



Military Officers Association of America  
Redwood Empire Chapter

Post Office Box 2801  
Santa Rosa, CA 95405-0801

VOLUME 53, NUMBER 4

“Serving Those Who Serve America”

APRIL 2023



## PRESIDENT’S COMMENTS

This is the time of the month when I sit at my desk and reflect on what words or thoughts I can share with you. Much of what I write about is a reflection on what's happening in our lives at this moment. This month I will do something a little different, and reflect on some of the words written by another person. I would like to share with you a poem

written by Howard Simmon. The title of his poem is called:

### "I Choose The mountain"

The low lands call -  
I am tempted to answer  
They are offering me a free dwelling  
Without having to conquer  
The massive mountain makes its move  
Beckoning me to ascend  
A much more difficult path  
To get up the slippery bend  
I cannot choose both  
I had to make a choice  
I must be wise  
This will determine my fate  
I choose, I chose the mountain  
With all his stress and strain  
Because only by climbing  
Can I rise above the plain  
I chose the mountain  
And I will never stop climbing  
I chose the mountain  
And I shall forever be ascending  
I chose the mountain

**Major Kenneth Johnson, USAF,  
President**

408-466-6764 ~ kenthetraveler@gmail.com

## MOAA BOARD of DIRECTORS MEETING

will be at the Santa Rosa Veterans building  
in the Conference room.

Tuesday, April 4, 2023, 11:30am.

Chapter members are always welcome at these meetings

### “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.

**THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 2023**

**Buffet Luncheon at the  
EPICENTER in Santa Rosa  
11:00am ~ Dine at Noon**

**Guest Speaker: Charley Taylor**, he was a Navy Officer  
and flew for 25 years as a pilot. The Enterprise Aircraft  
Carrier was one of the locations, in his career.

**PLEASE MAKE RESERVATIONS FOR DINING**, this is  
needed for head counts for meals and making name tags.

See page No. 3 for the Luncheon menu.



Above: MOAA Board meeting on March 7, 2023

Below: “Pub Crawl” at Epicenter (16 attended) Don Confer  
had a Rose for all of the ladies that attended



## Legislative Update - April 2023

**General Comments.** We are still in a full time "alert" mode to protect our benefits both on a Federal or State level to prevent being usurped by institutions or others. Please stay alert!

### **Federal:**

**The Expanding America's National Cemetery Act (H.R. 1413),** This is a significant piece of legislation protecting full uniformed services burial benefits introduced March 7 by Reps. Lisa McClain (R-Mich.) and Chrissy Houlahan (D-Pa.) is designed to preserve the option for full military honors now available at ANC and offers a long-term solution to Arlington National Cemetery (ANC) which would inevitably run out of room. It would authorize designating the next national cemetery location with equivalent honors to continue these benefits, rather than reducing eligibility at ANC.

Your action is urged to use the "Take Action" on the MOAA website to ask your Congressman to support this measure.

**Major Richard Star Act.** This act would repeal this unfair offset, allowing these disabled Veterans to receive both their retirement pay and their disability pay.

Please use "Take Action" encourage support. It was doing well during the last secession but failed in the end.

### **State:**

**AB 46 Retired Pay Tax Exemption.** Once more, we are in an "all hands" mode to get support for AB 46. Follows is a posting by California State Commanders Veterans Council (CSCVC) requesting our urgent support.

### **Veterans and Advocates,**

**"We need your help on a bill"** going through the California State legislature that aims to exempt Military Retirees and Surviving Spouse payments from state income tax: AB46 (introduced by Ramos, Mathis, and Soria)

California is the only state in the country that does not provide some form of tax relief for its military retirees. "Despite having the largest number of assigned active-duty military of any state, California only ranks fourth in the number of military retirees who call California home. California continues to lose military retirees to other states at an accelerated rate. Military retirees who do remain in California provide an available workforce to fill many of the 40,000 technical and over 20,000 medical field vacancies in California. These jobs include software engineering, cybersecurity, aerospace, systems engineering, artificial intelligence, biochemistry, physicians, nurses and management level positions. It is anticipated the need for these skilled workers will grow by 2% a year. Additionally, many military retirees, surviving spouses and children will use their federal GI Bill educational benefits to pursue advanced degrees in STEM and medical occupations providing much needed help to California's workforce

"According to a study conducted for the governor's military council, the defense industry contributed \$168 billion dollars to California's economy in 2021, 5% of the state's budget. The Department of Defense estimates that military retirees bring a \$4.1 billion dollar annual inflation- protection stream of federal funds to California's economy each year.

