



PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

Dear Members,
As April arrives, we are reminded of two pivotal moments in U.S. military history that occurred during this month. These April events remind us of the sacrifices made, the lessons learned

and the responsibilities of leadership.

One of the most consequential was the fall of Saigon on April 30, 1975. This moment marked the end of the Vietnam War as North Vietnamese forces captured the South Vietnamese capital. The chaotic evacuation of American personnel and at-risk South Vietnamese citizens, most famously from the rooftop of the U.S. Embassy, became an enduring symbol of the war's painful conclusion. It was a turning point that forced the United States to reassess its foreign policy, military strategy, and the human cost of a prolonged conflict.

Another significant April event occurred 33 years earlier: the Doolittle Raid on April 18, 1942. Just four months after the attack on Pearl Harbor, sixteen U.S. Army Air Forces B-25B bombers, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Jimmy Doolittle, launched from the USS *Hornet* in a daring strike on Tokyo, Nagoya, Yokohama, Kobe, Yokosuka, and Osaka Japan. Though the physical damage was limited, the raid delivered a powerful psychological blow to Japan and boosted American morale at a critical moment in World War II. It demonstrated the reach and resilience of U.S. forces and helped shift momentum in the Pacific.

I hope to see you at the MOAA Pub Crawl on April 20th and the MOAA Luncheon on April 23rd. Both events are at the Epicenter in Santa Rosa.

Respectfully

LTC Steve Countouriotis, USAF (Ret) President

SEE PUB CRAWL PAGE No. 1

MOAA BOARD of DIRECTORS MEETING

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

Tuesday, April 7, 2026, 11:30am.

Chapter members are always welcome at these meetings

Thursday, April 23, 2026
Buffet Luncheon at the
EPICENTER in Santa Rosa
11:00am ~ Dine at Noon

Guest Speaker: Patrick Koenig

Senior Estate Planning and Retirement Income Specialist with a focus on helping individuals and families prepare for the unexpected. He carries his heart at the core of his business, treating every client with the same care and attention he would offer a family member.

With years of experience, Patrick help clients create practical, tax-efficient strategies to protect their assets and ensure their wishes are honored. He specializes in wills, trusts, and legacy planning, and often partners with attorneys and financial professionals to provide well rounded guidance.

A Sonoma County resident for over 15 years currently based in Petaluma, Patrick is known for his approachable style and genuine commitment to serving his community with clarity, compassion, and integrity.

PLEASE MAKE RESERVATIONS FOR DINING,

By Tuesday, April 21, 2026, this is needed for head counts for meals and making name tags.

See page **No. 3** for the Luncheon menu.

NOTE: LUNCHEON PRICES ARE \$30.00
EACH.

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, April 20, 2026. 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!!

Legislative Update April 2026

(NONE THIS MONTH)

Vern McNamee, LTC, USA Retired

Legislative Chair

Redwood Empire Chapter MOAA (CA30)

707 972-3066 vernonmc@mcn.org



CDR DONALD . LINCH,USN

Donald Thomas Linch passed away peacefully at home on February 23, 2026 with his wife and caregiver by his side. He had multiple health problems and declined rapidly over the past year.

Don was born and raised in Lincoln, Nebraska, the son of Frank and Elinor Linch and younger brother of Richard. Losing his father at nine months and his mother at twenty years old made for a challenging childhood. In 1956, he graduated from the University of Nebraska in the NROTC program and went directly into active duty with the United States Navy.

In chronological order, he was stationed in Seattle (OR), Pearl Harbor, Monterey (CA), Guam, Saigon, New Haven (CT), San Diego, Bangkok (Thailand), Washington (DC), Kiel (Germany), Norfolk (VA), and Mons (Belgium). He was on five ships, four destroyers and one troop transport that transported Marines to Vietnam. His specialty was Operations and Communications. In Saigon, he was an advisor to the Thai

Navy; in Kiel, he was on the NATO staff; and in Belgium, he was on the staff of SHAPE (Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe).

He enjoyed every duty station, appreciated the opportunity to see the world and made many good friends, but his main love was shipboard duty. He retired in 1982, as a Commander, and would have stayed forever, if the Navy had allowed it. After retirement, he and his family settled permanently in Santa Rosa.

While stationed in New Haven, he met his future wife, Susan, on a blind date while she was attending college in Massachusetts. After two years of long-distance dating, they married in Boston in 1965. Daughter, Barbara was born in San Diego, son, David (married to Nancy) was born in Bangkok, and son, Eric (married to Malinda) was born in Bethesda, MD. He and Susan have six grandchildren.

After retirement, he briefly had his own tax consulting business, then worked for Korbel Winery; next the Santa Rosa Fire Department and finally for the State of California, as a sales tax auditor, from which he retired

He and Susan traveled extensively—by tent throughout Europe and northern California; by cruise ship in Europe, the United States, South America, Central America, Asia and the South Pacific; and at their timeshare in Mexico. For many years, he volunteered with St. Eugene's Catholic Church and was an active member of the Military Officers Association. His hobbies were stamp and coin collecting, and he spent many happy hours at his desk poring over catalogues and his large collection. He also enjoyed a good meal and was particularly fond of dessert.



SEE PUB CRAWL PAGE No. 1

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

Buffet Luncheon, Thursday April 23, 2026 Epicenter, 3215 Coffey Lane, Santa Rosa

Socializing 11:00 to 11:45 am, Meeting starts, Lunch 12:00 noon
Cost (including tax and tip) - **New Price \$30.00**

Salad: Sweet Berry Salad.

