

MOAA



VOICE

Military Officers Association of America
Redwood Empire Chapter

Post Office Box 2801
Santa Rosa, CA 95405-0801

VOLUME 54, NUMBER 7

“Serving Those Who Serve America”

JULY 2024



PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

Dear Members,

I hope you are all well and enjoying the warmer weather.

Several of our members were on vacation last month. I hope they all had a wonderful time.

There were eleven of us at the May luncheon. We had a good time socializing and ordering off the menu versus a buffet.

I hope everyone enjoyed our June picnic at Spring Lake Park. The food was delicious. Many thanks to the wives for the appetizing food they brought and to the awesome Chef, Dan Cortez.

A special thank you to Bob Safreno and Tim Morgan for all the hard work they put into The Voice. Great work, Guys!

~~~~~  
The greatest glory in living lies not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall.

*Nelson Mandela*

~~~~~  
Keep smiling.
It makes people wonder □
what you are up to.

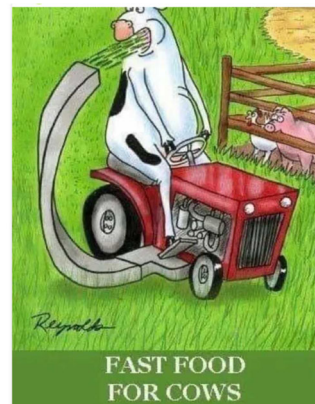
Unknown

~~~~~  
**Donna Poulter, President**  
707-576-0513 ~ [donnaeaglette@yahoo.com](mailto:donnaeaglette@yahoo.com)

**Thursday, July 25, 2024**  
**Buffet Luncheon at the**  
**POPPY BANK EPICENTER**  
**in Santa Rosa**  
**11:00am ~ Dine at Noon**