"It is time for California to join the other 49 states and recognize the value military retirees bring to the state they re-

tire in.

**"Solution:** AB 46 recognizes members of the Armed Forces and their contribution to our nation and seeks to exempt their retirement pay once they retire after twenty or more years of service. This bill sunsets in 2034.

"The purpose of the bill is twofold; to honor those who dedicated their lives to serving their country, and to retain and attract uniformed service retirees to California for the purposes of strengthening the state's skilled workforce, bringing stability to communities, and contributing to the state and local tax base.

**Will you please take a few minutes to send a letter to your state Assemblymember today?**

"Please help us tell the Assembly that the veterans' community strongly supports AB 46 and supports those who served in the uniformed services.

**"Use our simple, fast online letter-writing tool to send a letter to your Assemblymember today."**

"Thank you for your support!"

**Vern McNamee, LTC, USA Retired**

Legislative Chair

Redwood Empire Chapter MOAA (CA30)

707 972-3066 [vernonmc@mcn.org](mailto:vernonmc@mcn.org)

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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 57 properties in this state alone and is his own maintenance service. He does many kinds of things. He still offers a weeks worth of goods and 5 gallons of gas to needy members, vets and classmates.

Anyone can call him and he will give you more details. Call: William Anderson at 707-331-0366

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## **"Pub Crawl" is BACK!!**

Chapter members, Friends and Guests: "Pub Crawl", is back on our event calendar. Because the casino has closed the restaurant we've have been using for upgrades there.

Starting Monday, April 17, 2023, we will meet at 11:30 at the **Epicenter**. on the **THIRD** Monday of each month. Our pub crawls are a great place to relax and share our past experiences. We all have stories to tell!!

Any other questions, please call your President Ken Johnson. (408)466-6764.

(A Sonoma County Main Chapter event; all members are more than welcome)

## Buffet Luncheon, Thursday April 27, 2023

**Epicenter, 3215 Coffey Lane, Santa Rosa**

*Socializing 11:00 to 11:45 am, Meeting starts, Lunch 12:00 noon*

Cost (including tax and tip) - **Price \$26.00**

**Salad:** Marinated Vegetable Salad. Fruit Salad. Fresh Rolls & Butter.

**Lunch:** Penne with Pesto and Chicken, ~ Mini Meatloaves and Green Beans with Bacon

**Dessert:** Cookies. Water, Iced Tea, Hot Tea and Coffee

**Enclosed:** is my check for my advanced reservation \_\_\_\_\_ persons @ \$26.00 each. \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Note:** All must make **RESERVATIONS** Please Pre Pay if possible. (Late options only Pay At Door). **Information** is needed for head counts for meals and making name tags.

**NO RESERVATION or Walk-Ins will cost \$30.00 per person.**

**Donations:** Col. Brey Scholarship Fund (Fully Tax Deductible). \$ \_\_\_\_\_ **TOTAL:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Guest Speaker: **Charley Taylor**, Former Navy Officer and flew for 25 years as a pilot.

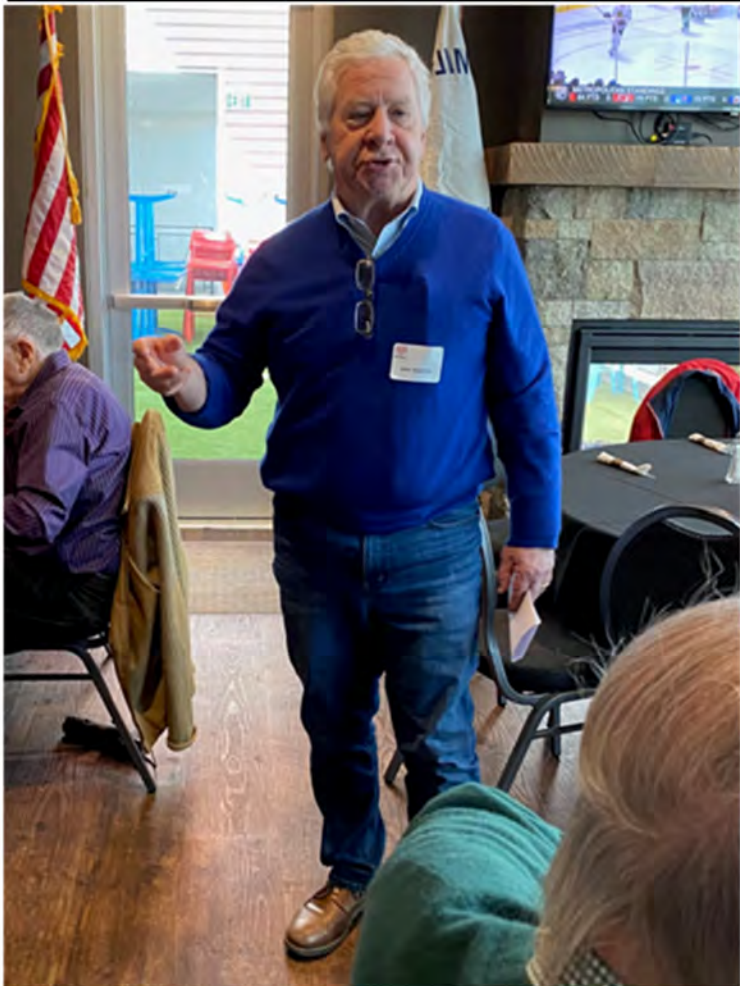
Name: \_\_\_\_\_, Phone: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Guests: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