Lunch: Pork Tenderloin, Smashed Red Potatoes, Fried Cauliflower with Lemon Pepper.

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

Enclosed: is my check for my advanced reservation _____ persons @ \$30.00 each. \$ _____

Note: All must make **RESERVATIONS** Please Pre Pay if possible. (Late options only **Pay At Door**).

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

Guest Speaker: Patrick Koenig Senior Estate Planning and Retirement Income Specialist. (See page No. 1)

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**

Mail to: MOAA, Redwood Empire Chapter, P.O. Box 2801, Santa Rosa, CA 95405

RAFFLE: We will be having a Raffle to help with our funds.
If you are able bring a Raffle Prize

Please
Bring a Raffle Prize
If you are able



Dan Cortez (Right side) cutting up the Turf (Beef) for those that wanted meat. One of his helpers on the (left side) dishing out the large lobsters.



"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.

2026 DATES TO REMEMBER

April:
 7th BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am – Scholarship winners
 8th Wives Club Luncheon, **Epicenter**
 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
 20st **Pub Crawl** at Epicenter, **12:00 noon**
 23rd Luncheon, **Epicenter**

May:
 5th BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am – Scholarship winners
 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
 13th Wives Club Luncheon, **Epicenter**
 18th **Pub Crawl** at Epicenter, **12:00 noon**
 25th Memorial Day Ceremonies
 28th Luncheon, **Epicenter**

June:
 2nd BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am
 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
 10th **NO** Wives Club Luncheon, **Epicenter**
 20th Saturday, Picnic Spring Lake, Lower Jackrabbit Area
 Honor Scholarship Recipients?
 15th **Pub Crawl** at Epicenter, **12:00 noon**

July:
 (No Board meeting)
 8th Wives Club Luncheon, **Epicenter**
 20st **Pub Crawl** at Epicenter, **12:00 noon**
 23rd Luncheon, **Epicenter**

August:
 4th BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am, select a nominating committee
 9th Sunday, Riverfront Regional Park, Annual BBQ
 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
 12th Wives Club Luncheon, **Epicenter**
 17th **Pub Crawl** at Epicenter, **12:00 noon**

September:
 1st BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am – Approval of 2025 officers
 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
 9th Wives Club Luncheon, **Epicenter**
 21th **Pub Crawl** at Epicenter, **12:00 noon**
 24th Luncheon, **Epicenter**

October:
 6th BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am
 14th Wives Club Luncheon, **Epicenter**
 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
 19th **Pub Crawl** at Epicenter, **12:00 noon**
 22nd Luncheon Epicenter, Election of Officers for 2026

November:
 3rd BOARD MEETING - 11:30 am
 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
 11th North Bay Veterans Day parade (Wednesday)
 11th Wives Club Luncheon, **Epicenter**
 16th **Pub Crawl** at Epicenter, **12:00 noon**
 13th Friday, Lobster Feed, Santa Rosa Veterans building
 26th Thanksgiving Day

December: (No Board meeting)
 ** 7th Pearl Harbor Survivors program ??
 10th Deadline for submission of MOAA-VOICE information
 14th Monday, Holiday Social, **Cattlemens**
 15th **Pub Crawl** at Epicenter, **12:00 noon??**
 25th Christmas

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

SEE PUB CRAWL PAGE No. 1

IF ANYONE GETS A
 MESSAGE FROM ME ABOUT
 CANNED MEAT, DON'T
 OPEN IT. IT'S SPAM.



MOAA WIVES CLUB

(Sonoma County Main - All members welcome)

2026 Officers
 President: Susan Linch 707-538-3342
 Vice President: Donna Poulter 707-576-0513
 Secretary: Tina Lewis 707-758-9739
 Treasurer: Norma Vigliozzone 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, April 8th. The lunch cost is \$26.00. Lunch is served promptly at noon. The buffet menu will be Chicken parmesan, spaghetti with garlic sauce, garlic bread, caprese 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, the activity was stories the attendees told about animals in their lives. It's always good to get together for good food and camaraderie. Please join us for the monthly luncheons.

Tina Lewis, Publicity 707-758-9739, tinalewis31@comcast.net

HUMOR



I asked my momma if she ever gets lonely and she said, "I have 4 men in my life. I get up with Charlie Horse. I spend my day with Arthur It is. I eat dinner with Will Power and I go to bed with Ben Gay."

Redwood Empire Chapter Officers and Directors for 2026

President: LTC Steve Countouriotis, USA 707-763-5309
1st Vice President COL Bruce A. Stahley, USAR 415-328-9278
2nd Vice President COL Bruce A. Stahley, USAR 415-328-9278
Secretary: Cpt Robert R. Safreno, USAF 707-479-9374
Treasurer: LCDR Tim Morgan, USNR 707-695-9293
Imed. Past President: Donna Poulter 707-576-0513

CAL-MOAA Director, Area I

Cpt Tom Walther, USAF 530-673-5499

Directors-at-large - Term 2026

Martina Lewis 707-758-9739
 Susan Linch 707-538-3342
 Mary-Gwen Neisingh 707-481-7614
 Florence Wall 707-837-7389

Directors-at-large - Term 2026-27

Dayle Johnson 408-466-6764
 Sandy Paxton 707-696-0107
 Maj Ken Johnson, USAF 408-466-6764
 CPT Lewis Wall, USA 707-837-7389

Sunshine Committee: 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 Bob Safreno 707-479-9374
 Distribution
 E-Mail Bob Safreno shadobob@sonic.net
 Online <http://www.redwoodwmpiremoaa.us>

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**