~~~~~  
Guest Speaker: Robert Kuchem, will speak on The South China Sea, June 2024 update. The South China Sea area is increasingly important for the safety and welfare of Americans even though many Americans are not familiar with it. Violence by China has already begun as it challenges the rights of one border nation, The Philippines, to protect a tiny islet which it claims.

~~~~~  
**See Page 3 for Lunch Coupon**



### “GOOD SPEAKERS ARE NEEDED”

Chapter members:

Who do you want to hear from?

Please send your suggestions to

**Bob Safreno**, (707)795-3963, Cell: 707-479-9374

or by e-mail: [shadowbob1@juno.com](mailto:shadowbob1@juno.com)

**NO BOARD MEETING IN JULY**

## MOAA BOARD of DIRECTORS MEETING

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

Tuesday, August 6, 2024, 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.

# Legislative Update July 2024

## General Comments.

### Federal:

**NDAAs 2025** is still in the numbers crunching state. Hopefully, we will see the final results by the Fourth of July. Therefore, the list of legislative priorities will continue as in the past few months with the only exception being that the Senate can include it as an NDAAs amendment. (Please see the notes for the Richard Star Act below).

**The Major Richard Star Act - Concurrent Receipt for Combat Injured Veterans:** Two-thirds of Congress has supported this bill for the past two years. This legislation currently is in the hands of the Senate with a doable NDAAs amendment. Passage as an amendment to the NDAAs would more rapidly reverse the unjust offset requiring these combat-injured retirees to give up a dollar of DoD-earned retirement pay for every dollar of VA-provided disability benefits they receive.

Please request our Senators, who are already co-sponsors to support a floor vote for the NDAAs amendment.

### State:

Although from all appearances, the State is broke, there still many subjects to be resolved before the budget is finalized.

**AB 46 Retired Pay Exemption.** This bill is still alive, albeit on life support. Follows is an urgent request from the California Commanders Council to continue to breathe life in this bill.. Your support is urgently requested. Click on the link below

## “Support AB 46” - Governor Campaign

Veterans: One of our priority bills, AB 46 (Ramos) is currently stuck in the Senate Appropriations committee, and we are launching a campaign targeted at the Governor's office to ask him to work with Asm. Ramos to move the bill out of the committee.

AB 46 aims to exclude retirement pay and annuity payments from income taxation for veterans and their spouses. AB 46 will help ensure that these individuals receive the financial support they deserve.

[Support AB 46 \(Ramos\) - Governor Campaign](#)

**Vern McNamee, LTC, USA Retired**  
Legislative Chair  
Redwood Empire Chapter MOAA (CA30)  
707 972-3066 [vernonmc@mcn.org](mailto:vernonmc@mcn.org)

## THE PRESENTATION TO BE GIVEN:

By ROBERT KUCHEM

### A JUNE 2024 UPDATE ON THE SOUTH CHINA SEA

The South China Sea area is increasingly important for the safety and welfare of Americans even though many Americans are not familiar with it. It is about 10 times larger than the Caribbean Sea, and there are 10 different nations on its border. Those 10 nations all claim the Exclusive Commercial Rights guaranteed by the United Nations Convention On The Law Of The Sea (UNCLOS). But one nation (China) is claiming total control. The South China Sea is well known for being an excellent fishery, and the bordering nations have long favored seafood for its dining tables. Less well known, but gaining in importance, are the petroleum resources that can be tapped in this sea. And increasingly visible are the extremely busy east-west shipping lanes from the Strait of Malacca on the Sea's western edge to the eastern edge near to China, Taiwan, and Japan. In about 20-25 minutes, the presentation can inform you about the importance of maintaining a free-access South China Sea. Violence by China has already begun as it challenges the rights of one border nation, The Philippines, to protect a tiny islet which it claims.

See Robert Kuchem on page 3 for his bio.

## Pub Crawl!

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

We will meet at 12:00 noon the [Poppy Bank Epicenter](#), July 15, 2024. 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!!

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

## **Col. Brey Memorial Scholarship Fund**

Many cards and donations have been sent to our Chapter of MOAA, in memory of Past President (1997) **LCDR Warren Christianson, USNR**. Deceased April 16, 2024.

Listed below are some of the donors:

- Claire and Vincent Faughnan, Piedmont, CA 94611
- Elaine Kapjian-Pitt, San Francisco, CA 94118
- Terri Dudley, TX 75252
- Steven Shaffer, NE, Albuquerque, NM 87122
- Letty and Jim Callinan, Hillsborough, CA 94010
- Kathleen Anne Kelly, San Francisco, CA 94127
- Barbara and William Dewan, Grand Prairie, TX
- Jeanine Lane, Santa Rosa, CA

The Redwood Empire Chapter of MOAA, goes on record to thank all donors and thank you for helping our scholarship fund with donations exceeding over \$1,100.00

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

## Buffet Luncheon, Thursday July 25, 2024

**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:** Chopped Wedge Salad

**Lunch:** Salmon ~ Lemon chicken

Fried Cauliflower with Lemon Pepper, Glazed Carrots

**Dessert:** Cookies. Water, Lemonade, 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: **Robert Kuchem**, will speak on The South China Sea, June 2024 update.

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

### 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 60 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.

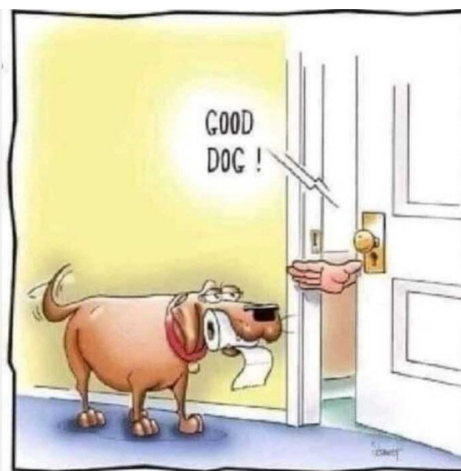
Anyone can call him and he will give you more details. Call: William Anderson at 707-331-0366

**SEE PUB CRAWL PAGE No. 2**

### Robert Kuchem:

Retired U.S. Naval Reserve Officer with 24 years total experience. Aboard fleet ships, I was a Surface Warfare Officer with Vietnam War experience. As an inactive Reservist, I advanced in rank from O-2 (LTJG) to O-6 (CAPT). My inactive Reservist assignments included being Officer-In-Charge of a Naval Reserve Center, attending a Reserve Officer Course at the U.S. Naval War College, and serving in the Pentagon during the Falklands