Please list the names of all guest, so that we can make **NAME TAGS** for them too, thank you.

Make check (s) payable to: **RECMOAA**

To: MOAA, Redwood Empire Chapter, P.O. Box 2801, Santa Rosa, CA 95405  
"Contact the Chapter Secretary @ 707-795-3963, prior to 10:00am, Tuesday before the Thursday event to request a refund on prepaid meals."



Mike Martini was the guest speaker at the February MOAA luncheon. His three passions are family, public policy, and agricultural production. His Taft Street Winery in Sebastopol is one of the garage site wineries. His garage-making wine started in Oakland in the 1970s. He did a stint as the mayor of Santa Rosa from 2000-2002, where his main concern was of the homeless by the Santa Rosa Creek. He is a contributor to the Vineyard Academy, a small learning community within Windsor High School. The final words sum up Mike's talk: We continue to live, work, and have fun in Sonoma County. As family-owned and independently operated, we look forward to another 40 exciting years. Mike Martini's wine-making story can be found on this website: [Our Story - Taft Street Winery.](#)

### **THE FOLLOWING 10 MEMBERS HAVE NOT PAID THEIR DUES FOR 2022.**

(AND THEY MAY BE DROPPED)

### **SEE IF YOURS IS MISSING**

WLA,RLA,BPA,RKL,LCM,JAM,AS,AU,BKW,LLW

**PLEASE PAY YOUR ANNUAL DUES  
THEY ARE ONLY \$25.00 PER YEAR**

## 2023 DATES TO REMEMBER

**MARCH:**  
 7<sup>th</sup> BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am  
 8<sup>th</sup> Wives Club Luncheon, **Epicenter**  
 10<sup>th</sup> Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information  
 14<sup>th</sup> "Pub Crawl" at **Epicenter**, 11:30 am  
 15<sup>th</sup> Deadline for submission of Scholarship Applications  
 22<sup>nd</sup> United Veterans Council meeting  
 23<sup>rd</sup> Luncheon, **Epicenter**

**APRIL:**  
 4<sup>th</sup> BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am – Scholarship winners  
 10<sup>th</sup> Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information  
 12<sup>th</sup> Wives Club Luncheon, **Epicenter**  
 17<sup>th</sup> "Pub Crawl" at **Epicenter**, 11:30 am  
 26<sup>th</sup> United Veterans Council meeting  
 27<sup>th</sup> Luncheon, **Epicenter**

**MAY:**  
 2<sup>nd</sup> BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am – Scholarship winners  
 10<sup>th</sup> Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information  
 10<sup>th</sup> Wives Club Luncheon, **Epicenter**  
 \*\* 14<sup>th</sup> Armed Forces Day – Rose Parade, Santa Rosa  
 15<sup>th</sup> "Pub Crawl" at **Epicenter**, 11:30 am  
 24<sup>th</sup> United Veterans Council meeting  
 25<sup>th</sup> Luncheon, **Epicenter**  
 29<sup>th</sup> Memorial Day Ceremonies

**JUNE:**  
 6<sup>th</sup> BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am  
 10<sup>th</sup> Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information  
 17<sup>th</sup> Saturday, Picnic Spring Lake, Lower Jackrabbit Area  
 Honor Scholarship Recipients?  
 19<sup>th</sup> "Pub Crawl" at **Epicenter**, 11:30 am  
 28<sup>th</sup> United Veterans Council meeting

**JULY:**  
 \*\* 4<sup>th</sup> BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am – selection of nominating committee  
 12<sup>th</sup> Wives Club Luncheon, **Epicenter**  
 17<sup>th</sup> "Pub Crawl" at **Epicenter**, 11:30 am  
 26<sup>th</sup> United Veterans Council meeting  
 27<sup>th</sup> Luncheon, **Epicenter**

