

MOAA



VOICE

Military Officers Association of America
Redwood Empire Chapter

Post Office Box 2801
Santa Rosa, CA 95405-0801

VOLUME 50, NUMBER 11

"Serving Those Who Serve America"

NOVEMBER 2020



INTERIM PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

I'm sitting at my desk asking myself how we can reach out to our members and their families. In the midst of a virus pandemic, fire season, unemployment worries, a troubled national election it's hard to find words of encouragement. We strive to be sensitive

to the needs and concerns that we all face. It is important that we stay focused on our faith and continue to be sensitive to the needs of others. Without our normal meetings we have lost one of the best ways to keep in touch. Our board members continue to have monthly meetings but we need to define ways to communicate with the rest of our members

Your board members continue to meet monthly. We have discussed ways in which we can strengthen our organization and find ways to serves the interests of our members. We have included the officers of the MOAA wives club to participate in our monthly meetings to give us new insights as to ways we can keep our chapter alive. At our next board meeting I will suggest that we open up a monthly zoom meetings to all members. We need your interest and support to maintain a strong and vibrant organization.

Major Kenneth Johnson, USAF, Interim President
408-466-6764 ~ kenthetraveler@gmail.com

REDWOOD EMPIRE CHAPTER of MOAA MEMBERS THAT HAVE NOT PAID DUES FOR 2020 ARE LISTED BELOW

There are **15** members that have not paid their dues. Initials listed below:

RNC,HFC,SDiii,LE,DE,WJH,HWH,BPK,
JAM,JAP,RAR,AS,DLT,MGW,NDW.

Because of the COVID-19 virus we are still including you in our Chapter notifications, but only by **e-mail**. If you don't respond, you may be dropped at the end of this year.

Call Secretary for more information
Bob Safreno ~ 707-795-3963 / 707-479-9374

WEIRD FACT & FUN TRIVIA

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2020
Lobster Feed, IS CANCELLED.**
Santa Rosa and all Veterans buildings in
the County are shut down thru January
2021

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**The December 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday, Holiday Social  
At the Flamingo Resort & Spa  
IS CANCELLED**

- The oldest evidence for soup is from 6,000 B.C. and calls for hippopotamus and sparrow meat.
- Pound cake got its name from its original recipe, which called for a pound each of butter, eggs, sugar, and flour.
- Ripe cranberries will bounce like rubber balls.
- Most wasabi consumed is not real wasabi, but colored horseradish.
- Ketchup was sold in the 1830's as medicine.
- One of the most popular pizza toppings in Brazil is green peas.
- The most expensive pizza in the world costs \$12,000 and takes 72 hours to make.
- The Dunkin' Donuts in South Korea offer doughnut flavors such as Kimchi Croquette and Glazed Garlic.
- Chicken contains 266% more fat than it did 40 years ago.
- Cheese is the most stolen food in the world.

UPBEAT TIMES, INC. ~ January 2020

## "Sunshine Lady"

Call Myrna Hurst, 707-468-0146,  
if you know of anyone in the chapter who  
might enjoy a get well or sympathy card.

## ZOOM ~ MOAA BOARD MEETING

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS:** Tuesday, November 3, 2020, 11:30am. Tim Morgan will be sending information on how to join the meeting. If a member of the Chapter wishes to join the meeting, you must contact us by e-mail and we will give you the information needed.

Chapter members are always welcome at these meetings.

# Legislative Affairs – November 2020 PLEASE VOTE!

## LEGISLATION:

### Federal

**Arlington National Cemetery.** As a reminder, **Public Comment Period** continues on Proposed Arlington Eligibility Changes until November 16, 2020. The proposal up for comment would dramatically reduce the number of people who qualify for in-ground burial, forcing many families to change long-held plans. If you are concerned or know someone who may be impacted by the rule please help them get the word out. You have a couple of ways to make your feelings known: First, go to the MOAA website – moaa.org/ANC 2020 to make a comment on the Federal Register or, secondly, use the MOAA website to send your feeling to your Congresspersons or Senators. Comments must be made before November 16, 2020 for the Federal Register while letters to Congress may be later. MOAA has letters already to be sent which may include your specific requests..

**Make Your Voice Heard = Second Posting.** Because the NDAA is still in limbo as the House and Senate work out their differences, it is vitally important for our voices be heard. Once more, I ask that you go to the MOAA website, search Legislative Updates, and “Take Action” as shown. It’s easy and effective. The proposed letters are already prepared and will be automatically sent to your Congressperson or Senator. As former Senator Barbara Boxer once said, “They look at the quantity not necessarily the quality.” Follows are some of the issues which need to be supported. THEREFORE, IF YOU SENT A LETTER TO THEM LAST MONTH, DO IT AGAIN! IF NOT, DO IT NOW!

