



PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

The first week of every month is when I set aside time to reflect on the article I will write for the president's comments. My thoughts this month are meant to encourage all of us to stop and reflect on the special times in our lives when we were made stronger by the efforts and support of others. We could look back to times when we came under the influence of others, learning how to prepare for a future. A time when we would choose someone to share our lives with, begin a family, and build a career. By the time you read this article we will be a month past celebrating Mother's Day, but today I want to celebrate "Wives Day". I know there is no such thing as a "Wives Day" though I think there should be. I know that in my own life without a strong a strong wife to care for and raise my children I would not have been able to focus on my military responsibilities. Without a wife to encourage me and give me the strength and support that I needed, I would not have been as successful in my military career. Our wives are the backbone of the military. We all know the importance of having someone that we can count on. We know that our wives played a significant part in all aspects of our lives. So until that day comes when we see a "Wives Day" posted in our calendar, let us make every day a "Wives Day".

This is from an article about the origin of memorial day.

On the last day of May we celebrated Memorial Day. Nowadays, Memorial Day honors veterans of all wars, but its roots are in Americas deadliest conflict, the Civil War. Approximately 620,000 soldiers died. The work of honoring the dead began right away all over the country, and several American towns claimed to be the birthplace of Memorial Day. Researchers traced the earliest annual commemoration to women who laid flowers on soldiers graves in the Civil War hospital town of Columbus Mississippi in April 1866. But historians have tried to raise awareness of freed slaves who decorated soldiers graves a year earlier. Historian David blight tried to raise awareness of freed slaves who decorated soldiers graves on May 1, 1865 in Charleston South Carolina at a former planters racetrack where Confederates held captured Union Soldiers during the last year of the war.

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

Saturday, June 17, 2023 Picnic/BBQ location Spring Lake Park. At Lower Jackrabbit Picnic Area

Our Chapter Board of Directors has reserved Spring Lake, Lower Jack Rabbit area to have a **Picnic/BBQ** on **Saturday, June 17, 2023**. **Cost will be \$25.00**. **NOTE: The price of food has increased and we had to raise our prices.**

Menu: BBQ Chicken, Garlic Bread, Wine, Iced Tea, and Coffee. Salad, Baked Beans, and Dessert provided by the Wives Club. Please bring your own munchies, chips & dip, water, and soda.

NOTE: CARS MAY HAVE TO PAY FOR PARKING, UNLESS OWNER HAS A GOLDEN PASS OR FREE ACCESS

INFO ON CHAPTER GET TOGETHER
See Page 5 for Coupon

SEE "Pub Crawl" on Page 5

"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.

MOAA BOARD of DIRECTORS MEETING

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

Tuesday, June 6, 2023, 11:30am.

Chapter members are always welcome at these meetings

Legislative Update - June 2023

General Comments.

Default - yes? or no? We are watching an almost Shakespearean tragedy unfold from within the Beltway while the political actors play with the debt ceiling without resolving the budget issue. Meanwhile, the people face disastrous consequences if a solution is not resolved soon affecting everyone. A Continuing Resolution will solve nothing.

However, being an incurable optimist, I am reprinting some of the high interest bills for your action. If you have any comments, please give me a call or send me an email.

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. If you submitted it last month but received no answer — **do it again!**

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. This bill is being resubmitted with high hopes that it will pass as a stand alone measure or included in the 2024 NDAA.

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

Military Spouse Hiring Act, (H.R. 1277), This is a bill to address the high rate of military spouse unemployment. This is a significant factor in active duty retention. Both of our Senators are co-sponsors while Rep. Jared Huffman is not - lets get him on board as well.

COLA - The current COLA trend is upwards at around 2%. While lower than the 2023 COLA, it's still positive.

State:

AB 46 Retired Pay Tax Exemption . We are waiting to see that happens after the latter part of May. This bill is currently in suspense in the Appropriations Committee and will be voted "up or out" by mid-May. If its "up", we will need everyone to contact their local Assembly-person or Senator Mike McGuire to support it when it comes to a vote.

Vern McNamee, LTC, USA Retired
Legislative Chairman
Redwood Empire Chapter MOAA (CA30)
707 972-3066 vernonmc@mcn.org



Charley Taylor was the guest speaker at the April luncheon. Charley is very active with the air shows held at Charles M. Schulz-Sonoma County Airport and with the Pacific Coast Air Museum. He emphasized the activities offered to school children. One very popular activity among the children is the first Thursday of every month from April till October, which is hot-dog Thursday. He spent most of his talk sharing his experiences as a naval aviator during the Vietnam War. Charley's Vietnam experiences captured the men's interest, as was evident by the Q &A session.