War crisis. My last assignment for 3 years was as a Special Liaison Officer to the Command Staff of the Arizona National Guard.



PERHAPS THE MOST NOBLE OF ALL RESCUE ANIMALS: THE LAVATORY RETRIEVER

## 2024 DATES TO REMEMBER

June:  
 4<sup>th</sup> BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am  
 10<sup>th</sup> Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information  
 15<sup>th</sup> Saturday, Picnic Spring Lake, Lower Jackrabbit Area  
 Honor Scholarship Recipients?  
 17<sup>th</sup> **Pub Crawl at Epicenter, 12:00 noon**  
 26<sup>th</sup> United Veterans Council meeting

July:  
 10<sup>th</sup> Wives Club Luncheon, **Epicenter**  
 15<sup>th</sup> **Pub Crawl at Epicenter, 12:00 noon**  
 24<sup>th</sup> United Veterans Council meeting  
 25<sup>th</sup> Luncheon, Epicenter

August:  
 6<sup>th</sup> BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am, select a nominating committee  
 10<sup>th</sup> Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information  
 14<sup>th</sup> Wives Club Luncheon, **Epicenter**  
 17<sup>th</sup> Saturday, Riverfront Regional Park, Annual BBQ  
 19<sup>th</sup> **Pub Crawl at Epicenter, 12:00 noon**  
 28<sup>rd</sup> United Veterans Council meeting

September:  
 3<sup>rd</sup> BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am – Approval of 2025 officers  
 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, 12:00 noon**  
 20<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> Air Show at CMS Airport?  
 25<sup>th</sup> United Veterans Council meeting  
 26<sup>th</sup> Luncheon, Epicenter

October:  
 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  
 21<sup>st</sup> **Pub Crawl at Epicenter, 12:00 noon**  
 23<sup>rd</sup> United Veterans Council meeting  
 24<sup>th</sup> Luncheon Epicenter, Election of Officers for 2025

November:  
 5<sup>th</sup> BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am  
 10<sup>th</sup> Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information  
 11<sup>th</sup> North Bay Veterans Day parade (Monday)  
 13<sup>th</sup> Wives Club Luncheon, **Epicenter**  
 15<sup>th</sup> Friday, Lobster Feed, Santa Rosa Veterans building  
 18<sup>th</sup> **Pub Crawl at Epicenter, 12:00 noon**  
 NO United Veterans Council meeting  
 28<sup>th</sup> Thanksgiving Day

December:  
 \*\* 7<sup>th</sup> Pearl Harbor Survivors program ??  
 10<sup>th</sup> Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information  
 \*\* 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday, Holiday Social, Doubletree Hotel, Rohnert Park  
 NO United Veterans Council meeting  
 \*\* 16<sup>th</sup> **Pub Crawl at Epicenter, 12:00 noon??**  
 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas

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

06/32/06

## MOAA WIVES CLUB

(Sonoma County Main - All members welcome)

### 2024 Officers

|                                |              |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
| President: Barbara Confer      | 707-763-8198 |
| Vice President: Donna Poulter  | 707-576-0513 |
| Secretary: Tina Lewis          | 707-758-9739 |
| Treasurer: Norma Viglienzone   | 707-542-1458 |
| Parliamentarian: Donna Poulter | 707-576-0513 |

The next meeting of the Wives Club will be a buffet lunch at the Epicenter on Wednesday, July 10th. The price is \$25.00. Lunch is served promptly at noon. The buffet menu will be fried cod, chicken parmesan, French fries, broccoli salad, quinoa 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.

The speaker at the July luncheon will be Lew Wall, who will tell us all about the Shenandoah Valley as a tourist attraction.

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

## Redwood Empire Chapter Officers and Directors for 2024

|                              |                              |              |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------|
| <u>President:</u>            | Donna Poulter                | 707-576-0513 |
| <u>1st Vice President</u>    | Mary-Gwen Neisingh           | 707-481-7614 |
| <u>2nd Vice President</u>    | LTC Steve Countouriotis, USA | 707-763-5309 |
| <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> | Maj Ken Johnson, USAF        | 408-466-6764 |

CAL-MOAA Director, Area I  
 Cpt Tom Walther, USAF 530-673-5499

Directors-at-large - Term 2023-24  
 Martina Lewis 707-539-5546  
 Susan Linch 707-538-3342  
 LTC Gary Meagher, AUS 707-544-4089  
 1/Lt Donald Nowacki, USANG 707-595-1047

Directors-at-large - Term 2024-25  
 Mrs. Myrna M. Hurst 707-468-0146  
 Dayle Johnson 408-466-6764  
 Rosemary Rizzo 707-539-3346  
 CPT Lewis Wall, USA 707-837-7389

Directors Representing Sub-Chapters:  
Mendocino: Mrs. Myrna M. Hurst 707-468-0146

### MOAA VOICE

|                          |                                                                                     |                            |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Co-Editor                | Tim Morgan                                                                          | 707-695-9293               |
| E-Mail                   | Tim Morgan                                                                          | blackcloudbrew@comcast.net |
| Editor Mail Distribution | Bob Safreno                                                                         | 707-795-3963               |
| E-Mail                   | Bob Safreno                                                                         | Shadowbob1@junco.com       |
| Online                   | ..... <a href="http://www.redwoodwmpiremoaa.us">http://www.redwoodwmpiremoaa.us</a> |                            |

**Publication Title: MOAA VOICE** is a newsletter of the Redwood Empire Chapter, Military Officers Association of America (MOAA). **Statement of Frequency:** Published monthly. **Authorized organization's name and address:** MOAA Redwood Empire Chapter, PO Box 2801, Santa Rosa, CA 95405-0801. Cost of publication: **FREE**

