

MOAA



VOICE

Military Officers Association of America
Redwood Empire Chapter

Post Office Box 2801
Santa Rosa, CA 95405-0801

VOLUME 54, NUMBER 9

"Serving Those Who Serve America"

SEPTEMBER 2024



PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

Dear Members,
Let's hope September will offer us cooler weather.

Last month's BBQ at the Riverfront Regional Park was wonderful and enjoyed by all. Congrats again to our Chef, Dan Cortez! He keeps us well-fed and happy.

I look forward to our guest speaker this month. Vincent Valenzuela will inform us about The American Red Cross.

Join us at the Pub Crawl on September 16th at the Epicenter.

It's always fun and nice trying out the new menu selections.

~~~~~  
May you always have:  
Love to share, Cash to spare,  
Tires with air, And friends who care  
*Unknown*

~~~~~  
I tried to be normal once.
Worst two minutes of my life.
Unknown



~~~~~  
**Donna Poulter, President**  
707-576-0513 ~ donnaea-  
glette@yahoo.com

**SEE PUB CRAWL PAGE No. 3**

### MOAA BOARD of DIRECTORS MEETING

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

Tuesday, September 3, 2024, 11:30am.

Chapter members are always welcome at these meetings

**Thursday, September 26, 2024**  
**Buffet Luncheon at the**  
**EPICENTER in Santa Rosa**  
**11:00am ~ Dine at Noon**

~~~~~  
Guest Speaker: Vincent Valenzuela will
inform us about The American Red Cross

~~~~~  
**PLEASE MAKE RESERVATIONS FOR DINING.**

By Tuesday, September 09, 2024.  
this is needed for head counts for meals and  
making name tags.

~~~~~  
See page No. 6 for the Luncheon menu.

**I am too old to live under
socialism. I am addicted
to luxuries like toilet
paper, electricity, food,
clean water and shoes.**

"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

"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 September 2024

General Comments. This is an election year and with our legislators on recess or campaigning, the time is NOW to get our points across to them. As the old adage says, "A squeaky wheel gets the grease", is appropriate at this time.

Federal:

NDAAs 2025 continues like a four act opera - long and perhaps, a bit tiring. Therefore, the list of legislative priorities will continue as in the past few months. There are significant differences between the House and Senate versions.

The Major Richard Star Act - Concurrent Receipt for Combat Injured Veterans: Two-thirds of Congress has supported this bill for the past two years, however, the House version does not include this bill in the NDAA. Back door information by some lawmakers and staffers is that it "costs too much" pointing to the projected cost of the Major Richard Star Act (\$6 billion over 10 years) as a reason it has not moved forward.

Passage as an amendment to the NDAA by the Senate 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.

Therefore, request your Senators, who are already cosponsors to support a floor vote for a NDAA amendment through direct contact via MOAA's toll-free line to the U.S. Capitol switchboard – 866-272-MOAA (6622) and speak with the military legislative assistant.

NOTE: Tonya Star died on 12 August in Texas. She continued the advocacy for combat injured veterans.

Military Housing and Barracks: Both the House and Senate NDAA include provisions to invest in deteriorating barracks, however, it does not "answer the mail" to more than partially solve the problem. Please ask your Senators and Congressmen to support full benefits.

Military Pay. Increase of 4.5% in basic pay has been included in both House and Senate versions. However, while the House approved a 15% raise for lower grade enlisted, the Senate version does not - again "too expensive".

Arlington National Cemetery (ANC): The Expanding America's National Cemetery Act of 2023, H.R. 1413, is not included in either version of the NDAA. The proposed eligibility reduction for ANC remains on hold in the federal rule-making process.

State.

General. This is an election year! Also, many extraneous measures will be on the ballot. I strongly encourage to keep informed of what each bill is "trying to sell". Follow the money to see where the interests lie.

Last November, many got hoodwinked into believing the Homeless Housing Bill would benefit veterans. Sorry, but that won't happen as advertised even though we will pay for it during the next 30 years at a final cost of several billion dollars.

AB 46 Retired Pay Exemption. This bill did not get out of the Appropriations Committee and is dead. DEAD, perhaps, but NOT BURIED! We in the military retired community (CALMOAA, and other communities), WILL NOT stop keeping this goal in front of our State Legislators.

Work has started already as shown by Patty Wernet, President, CALMOAA's letter to Gavin Newsom below

August 18th 2024

Governor Newsom

1021 O Street Suite 9000
Sacramento, California

Dear Governor Newsom

*Words cannot express my extreme disappointment that **AB 46-Ramos, Personal income Taxes; Exclusion of Military Services Retirement** will not become law during this legislative session. CALMOAA, The Marine Corps League-Department of California, The American Legion-Department of California, The California Enlisted Association of the California National Guard (CAL ENGUS) and the California State Veterans Commander's Council (CSVCC) all advocated for passage of AB 46*

CALMOAA, with 27 local chapters throughout California, reached out to your office, as early as October 2023, hoping to solicit your support of AB 46. Sadly, after two years of CALMOAA and other veterans organizations advocating for AB 46, your Administration remained silent. CALMOAA made repeated requests to collaborate on a pathway for passage of AB 46. Your Administration never responded to our letters or requests for meetings. The lack of public support from your Administration and failure to negotiate a funding source in your 2024-2025 budget played a major role in AB 46 being held in the State Senate Appropriations Committee.