Bob Safreno says:
My new SUV has a
Button that says
"rear wiper". I'm
Afraid to push it.



The high altitude balloon floated over Billings, Montana, on February 1, 2023



13 THOUGHTS CHINA'S BALLOON (PROBABLY) HAD WHILE FLOATING OVER AMERICA

By Sarah Sicard

The Chinese spy balloon that began its American journey in January ended over the skies of South Carolina. While floating over Billings, Montana, on Feb. 1, it rose (quite literally) to prominence among the American public, prompting political outrage, 24/7 watch parties, and, of course, the generation of thousands upon thousands of memes.

And while much of the coverage centered on what the U.S. government should do and how its military should respond, the perspective of the balloon was given no credence ... until now.

These are the thoughts the balloon (probably) had while floating adrift over the United States, until its epic demise at the hands of an F-22 fighter jet over Myrtle Beach.

1. I's in Idaho. What a ridiculous name for a place. Do they not know what it sounds like?

2. What exactly is Montana? A state? A famous quarterback for the San Francisco 49ers? It's really pretty here though.

3. I am definitely a weather balloon. I think. Am I? This is probably a bad time for an existential crisis. I don't feel like a spy balloon though...

4. Why is there a Kansas City in Missouri when Kansas is right next door?. It makes no sense at all.

5. They call so much of the Midwest "flyover country." It's perfect for me. I'm a balloon. This is where I belong.

6. ...Okay, I get it now. This is really, really boring. Why is there SO MUCH CORN? What do they even do with it? Corn pudding, corn dogs, corn cob pipes.

7. There's been a lot of chatter about blowing me up lately. I'm a balloon. Technically I'm already blown up! HA!

8. It's awfully nice of the FAA to suspend flights along my path. There's nothing scarier than a roaring Boeing 737 with 348 passengers headed straight for you. I never liked playing chicken in the pool, much less in the air.

9. Is that water? WATER! I've made it to the coast. Finally.

10. I love the beach. It's a shame I forgot the sunscreen though. My white skin is going to burn something fierce!

11. Huh. What's that sound? It's like an air conditioning unit is running inside of a washing machine.

12. That F-22 Raptor looks awfully close.

13. Oh God. Oh NO. OH S***!

Submitted by Gary Meagher

SEE "Pub Crawl" on Page 5

The picnic is at Spring Lake Park, Lower Jack Rabbit picnic area.

From Hwy 101 take Hwy 12 east towards Sonoma. Cross over Farmer's Lane and continue straight on Hoen Ave. One block after the third traffic light, turn left onto Newanga which will lead you straight to the park entrance. After passing through the gate, turn left. Follow the winding road for a bit, then turn right leading down to a parking lot and boat launch. Shortly before the parking lot, turn left and Lower Jack Rabbit will be on your right.

Spring Lake Park

**ENVIRONMENTAL
DISCOVERY
CENTER**
of Sonoma County

This 320-acre park features camping, fishing, picnic areas with barbecues, and four group picnic areas. Trails are available for walking, hiking, bicycling and horseback riding. The park also includes a 3-acre swimming lagoon and a 72-acre lake. Don't forget to visit the Environmental Discovery Center at Spring Lake for a wonderful educational experience for all ages. Although dogs are allowed within both Spring Lake and Howarth Park, they are not allowed at the swimming lagoon or within Annadel State Park. Please follow all dog leash laws while visiting the parks.

Get a park pass and save money on the daily use fee for each vehicle. 100% of the purchase price goes back to Regional Parks to help us protect these beautiful parks for generations to come. Information about a park pass can be found at www.sonoma-county.org/parks or call 707-565-2041.



Annadel State Park



Popular Trails to Explore

Spring Lake Loop	2.30 Miles
Newanga Entry to Boat Launch	0.80
Fishermans Trail	0.47
South Dam to Jack Rabbit	0.43
Horse Loop Trail	2.60
Kerfoot Trail to Howarth Parking	0.15

0 .20 Miles
Map Updated 6/2010

This map is provided as a guide within the park. Reasonable effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the map and data provided. The positional accuracy of the data is approximate and not intended to represent map accuracy from a published record survey. THE MAP AND ASSOCIATED DATA ARE PROVIDED WITHOUT WARRANTY OF ANY KIND, either expressed or implied, including but not limited to, the implied warranties of merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose. For detailed and updated information about accessibility of recreational opportunities or any other park information contact Sonoma County Regional Parks at (707) 565-2041.