**1. Toxic Exposure and Access to VA Benefits** The Senate version includes an amendment, put forward by Sen. Jon Tester (D-Mont.) and passed Wednesday afternoon, which would add bladder cancer, hypothyroidism, and Parkinson’s-like symptoms to the list of veterans’ diseases associated with exposure to Agent Orange. Unfortunately, the House NDAA does not include a similar amendment

**2. Commissary-Exchange Merger** The House version of the NDAA seeks an updated business case analysis for the Defense Resale Enterprise’s proposal to consolidate the commissaries and exchanges after the Government Ac-

countability Office (GAO) found significant problems in the proposed merger. Unfortunately, the Senate version stayed silent on this issue. MOAA is focusing its efforts on the Senate to ensure the House language is adopted in conference.

**3. S. 4166 - Ensuring Survivors Benefits.** On July 2, 2020, Senators Kyrsten Sinema (AZ) and Senator Thom Tillis (NC) introduced S. 4166, the Ensuring Survivors Benefits during COVID-19 Act, which would address this issue by requiring the Department of Veterans Affairs seek a medical opinion in the case of any veteran who has a service-connected condition and who passes away due to the coronavirus. This medical opinion could be crucial in obtaining survivors’ benefits. This legislation would ensure adequate compensation to the survivors of veterans whose deaths are held to be service connected.

**4. H.R. 5995 and S. 3393 Concurrent Receipt:** These two bills will provide for concurrent receipt of retired pay for those disabled due to combat wounds suffered before reaching normal retirement at 20 years.

### State:

Well, the election is basically over, let’s see how this grab box plays out! PRAY!

Vern McNamee, Legislative Chair

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## Redwood Empire Chapter member CPT WILLIAM ANDERSON, USA

Is offering his service to members and veterans in need

He realizes that the country is presently going through a rough time, because of the present COVID-19 virus and shelter in place, there are a lot of people with many different needs. He is offering to our members and any veterans organizations his help.

As a landlord he can repair many house issues for our their members. **FREE!** They only need to pay for parts.

He can transport supplies. He lives in Santa Rosa. He owns 46 properties in this state alone and is his own maintenance service. He does many kinds of things.

Anyone can call him and he will give you more details.

Call: William Anderson at 707-331-0366



*Editor's note: This article by Bing Xiao originally appeared on Military.com, a leading source of news for the military and veteran community.*

The military is ditching flimsy laminated paper-based ID cards for military retirees and dependents for an all-new card system: the Next Generation Uniform Services Identification Card.

According to a Defense Department announcement published Monday, the cards, which represent the first ID update for these military communities since 1993, will be more durable and more closely resemble the Common Access Cards, or CACs, used by active-duty troops and DoD civilians.

The new IDs are already in circulation: the military quietly began issuing them to retirees, reservists and dependent military family members July 31 at a few ID card facilities, according to the DoD release.

The new USID cards are enhanced with an updated design and security features to deter counterfeiting and fraud, Michael Sorrento, director of the Defense Manpower Data Center, said in a statement.

To date, only about 20 Real-Time Automated Personnel Identification Card System (RAPIDS) sites now offer the new cards; other sites await equipment upgrades in order to make them. All DoD USID card facilities are set to offer the IDs by December 2020, according to the release. The complete transition to new USID cards is targeted for January 2026.

This transition doesn't affect current card expiration dates and doesn't change the populations who are

eligible to get the current USID cards.

In addition to dependents of active-duty troops and reservists and retirees and their dependents, those eligible for these DoD-recognized IDs include [Medal of Honor](#) recipients and their dependents and 100% disabled veterans and their dependents, among others. [A full list of eligible groups can be found here.](#) The cards facilitate access to military bases and to other exclusive facilities, such as commissaries and exchanges.

The COVID-19 pandemic has complicated the rollout of the new cards.

Sorrento advised that it would be better to wait to get the new card until next summer unless the holder's current one is expired. Applicants should call ahead for appointments to get the new USID cards.

In April, [Pentagon officials announced that dependent and retiree cards](#) set to expire in 2020 would be automatically extended through September in light of the pandemic, and changed policy to allow some ID updates and new enrollments to be done by mail.

DoD is further developing the ID card process, Sorrento said in the release, and eyeing changes such as a mail-in ID process with online vetting, eliminating the requirement to apply in person at a RAPIDS site.

## 2020 DATES TO REMEMBER

October:  
 6<sup>th</sup> BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am  
 10<sup>th</sup> Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information  
 CNX 22<sup>nd</sup> Luncheon or Dinner?, Flamingo, Election of Officers for 2021  
 28<sup>th</sup> United Veterans Council meeting

November:  
 3<sup>rd</sup> BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am  
 10<sup>th</sup> Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information  
 CNX 11<sup>th</sup> North Bay Veterans Day parade (Wednesday)  
 CNX 20<sup>th</sup> Friday, Lobster Feed, Santa Rosa Veterans building  
 CNX 25<sup>th</sup> United Veterans Council meeting  
 26<sup>th</sup> Thanksgiving Day

December:  
 1<sup>st</sup> BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am  
 UNK 7<sup>th</sup> Pearl Harbor Survivors program ??  
 CNX 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday, Holiday Social Flamingo Resort & Spa  
 10<sup>th</sup> Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information  
NO United Veterans Council meeting  
 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas

\*\* Not Confirmed at this time ~ CNX = Cancelled ~ UNK = Unknown  
 All Meals at Flamingo will be Buffets 06/32/06

## The Revised Alphabet

**"GOOD SPEAKERS ARE NEEDED"**

Chapter members:

Who do you want to hear from?  
 Please send your suggestions to  
**Don Nowacki**, (707)528-2895,  
 or by e-mail: [nowacki@sonic.net](mailto:nowacki@sonic.net)

**A** is for apple, and **B** is for boat. That used to be right, but now it won't float! Age before beauty is what we once said. But let's be a bit more realistic instead.