Since you were elected Governor in 2018, several bills have been introduced dating back to 2018, to provide an exemption on military retirement from state income taxes. Even with AB 46's strong bi-partisan support (AB 46 cleared the State Assembly with no opposition in 2023) your administration provided no public support of AB 46 or any of the other bills (below) dating back to 2018.

- AB46 2022-2023 legislative session
- AB 1623 2021-2022 legislative session
- SB 1411 2021-2022 legislative session
- SB 1007 2021-2022 legislative session
- AB 2394 2018-2019 legislative session

I do not see the need to remind you of all the economic benefits that military retirees provide to the states they retire in. You have received hundreds of letters listing those economic benefits along with the benefits of a skilled workforce that military retirees bring to the state they retire in. Also the fact that California's military retiree population has continued to decline for the 11th straight year, while others states have realized an increase in their military retiree populations has been brought to your attention.

CALMOAA has already been contacted by several state legislators who have committed to introducing bills to exempt military retirement from state income taxes in the 2025-2026 legislative session. CALMOAA's 27,000 California members are respectfully asking that you take a public position of supporting the exemption of military retirement from state taxes and ensure funding is placed in your next budget to exempt military retirement from state income taxes.

CALMOAA would welcome the opportunity to discuss a pathway to remove the stigma of California being the only state in this great country that fails to provide an exemption on military retirement from state income taxes. California can no longer afford to lose out on millions of Federal dollars being lost to other states as California's military retiree population continues to decline.

Please do not hesitate to have a member of your Administration to reach out to CALMOAA's Legislative 3rd VP, Jeffrey Breiten at breitenj@msn.com to discuss this important topic in more detail."

Respectfully,

Patricia Wernet, Colonel US Army-Retired
President CALMOAA ~ National MOAA:
website: www.moaa.org ~ NEVER STOP SERVING.®

Once more, this will be an "all hands effort. Please stay tuned.

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

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, September 16, 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

RETIREMENT PLAN.....

Investing for your retirement:

If you had purchased \$1,000.00 of **Nortel Stock** one year ago, it would now be worth \$49.00

With **Enron**, you would have had \$16.50 left of the original \$1,000.00.

With **WorldCom**, you would have had less than \$5.00 left.

But, if you had purchased \$1,000.00 worth of **Beer** one year ago, drank all the beer, then turned in the cans for the aluminum recycling you would have had \$214.00.

Based on the above current investment advice is to drink heavily and recycle. It's called the **401-Keg Plan**.



The guest speaker at the July luncheon was **Robert Kuchem**, a retired Navy Reserve officer. Using a PowerPoint presentation, he spoke about the importance of the South China Sea, from when Marco Polo first opened the route, known as The Silk Road to sell silk to the West, to the very crowded shipping lanes of today. The Nine Dash Line is a set of line segments on maps depicting claims of the People's Republic of China and the Republic of China in the South China Sea, making the sea a Zone of Conflict. Many countries border the South China Sea, including China, Vietnam, and the Philippines. A Q & A followed his presentation.



Rosemary & Pete Rizzo Barbara Confer



Gary Meagher Rosemary & Pete Rizzo
Mary-Gwen Neisingh



Bob Safreno Eric Anderson
(Back Side) Charmaine Vance



Mary-Gwen Neisingh Rosemary & Pete Rizzo
Don Linch Barbara Confer



Tim Morgan



Florence & Lew Wall



Cooks: Dan Cortez

Pat Perlas



Barbara Confer

Wally McCall



Don & Susan Linch

Mary-Gwen Neisingh



Rosemary & Pete Rizzo / Barbara Confer / Wally McCall
Sharon & Tim Morgan

Eric Anderson & Charmaine Vance
Steve Countouriotis

Barbara Confer

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

Buffet Luncheon, Thursday September 26, 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: Caprese Salad, Fresh Rolls & Butter.

Lunch: Mini Meatloaves ~ Chicken Strips with Ranch Dressing
Mashed Red Potatoes ~ Diced Grilled Vegetables

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: **Vincent Valenzuela** , will inform us about The American Red Cross. ~ Page No. 1 for more information