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

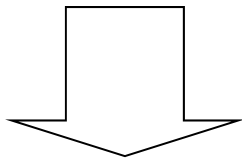
"Pub Crawl"

Chapter members, Friends and Guests: "Pub Crawl", is back on our event calendar.

We will meet at 11:30 at the **Epicenter**. June 19, 2023. Always 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!! **NOTE:** Last month we had 16 in attendance.

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

6 MEMBERS NEED TO PAY DUES



THE FOLLOWING 6 MEMBERS HAVE NOT PAID THEIR DUES FOR 2023.

(AND THEY MAY BE DROPPED SOON)

SEE IF YOURS IS MISSING

WLA: Windsor, **RLA:** Santa Rosa, **BPK:** Santa Rosa, **LCM:** Finley, **AU:** Penngrove, **BKW:** Sonoma,

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

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

PICNIC/BBQ - SATURDAY, JUNE 17, 2023, 11am to 3pm

SPRING LAKE PARK

At

The Lower Jack Rabbit Picnic Area

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Menu: BBQ Chicken, Garlic Bread, Wine, Iced Tea, and Coffee

Wives Club will provide: Salad, Baked Beans, and Desserts.

Members, Friends and Guests: Please bring your own munchies, chips & dip, water, and soda.

Enclosed is my check for # _____ persons @ \$25.00

each for a total of \$ _____

NOTE: If you want to donate anything for the Col. Brey Scholarship Fund (Fully Tax Deductible), put amount

below for: \$ _____ add for Grand Total\$ _____

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

Please make name tags for:

**Reservation must be received not later than
Tuesday, June 13, 2023**

We will be having a Raffle to help with our funds. If you are able to bring a Raffle Prize we would be grateful.

Make check (s) payable to: **REC MOAA**
To: MOAA, Redwood Empire Chapter, P.O. Box 2801,
Santa Rosa, CA 95405

**NOTE: CARS MAY HAVE TO PAY FOR
PARKING, UNLESS OWNER HAS A GOLD-
EN PASS OR FREE ACCESS**

2023 DATES TO REMEMBER

MAY:
 2nd BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am – Scholarship winners
 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
 10th Wives Club Luncheon, **Epicenter**
****** 13th Armed Forces Day – Rose Parade, Santa Rosa
 15th "Pub Crawl" at **Epicenter**, 11:30 am
 24th United Veterans Council meeting
 25th Luncheon, **Epicenter**
 29th Memorial Day Ceremonies

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

JULY:
****** 11th BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am – select a nominating committee
 12th Wives Club Luncheon, **Epicenter**
 17th "Pub Crawl" at **Epicenter**, 11:30 am
 26th United Veterans Council meeting
 27th Luncheon, **Epicenter**

AUGUST:
 1st BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am
 9th Wives Club Luncheon, **Epicenter**
 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
 20th Sunday, Riverfront Regional Park, Annual BBQ
 21st "Pub Crawl" at **Epicenter**, 11:30 am
 23rd United Veterans Council meeting

SEPTEMBER:
 5th BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am – Approval of 2024 officers
 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
 13th Wives Club Luncheon, **Epicenter**
****** 18th "Pub Crawl" at Epicenter, **11:30 am**
 15th - 19th Air Show at CMS Airport?
 27th United Veterans Council meeting
 28th Luncheon, **Epicenter**

OCTOBER:
 3rd BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am

10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
 11th Wives Club Luncheon, **Epicenter**
 16th "Pub Crawl" at Epicenter, **11:30 am**
 25th United Veterans Council meeting
 26th Luncheon Epicenter, Election of Officers for

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

DECEMBER:
 5th BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am
****** 7th Pearl Harbor Survivors program ??
 17th Sunday, Holiday Social, Sally's Tomatoes
 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
 NO United Veterans Council meeting
****** 18th "Pub Crawl" at **Epicenter**, 11:30 am ??
 25th Christmas

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

06/32/06

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

In June, we will be joining the chapter for our annual picnic, so there will be no regular Wives Club luncheon. This year the picnic will be on Saturday, June 17, at Spring Lake Regional Park. Reservations must be made through the chapter. The reservation form can be found in this newsletter, along with specific directions for access to the park and location of the picnic grounds. If you have any questions, call Bob Safreno at 479-9374.

Callers will contact you to ask if you are coming to the picnic and if so, whether you want to bring salad, baked beans, or dessert. The picnic area is lovely. We have met there several times in the past. We hope you all will join us.

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

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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