthropology and French from Lawrence University in Appleton, WI, her MA in Anthropology from California State University, and her PhD from the University of Florida. She began her career with DPAA in 2009 at the original location in Hawaii and participated in DPAA's recovery missions at sites including Hanoi, Vietnam. She volunteered to move to Offutt AFB when that facility opened in 2013 and has focused on the identification mission and, until her recent promotion, was the Team Lead for the USS Oklahoma Project.**

**The Offutt Laboratory is focused on remains recovered from three World War II sites: the 1942 Papua, New Guinea Battle**



**of Buna-Gona, the 1943 B-24 bombing of the Ploesti, Rumania, oil refineries, and the Pearl Harbor sinking of the USS Oklahoma. Dr. Brown stated that of the 429 sailors who perished on the Oklahoma, 206 have now been identified by DPAA.**

**The identification process has been complicated as the first disinterred casket contained remains from at least 95 individuals based on mitochondrial DNA. To determine identification, several factors are assessed and all must come together. The recent advances in DNA, particularly from mothers, have been significant help.**



Pictures of Battleship Oklahoma crew members identified thus far are posted on a wall in the lab. Col Dan Donovan presented our speaker, Dr. Carrie Brown, with the Heartland of America Chapter challenge coin.

**Dr. Carrie Brown's last slide is of photos of all the identified Oklahoma sailors and noted that all staff members have such photos in their cubicles to remind themselves they are working to reunite a lost service member with their families.**

**This was a wonderful presentation.**

**I participated in the 2019 MOAA "Storming the Hill" on Wednesday, April 10<sup>th</sup>. I flew into Washington on Monday evening. On Tuesday morning, we had MOAA Partner presentations. After lunch, Charlene French, the MOAA Treasurer and my escort, and I had our "Storming" Prep Briefings by Col Dan Merry, USAF (Ret), MOAA VP for Government Relations. Dan discussed in some detail and answered**



**questions on the three issues we would discuss the following day: 1. Maintain the already approved 3.1% Pay Raise—it is essential for recruiting and retention; 2. Eliminate the widow's tax (the SBP-DIC offset); and 3. Stabilize TRICARE fees and co-payments. After a short break to change, we got on buses to ride to the Dirksen Senate Office Building and the Marix Awards. This year's recipients included: Senator Jon Tester of Montana, Congressman Phil Roe of Tennessee, Sergeant First Class Dana Bowman, USA (Ret), Mr. Dan Savage of LinkedIn, Mr. Tony**

"Aw-w-w-w-w, that fish couldn't have been THAT big"... LtGen Leo Smith and Col Dick Purdum seem to be telling LtCo Max Moore. Hm-m-m-m, wonder what Max was describing?

**McClain of the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs, LtCol Dan Sennott, USA (Ret) of the House Committee on Armed Services, and Mr. Ray Kelley of the**

**House Committee on Veterans Affairs. Sgt Bowman is a double amputee, having lost both of his legs on a parachute jump with the Golden Knights, was the first double amputee allowed to re-enlist in the Army and now leads the non-profit HALO for Freedom Warrior Foundation.**



Ginny McBlain, Jodie Fayman, Rose Weddell, and Barbara Jones are ready for the salad. Rose and Jodie drove all the way from Lincoln to attend the dinner. Welcome Ladies!!

**By 7:30 am on Wednesday, Charlene and I were at the Dirksen Cafeteria, where we met with Senator Sasse, went over the three issues, and delivered the additional information package. He seemed to support our views. At 8:00 am, the Nebraska Breakfast began with all five members of the delegation. After being introduced by Senator Fischer, I introduced Charlene, stated the MOAA mission of advocating, and delivered my “elevator speech.” After the breakfast, Senator Fischer sat down with us. We went over the issues and delivered the packet of**

**information. My brother, who lives in Arlington, had emailed me that his son Tim would be testifying to the Senate Commerce Committee at 10:00 am. We went upstairs to the meeting room, saw my nephew, wished him well and departed to the House side.**

**We had a 10:30 am meeting with Congressman Adrian Smith and met with his legislative director Joshua Jackson. We then proceeded to Congressman Bacon’s office as his Chief of Staff, Mark Dreiling (and our Chapter member), had invited Charlene and me to lunch with him at the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Capitol Hill Club. It was a very nice buffet. We then proceeded to Congressman Fortenberry’s office where we were scheduled to meet with his military affairs assistant Alan Fayerherm (from West Point, NE). Alan was in a committee meeting and Fortenberry’s Chief of Staff, Dr. Reyn Archer, MD., met with us. He expressed a negative opinion on the funding for**



LtCol Gordon Pahre and his wife Leslie. Discussion revealed that both were instructors... he was a flight instructor until recently and she taught skiing!