**AUGUST:**  
 1<sup>st</sup> BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am  
 9<sup>th</sup> Wives Club Luncheon, **Epicenter**

10<sup>th</sup> Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information  
 20<sup>th</sup> Sunday, Riverfront Regional Park, Annual BBQ  
 21<sup>st</sup> "Pub Crawl" at **Epicenter**, 11:30 am  
 23<sup>rd</sup> United Veterans Council meeting

**SEPTEMBER:**  
 5<sup>th</sup> BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am – Approval of 2024 officers  
 10<sup>th</sup> Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information  
 13<sup>th</sup> Wives Club Luncheon, **Epicenter**  
 18<sup>th</sup> "Pub Crawl" at **Epicenter**, **11:30 am**  
 \*\* 15<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> Air Show at CMS Airport?  
 \*\* 19<sup>th</sup> or 22<sup>nd</sup> ?? Friday, Luncheon, Two Rock USCG (\$10.00?)  
 27<sup>th</sup> United Veterans Council meeting

**OCTOBER:**  
 3<sup>rd</sup> BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am  
 10<sup>th</sup> Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information  
 11<sup>th</sup> Wives Club Luncheon, **Epicenter**  
 16<sup>th</sup> "Pub Crawl" at **Epicenter**, **11:30 am**  
 \*\* 25<sup>th</sup> United Veterans Council meeting  
 \*\* 26<sup>th</sup> Luncheon **Epicenter**, Election of Officers for

**NOVEMBER:**  
 7<sup>th</sup> BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am  
 8<sup>th</sup> Wives Club Luncheon, **Epicenter**  
 10<sup>th</sup> Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information  
 \*\* 11<sup>th</sup> North Bay Veterans Day parade (Friday)  
 \*\* 17<sup>th</sup> Friday, Lobster Feed, Santa Rosa Veterans building  
 20<sup>th</sup> "Pub Crawl" at **Epicenter**, **11:30 am**  
 \*\* 22<sup>nd</sup> United Veterans Council meeting  
 23<sup>rd</sup> Thanksgiving Day

\*\* = Not Confirmed at this time ~ **CNX** = Cancelled ~ **UNK** = Unknown

06/32/06

**SEE "Pub Crawl" on Page 2**

## MOAA WIVES CLUB

(Sonoma County Main - All members welcome)

### 2023 Officers

President: Dayle Johnson	408-466-6764
Vice President: Barbara Confer	707-763-8198
Secretary: Tina Lewis	707-758-9739
Treasurer: Florence Wall	707-837-7389
Parliamentarian: Donna Poulter	707-576-0513

## TIME TO PAY YOUR DUES!

**ONLY \$25.00**

Pay when you come to a luncheon or mail a check to Florence Wall at  
 655 Chardonnay Place, Windsor, CA 95492

The next meeting of the Wives Club will be a buffet lunch at the Epicenter on Wednesday, April 12<sup>th</sup>. The price is \$25.00. Lunch is served promptly at noon. The buffet menu will be lemon chicken, beef chili (without the cornbread), oven roasted potatoes, green beans with mushrooms, Caesar salad, and cookies.

If the Telephone Committee does not contact you, you may make a reservation up to the day before the meeting; however, cancellations must be made by Monday preceding the meeting. For either situation, call Susan Linch at 707-538-3342.

At the March luncheon we heard from everyone about their early life, how they met their husbands, and where they went on their first date. It was interesting, informative, and fun! At this writing, there is no guest speaker scheduled for April.

**Tina Lewis, Publicity 707-539-5546,  
 tinalewis31@comcast.net**

**SEE "Pub Crawl" on Page 2**

## Redwood Empire Chapter Officers and Directors for 2023

<u>President:</u>	Maj Ken Johnson, USAF	408-466-6764
<u>1st Vice President</u>	(NONE AT THIS TIME)	
<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
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### Directors-at-large - Term 2023-2024

Martina Lewis	707-539-5546
Susan Linch	707-538-3342
LTC Gary Meagher, AUS	707-544-4089
Mary-Gwen Neisingh	707-481-7614

### Directors-at-large - Term 2022-2023

Capt R. Lee Berry, USMC	707-308-4160
Mrs. Myrna M. Hurst	707-468-0146
Donna Poulter	707-576-0513
CPT Lewis Wall, USA	707-837-7389

### Directors Representing Sub-Chapters:

<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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