Now the **A's** for arthritis; **B's** the bad back; **C's** the chest pains, perhaps car-di-ac? **D** is for dental decay and decline; **E** is for eyesight, can't read that top line! **F** is for farting and fluid retention; **G** is for gut droop, which I'd rather not mention. **H** is for high blood pressure--I'd rather it be low; **I** is for incisions with scars you can show. **J** is for joints, out of socket, won't mend; **K** is for knees that crack when they bend. **L's** for libido; what happened to sex? **M** is for memory, I forget what comes next. **N** is for neuralgia, in nerves way down low; **O** is for osteo, bones that don't grow! **P** is for prescriptions, I have quite a few, just give me a pill and I'll be good as new! **Q** is for queasy, is it fatal or flu? **R** is for reflux, one meal turns to two. **S** is for sleepless nights, counting my fears; **T** is for Tinnitus; bells in my ears! **U** is for urinary; troubles with flow; **V** is for vertigo, that's 'dizzy,' you know. **W** is for worry, now what's going 'round? **X** is for X ray, and what might be found. **Y** is for another year I'm left here behind; **Z** is for zest I still have -- in my mind!

I've survived all the symptoms, my body's deployed, And I'm keeping twenty-six doctors fully employed!  
**HAVE A GREAT DAY!!**

## MOAA WIVES CLUB

(Sonoma County Main - All members welcome)

### 2020 Officers

|                                |              |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
| President: Dayle Johnson       | 408-466-6764 |
| Vice President: Liz Warren     | 707-763-6957 |
| Secretary: Tina Lewis          | 707-539-5546 |
| Treasurer: Florence Wall       | 707-837-7389 |
| Parliamentarian: Donna Poulter | 707-576-0513 |

November is normally the time we start reminding people to renew their membership in the Wives Club. However, 2020 being the year that wasn't, it was decided to waive dues for the year 2021. So our roster will remain the same for 2021. We hope that sometime into next year we'll once again be able to meet as a group.

Stay safe, everyone.

**Tina Lewis**, Publicity 707-539-5546,  
[tinalewis31@comcast.net](mailto:tinalewis31@comcast.net)

## IMPORTANT NOTICE TO CHAPTER MEMBERS

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO BE FUTURE OFFICERS OF THE CHAPTER TO SERVE ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS. PLEASE CONTACT ONE OF THE MEMBERS ON OUR BOARD AND GIVE THEM YOUR NAME AS A POSSIBLE CANDIDATE FOR THE YEAR 2021.

CALL OR E-MAIL SECRETARY

ROBERT SAFRENO. (707) 795-3963 ~ [shadowbob1@juno.com](mailto:shadowbob1@juno.com)

## Redwood Empire Chapter Officers and Directors for 2020

|                              |                               |              |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------|
| <u>Interim President:</u>    | Maj Ken Johnson, USAF         | 408-466-6764 |
| <u>1st Vice President</u>    | Maj Ken Johnson, USAF         | 408-466-6764 |
| <u>2nd Vice President</u>    | 1/Lt Donald J. Nowacki, USANG | 707-595-1047 |
| <u>Secretary:</u>            | Cpt Robert R. Safreno, USAF   | 707-795-3963 |
| <u>Treasurer:</u>            | LCDR Tim Morgan, USNR         | 707-695-9293 |
| <u>Imed. Past President:</u> | CPT Lee P. Hoskins, USA       | 707-328-2316 |

### CAL-MOAA Director. Area I

|                       |              |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| Cpt Tom Walther, USAF | 530-673-5499 |
|-----------------------|--------------|

### Directors-at-large - Term 2020

|                           |              |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| CDR Donald D. Confer, USN | 707-763-8198 |
| Martina Lewis             | 707-539-5546 |
| LTC Gary Meagher, AUS     | 707-544-4089 |
| Mary-Gwen Neisingh        | 707-481-7614 |

### Directors-at-large - Term 2020-2021

|                         |              |
|-------------------------|--------------|
| Mrs. Myrna M. Hurst     | 707-468-0146 |
| Col Jack L. Krout, USAF | 707-762-8613 |
| Donna Poulter           | 707-576-0513 |
| CPT Lewis Wall, USA     | 707-837-7389 |

### Directors Representing Sub-Chapters:

|                       |                             |              |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|
| <u>Lake:</u>          | CAPT Daniel W. Christensen, | 707-263-3297 |
| <u>Mendocino:</u>     | Mrs. Myrna M. Hurst         | 707-468-0146 |
| <u>Sonoma Valley:</u> | Maj B. K. White, USMC       | 707-996-1335 |

## MOAA VOICE

|                          |                                                                               |                                                                            |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
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