**eliminating the widows' tax and despite my best (and Charlene's) efforts, I don't think we turned him around. We then proceeded to Congressman Bacon's office and had a very brief meeting with him. Congressman Bacon's Senior National Security Advisor, Col Pat Flood, USAF (Ret) and Mark Dreiling met with us. Since Congressman Bacon had already agreed to co-sponsor the legislation eliminating the widows' tax, we focused on the pay and TRICARE issues.**



Capt David Heer and his wife Ruth

**I believe Charlene and I accomplished the goals for the day. If we didn't gain 100% support on our three issues, we have maintained and hopefully improved the positive relationships we have with our delegation and their staffs. That evening, Veterans Affairs Under Secretary for Benefits, Dr Paul R Lawrence, spoke to us on current issues facing the VA.**

**The next morning, the eight MOAA vice-presidents presented us with a brief overview of their areas of responsibilities. Then, the highlight of the trip for me occurred. The Harris Communication Awards were announced. With one presentation per state in alphabetical order, I was dismayed at first when MOAA's Terri Coles went from Montana to North Carolina but then full of joy when she read Nebraska: "Two 5-Star Awards, newsletter and website." Pat Jones, you did it again! Congratulations! General Cohen presented the two certificates to Pat.**



Our speaker, Dr. Carrie Brown and LtGen Leo Smith observe BGen Paul Cohen give the two 5 Star Awards for our newsletter and website to LtCol Pat Jones, the editor and webmaster.

**John Winkler, General Manager of the Papio Natural Resource District (NRD), will be our May 15<sup>th</sup> speaker.**

**To stay current on MOAA advocacy efforts, current legislative impacts, and the possible impact on earned entitlements, please subscribe to the MOAA Newsletter. To subscribe [go to the MOAA site](#), enter MOAA Newsletter in the box by the magnifying glass and follow the instructions.**

**We are in the middle of ROTC/JROTC Award season. Thank you to all who have or will be presenting the awards**

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

**Programs**

**May 15 - John Winkler, General Manager of the Papio Natural Resource District**

**Jun 18 - (almost ready to be announced.... Will be good!)**

**July – No meeting in July**

**Aug – 21 - Special guest, Congressman Don Bacon**

**Sep – 18 - TBA**

**Oct – 16 - TBA**

**Nov – 20 - ROTC Cadets, AF, Navy, Army, Marines from UNL, UNO, and Creighton**

### **Status of LB 153 concerning Military Tax Relief**

(from Neb. Legislative Website and Jeff Mikesell, chptr Legislative Chair)

**Senator Tom Brewer's bill has gained sponsors. It has strong endorsement by Governor Pete Ricketts. Military service organizations as well as the Omaha Chamber of Commerce back it. Our own MOAA Chapter President, Col Dan Donovan also spoke on behalf of the legislation. Senator Lowe has made it his priority bill. But, the property tax debate is hot and no one is focusing on LB 153. There is only a limited amount of time for bills to be processed and it could very well be lost in the background. Act now to send the Nebraska legislature a note that passing LB 153 is a Win-Win for Nebraska and in some ways helps the other tax issues. [Contact your Senator and the Speaker of the Legislature](#) Nothing Ventured, Nothing Gained... You might make the difference!**



### **The Truth About Your TRICARE Costs**

(from MOAA website APR 17, 2019)

**Congress has long accepted an obligation to provide health care to military retirees who earned this care through their decades of service and sacrifice. However, rising budget tensions seem to magnetically draw this earned benefit onto the chopping block repeatedly, bolstered by a misleading narrative that DoD personnel and health care costs are spiraling out of control. Adding to the confusion is another false narrative that military retirees pay little to nothing for their health care. We must not assume all will work out okay. History has a habit of repeating itself. Errors in judgement concerning health benefits and pay have been made in the past that required big corrections later in order to have the military security our nation needs. It seems DoD and congress might do so again.**

**MOAA has done the research and provided context to the increases in personnel and health care costs (which, combined, remain approximately 33 percent of the**

**DoD budget) as well as a deeper look into what military retirees pay for their health care. Further complicating these current discussions, MOAA research contends, are the immeasurable health care uncertainties awaiting our post-9/11 service members and their families. [Click on the link below to READ THE WHITE PAPER: [The Truth About TRICARE Beneficiary Cost Shares](#)]**

**After over 17 years of deployments and war, there are retiree health care needs for which we must account, and for which we must not subject to further premium costs or expose to the erosion of this benefit.**

**Reviewing the history of TRICARE program changes - DoD underwent its first major change in 1956 when it began including dependent coverage - one might sense the federal government intends to deter beneficiaries from fully using their earned benefit. Any such impediments or challenges to the benefit tarnish a once ironclad recruiting and retention tool. Read the full [white paper](#).**



Maj Chip Stuart and his wife Laurie



We were very happy to have LtCol Ron Russell and his wife Sharon back in town. They have been spending a great deal of our cruel winter staying in Florida. We take it as a good sign that winter is REALLY OVER now because they are back in town. Welcome back Ron & Sharon, your smiles are nice.