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

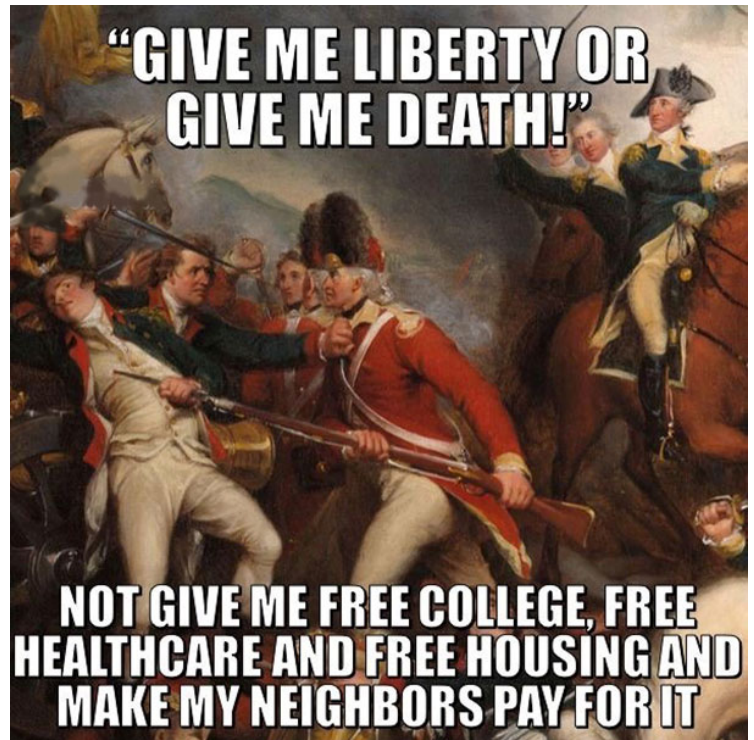
Is offering his service to
members and veterans in need.

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



2024 DATES TO REMEMBER

September:

- 3rd BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am – Approval of 2025 officers
- 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
- 11th Wives Club Luncheon, Epicenter
- 16th **Pub Crawl at Epicenter, 12:00 noon**
- 20th - 22nd Air Show at CMS Airport?
- 25th United Veterans Council meeting
- 26th Luncheon, **Epicenter**

October:

- 1st BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am
- 9th Wives Club Luncheon, **Epicenter**
- 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
- 21st **Pub Crawl at Epicenter, 12:00 noon**
- 23rd United Veterans Council meeting
- 24th Luncheon **Epicenter**, Election of Officers for 2025

November:

- 5th BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am
- 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
- 11th North Bay Veterans Day parade (Monday)
- 13th Wives Club Luncheon, **Epicenter**
- 15th Friday, Lobster Feed, Santa Rosa Veterans building
- 18th **Pub Crawl at Epicenter, 12:00 noon**
- 28th Thanksgiving Day

December:

- ** 7th Pearl Harbor Survivors program ??
- 8th Sunday, Holiday Social, Doubletree Hotel in Rohnert Park
- 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
- 16th **Pub Crawl at Epicenter, 12:00 noon??**
- 25th Christmas

** = Not Confirmed at this time ~ **CNX** = Cancelled ~ **UNK** = Unknown
06/32/06

By law, no US officer is ever allowed to outrank George Washington, and he was posthumously promoted to "six star general" to make sure.



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, September 11th . The price is \$25.00. Lunch is served promptly at noon. The buffet menu will be wonton tacos, margherita flatbread, green beans with mushrooms, broccoli salad, 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.

The guest speaker in August was Tim Morgan, who shared on the big screen a panoply of photography from his domestic and world travels.

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

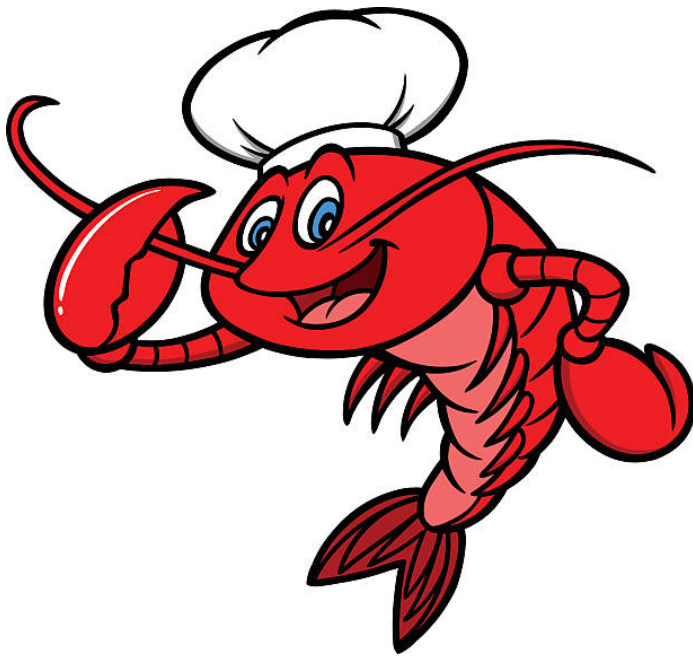
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**UP COMING
Future
EVENTS**



**SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR ANNUAL
SURF & TURF ~ LOBSTER MEAL**

**It is scheduled for
Friday, November 15, 2024
In the
Santa Rosa Veterans building
More information later**



**SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR ANNUAL
** HOLIDAY SOCIAL ****

**It is scheduled for
Sunday, December 8, 2024
At the
Doubletree Hotel in Rohnert Park
More information later**