BGen Paul Cohen, Col Ed Burchield, and LtGen Leo Smith are obviously enjoying the social portion of our dinner meeting. The camaraderie of those who have served our country is obvious and rekindled at our meetings.



## **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><b>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.</b></p>	 <b>BASIC</b>	 <b>PREMIUM</b>	 <b>LIFE</b>
<b>Features of each Membership level</b>	No-cost electronic Membership designed for today's junior officers.	Full access to MOAA's career resources, countless discounts on products and travel, & access to all of MOAA-exclusive pubs & news updates. <b>Full access to a wide variety of member benefits for today's career officer.</b>	Receive all the benefits that PREMIUM membership has plus exclusive privileges and benefits.
<b>Membership Dues</b>	Free	1 year - \$48, 2 years - \$82 3 years - \$108	Dues are based on your current age
Support of critical advocacy efforts to protect the benefits of the entire military community.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Electronic access to several of MOAA's news updates.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Discounts on products and travel.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Career transition resources</b> MOAA helps transition efforts by hosting career fairs, resume critiques, training sessions & much more.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Expert advice on your military pay &amp; benefits</b> MOAA's team of highly trained professionals can help you receive the military benefits you've earned through one-on-one counseling.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Financial planning and investment advice</b>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Military Office magazine</b>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Access to all MOAA-exclusive publications</b>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Scholarships, interest-free loans, &amp; grants</b>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>MOAA Chapters</b> - Take advantage of the opportunity to get involved & meet fellow offices in your community. A PREMIUM or LIFE membership makes it easy.	Dues vary by Chapter. (Heartland Chapter of Ne is \$20 per yr)	New chapter members receive a voucher good for one year of chapter dues.	New chapter members receive a voucher good for two years of chapter dues.
<b>Bonus travel rewards and discounts</b>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Initiation fee waived at the Army and Navy Club of Washington, D. C.</b>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Spouse Protection -membership</b> benefits transfers if something happen to you.		Auxillary Annual DUES 1 Yr - \$43   2 Yr - \$73   3 Yr - \$97	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

# National Membership Form

The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) is the country's leading organization protecting the rights of military service members 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 and their surviving spouses. 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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To ensure deliverability of MOAA communications, please provide a personal email without a ".mil" domain if available. We value your privacy. MOAA does not rent or sell its members' emails to third parties. If you include your email address, you will receive e-communications from MOAA as a member benefit. Visit [www.moaa.org/email](http://www.moaa.org/email) for details.

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Enclosed is my check payable to MOAA for \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
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 Charge my credit card above in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 (1/10th of my dues: invoices will be sent monthly for remaining dues)  
 Check here to have your credit card automatically charged monthly for the remaining installment payments.

Dues to MOAA are not deductible as a charitable contribution for federal tax purposes.  
 Annual membership dues include a \$12 subscription to Military Officer magazine.

**Send To: MOAA, PO Box 1488 • Merrifield, VA 22116-9820**  
**For faster service, call (800) 234-MOAA (6622) or visit [www.moaa.org/join](http://www.moaa.org/join).**

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Dues are based on your current age.

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Age 56-60	\$757
Age 61-65	\$692
Age 66-70	\$615
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Age 76-80	\$434
Age 81-85	\$332
Age 86-90	\$234
Age 91-95	\$145
Age 96-99	\$88
Age 100+	FREE

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\$82 (Surviving Spouse - \$73)



**Three-Year PREMIUM**  
\$108 (Surviving Spouse - \$97)



BASIC  
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**Local Membership Form**



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

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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,  
**Membership:** Lou Zuccarello - 402-739-3521, **Surviving Spouse Affairs:** Martha Didamo -  
402-291-2194, **Legislation:** Jeff Mikesell - 402-990-2713, **Treasurer:** Rene Dreiling 402-  
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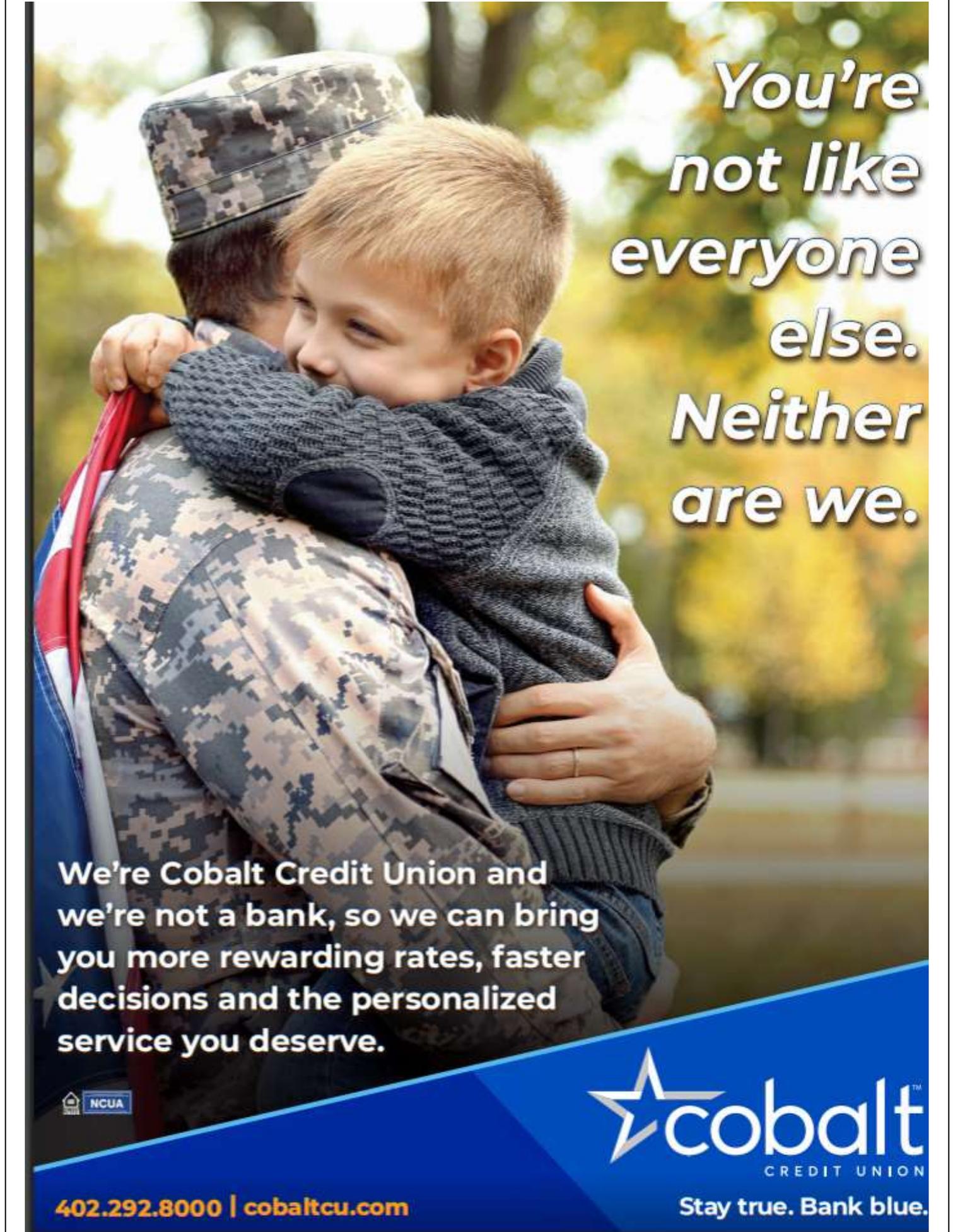
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A photograph of a soldier in a digital camouflage uniform and cap, seen from the side, hugging a young child with light brown hair. The child is wearing a grey sweater and has their arms around the soldier's neck. The background is a soft-focus outdoor setting with trees and a fence.

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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 egotists, 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**

**Good advice can sometimes be clear....  
and simple to understand...**



**"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."**

## Dinner Reservations

(for Members and invited Guests)

Date: **Wednesday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

**JOHN WINKLER, PAPIO NRD GENERAL MANAGER WILL BE OUR SPEAKER.**

**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:

**Roasted Pork Tenderloin w/Herbal Red Potatoes and Asparagus with Hollandaise Sauce - \$ 33.50 (\$36.50 w/Spumoni ice cream)**

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**Baked Lasagna - \$22.40 (25.40 w/Spumoni ice cream)**

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**Thunderbird Salad w/ Grilled Chicken - \$21.00 (\$24.00 w/Spumoni ice cream)**

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**RSVP: Lt Col Ron & Lidiya Glinka - Tel: 402-672-2020 - [heartlandmoaa@hotmail.com](mailto: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 or Lidiya at (402) 672-2020 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.**

**New check writing procedures:**

Make your check out to Heartland Chapter MOAA

**OR....**

**use our stamp which will be provided at sign-in**

Dress: Business attire or as appropriate

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